

---

# MANTHAN

---

**A General Awareness Weekly**

**17<sup>th</sup> August to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020**

# PREFACE

---

**Dear Students,**

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 Week. 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 fulfill aspirations.

**Happy Reading**

**Team CL**



Career  
Launcher

## National



### Ladakh, Leh, Kargil to be India's first carbon neutral region

- A 7500 MW solar park is being built in Ladakh for electricity and infrastructure development in the region. The Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region will be developed and declared to be a carbon neutral region, PM Modi said in his Independence Day speech.
- While the concept of carbon neutral villages have been considered in India in the past and some villages in Kerala and Manipur have adopted it, this will be the first large region to be carbon neutral. Carbon neutrality means annual zero net anthropogenic (human caused or influenced) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a certain date.
- “By definition, carbon neutrality means every ton of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emitted is compensated with an equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub> removed,” according to World Resources Institute. Many countries have announced to be carbon neutral by 2050 as part of the Paris Agreement. “Just like Sikkim has positioned itself as an organic state, the Ladakh, Kargil and Leh region is moving in the direction of becoming carbon neutral.

**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. Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory; Radha Krishna Mathur is the first Lieutenant Governor of the union territory of Ladakh. Ladakh is the largest and the second least populous union territory of India. Leh is the joint capital and largest town of the union territory of Ladakh in India. Kargil is the second largest town in Ladakh after Leh. At present, Eight union territories are there in India.**

### Indian Railways constructing world's tallest pier bridge across river Ijai in Manipur

- Indian Railways' North East Frontier Railway zone has constructed the world's tallest pier bridge in the North-Eastern state of Manipur. Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in Manipur. The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter. It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
- The Manipur Bridge is located at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal. The total estimated cost of the bridge is 280 crore rupees, and it will be completed by March 2022.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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. The practice of a separate Railway Budget was started by the British in 1924 under the recommendation of a 10-member Acworth Committee headed by British economist William Mitchell Acworth in 1920-21. On 21 September 2016, Government of India approved the merger of the Railway Budget with the Union budget of India, and thus came to end — a 92-year-old practice of separate rail and general budgets.**

## Odisha tops in implementation of AMRUT scheme

- **Odisha has retained its top position in implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015 to establish an infrastructure that would ensure robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation.**
- **According to the ranking of the states released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Odisha has retained its first position by securing a score of 85.67 per cent. Chandigarh and Telangana have secured the second and third positions followed by Gujarat and Karnataka.**

**The purpose of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is to (i) ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection; (ii) increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces (e.g. parks); and (iii) reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport (e.g. walking and cycling). About Rs.1 lakh crore (US\$14 billion) investment on urban development under Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation of 500 cities has already been approved by the government.**

## First time in Parliament: chambers and galleries of both Houses to be used for Monsoon session

- **As per the arrangements, the Rajya Sabha chamber and galleries and Lok Sabha chamber will be used for seating the members of the House during the monsoon session. This includes 60 members in the chamber, 51 in the galleries of Rajya Sabha (leaving out the first row), and the remaining 132 (including by-polls for two seats) in the chamber of Lok Sabha.**
- **According to Rajya Sabha Secretariat, various parties will be allotted seats in the chamber and galleries of Rajya Sabha based on respective strength and the remaining will be seated in the chamber of Lok Sabha in two blocks meant for ruling parties and the others.**
- **In the Rajya Sabha chamber, seats will be earmarked for the Prime Minister, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and leaders of other parties. Former Prime Ministers and former Leaders of the House Dr Manmohan Singh and HD Deve Gowda, besides Ramvilas Paswan and Ramdas Atshawale, being Ministers and members of the House will also have earmarked seats in the chamber of the House. Other ministers will be seated in the seats meant for the ruling party.**

**Parliament of India is the supreme legislative body of the Republic of India. It is a bicameral legislature composed of the President of India and the two houses: the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (House of the People). The period during which the House meets to conduct its business is called a session. The Constitution empowers the President to summon each House at such intervals that there should not be more than a six-month gap between the two sessions. Hence the Parliament must meet at least twice a year. In India, the Parliament conducts three sessions each year: (1). Budget session: January/February to May (2). Monsoon session: July to August/September (3). Winter session: November to December**

## Jharkhand unveils new logo

- **The Hemant Soren in Jharkhand unveiled the new State logo at Ranchi on the eve of 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. The State logo is circular in size with the Emblem of India placed at the centre. The National Emblem is enclosed in concentric circles depicting Jharkhand's culture and its abundant natural resources.**
- **“While the Ashoka pillar at the centre is the state emblem of the country, it also represents Jharkhand's sovereignty. It signifies that Jharkhand is a partner in country's development”. The logo accommodates ‘Palash flower’ (Butea monosperma), which is the State flower of Jharkhand. Its bright red colour represents Jharkhand's beauty and the struggle of people.**

**Jharkhand is a state in eastern India, carved out of the southern part of Bihar on 15 November 2000. The city of Ranchi is its capital and Dumka its sub capital. Draupadi Murmu is the current and first woman Governor of Jharkhand. Hemant Soren is the current Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Previously, he had also served as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand from July 2013 to December 2014. He is the son of Shibu Soren, former Chief Minister of Jharkhand. “Jharkhand” means ‘land of bush or forest’.**

## Kerala's first-ever Dragonfly Festival to be held soon

- **WWF-India Kerala State Office** is joining hands with the **Society for Odonate Studies (SOS)** and **Thumbipuranam** for the first-ever state Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, christened 'Thumbi Maholsavam 2020'.
- This is part of the **National Dragonfly Festival** organised by **WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society** in association with **National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC**.
- **As part of the Dragonfly Festival**, a series of events will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of the society. Initially, a training session will be organised to get more people trained on dragonflies. This will be followed by a series of webinars commencing from September onwards targeting the public, especially children and youth.

Kerala is a state on the southwestern, Malabar Coast of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganisation Act by combining Malayalam-speaking regions. Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men. Arif Mohammad Khan is the current Governor of Kerala. Kerala is known as "God's own country" and is one of the popular tourist destinations in India. Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala, in office since 25 May 2016. Kerala is the first State to have a floating solar power plant with a capacity of 250 MW.

## SC Collegium approves proposal for elevation of judicial officers & advocates as judges for Allahabad, Gujarat, and Kerala HCs

- **Supreme Court Collegium** has approved the proposal for elevation of judicial officers and advocates as judges for three High Courts- Allahabad, Kerala and Gujarat. Chief Justice Bobde, and Justices NV Ramana, Arun Mishra, RF Nariman and UU Lalit make up the Collegium.
- The Collegium headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde recommended elevation of four judicial officers Sanjay Kumar Pachori, Subhash Chandra Sharma, Subhash Chand, and Saroj Yadav as judges of the Allahabad High Court.
- It also approved the proposal for elevation of advocates Murali Purushothaman and Ziyad Rahman and judicial officers Karunakaran Babu, Dr. Kauser Edappagath as judges of the Kerala High Court. The Collegium also approved the proposal for elevation of advocates Vaibhavi Devang Nanavati, Nirzarkumar Sushilkumar Desai, and Nikhil Shreedharan Kariel as judges of the Gujarat High Court.

The Collegium system is one where the Chief Justice of India and a forum of four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court recommend appointments and transfers of judges. However, it has no place in the Indian Constitution. The system was evolved through Supreme Court judgments in the Three Judges Cases.

## Government launches e-portal on tribal health & nutrition

- **Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda** inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya'. The portal provides all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India on a single platform.
- **Swasthya** will also curate innovative practices, case studies, and best practices collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recognized Piramal Swasthya as the Centre of Excellence for Knowledge Management (CoE for KM) for Health and Nutrition. The portal <http://swasthya.tribal.gov.in> is hosted on NIC cloud.
- **Smt Renuka Singh Saruta** released 'ALEKH', a quarterly e-newsletter. Emphasizing on the commitment of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to improve the health and wellbeing of the tribal communities.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987. TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi. Arjun Munda is a member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Khunti constituency of Jharkhand. He is the current minister for Tribal Affairs.



## Satya Pal Malik appointed as Meghalaya Governor

- The Governor of Goa, Satya Pal Malik has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Meghalaya. Mr. Malik, who was Governor of Jammu and Kashmir when its special status under Article 370 was abrogated last August, will be replacing Tathagata Roy in Meghalaya.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan in a communique said that Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari will discharge the functions of the Governor of Goa in addition to his own duties. These appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their offices.

In the Republic of India, a governor is the constitutional head of each of the twenty-eight states. Governors exist in the states while lieutenant governors or administrators exist in union territories including National Capital Territory of Delhi. The governor is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years, and holds office at the President's pleasure. The governor is *de jure* head of the state government; all its executive actions are taken in the governor's name. However, the governor must act on the advice of the popularly elected council of ministers, headed by the chief minister, which thus holds *de facto* executive authority at the state-level. The Constitution of India also empowers the governor to act upon his or her own discretion, such as the ability to appoint or dismiss a ministry, recommend President's rule, or reserve bills for the President's assent. Although in Union Territories real power lies in lieutenant governor or administrator, except in NCT of Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir where he/she shares power with a council of ministers headed by a Chief Minister. According to 7<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1956, the same person can be the Governor of two or more states.

## Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner; to join ADB as Vice President

- Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa resigned from his post to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) as vice-president next month.
- Mr. Lavasa has submitted his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind and has requested to be relieved by the end of this month. The ADB had announced his appointment to the post.
- Lavasa, who would have retired as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in October 2022, would be the second election commissioner to step down from the poll panel before the completion of his term.
- His resignation came when the election commission is preparing to conduct upcoming polls amid ongoing coronavirus pandemic which might begin with the Bihar Assembly poll. Last month, he was named as the new vice-president of the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). He will succeed Diwakar Gupta, whose term will end on August 31. Lavasa, a career bureaucrat, joined as Election Commissioner on January 23, 2018.
- Sushil Chandra, presently posted as Election Commissioner will be in the line of succession after Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora which otherwise would have been donned by Lavasa had he not resigned.

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.

## Rajiv Kumar appointed new Election Commissioner following resignation of Ashok Lavasa

- Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed new election commissioner. He will replace Ashok Lavasa, who resigned. Mr Kumar will take charge the day Mr Lavasa leaves his office on August 31.
- A 1984-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, Rajiv Kumar has over three decades of experience in public policy and administration across various sectors. He played a major role in merging 10 public sector banks into four. During his two-and-half year stint as financial services secretary, he took several policy decisions to promote responsive and responsible banking.

## Government of India launches Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge - Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- Electronics and IT Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched **Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge - Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing have developed two microprocessors named **SHAKTI (32 bit)** and **VEGA (64 bit)** respectively using **Open Source Architecture**.
- The **Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge** seeks to invite innovators, startups and students to use these microprocessors to develop various technology products.
- The **Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge** is part of the series of proactive, pre-emptive and graded measures taken by **Ministry of Electronics and IT** to spur the technology led innovation ecosystem in the country. The Challenge spread over 10 months, started with the registration process at MyGov portal. It will culminate in June 2021.

**Ravi Shankar Prasad** is the current Union Minister holding Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology and he represents the state of Bihar as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha.

## PM Modi to inaugurate First World Solar Technology Summit to be held on Sept 8

- The **First World Solar Technology Summit** will be organized by **International Solar Alliance, ISA** on a virtual platform on 8<sup>th</sup> of September.
- Sharing details of the summit, **President of the ISA Assembly and New and Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh** said **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will deliver the inaugural address of the **First World Solar Technology Summit** and it will be graced by Ministers from member countries from across all ISA regions. ISA would also be launching the **ISA Journal on Solar Energy** that would help authors from across the globe to publish their articles on solar energy, during the event.

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.

## Chhattisgarh CM announces scheme for school students

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel** announced to launch a special scheme under which school students will be able to learn in their respective localities in view of the suspension of classes due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- “The online education platform ‘**Padhai Tunhar Duar**’ scheme launched by the state government earlier during the lockdown yielded better results and around 22 lakh children are getting its benefit,”.
- “Taking the initiative further, we are now starting the ‘**Padhai Tuhara Para**’ scheme to teach children with the help of community in their localities and villages,” the chief minister said.
- Besides, a **Bluetooth-based programme ‘Bultu Ke Bol’** will be introduced for providing study materials to students in remote areas who do not have access to internet facility.

## MoU signed for first unit of Defence Category Industry in Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh government** has signed an **MoU** for establishing the first manufacturing unit of a **Defense Category Industry** in the state. The industrial unit will manufacture bulletproof jackets and helmets for Government of India’s armed forces, infantry, BSF, CRPF and state government’s armed forces.
- “The **MoU** was signed between **Chhattisgarh Government’s Industry Department** and **M/s ATMASTCO Ltd.**, Durg for establishing the industrial unit for defence equipment. This industrial unit for defence equipments at **Birebhant village of Durg district in Chhattisgarh**”.

**Chhattisgarh was formed on 1 November 2000** by partitioning 10 Chhattisgarhi and 6 Gondi speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. **Naya Raipur, officially known as Nava Raipur, (also known as Atal Nagar) is an upcoming planned and fully developed city in Indian state of Chhattisgarh. It is planned to replace Raipur as the capital city of Chhattisgarh. Anusuiya Uikey is present Governor of Chhattisgarh. Bhupesh Baghel is serving as the third and current Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.** In India, there are five landlocked states which do not have an international boundary are Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Telangana.

### **Delhi-Meerut ‘Rapid Transit System’, India’s First, Gets \$1 Billion Nod**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about Rupees 7,485 crore) loan to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.
- The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.
- Delhi accounts for 37 per cent of the population of the national capital region (NCR). The 82-km Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system network is the first of three priority rail corridors in the country’s integrated transport network under the NCR regional plan 2021.

**Delhi bordered by Haryana on three sides and by Uttar Pradesh to the east.** According to the 2011 census, **Delhi city proper’s population was over 11 million, the second-highest in India after Mumbai.** **Anil Baijal is the current & 21<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.** **Arvind Kejriwal is the current and 7<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Delhi.** The Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act, 1991 declared the Union Territory of Delhi to be formally known as the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

### **Indore wins cleanest city in country award in Swachh Survekshan 2020**

- Indore of Madhya Pradesh has become the cleanest city in the country for the fourth consecutive time, leaving behind 4,242 cities of the country.
- Bhopal has been selected as Best Self Sustainable Capital with inclusion in the top-10. Maximum six cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the category of population of more than one lakh. 14 municipal corporations of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of top-100 cities of the country. Of these, 10 municipal corporations have managed to make it to the top 25.
- Gujarat’s Surat on second spot and Maharashtra’s Navi Mumbai on third. In the category of population of less than 1 lakh, Maharashtra’s Karad bagged the first position, followed by state’s Saswad and Lonavala.
- Best performing states in terms of overall performance were divided in two categories- states with over 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and states with less than 100 ULBs. In the first category, Chhattisgarh bagged the award for the second time and Jharkhand won the award in the second category.
- India’s Cleanest Cantonment Board award was bagged by Jalandhar cantonment from Punjab and Best Ganga Town award was given to Varanasi.
- Best city in terms of maximum citizen’s participation award in the category of population of over 1 lakh has been given to Uttar Pradesh’s Shahjahanpur. In the same category for cities with population less than 1 lakh, the award was bagged by Uttarakhand’s Nandaprayag.
- Cleanest city with over 40 lakh population award was won by Ahmedabad and Vijayawada won in the category of city with population between 10 lakh to 40 lakh. Fastest mover big city award was won by Rajasthan’s Jodhpur. Gujarat’s Rajkot won the best self-sustainable city award. In the category of 3 to 10 lakh population, cleanest city award went to Karnataka’s Mysuru.
- Cleanest capital city award was won by New Delhi’s New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC).

**Swachh Survekshan (Cleanliness survey) is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India. It was launched as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which aimed to make India clean and free of open defecation by 2 October 2019. The surveys are carried out by Quality Council of India.**



## HRD Ministry is now officially Ministry of Education as it gets President's nod

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** gave assent to the change in name of the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) as ministry of education. The name change was among the key recommendations of the draft new National Education Policy (NEP), which was also cleared by the Union Cabinet.
- The ministry of education was renamed as the HRD ministry in 1985 during the tenure of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The NEP was introduced the next year and it was later amended in 1992. P V Narasimha Rao became the first HRD minister in the Rajiv Gandhi cabinet.
- A panel headed by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan, tasked with working on the new NEP, and had first proposed that the name of the ministry should be changed again.
- In 2018, the idea was also mooted by Ram Bahadur Rai, chairman of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and also chairman of the joint organising committee of the Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence.

The **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, previously the **Ministry of Human Resource Development (1985-2020)**, is responsible for the implementation and formulation of the National Policy on Education approved by Union cabinet of India and to ensure that it is implemented in letter and spirit. The Ministry is held currently by **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**. He represents the Haridwar Parliamentary constituency of Uttarakhand in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. **Abul Kalam** is the **First Minister of Education** in the Indian. He is commonly remembered as **Maulana Azad**; the word Maulana is an honorific meaning 'Our Master' and he had adopted Azad (Free) as his pen name.

## Cabinet approves to set up National Recruitment Agency to conduct CET

- Union Cabinet approved **setting up of National Recruitment Agency to conduct Common Eligibility Test**. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar termed it as historic decision which will benefit job seeking youth of the country.
- He said, this fulfils long standing demand of the youth of the country. **The National Recruitment Agency will conduct a Common Eligibility Test to screen and shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts. NRA will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, SSC, RRB and IBPS.**
- Special focus on **creating examination infrastructure in the 117 Aspirational Districts** would go a long way in affording access to candidates at a place nearer to where they reside.
- **The CET score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result.** The best of the valid scores shall be deemed to be the current score of the candidate.
- **There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit. Relaxation in the upper age limit shall be given to candidates of SC/ST/OBC and other categories** as per the extant policy of the Government.
- Candidates would have the facility of registering on a common portal and give a choice of Centres. Government has **sanctioned a sum of 1517.57 crore rupees for the National Recruitment Agency**. The expenditure will be undertaken over a period of three years. National Recruitment Agency will ensure transparency and ease in recruitment process, both for the candidate and the recruiting organisation.
- CET scores can be shared with Central and State Governments, PSUs, private sector thus reducing recruitment costs of these organisations. **Initially the NRA will conduct CET twice a year.**

## First indigenous rail tracks for India's metro trains produced in Chhattisgarh

- The metro trains in the country will now run on the indigenously manufactured rails built in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh.
- **The Joka-Esplanade Metro in Kolkata is the first to use such rails made by Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL)** from its Raigarh-based plant, some 220 km east of Raipur. "The head hardened (HH) rail produced at the company's Raigarh plant is intended for high-speed rails.
- **Now 20 percent of the requirement of head hard rails in India** will be sourced indigenously, which is seen as a major step towards the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Make-in-India) initiative.

## Gujarat: Quality control lab for Sea food export set up at Porbandar

- The state of art quality control laboratory for Sea food export set up at Porbandar in Gujarat. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has opened a Quality Control Laboratory in the coastal city of Porbandar facilitating tests for seafood processors and exporters.
- The state of art laboratory inaugurated by MPEDA Chairman K.S. Srinivas will help to confirm product safety as per international regulatory requirements. MPEDA is a coordinating agency under the Union Ministry of Commerce for central and state-level establishments engaged in fishery production and allied activities.
- According to official release, the set-up, with all support systems for accurate results, has begun efforts to secure accreditation by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the Export Inspection Council (EIC).

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.

## India's population is expected to be more feminine in 2036

- India's population is expected to be more feminine and hold better future for women after 15 years from now, indicated the population projections made by the National Commission on Population under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The report of the technical group on population projections titled population projections for India and States 2011 – 2036 has observed that the population in 2036 is expected to be more feminine compared to the population as of 2011 when it came to sex ratio.
- The country's sex ratio of the total population (females per 1000 males) is expected to increase from 943 in 2011 to 957 during 2036. "It is observed that in 2036 sex ratio in eighteen states, except Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat will increase as compared to 2011," the report said adding that the lowest sex ratio of 899 is expected to be in NCT of Delhi in 2036, followed by 900 and 908 in Gujarat and Haryana respectively.
- The report said that the infant mortality rate (IMR) of the country, which is reported to be 46 in 2010 is expected to go down to 30 by the end of the period 2031-35. The IMR is expected to decline in all the states during 2011-35. The IMR, which was highest in Madhya Pradesh at 58 followed by 57 in Uttar Pradesh in 2011-15 is expected to come down to 37 in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Uttar Pradesh (38) in 2031-35, the report said.
- Also, according to the report, the population of India is expected to increase from 121.1 crores to 151.8 crores during the period 2011-2036 - an increase of 25% in 25 years at the rate of 1.0% annually. The report also said that the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is expected to decline from 2.34 during 2011-2015 to 1.72 during 2031- 35. The assumption is that the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) would follow the recent pace of decline.
- The report has also highlighted that the youth population in the age- group 15-24 years is expected to increase from 23.3 crores in 2011 to 25.2 crores in 2021 and then continue to decrease to 22.7 crores in 2036. Its proportion to total population is expected to fall from 19.3 percent in 2011 to 14.9 percent in 2036.

India is a country in South Asia. It is the second-most populous country, the seventh-largest country by land area, and the most populous democracy in the world. It is bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast. It shares boundary with 7 countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. India shares its longest international boundary with Bangladesh (4,096 KM) followed by China.

## International



### India announces \$500 mn package for Maldives

- India announced a slew of new connectivity measures for the Maldives, including air, sea, intra-island and telecommunications in an effort to help the Indian Ocean Islands deal with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Among the initiatives announced at a meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid via videoconference are an **air connectivity “bubble” for travel, a direct ferry service, a submarine cable for telecom connectivity; and assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) to connect Male to three neighbouring islands**, the biggest such project thus far.
- The project, which will **consist of a number of bridges and causeways to connect Male to Villingili, Thilafushi and Gulhifahu islands that span 6.7 km**, taking much of the pressure of the main capital island of Male for commercial and residential purposes. **The US \$400 million Line of Credit comes in addition to a previous LoC of \$800 million** that was announced by New Delhi in December 2018.

**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.**

### Ivory Coast Defence Minister Bakayoko named Prime Minister

- Ivory Coast’s defence minister, **Hamed Bakayoko**, has been named **Prime minister**, after acting as interim Prime Minister since the sudden death of **Amadou Gon Coulibaly**.
- **Considered a close associate of President Alassane Ouattara** and a pillar of the regime, Bakayoko, has had the defence portfolio since 2017, after serving as interior minister from 2011. He has also been mayor of Abobo, one of the West African country’s most populous districts, since 2018.

**Ivory Coast is a country located on the south coast of West Africa. Ivory Coast’s political capital is Yamoussoukro in the centre of the country, while its economic capital and largest city is the port city of Abidjan. Alassane Dramane Ouattara has been President of Ivory Coast since 2010. West African CFA franc is the currency of eight independent states in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.**

### United Kingdom launches 3-million pound innovation challenge fund in India

- The UK government has launched a **3-million pound innovation challenge fund in India** to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges like Covid-19 and the threat to the environment.

**London is the capital and most populous city of England and the United Kingdom. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom. Boris Johnson is serving as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. She is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch as well as the world’s longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state, the oldest and longest-reigning current monarch and the oldest and longest-serving current head of state.**



## Abraham Accord

- On August 13, 2020, the **Israel-United Arab Emirates Peace Agreement or the Abraham Accord** was agreed to by UAE and Israel.
- If the agreement is signed then UAE will be the third Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994). It will also be the first Persian Gulf country to sign an accord with Israel.
- The agreement is expected to be signed by this September in the White House. The name Abraham is to honour the patriarch of three major Abrahamic religions of the world-- Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Israel is a country in the Middle East, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and is considered holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, neither claim is widely recognized internationally. Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel. Israeli new shekel is the currency of Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu is serving as the 9<sup>th</sup> and current Prime Minister of Israel since 2009. Reuven Rivlin is serving as the 10<sup>th</sup> and current President of Israel since 2014.

## Chrystia Freeland named Canada's first female finance minister

- Canada's deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland has been named finance minister following a Cabinet shuffle. Her appointment comes after Bill Morneau suddenly quit the job amid pressure from opposition parties.
- One of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's most trusted ministers, Ms Freeland, will become the first woman to hold the position in Canada.

Canada is a country located in the northern part of North America. Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Its capital is Ottawa, and its three largest metropolitan areas are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. Justin Pierre James Trudeau is serving as the 23<sup>rd</sup> and current Prime Minister of Canada since 2015.

## US elections: Democratic Party formally nominates Joe Biden as presidential candidate

- In the United States, Democratic Party has formally nominated Joe Biden as its presidential nominee for the 2020 elections. He will take on President Donald Trump in the November polls for the White House.
- Biden received the nomination in a "roll call across America", which saw Democratic delegates and normal people from all 50 states and seven territories of the US cast the majority of votes for the former vice president.

Joseph Robinette Biden is an American politician who served as the 47<sup>th</sup> vice president of the United States from 2009 to 2017. In January 2017, Barak Obama awarded Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom with distinction. On August 11, 2020, Biden announced U.S. Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate in the 2020 presidential election.

## Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Kita resigns amid military coup

- Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has announced his resignation amid a military coup. He announced his resignation on state television hours after mutinous soldiers fired shots into the air outside his home before detaining him. The dramatic development comes after more than two months of regular demonstrations calling for him to step down three years before his final term was due to end.

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, a region geologically identified with the West African Craton. Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa. Bamako is the capital and largest city of Mali. Assimi Goita is a Malian military officer seized power from former President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in the 2020 Malian coup. West African CFA franc is the currency of eight independent states in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.



## Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz resigns in pre-announced move

- **Poland's Foreign Minister announced his resignation** on August 20 in the fourth high-level departure this week from the country's right-wing government.
- **Jacek Czaputowicz had said last that he was expecting to leave the government as part of a reshuffle following the recent re-election of President Andrzej Duda**, who is closely allied with Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's government.

**Poland is a country located in Central Europe.** With a population of nearly 38.5 million people, **Poland is the fifth most populous member state of the European Union.** **Poland's capital and largest metropolis is Warsaw.** **Mateusz Jakub Morawiecki has been the Prime Minister of Poland since December 2017.** **The zloty is the official currency and legal tender of Poland.**

## Pakistan terms Sharif an 'absconder', approaches U.K. for extradition

- **The Pakistan government has declared former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in London for treatment, an absconder and approached the U.K. government for his extradition.** The government is treating him (Sharif) as an absconder and has already sent a request to the British government to extradite him.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> and current President of Pakistan**

## MEA in partnership with Foreign Ministry of Thailand organize 6<sup>th</sup> Round Table of AINTT

- **The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT).**
- **The theme of the two day Round Table which was conducted through video conferencing was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.** It was jointly inaugurated by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Thailand Mr. Don Pramudwinai.

## Indonesia: Sinabung volcano unleashes new burst of hot ash

- **A rumbling volcano in western Indonesia unleashed an avalanche of scorching clouds down its slopes.** The volcano in North Sumatra province was shooting smoke and ash more than 1,000 meters into the air and hot ash clouds travelled 1 kilometer southeast.

**Indonesia is a transcontinental unitary sovereign state located mainly in Southeast Asia, with some territories in Oceania.** It is the **world's largest island country, with more than thirteen thousand islands.** **Jakarta is the capital and largest city of Indonesia.** **Joko Widodo also known as Jokowi is the seventh and current President of Indonesia.** The **rupiah (Rp) is the official currency of Indonesia.**

## Turkey discovers large natural gas reserve off Black Sea

- **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the discovery of a large natural gas reserve off the Black Sea coast that will help ease the country's dependence on imports.**
- **Erdogan said the amount of gas discovered is 320 billion cubic meters, a sum industry analysts said was notable but not a "game-changer" that might turn the country into a regional energy hub or materially alter its financial fortunes.** **Turkey hopes to start extracting and using the gas by 2023, when Turkey marks the centenary of the founding of the republic.**

**Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly in Western Asia, with a smaller portion on the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe.** **Ankara is the capital of the Republic of Turkey.** The **Turkish lira is the currency of Turkey.** **Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the both the head of state and head of government of the Turkey.**



## MCX launched India's first bullion index, **Buldex**

- **Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)** has launched India's first bullion index, **Buldex**, on August 24. The bullion index, **Buldex**, being launched by MCX is the sixth product in bullion complex with **1-kg gold, 100-gm goldmini, 8-gm gold guinea and 1-gm gold peta**, while the Options on Futures on 1-kg gold is already in place.
- The bourse recently launched options on goods in **100-gm goldmini contract**. Having gold and silver as underlying, the **Buldex** will have market lot size of 50 and, unlike gold and silver contracts, it will be a cash-settled futures contract, thus making it attractive for hedgers and institutional participants, who are hesitant in taking delivery of gold and silver.

**Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX)** is an independent commodity exchange based in India. It was established in 2003 and is based in Mumbai. It is India's largest commodity derivatives exchange. MCX offers options trading in gold and futures trading in non-ferrous metals, bullion, energy, and a number of agricultural commodities (mentha oil, cardamom, crude palm oil, cotton, and others). **Mr Padala Subbi Reddy (Mr P S Reddy)** was appointed as MD & CEO of the Company for a period of five years w.e.f. May 10, 2019.

## NHAI develops mobile App '**Harit Path**' to facilitate creation of Green Highways across country

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, a PSU under the Ministry of Road and Transport, has developed a mobile App, '**Harit Path**' to facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country.
- The App will also be used to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of the PSU's field units for every plant under the Highway plantation projects. **Harit Path** was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Road and Transport, **Nitin Gadkari**.

**National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, responsible for management of a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways out of 1,15,000 km in India. The NHAI was created through the promulgation of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

## **Punjab National Bank launches campaign to promote digital banking**

- State-owned **Punjab National Bank** launched a campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels. Under the campaign '**DIGITAL APNAYEN**', the bank will contribute Rs 5 towards the PM CARES Fund on behalf of each customer conducting the first financial transaction to activate their RuPay Debit card either on point of sale (PoS) or e-commerce platform.

**Punjab National Bank (PNB)** is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company. It is a state-owned corporation based in New Delhi, India. Punjab National Bank was registered on 19 May 1894 under the Indian Companies Act, with its office in Anarkali Bazaar, Lahore, in present-day Pakistan. **Sunil Mehta** is the current MD & CEO of PNB. In February 2018, PNB was part of India's biggest ever fraud in which two junior officers at a single branch had illegally steered \$1.77 billion in fraudulent loans to companies, most of them controlled by billionaire jeweller **Nirav Modi**. It is second largest public sector bank (PSB) in India.

## Andhra Pradesh CM launched UPI-based payment system to boost digital payments

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched India's biggest **United Payments Interface (UPI)** based payment system. The initiative is in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- The UPI-based payment system will be a landmark initiative to boost digital payments in **15,004+ in Gram and Ward Secretariats (GSWS)** of Andhra Pradesh in association with **NPCI and Canara Bank**.
- This would provide impetus to **digital payments among last-mile customers and redefine financial inclusion** in the state. **This first-of-its-kind initiative** ensures secure, instant, and contactless payments, especially amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- The introduction of **UPI QR code in 15,004 village & ward secretariats** will provide an all-new level of convenient transaction experience to thousands of rural customers of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Canara Bank, being a premier Bank in the state and the fourth largest bank in India**, has come forward to collaborate in this initiative of the **Andhra Pradesh government** and to provide UPI QR code-based payment system to the gram and ward secretariats in the state.

**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 **Ammemba 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.

## Flipkart signs pact with IIT-Patna for joint research in artificial intelligence, machine learning

- **Walmart-owned Flipkart** has inked an agreement with **IIT-Patna** to help create industry-focused applied research in the areas of **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **natural language processing (NLP)** and **machine learning (ML)**.
- As part of the **MoU**, **IIT-Patna** will undertake a number of programmes such as joint research activities, writing research papers, organising seminars and internship/mentorship opportunities. The academic collaboration is expected to bring real-world industry exposure to students and scholars of **IIT-Patna**, and to provide an opportunity to the faculty members to work closely with **Flipkart** on research projects, it added.

**Flipkart Pvt Ltd.** is an **Indian electronic commerce company** based in **Bengaluru, India**. Founded by **Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal** in **2007**, the company initially focused on **book sales**, before expanding into other product categories such as **consumer electronics, fashion, and lifestyle products**. **Kalyan Krishnamurthy** is the current chief executive officer of **Flipkart**. In **August 2018**, **U.S.-based retail chain Walmart** acquired a **81% controlling stake** in **Flipkart** for **US\$16 billion**, valuing it at **\$20 billion**.

## National Fertilizers Limited to set up an Organic Waste Converter Plant

- **National Fertilizers Limited, NFL**, a **PSU** under the **Department of Fertilizers in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** is going to set up an **Organic Waste Converter, OWC Plant**. The biodegradable waste collected in the unit will be transported to **OWC** where it will be segregated from non-degradable parts.
- It will take around **10 days** to convert it into ready to use compost. **Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers** said, an initiative towards **Swachh Bharat**, the project aims to **recycle around 2000 Kg per day of the biodegradable waste generated in township including the horticulture waste and convert it into ready to use compost**.
- The unit plans to utilize this compost as **manure thus substituting consumption of fertilisers or manure used for developments of parks or public places**. The compost can also be used by the residents in their lawns and kitchen gardens.

**National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)** – **Miniratna (Cat-1)** company is an **India state owned producer of chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers and industrial chemicals**. It is based in **Noida**. **NFL, incorporated in 1979** is **India's largest Central Public Sector Enterprise (Government of India Undertaking)** in **Fertilizer Sector**. It is the **second largest producer of the key fertiliser urea in India**.



## Cambodian central bank implements first retail payments system in the world using blockchain technology

- In the Kingdom of Cambodia in Southeast Asia, three-quarters (78%) of its citizens do not have a bank account, yet more than half own a smartphone.
- The Khmer riel (KHR), which is the native currency, has been stable for 20 years but however, most people in the country use the American dollar. Ever since a major UN mission in the mid-1990s, the price of everything from a cup of coffee to a car has been given in U.S. dollars.
- To address these challenges and more, the central bank of the country – National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), partnered with Tokyo-based Soramitsu, a blockchain developer expert, to modernize the country's legacy retail payments with the help of the Hyperledger Iroha blockchain framework.

Cambodia is a country located in the southern portion of the Indochina peninsula in Southeast Asia. Phnom Penh is the capital in Cambodia. Hun Sen has served as the Prime Minister of Cambodia since 1985.

## A first in India as IEX gets the go-ahead for green energy trading

- Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) will commence trading of green energy on its power trading platform, the first such for the country. IEX has received the approval of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) to set up a 'green term-ahead market'.
- IEX said it will offer trade in four types of green term-ahead contracts - Green Intra-day contracts, Day-ahead Contingency contracts, Daily Contracts and Weekly contracts. "There will be separate contracts for solar and non-solar energy," said the company.
- IEX already has a platform for trading of 'Renewable Energy Certificates' (REC). With the green term ahead market, it would be the first physical trading of renewable energy.

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) is an electronic system based power trading exchange regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). IEX started its operations on June 27, 2008. Indian Energy Exchange pioneered the development of power trading in India and it is headquartered in New Delhi.

## RBI releases framework for pan-India entity for retail payments

- Reserve Bank of India has unveiled the framework for setting up of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments.
- As per the framework, the companies with a net worth of over 500 crore rupees will be eligible to set up an umbrella entity which among other things will be permitted to set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the retail space comprising ATMs, White Label PoS, Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services. The entity will be expected to monitor national as well as international developments so as to avoid shocks and frauds that may adversely affect the system and the economy in general.

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.

## Reliance buys majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for \$83 million

- Reliance Industries Ltd has acquired a majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for about 6.2 billion rupees (\$83.08 million) in cash, days after e-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc launched an online drug sales service in India. The oil-to-telecoms conglomerate said its investment represents about 60% holding in Vitalic Health Pvt. Ltd. and 100% direct ownership of its subsidiaries.



**Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is an **Indian conglomerate holding company** headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**. On 18 October 2007, Reliance Industries became the **first Indian company to breach \$100 billion market capitalization**. It is also the **highest income tax payer in the private sector in India**. **Dhirubhai Ambani founded Reliance Industries in Bombay with his cousin. Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani is an Indian billionaire business magnate, and the chairman, managing director, and largest shareholder of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), a Fortune Global 500 company and India's most valuable company by market value. He is currently the richest man in Asia.**

### **India has cheap internet & good e-governance, but lacks good digital life quality, finds study**

- In a global index on digital quality of life in 85 countries, India ranked 9<sup>th</sup> on the internet affordability indicator, and 15<sup>th</sup> on e-government.
- The index, prepared by Surfshark, a virtual private network (VPN) provider based in the British Virgin Islands, sought to rank countries on internet affordability and quality, and electronic infrastructure, security and government. All parameters have equal weightage.
- Overall, India ranked 57<sup>th</sup> on the Digital Quality of Life Index 2020. Scandinavian countries Denmark and Sweden topped the index, with Canada rounding up the top three.
- According to the survey, Israel offered the cheapest internet — calculated by considering how much time one must work to be able to afford the cheapest mobile internet and broadband. It was followed by Canada and Azerbaijan. India scored the best on this parameter, leading countries like the UK, US and China. Of the total countries, 75 per cent of them have to work more than the global average to afford the internet.
- Singapore, the UK and the US performed the best on the e-government indicator — arrived at by checking the state of government's online presence and readiness to employ artificial intelligence technology and help "minimise bureaucracy, reduce corruption and increase transparency of the public sector".

### **Apple becomes first US Company valued at \$2 trillion in market value**

- Apple Inc became the first publicly listed US Company with a \$2 trillion stock market value, as Wall Street investors put aside challenges to its iPhone ecosystem in favour of bets it will only prosper more in the post-coronavirus world.
- With Amazon, Microsoft and Google-owner Alphabet, all now worth around \$1 trillion or more, the big US tech companies are together worth more than \$6 trillion.

**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**.

### **ICICI Lombard and Bharti AXA sign definitive agreements to combine their Non-Life Insurance Businesses**

- The Board of Directors of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd. ("ICICI Lombard") and Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Ltd. ("Bharti AXA") at their respective meetings approved entering into definitive agreements for demerger of Bharti AXA's non-life insurance business into ICICI Lombard through a Scheme of Arrangement.
- Based on the share exchange ratio recommended by independent valuers and accepted by the respective boards of ICICI Lombard and Bharti AXA, the shareholders of Bharti AXA shall receive 2 shares of ICICI Lombard for every 115 shares of Bharti AXA held by them as on the date on which the Scheme of Arrangement is approved by the Board of Directors of ICICI Lombard and Bharti AXA.
- While both the companies have signed definitive agreements, the deal is subject to regulatory approvals from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), Competition Commission of India (CCI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), besides shareholders of both ICICI Lombard and Bharti AXA.

**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.

### **Ashwani Bhatia appointed as SBI Managing Director**

- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Ashwani Bhatia as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India.**
- **He currently is the Deputy Managing Director of the state-run lender. Bhatia will succeed PK Gupta** who superannuated on March 31. He will remain in office till the date of his superannuation, May 31, 2022, or further orders, whichever is earlier.

**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.**

### **Consumer Affairs Minister says hallmarking of precious metals will be mandatory from June 1 next year**

- **Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has said that hallmarking of precious metals will be mandatory from 1<sup>st</sup> June next year.** Mr Paswan said this while **launching the online system of Registration and Renewal of Jewellers in New Delhi.**
- **The best thing about the online system is that there will be no human interface in processing the applications. Now, Jewellers can apply online and submit required necessary documents and fees for obtaining a licence through this portal.**
- **The Minister said that with hallmarking of gold jewellery and artifacts becoming mandatory, the number of jewellers coming forward for registration is expected to go up to five lakh from the present 31 thousand.** He said, **at present, there are 921 Hallmarking Centers, located in 234 districts of the country.** Mr Paswan informed that **BIS is working on operationalizing the Assaying and Hallmarking centers in remaining 480 districts by June, 2021.**

**Ram Vilas Paswan is an Indian politician from Bihar and the current Cabinet Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Paswan is also the president of the Lok Janshakti Party, eight-time Lok Sabha member and current Rajya Sabha MP.**

**Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the **national Standards Body of India** working under the aegis of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.** It is established by the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986** which came into effect on 23 December 1986. The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having **administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.** A new **Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016** which was notified on 22 March 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12 October 2017. The Act establishes the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.**



## Inventions/Discoveries

### TERI launches flood and heavy rain warning system for Guwahati, in collaboration with NDMA

- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have launched a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for Guwahati to alert local authorities about flash floods and/or heavy rainfall. The fully automated web-based tool will help them take timely and appropriate measures.
- Developed under TERI's project supported by the NDMA in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the tool can be replicated to predict urban floods in any part of the country.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a research institute based in New Delhi that conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development. The Institute's present Director General is Ajay Mathur.

On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

### ISRO and IISc Bengaluru develop sustainable process to make space bricks on lunar surface

- In a significant step towards space exploration, a team of researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface.
- The process enables making load bearing bricks by using lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans. Named as space bricks, it could be used to assemble structures for habitation on the moon surface in future.
- Sending bricks from Earth is not viable as it takes Rs 7.5 lakh to transport one pound of construction material. The process developed now uses urea sourced from human urine, which could be mixed with lunar soil to build structures on the moon. This decreases the overall expenditure considerably. Since guar gum is used instead of cement, there will be a lower carbon footprint.
- The bacteria is added to further crystallise the brick in any shape needed. One such bacterium, called 'Sporosarcina pasteurii' produces calcium carbonate crystals through a metabolic pathway called the ureolytic cycle: it uses urea and calcium to form these crystals as byproducts of the pathway.

ISRO is the space agency of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan is current the chairperson of the ISRO. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.



## Malaysia detects new coronavirus strain that is ten times more infectious

- **Malaysia has detected a strain of the new coronavirus that has been found to be 10 times more infectious.**
- **The mutation, earlier seen in other parts of the world and called D614G, was found in at least three of the 45 cases in a cluster that started from a restaurant owner returning from India and breaching his 14-day home quarantine. The man has since been sentenced to five months in prison and fined.**

**Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause respiratory illnesses, according to the CDC. This family includes the viruses that cause SARS and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome), as well as those that cause milder illnesses, like the common cold. Right now, the severity of this new virus, known as 2019-nCoV, is somewhat unclear. The genomic size of coronaviruses ranges from approximately 26 to 32 kilobases, the largest for an RNA virus. The name “coronavirus” is derived from the Latin corona, meaning crown or halo. The most trafficked mammal of Asia, Pangolin was identified as the host of the virus by the researchers of China.**

## The first Arctic summer without ice is coming in just 15 years

- **There’s a standard image of the Earth as seen from space that we carry in our heads: vast blue seas, green bands of forests, and frozen white caps on the top and bottom. By the summer of 2035, it may not be accurate.**
- **Scientists estimate that in just 15 years Arctic summer sea-ice could disappear for the first time since primitive humans left Africa.**
- **The new research is the latest in a steady stream that has moved up the predicted timeframe for the ice-free Arctic milestone. The amount of sea-ice floating atop the Arctic Ocean at summer’s end has fallen about 13% per decade since 1979.**
- **The 2035 estimate made by Guarino and her colleagues is based on what’s known about past climates. Scientists over the years have assembled evidence about previous eras from chemical traces in ice, rocks, and sediment. The new Arctic study looks specifically at a period 130,000 years ago, called the Last Interglacial.**

**The Arctic is a polar region located at the northernmost part of Earth. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska (United States), Canada, Finland, Greenland (Denmark), Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden. In 2015, India set up an underground observatory, called IndARC, at the Kongsfjorden fjord, half way between Norway and the North Pole. India has already established a high-altitude research station in the Himalayas, called HIMANSH, at Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Himadri Station is India’s first Arctic research station located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway.**

## Solar Powered Fruits & Vegetable Vending van well suited to be used during lockdown

- **The solar powered evaporative cooled fruits and vegetable vending van developed by the Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Horticulture Research has found interest among the Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) since Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a one lakh crore agriculture Infrastructure Fund to boost investment in the farm sector, especially in cold storage, warehousing and markets for farmers.**
- **The Solar Powered Fruits and Vegetable Vending van is designed to keep produce fresh for two days using the evaporating cooling technology with solar power. This also provides dust free and hygienic storage space. The van has a LED TV for displaying prices of produce and an audio system for announcements. Fitted with GPS the movement of the van can be tracked remotely.**

## IIT Madras retains its number-one position in list of top innovative educational institutes

- **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year. The premier institute has been ranked number-one in the ‘Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,’ released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, in presence of Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank,’ in a virtual event.**
- **The ranking was launched last year by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. 674 Institutions of National Importance, Central Universities and centrally funded technical institutions participated in the rankings this year, as compared to 496 last year, says a release by the IIT, Madras.**



## Dwarf planet Ceres an 'ocean world' with salty water deep underground

- **Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, is an "ocean world" with a big reservoir of salty water under its frigid surface**, scientists said in findings that raise interest in this dwarf planet as a possible outpost for life.
- **Research published based on data obtained by NASA's Dawn spacecraft, which flew as close as 22 miles (35 km) from the surface in 2018**, provides a new understanding of Ceres, including evidence indicating it remains geologically active with cryovolcanism - volcanoes oozing icy material.
- **The findings confirm the presence of a subsurface reservoir of brine - salt-enriched water** - remnants of a vast subsurface ocean that has been gradually freezing. **"This elevates Ceres to 'ocean world' status**, noting that this category does not require the ocean to be global," said planetary scientist and Dawn principal investigator Carol Raymond. **"In the case of Ceres, we know the liquid reservoir is regional scale but we cannot tell for sure that it is global. However, what matters most is that there is liquid on a large scale."**

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program**, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. **President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. James Frederick Bridenstine is an American politician and the current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.** He became the **first member of Congress to lead NASA.**

## Indigenous Air Unique-quality Monitoring (AUM) Photonic System developed for Real-Time Remote Monitoring of Air Quality

- **World Health Organisation (WHO)'s reports show that the worsening state of poor air quality is responsible for more than 7.5 million fatalities worldwide annually.** This highlights the necessity for accurate, yet cost-effective monitoring of air quality parameters as monitoring is critical to solution.
- The current systems and technologies used for air quality monitoring are prohibitively expensive for wider deployment. This underlines the need for development of systems for real-time remote monitoring of relevant air quality parameters. **The AUM system (patent pending) is an innovative application of the principles of laser backscattering, statistical mechanics, optoelectronics, artificial intelligence, machine/deep learning, and Internet of Things.**
- It can identify, classify, and quantify various pollutants simultaneously (of orders of less than one part per billion) and meteorological parameters, with very high precision, sensitivity and accuracy. **AUM was successfully evaluated during laboratory trials with gold standards (in collaboration with EffecTech, UK), and also compared in the field with imported systems from France, and Australia and operated by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.**

## IIT Bombay, Shiv Nadar researchers develop environment friendly, cost efficient lithium batteries

- **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Shiv Nadar University claim to have developed a technology for production of environment friendly Lithium-Sulfur (Li-S) batteries** which will be **three times more energy efficient and cost effective than Lithium-ion batteries** commonly used at present.
- According to the team, the Li-S battery technology leverages principles of green chemistry, incorporating usage of by-products from the petroleum industry (Sulfur), agro-waste elements and copolymers such as cardanol (a by-product of cashew nut processing) and eugenol (clove oil) as cathodic materials.
- The researchers said the **technology has the potential to aid multi-billion dollar industries including tech gadgets, drones, electric vehicles (EV) and several more that depend on such batteries.**

## IIT Madras-incubated start-up develops portable hospital unit for COVID-19 patients

- **IIT Madras-incubated Start-up, Modulus Housing has developed a portable hospital unit that can be installed anywhere** within two hours by four people. **'MediCAB' is a decentralized approach to detect, screen, identify, isolate and treat COVID-19 patients** in their local communities through these portable microstructures.

- **‘MediCAB’ was launched recently in Wayanad District of Kerala** where the units are being deployed to treat COVID-19 Patients. **The startup is developing micro hospitals that can be deployed rapidly across the nation.** The hospital unit is foldable and is composed of four zones - a doctor’s room, an isolation room, a medical room/ward and a twin-bed ICU, maintained at negative pressure.

### **IIT Madras researchers discover new material to split hydrogen and water using solar power**

- **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have discovered a new material to split hydrogen and water, using solar power.** The research is expected to bring the conversion and storage part in a single system, which would reduce the cost per kWh of solar energy.
- **Department of Chemical Engineering and the Solar Energy Research Group (SERG) at the Institute** are together specialising in developing materials and devise architecture for solar cells, solar water splitting to hydrogen fuels, carbon dioxide recycling and metal-air batteries for electric vehicles.
- **Solar energy conversion to electricity and its storage at low cost is an integral part of renewable energy research.** The research aims to reduce the world’s reliance on fossil fuels and in turn move out of anthropogenic greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. It is an immediate requirement to develop low-cost solar energy conversion and storage systems that can produce energy equal to, or lower than the cost of grid power.

### **Water Science India launches India’s first shower filter with aroma therapy**

- **Aroma Therapy Shower Filter CLEO launched by Water Science India promises to eliminate chlorine and conditions hardness from water** and offer the benefits of natural essential oils. **With a unique 4-layer filter which eliminates chlorine and conditions hardness,** CLEO shower filters help one reduce hair fall and protect skin from hard water and treated water.
- **Now the added benefits include Aroma Therapy,** with a refillable aroma therapy pad infused with natural essential oils. Everyday can be a SPA day with aroma therapy shower filter. Families living in India’s metros and Tier 2 cities are no stranger to poor water quality, Water Science India points out.
- **Water that is heavily chlorinated and full of hard water salts and impurities are the cause of many health and hygiene woes:** starting with the most common issue — excessive and premature hair loss — to skin allergies and eczema to corroded appliances and clogged pipes, to name just a few.

### **Chandrayaan-2 captures image of crater on Moon; ISRO names it after Vikram Sarabhai**

- **Chandrayaan-2 has captured images of the Moon and one of the craters has been named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme.** Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office Jitendra Singh said that as Sarabhai’s birth centenary year completed on August 12, this is a thanksgiving tribute to the scientist.
- **The Department of Space directly comes under the Prime Minister’s Office.** “The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has sought to pay tribute to him in a special way by announcing that Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter has captured the Moon images of ‘Sarabhai Crater’. The Sarabhai Crater is around 250 to 300 kilometres east of the crater where the Apollo 17 and Luna 21 Missions had landed.

**Chandrayaan-2 is the second lunar exploration mission developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), after Chandrayaan-1.** It consists of a lunar orbiter, and also included the **Vikram lander, and the Pragyan lunar rover,** all of which were developed in India. The main scientific objective is to **map and study the variations in lunar surface composition, as well as the location and abundance of lunar water.** The spacecraft was launched on its mission to the Moon from the second launch pad at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh** on 22 July 2019 by a **GSLV Mark III M1.** The craft reached the Moon’s orbit on **20 August 2019** and began orbital positioning manoeuvres for the landing of the Vikram lander. The lander and the rover were **scheduled to land on the near side of the Moon, in the South Polar Region at a latitude of about 70° south on 6 September 2019** and **conduct scientific experiments for one lunar day,** which approximates to two Earth weeks. However, the lander deviated from its intended trajectory while attempting to land on 6 September 2019 which caused a ‘hard landing’.

# SPORTS



## Sports Personalities in News

### Ishant Sharma among 29 recommended for Arjuna Award

- India pacer Ishant Sharma was named in a 29-strong list of athletes recommended for this year's Arjuna award by the sports ministry's selection committee. Ishant has played 97 Tests and 80 ODIs for India, grabbing over 400 international wickets.
- Male recurve archer Atanu Das, women's hockey team player Deepika Thakur, kabaddi player Deepak Hooda and tennis player Divij Sharan have also been recommended for the award. It has also been learnt that Olympic bronze-winning wrestler Sakshi Malik and former world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu too have got the committee's nod but the final decision has been left on sports minister Kiren Rijiju as both the women are former Khel Ratna awardees.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has congratulated Indian pacer Ishant Sharma and women's team all-rounder Deepti Sharma on being conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award.

The Arjuna Awards are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to recognize outstanding achievement in sports. Started in 1961, the award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000, a bronze statue of Arjuna and a scroll.

### Simona Halep beats Elise Mertens to win Prague title

- Top seed Simona Halep claimed her second successive title, albeit six months apart, as she comfortably beat Elise Mertens to win the Prague Open.

### RFC Football Academy launches India's first full-fledged girls residential football academy

- FC Girls Football Academy, India's first full-fledged girls residential football training facility was launched by Rebels FC in Bengaluru. The academy will provide top of the line scientific training for young, talented and passionate female footballers to achieve their dream of becoming a professional football player.

### Dream11 wins IPL 2020 title sponsorship rights with bid of Rs 222 crore

- Fantasy gaming platform Dream11 has won the IPL title sponsorship rights with a bid of 222 crore rupees. IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel has informed that the deal will be valid for four and a half months, ending December 2020.
- Dream11 will replace VIVO after the Chinese mobile phone maker suspended its deal owing to a border stand-off between India and China. The company, however, had been under BCCI's scanner after it was linked to the fake T20 league held in Punjab but was live-streamed as a game in Sri Lanka.

Dream11 is a fantasy sports platform based in India that allows users to play fantasy cricket, hockey, football, kabaddi and basketball. Dream11 was co-founded by Harsh Jain and Bhavit Sheth in 2008. Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the brand ambassador of Dream11 and it is headquartered in Mumbai.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Puducherry celebrates its 'De-Jure' day

- The Union Territory of Puducherry celebrated its 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “De-Jure” day. Puducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954.
- But the treaty of cession signed between the French and Indian governments was ratified by the French Parliament only on August 16, 1962. So on that day the “De-Jure” (The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union) was effected. The Puducherry administration organized a function at the Keezhoor memorial where the referendum was signed to mark the occasion.

Puducherry, also known as Pondicherry is one of the 8 union territories of India. It was formed out of four territories of former French India, namely Pondichery (Pondicherry; now Puducherry), Karikal (Karaikal), Mahe and Yanam (Yanam), excluding Chandernagore. It is named after the largest district, Puducherry. Historically known as Pondicherry, the territory changed its official name to Puducherry on 20 September 2006. Puducherry is a Union Territory of India rather than a state, which implies that governance and administration fall directly under federal authority. However, Puducherry is one of the three union territories in India (the other being National Capital Territory of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir) that is entitled by a special constitutional amendment to have an elected legislative assembly and a cabinet of ministers, thereby conveying partial statehood. Velu Narayanasamy is serving as the 10<sup>th</sup> and current Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry since June 2016. Kiran Bedi is a retired Indian Police Service officer, social activist, former tennis player and politician who is the current Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

### Rail Bicycle introduced to quickly travel on rail tracks for inspections

- Indian Railways has introduced an innovative system to ensure passenger security in the country. Recently, the national transporter introduced a novel mechanism, Rail Bicycle to quickly travel on rail tracks for inspections, monitoring, and urgent repairs.
- The Railway Ministry said, during monsoon seasons, sometimes the situation becomes very difficult, causing unwanted detention of train services. With the help of Rail Bicycle, any emergency location can be easily reached for urgent repairs.
- Apart from emergency situations, Rail Bicycle is also very helpful for Hot Weather Patrolling as well as daily monitoring of the rail tracks. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some of the sections over the Indian Railways network are currently closed for the traffic. In these sections, Rail Bicycle is used for patrolling, ensuring safety and security.

### Drone based surveillance system introduced for Railway Security

- Indian Railways have introduced Drone based surveillance system for Railway security. Railway Ministry said, Railway Protection Force, RPF has planned extensive use of drones for the purpose of Railway security.
- Nine drones have been procured by RPF so far at a cost of around 32 lakh at South Eastern Railway, Central Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, Raebareli and South Western Railway.

### Manduadih becomes 'Banaras': MHA gives nod for name change of major railway station in UP

- The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh as 'Banaras'.
- The Uttar Pradesh government had sent a request for renaming the railway station in Varanasi district. A 'no objection certificate' has been issued for changing the name of the Manduadih railway station to 'Banaras'.

-----



# PERSONS IN NEWS

## Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passes away

- **Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA.** Pandit Jasraj, who belonged to the Mewati Gharana, was in the US when the coronavirus-led lockdown happened and decided to stay back there. The Padma Vibhushan music legend, who belonged to the Mewati Gharana, was also known as Sangeet Martand.
- **Jasraj was born on 28 January 1930 in Pili Mandori, a village in the Hisar district of Haryana,** in a middle-class Brahmin family to Pandit Motiram, a classical singer and Krishna Bai. Motiram died in 1934 when Jasraj was four, on the day he was to be appointed as the state musician in the court of Mir Osman Ali Khan. His eldest brother was vocalist Pandit Maniram, who instructed Jasraj after the passing of their father. Jasraj's elder brother, Pandit Pratap Narayan, was also an accomplished musician and was the father of music composer duo Jatin-Lalit, singer-actress Sulakshana Pandit and actress Vijeta Pandit.
- **The Padma Vibhushan artiste was the first Indian musician to have a minor planet named after him in September 2019.** International Astronomical Union (IAU) named minor planet 2006 VP32 (number -300128), discovered on November 11, 2006, as Panditjasraj. It traverses the cosmos between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

## Indian Idol Fame Shahzan Mujeeb signed as first ever National Brand Ambassador of Aligarh Municipal Corporation

- **Aligarh Municipal Corporation (AMC) has recently roped in Indian Idol Season 11 Finalist and Oscar Nominated Playback Singer Shahzan Mujeeb as its first ever National Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level.**
- **Shahzan apart from being a Finalist on Indian Idol Season 11 is also a Music Composer and Music Director by profession. Recently, his film Gera won the National Award for Best Gujarati Film.**

## Rakesh Asthana appointed as DG of Border Security Force

- **1984 batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force, BSF.** According to a Personnel Ministry order issued, he will be in the post up to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2021, the date of his superannuation.
- **Mr Asthana is at present working as the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, BCAS.** He will continue to hold the additional charge of DG, Narcotics Control Bureau.

## Satpal Singh Satti appointed as chairman of 6<sup>th</sup> State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh

- **Mr Satpal Singh Satti has been appointed the chairman of sixth State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh.** The newly-constituted commission will review the financial position of the panchayats and municipalities and devolution of resources to these institutions.
- **Mr Satti will enjoy the status of a Cabinet Minister.** The tenure of the commission will commence from the date of issuance of the notification. The commission will make its report available by December 31, 2021 covering a period of five years from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2027.

-----

# AWARDS

## Rohit Sharma along with 4 athletes won Khel Ratna Award

- **India's limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma**, who is one of the most established white-ball cricketers in world cricket, is all set to get India's highest sporting award - **The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award**. Rohit had a sensational run in the year 2019 - where he became the first batsman ever to score five centuries in an ODI World Cup.
- **On August 21**, the Sports Ministry confirmed five names for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. Along with Mariappan Thangavelu (Para Athletics), table tennis champion Manika Batra, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and hockey player Rani Rampal, 'Hitman' Rohit Sharma also got a mention in the elite list.
- Thus, Rohit became only the fourth Indian cricketer -- after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli -- to be conferred with Khel Ratna award.
- **On the other hand**, Rani will become only the third Indian hockey player after Dhanraj Pillay and Sardar Singh to receive the Khel Ratna. Phogat became the first woman wrestler to win an Asian Games gold medal in 2018.
- **All the sportspersons will receive the awards on August 29** - which is also celebrated as National Sports Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand. This year, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the ceremony is likely to be held virtually.

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna**, officially known as **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of the Republic of India. The award is named after Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India who served the office from 1984 to 1989. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Khel Ratna is usually awarded to two athletes with exceptional cases taking the count to three also recommended subject to Sports Ministry's approval. As of 2018, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh (US\$10,000). The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, who was honoured for the performance in the year 1991-92. In 2001, sport shooter Abhinav Bindra, then aged 18, became the youngest recipient of the award. Devendra Jhajharia is the first para athlete to receive Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and Deepa Malik is the first and oldest Indian women para-athlete to the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna.

## IISc Professor selected for 2021 Joel Henry Hildebrand Award

- An Honorary Professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been selected as the 2021 recipient of the Joel Henry Hildebrand Award in the Theoretical and Experimental Chemistry of Liquids.
- Professor Biman Bagchi was about the award by the American Chemical Society in Washington DC. The Institute described the award as being "prestigious" in the area of liquids and gasses. "After a long time an Indian has got this award".

## WHO Chief Scientist honoured with Tamil Nadu's CM's special award

- Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation, Soumya Swaminathan was conferred with the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's special award, in recognition of her advisory role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. Swaminathan received the award from Chief Minister K Palaniswami on the 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration at Fort St George.

## Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava gets 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019'

- Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava is awarded the 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019' in 'air adventure' category. Gajanand Yadava is a Parachute Jump Instructor and member of IAF Skydiving Team 'AkashGanga'. He has undertaken more than 2900 jumps till date.
- Meanwhile, the Air Force also congratulated to Air Force Sports Control Board (AFSCB), for being awarded the 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020', which is given for making sustained efforts towards encouragement and promotion of Sports.

### Government school teacher from Ladakh selected for National Awards to Teachers, 2020

---

- A government school teacher from Ladakh has been selected for the National Awards to Teachers, 2020. Head Teacher of Middle School Taknak Sakti in Kharu block of Leh - Ladakh, Sonam Gyaltsan, has been selected for the prestigious National award.
- An independent jury constituted by the Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy has selected the teachers for their excellence in the field of teaching with innovation and dedication.
- Sonam Gyaltsan also utilised ITBPs Civil Action Program to take his students to Bharat Darshan. Taknak Sakti is one of the longest villages in Leh district. In three years the enrollment of Students rose from 4 to 103 now. This depicts the changed scenario of the government school in Ladakh.

### Anand Mahindra, Shantanu Narayen to receive 2020 Leadership Awards from USISPF

---

- A top US-based India-centric business advocacy group will honour Mahindra group Chairman Anand Mahindra and Adobe Chairman and CEO Shantanu Narayen with its 2020 Leadership Awards in recognition of their exemplary vision towards promoting US-India bilateral ties.
- The award, announced would be presented during the third Annual Leadership Summit, titled “US-India Week: Navigating New Challenges”, which will convene virtually from August 31, the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) said.

### Dr. Sneha Rakesh wins Best Emerging Women Entrepreneur award from Business Mint

---

- Dr. Sneha Rakesh, a rural entrepreneur travelled all the way from Hassan to Belgium, creating success stories.
- She is a woman entrepreneur who has achieved great heights in the technology industry. With sheer dedication and heightened passion, she has done everything to reach the position. She followed a common saying: never to quit, and don't lose hope.
- A diploma in computer science from Smt LV Polytechnic College, Karnataka, followed by MSC Engg from MS Ramaiah School Of Advance Studies, Dr Sneha Rakesh started working at the age of 19. She started as a Software Engineer after her diploma in the field. Alongside her job in a startup, she joined an evening college for further studies.

# IMPORTANT DAYS

## World Photography Day

---

- **The World Photography Day takes place on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** World Photography Day is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science and history of photography.

## International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief - 22 August

---

- **The General Assembly, in its resolution designated 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief recognizing** the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.
- **It strongly deplored all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief,** as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship, as well as all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines that are in violation of international law.

## International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition- 23 August

---

- **The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo** saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.
- It is against this background that the **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23 August each year.**

### References:

The Hindu  
The Economics Times  
Indian Express  
Press Information Bureau of India  
The Times of India  
Business Standard  
News on AIR  
Hindustan Times



# QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following exchanges of India has launched India's first bullion index, BullDEX, on August 24?  
(a) Bombay Stock Exchange (b) Inter-connected Stock Exchange of India  
(c) Multi Commodity Exchange of India (d) National Stock Exchange
2. Recently, The Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand unveiled the new State logo at Ranchi on the eve of 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. The logo accommodates \_\_\_\_\_ which is the State flower of Jharkhand.  
(a) Lotus (b) Rose (c) Palash (d) Jasmine
3. Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in \_\_\_\_\_, the bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter.  
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh
4. Which of the following states has retained its top position in implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme?  
(a) Jharkhand (b) West Bengal (c) Odisha (d) Bihar
5. Recently, India announced a slew of new connectivity measures for the \_\_\_\_\_ including air, sea, intra-island and telecommunications in an effort to help the Indian Ocean Islands deal with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Seychelles (d) Sri Lanka
6. As per announcement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which is to be India's first carbon neutral region?  
(a) Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region (b) Bastar Region  
(c) Chota Nagpur region (d) Sikkim
7. Recently, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have launched a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for \_\_\_\_\_ to alert local authorities about flash floods and/or heavy rainfall.  
(a) Guwahati (b) Patna (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Kolkata
8. Who won the Prague open women singles title?  
(a) Venus Williams (b) Serena Williams (c) Simona Halep (d) Elise Mertens
9. Which of the following union territories celebrated its 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "De-Jure" day by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954?  
(a) Union Territory of Puducherry (b) Union Territory of Daman & Diu  
(c) Union Territory of Lakshadweep (d) Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
10. Which of the following Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporations has recently roped in Indian Idol Season 11 Finalist and Oscar Nominated Playback Singer Shahzan Mujeeb as its first ever National Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level?  
(a) Agra Municipal Corporation (b) Aligarh Municipal Corporation  
(c) Meerut Municipal Corporation (d) Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation
11. Recently, the state of art quality control laboratory for Sea food export set up at \_\_\_\_\_ in Gujarat.  
(a) Surat (b) Porbandar (c) Gandhinagar (d) Vadodara
12. Recently, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 'Swasthya' (b) 'Health' (c) 'Swasth Jeevan' (d) 'Healthy India'

13. Recently, Hamed Bakayoko, has been named Prime Minister of:  
(a) Ghana (b) Gambia (c) Ivory Coast (d) Zimbabwe
14. Which of the following government has launched a 3-million pound innovation challenge fund in India to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges like Covid-19 and the threat to the environment?  
(a) United Kingdom (b) France (c) Germany (d) Russia
15. Which of the following banks has launched a campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels under the campaign 'DIGITAL APNAYEN'?  
(a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank  
(c) Canara Bank (d) Union Bank of India
16. Recently, Gujarat cadre IPS officer \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force, BSF.  
(a) Rakesh Asthana (b) Vijay Mehdirattta (c) Amulya Patnaik (d) Dibaker Bannerjee
17. FC Girls Football Academy, India's first full-fledged girl's residential football training facility was launched in:  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Mumbai (d) Chennai
18. Which of the following countries has detected a strain of the new coronavirus that has been found to be 10 times more infectious?  
(a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) Sri Lanka (d) Cambodia
19. Recently, Pandit Jasraj passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA. He was Legendary Indian \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Santoor Player (b) Sitar Player (c) Classical Vocalist (d) Shehnai Player
20. Which of the following states has launched India's biggest United Payments Interface (UPI) based payment system?  
(a) Karnataka (b) Telangana (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh
21. Recently, The Governor of Goa, Satya Pal Malik has been transferred and appointed as Governor of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Sikkim (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Meghalaya
22. The First World Solar Technology Summit will be organized by International Solar Alliance, ISA on a virtual platform on 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Who is the President of the ISA Assembly?  
(a) Shri Narendra Modi (b) Shri Amit Shah (c) Shri R.K.Singh (d) Shri Peeyush Goyal
23. Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge - Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat. \_\_\_\_\_ and Center for Development of Advance Computing have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture.  
(a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Delhi (d) IIT Kharagpur
24. Which of the following states has announced to launch a special scheme under which school students will be able to learn in their respective localities in view of the suspension of classes due to the coronavirus outbreak?  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Uttar Pradesh
25. Which of the following E-commerce companies has inked an agreement with IIT-Patna to help create industry-focused applied research in the areas of artificial intelligence, natural language processing and machine learning ?  
(a) Amazon (b) Flipkart (c) Snapdeal (d) Myntra
26. Which of the following IIT's has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year?  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

27. On August 13, 2020, which of the following two countries have agreed to the “Abraham Accord”?  
 (a) UAE and Yemen (b) Israel and United Arab Emirates  
 (c) Oman and Qatar (d) South Korea and North Korea
28. Recently, Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa resigned from his post to join the \_\_\_\_\_ as vice-president next month.  
 (a) World Bank (b) International Monetary Fund  
 (c) Asian Development Bank (d) New Development Bank
29. Which of the following has won the IPL title sponsorship rights with a bid of 222 crore rupees?  
 (a) Oppo (b) Unacademy (c) Dream11 (d) Britannia
30. Who among the following Indian cricketer is among the 4 athletes who have been recommended for India’s highest sporting honour, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award?  
 (a) K.L. Rahul (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Jasprit Bumrah (d) Prithvi Shah
31. Which of the following state governments has signed a MoU for establishing the first manufacturing unit of a Defense Category Industry in the state?  
 (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Haryana (c) Punjab (d) Madhya Pradesh
32. Recently, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about Rupees 7,485 crore) loan to support the construction of the modern, high-speed \_\_\_\_\_ regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.  
 (a) Mumbai-Pune (b) Pune-Nagpur (c) Delhi-Meerut (d) Bhopal-Indore
33. Recently, Chrystia Freeland has been named as first female finance minister of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Greece (b) Canada (c) Mexico (d) Portugal
34. In the United States, Democratic Party has formally nominated \_\_\_\_\_ as its presidential nominee for the 2020 elections.  
 (a) Joe Biden (b) Kamala Harris (c) Donald Trump (d) Jedd Kirchner
35. Which of the following countries President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has recently announced his resignation amid a military coup?  
 (a) Gambia (b) Mali (c) Haiti (d) Suriname
36. Which of the following central banks implements first retail payments system in the world using blockchain technology?  
 (a) Mexican central bank (b) Cambodian central bank  
 (c) Canadian central bank (d) Russian central bank
37. Reserve Bank of India has unveiled the framework for setting up of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments. As per the framework, the companies with a net worth of over \_\_\_\_\_ rupees will be eligible to set up an umbrella entity.  
 (a) 100 crore (b) 250 crore (c) 500 crore (d) 1000 crore
38. Which of the following exchanges will commence trading of green energy on its power trading platform, the first such for the country?  
 (a) Indian Energy Exhibition (b) Indian Energy Exchange  
 (c) Indian Emergency Exchange (d) India Green Energy Exchange Board
39. Recently, Chandryaan-2 has captured images of the Moon and one of the craters has been named after \_\_\_\_\_ the father of the Indian space programme.  
 (a) Vikram Sarabhai (b) K Kasturiranjana (c) APJ Abdul Kalam (d) Homi J Bhabha

40. Name the Indian cricketer who was named in a 29-strong list of athletes recommended for this year's Arjuna award by the sports ministry's selection committee.  
 (a) Umesh Yadav (b) Ishant Sharma (c) Ravindra Jadeja (d) Cheteshwar Pujara
41. Which of the following cities has become the cleanest city in the country for the fourth consecutive time, leaving behind 4,242 cities of the country in Swachh Survekshan 2020?  
 (a) Guntur of Andhra Pradesh (b) Surat of Gujarat  
 (c) Indore of Madhya Pradesh (d) Mysuru of Karnataka
42. Recently, Union Cabinet approved setting up of National Recruitment Agency to conduct Common Eligibility Test. NRA will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, \_\_\_\_\_, SSC, RRB and IBPS.  
 (a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Home  
 (c) Ministry of Science & Technology (d) UPSC
43. The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Kashi (b) Banaras (c) Chandauli (d) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Nagar
44. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the change in name of the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Ministry of Education (b) Ministry of Shiksha  
 (c) Ministry of Addhayan (d) Ministry of Talent
45. Recently, Indian Railways has introduced an innovative system to ensure passenger security in the country. \_\_\_\_\_ to quickly travel on rail tracks for inspections, monitoring, and urgent repairs.  
 (a) Rail Bicycle (b) Rail Wheel (c) Rail Maintain (d) Rail Car
46. Recently, Jacek Czaputowicz resigned in pre-announced move. He was the foreign minister of:  
 (a) Finland (b) France (c) Sweden (d) Poland
47. In a global index on digital quality of life in 85 countries, India ranked \_\_\_\_\_ on the internet affordability indicator, and 15<sup>th</sup> on e-government.  
 (a) 2<sup>nd</sup> (b) 4<sup>th</sup> (c) 9<sup>th</sup> (d) 15<sup>th</sup>
48. Recently, Reliance Industries Ltd has acquired a majority stake in online pharmacy \_\_\_\_\_ for about 6.2 billion rupees in cash, days after e-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc launched an online drug sales service in India.  
 (a) Netmeds (b) Apollo 247 (c) Medlife (d) 1mg.com
49. Which of the following companies recently became the first publicly listed US Company with a \$2 trillion stock market value?  
 (a) Facebook (b) Apple Inc (c) Exxon Mobil (d) Berkshire Hathway
50. The General Assembly, in its resolution designated \_\_\_\_\_ as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.  
 (a) 20<sup>th</sup> August (b) 21<sup>st</sup> August (c) 22<sup>nd</sup> August (d) 25<sup>th</sup> August
51. The metro trains in India will now run on the indigenously manufactured rails built in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Haryana (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Rajasthan (d) Chhattisgarh
52. The report of the technical group on population projections titled population projections for India and States 2011 – 2036 has observed that the lowest sex ratio of 899 is expected to be in \_\_\_\_\_ in 2036.  
 (a) NCT of Delhi (b) Gujarat (c) Haryana (d) Rajasthan



53. Recently, Pakistan government has declared former Prime Minister \_\_\_\_\_ currently in London for treatment, an absconder and approached the U.K. government for his extradition.  
 (a) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (b) Yousaf Raza Gillani  
 (c) Nawaz Sharif (d) Raja Pervaiz Ashraf
54. Recently, who won Best Emerging Women Entrepreneur award from Business Mint?  
 (a) Dr. Sneha Rakesh (b) Dr. Suraiya Mishra (c) Dr. Meenakshi Jha (d) Dr. Tiya Vajpayee
55. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ and Bharti AXA Sign Definitive Agreements to combine their Non-Life Insurance Businesses.  
 (a) HDFC Ergo (b) SBI life Insurance (c) PNB Metlife (d) ICICI Lombard
56. Recently, Researchers at the \_\_\_\_\_ and Shiv Nadar University claim to have developed a technology for production of environment friendly Lithium-Sulfur (Li-S) batteries which will be three times more energy efficient and cost effective than Lithium-ion batteries.  
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay  
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi  
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras  
 (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
57. Which of the following IIT's has developed a portable hospital unit 'MediCAB' that can be installed anywhere within two hours by four people?  
 (a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur  
 (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras  
 (c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi  
 (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
58. Name the honorary Professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) who has been selected as the 2021 recipient of the Joel Henry Hildebrand Award in the Theoretical and Experimental Chemistry of Liquids.  
 (a) Professor Biman Bagchi (b) Professor Anupam Khurana  
 (c) Professor Deepak Khajuria (d) Professor Amulya Narain
59. Recently, Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation, Soumya Swaminathan was conferred with the \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Minister's special award, in recognition of her advisory role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.  
 (a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Maharashtra
60. Who among the following is awarded the 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019' in 'air adventure' category recently?  
 (a) Flight Lieutenant Hitesh Shah (b) Flight Lieutenant Pushkar Solanki  
 (c) Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava (d) Wing Commander Samar Pratap
61. Who has been recently appointed as the new election commissioner?  
 (a) Rajiv Kumar (b) Ashutosh Maheshwari  
 (c) Amitabh Chatopadhyay (d) Rishabh Trivedi
62. Recently, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the discovery of a large natural gas reserve off the \_\_\_\_\_ coast that will help ease the country's dependence on imports.  
 (a) Mediterranean Sea (b) Black Sea (c) Sargasso Sea (d) Caspian Sea
63. Recently, Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ has organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT).  
 (a) Myanmar (b) Thailand (c) Cambodia (d) Singapore

64. Recently, who has been appointed as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India?  
(a) Ashwani Bhatia (b) Bhupinder Gupta (c) Neelesh Juneja (d) Mithilesh Kumar
65. Recently, Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has informed that hallmarking of precious metals will be mandatory from \_\_\_\_\_ next year.  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> March (b) 1<sup>st</sup> May (c) 1<sup>st</sup> June (d) 1<sup>st</sup> November
66. Recently, WWF-India is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever state Dragonfly Festival in \_\_\_\_\_ christened 'Thumbi Maholsavam 2020'.  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Karnataka (d) Andhra Pradesh
67. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed every year on:  
(a) August 19 (b) August 20 (c) August 22 (d) August 23
68. Who has been appointed the chairman of sixth State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh?  
(a) Mr Krishnapal Rawat (b) Mr Santosh Sharma  
(c) Mr Satpal Singh Satti (d) Mr Deepak Luthra
69. A top US-based India-centric business advocacy group will honour \_\_\_\_\_ and Adobe Chairman and CEO Shantanu Narayen with its 2020 Leadership Awards in recognition of their exemplary vision towards promoting US-India bilateral ties.  
(a) Mahindra group Chairman Anand Mahindra  
(b) Reliance group Chairman Mukesh Ambani  
(c) Wipro group Chairman Azim Premji  
(d) Adani group Chairman Gautam Adani
70. Researchers at the \_\_\_\_\_ have discovered a new material to split hydrogen and water, using solar power. The research is expected to bring the conversion and storage part in a single system, which would reduce the cost per kWh of solar energy.  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) India has launched India's first bullion index, Bulldex, on August 24. The bullion index, Bulldex, being launched by MCX is the sixth product in bullion complex with 1-kg gold, 100-gm goldmini, 8-gm gold guinea and 1-gm gold peta, while the Options on Futures on 1-kg gold is already in place.
2. c The logo accommodates 'Palash flower' (Butea monosperma), which is the State flower of Jharkhand.
3. b Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in Manipur. The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter.
4. c Odisha has retained its top position in implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme
5. b India announced a slew of new connectivity measures for the Maldives, including air, sea, intra-island and telecommunications in an effort to help the Indian Ocean Islands deal with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. a A 7500 MW solar park is being built in Ladakh for electricity and infrastructure development in the region. The Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region will be developed and declared to be a carbon neutral region, PM Modi said in his Independence Day speech.
7. a The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have launched a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for Guwahati to alert local authorities about flash floods and/or heavy rainfall.
8. c Top seed Simona Halep claimed her second successive title, albeit six months apart, as she comfortably beat Elise Mertens to win the Prague Open.
9. a The Union Territory of Puducherry celebrated its 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "De-Jure" day. Puducherry became independent by virtue of a referendum on October 18, 1954.
10. b Aligarh Municipal Corporation (AMC) has recently roped in Indian Idol Season 11 Finalist and Oscar Nominated Playback Singer Shahzan Mujeeb as its First Ever National Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level.
11. b The state of art quality control laboratory for Sea food export set up at Porbandar in Gujarat. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has opened a Quality Control Laboratory in the coastal city of Porbandar facilitating tests for seafood processors and exporters.
12. a Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya'.
13. c Hamed Bakayoko, has been named Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.
14. a The UK government has launched a 3-million pound innovation challenge fund in India to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges like Covid-19 and the threat to the environment.
15. b State-owned Punjab National Bank launched a campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
16. a Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana has been appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force, BSF.

- 17. b** FC Girls Football Academy, India's first full-fledged girls residential football training facility was launched by Rebels FC in Bengaluru.
- 18. b** Malaysia has detected a strain of the new coronavirus that has been found to be 10 times more infectious.
- 19. c** Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passed away at his home in New Jersey, USA.
- 20. d** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched India's biggest United Payments Interface (UPI) based payment system.
- 21. d** The Governor of Goa, Satya Pal Malik has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Meghalaya.
- 22. c** President of the ISA Assembly and New and Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address of the First World Solar Technology Summit and it will be graced by Ministers from member countries from across all ISA regions.
- 23. a** Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge - Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat. IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture.
- 24. c** Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced to launch a special scheme under which school students will be able to learn in their respective localities in view of the suspension of classes due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- 25. b** Walmart-owned Flipkart has inked an agreement with IIT-Patna to help create industry-focused applied research in the areas of artificial intelligence (AI), natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning (ML).
- 26. a** Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year.
- 27. b** On August 13, 2020, the Israel-United Arab Emirates Peace Agreement or the Abraham Accord was agreed to by UAE and Israel.
- 28. c** Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa resigned from his post to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) as vice-president next month.
- 29. c** Fantasy gaming platform Dream11 has won the IPL title sponsorship rights with a bid of 222 crore rupees.
- 30. b** Cricketer Rohit Sharma is among the 4 athletes who have been recommended for India's highest sporting honour, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- 31. a** Chhattisgarh government has signed an MoU for establishing the first manufacturing unit of a Defense Category Industry in the state.
- 32. c** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about Rupees 7,485 crore) loan to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.
- 33. b** Chrystia Freeland named Canada's first female finance minister.
- 34. a** In the United States, Democratic Party has formally nominated Joe Biden as its presidential nominee for the 2020 elections.
- 35. b** Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has announced his resignation amid a military coup.



- 36. b** Cambodian central bank implements first retail payments system in the world using blockchain technology.
- 37. c** Reserve Bank of India has unveiled the framework for setting up of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments. As per the framework, the companies with a net worth of over 500 crore rupees will be eligible to set up an umbrella entity.
- 38. b** Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) will commence trading of green energy on its power trading platform, the first such for the country.
- 39. a** Chandryaan-2 has captured images of the Moon and one of the craters has been named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space programme.
- 40. b** India pacer Ishant Sharma was named in a 29-strong list of athletes recommended for this year's Arjuna award by the sports ministry's selection committee.
- 41. c** Indore of Madhya Pradesh has become the cleanest city in the country for the fourth consecutive time, leaving behind 4,242 cities of the country.
- 42. a** NRA will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance, SSC, RRB and IBPS.
- 43. b** The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh as 'Banaras'.
- 44. a** President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the change in name of the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) as ministry of education.
- 45. a** Indian Railways has introduced an innovative system to ensure passenger security in the country. Recently, the national transporter introduced a novel mechanism, Rail Bicycle to quickly travel on rail tracks for inspections, monitoring, and urgent repairs.
- 46. d** Poland's Foreign Minister announced his resignation on August 20 in the fourth high-level departure this week from the country's right-wing government.
- 47. c** In a global index on digital quality of life in 85 countries, India ranked 9<sup>th</sup> on the internet affordability indicator, and 15<sup>th</sup> on e-government.
- 48. a** Reliance Industries Ltd has acquired a majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for about 6.2 billion rupees (\$83.08 million) in cash, days after e-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc launched an online drug sales service in India.
- 49. b** Apple Inc became the first publicly listed US company with a \$2 trillion stock market value
- 50. c** The General Assembly, in its resolution designated 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 51. d** The metro trains in the country will now run on the indigenously manufactured rails built in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh.
- 52. a** The lowest sex ratio of 899 is expected to be in NCT of Delhi in 2036
- 53. c** The Pakistan government has declared former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in London for treatment, an absconder and approached the U.K. government for his extradition.
- 54. a** Dr. Sneha Rakesh wins Best Emerging Women Entrepreneur award from Business Mint.

- 55. d** ICICI Lombard And Bharti AXA Sign Definitive Agreements To Combine Their Non-Life Insurance Businesses.
- 56. a** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Shiv Nadar University claim to have developed a technology for production of environment friendly Lithium-Sulfur (Li-S) batteries which will be three times more energy efficient and cost effective than Lithium-ion batteries commonly used at present.
- 57. b** IIT Madras-incubated Start-up, Modulus Housing has developed a portable hospital unit that can be installed anywhere within two hours by four people. 'MediCAB' is a decentralized approach to detect, screen, identify, isolate and treat COVID-19 patients in their local communities through these portable microstructures. 'MediCAB' was launched recently in Wayanad District of Kerala where the units are being deployed to treat COVID-19 Patients.
- 58. a** Professor Biman Bagchi. An Honorary Professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been selected as the 2021 recipient of the Joel Henry Hildebrand Award in the Theoretical and Experimental Chemistry of Liquids.
- 59. b** Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation, Soumya Swaminathan was conferred with the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's special award, in recognition of her advisory role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.
- 60. c** Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava is awarded the 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019' in 'air adventure' category. Gajanand Yadava is a Parachute Jump Instructor and member of IAF Skydiving Team 'AkashGanga'. He has undertaken more than 2900 jumps till date.
- 61. a** Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed new election commissioner. He will replace Ashok Lavasa, who resigned.
- 62. b** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the discovery of a large natural gas reserve off the Black Sea coast that will help ease the country's dependence on imports.
- 63. b** The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT).
- 64. a** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has apprised the appointment of Ashwani Bhatia as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India.
- 65. c** Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has said that hallmarking of precious metals will be mandatory from 1<sup>st</sup> June next year.
- 66. b** WWF-India Kerala State Office is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever state Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, christened 'Thumbi Maholsavam 2020'.
- 67. d** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, is an international day celebrated August 23 of each year.
- 68. c** Mr Satpal Singh Satti has been appointed the chairman of sixth State Finance Commission of Himachal Pradesh.
- 69. a** A top US-based India-centric business advocacy group will honour Mahindra group Chairman Anand Mahindra and Adobe Chairman and CEO Shantanu Narayen with its 2020 Leadership Awards in recognition of their exemplary vision towards promoting US-India bilateral ties.
- 70. a** Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras have discovered a new material to split hydrogen and water, using solar power. The research is expected to bring the conversion and storage part in a single system, which would reduce the cost per kWh of solar energy.