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# MANTHAN

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**A General Awareness Weekly**

**21<sup>st</sup> September to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

# PREFACE

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**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



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

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

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

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

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

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

### Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ‘Mukhymantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana’ started in Madhya Pradesh

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

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

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

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

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

## PASSEX conducted in Eastern Indian Ocean

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

## PM Modi virtually inaugurates VAIBHAV Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually **inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October this year. It aims to bring out the comprehensive roadmap to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researcher for solving emerging challenges.**

- **VAIBHAV summit is a collaborative initiative by Science and Technology and Academic Organisations** of the country to enable deliberations on thought process, practices and Research and development culture with a problem solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- **The platform will bring the Indian Overseas and resident academicians and scientists together to evolve a structure of association.** The aim of summit is to reflect in-depth on the collaboration and cooperation instruments with academia and scientists in India. The inauguration was followed by month-long deliberation sessions starting from 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 among researchers through webinar mode.

### Assam launches gold scheme for brides from weaker section

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

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

### Lok Sabha passes the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** gave assent to the **Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020**, which was recently passed by the parliament.
- **The Act makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language** of the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**. Earlier only **Urdu and English** were the official language for the Union territory.
- According to the 2011 census, **the present population of Jammu and Kashmir is over one crore 21 lakh**. The number of people speaking Urdu in the Union Territory is very less.

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

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

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

## Uttar Pradesh launches U-Rise portal for employment

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

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

## Khonoma, India's first green village

- **Khonoma is India's first green village**. Situated near the **Indo-Myanmar border**, in the **Indian state of Nagaland**. The first step that was taken in this regard was the **creation of the Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS) in 1998**. This led to a **ban on hunting in Khonoma** after a **20 sqkm area** was demarcated by the village council as the **KNTCS**.
- **For the Angami tribe, which calls this village their home, hunting was their sacred cultural practice**. But with the hunting ban, there came a gradual shift in their lifestyle. The village is **referred to as Khwuno-ra (named after the Angami term for a local plant, Glouthera fragrantissima)**.

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



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

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

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

### Singapore Convention on Mediation comes into force

- **The Singapore Convention on Mediation came into force on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will provide a more effective way for enforcing mediated settlements of corporate disputes involving businesses in India and other countries that are signatories to the Convention.**
- **Also known as the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, this is also the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.** Singapore had worked with the UN Commission on International Trade Law, other UN member states and non-governmental organisations for the Convention.
- **As on September 1, the Convention has 53 signatories, including India, China and the U.S.** According to the statement, the Convention, which entered into force on Saturday, would boost India’s ‘ease of doing business’ credentials by enabling swift mediated settlements of corporate disputes.

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

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

## Pakistan participating in multinational military exercise in Russia

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

**Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency of Pakistan. Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi is the 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**

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

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

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

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

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

**Norway is a Nordic country in Northern Europe** whose mainland territory comprises the western and northernmost portion of the Scandinavian Peninsula. **Oslo is the capital, most populous, and primate city of Norway. Erna Solberg is currently serving as Prime Minister** of Norway. The **kroner** is the **currency of Norway.** **Nordic countries** are a group of **countries in Northern Europe.** These countries include **Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and the territories of the Aland Islands and the Faroe Islands.** 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.**

## Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim plans new government

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

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

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

## Iraqi Prime Minister changes central bank governor

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

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

## Amid Growing Pollution, UN Calls for 'Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet'

- A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum will be held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.
- According to an official note, the inaugural address will be given by Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Gaitri Issar Kumar. Besides, a memorandum of understanding will be inked between Ganga and British Water.
- The event will highlight the strategic partnership approaches between the two countries to develop 21<sup>st</sup>-Century water infrastructure in India. India's water conservation programme and other policies like Namami Gange programme, Jal Jeewan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission, will also be discussed.

## Nagorno-Karabakh announces martial law

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

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

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



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

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

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

## Parliament passes three labour code Bills for welfare of workers

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

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

### **SBI starts women self-reliance programme in Assam**

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

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

### **Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee**

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

### **Sebi constitutes technical committee on social stock exchange**

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

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

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

- **PM Narendra Modi** said that **7,000 projects** have been identified across various sectors as part of the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) project** which would be executed at an investment of Rs 110 lakh crore.
- To achieve the GDP of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, **India needs to spend about \$1.4 trillion or Rs 100 lakh crore** over these years on infrastructure, as per government estimates. **In the decade between FY 2008-17, India invested about \$1.1 trillion on infrastructure.** The challenge is to step-up annual infrastructure investment so that lack of infrastructure does not become a binding constraint on the growth of the Indian economy.
- To achieve this objective, a **Task Force was constituted to draw up the NIP for each of the years from FY 2019-20 to FY 2024-25** with the approval of the Finance Minister. **The Task Force is chaired by Secretary, DEA with CEO (NITI Aayog), Secretary (Expenditure), Secretary of the Administrative Ministries, and Additional Secretary (Investments), DEA as members and Joint Secretary (IPF), DEA as Member Secretary.**
- It has outlined **plans to invest more than ₹102 lakh crore on infrastructure projects by 2024-25**, with the Centre, States and the private sector to share the capital expenditure in a 39:39:22 formula.

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

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

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

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

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

## IDFC First Bank launched contactless debit card payment facility next week

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

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

## Vaccine tycoon overtakes Jack Ma as China's wealthiest person

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

## IATA, UNOCT to Cooperate On Countering Terrorist Travel

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

## Jio launches India's first in-flight mobile services

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

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

## RBI sets new rules for Cheque payments from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020

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

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

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

### Forex reserves at all-time high

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

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

### Three-member panel to run Lakshmi Vilas Bank

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

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

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

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



## Inventions/Discoveries

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

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

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

### Solar Cycle 25

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

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

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

- **In a first in North India**, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana has established a special blood bank for dogs.

- The facility has been **set up after getting approval from the Department of Biotechnology** and will cater to the needs of sick and blood deficient dogs.

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

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

### Tata Group to unveil India's first CRISPR test

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

### National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 passed in parliament

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

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

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

### DRDO conducts successful flight test of ABHYAS

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- **The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha.** During the trials, two demonstrator vehicles were successfully test flown. The vehicle can be used as target for evaluation of various missile systems. **Abhyas is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO.**

- The air vehicle is launched using twin underslung booster. It is **powered by a small gas turbine engine and has MEMS based Inertial Navigation System for navigation** along with the Flight Control Computer for guidance and control. The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight. The checkout of air vehicle is done using laptop based Ground Control Station.

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

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

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

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

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

### First Tesla Research Centre in India soon

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

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

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

### Indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile testfired

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

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



## Sports Personalities in News

### MS Dhoni Becomes First Wicketkeeper to 250 Dismissals in T20 Cricket

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

### Novak Djokovic wins Men's Singles event in Italian Open

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

### Italian Open: Simona Halep lifts Women's Singles title

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

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

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

# MISCELLANEOUS

## Parliament passes Rashtriya Raksha University Bill 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Chennai division launches 'Freight Seva' mobile app

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni

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

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

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

## Kolkata gets world’s first tram library

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

## 21-year-old launched India’s first ‘pet sanitiser’

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

## 51<sup>st</sup> IFFI to be held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January next year in Goa

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

## Bangladesh to make film on revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar

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

## PERSONS IN NEWS

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

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

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

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

### Anil Dhasmana appointed as new chief of NTRO

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

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

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

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

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

# AWARDS

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

- **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been awarded the **Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for 'Medical Education'**. The award is shared by heads of **Brazil, the UK, Mexico, Belarus, the US, Turkey, Russia, and Turkmenistan**.
- The **Ig Nobel Prize is a satirical or parody awards given out every year by a magazine named 'Annals of Improbable Research'**. The magazine is dedicated to scientific humour, in the form of a satirical take on the standard academic journal.
- It is wordplay on **'ignoble', an antonym of noble. It is being given since 1991 and it aims to "honour achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think."** Narendra Modi became the **second Prime Minister to win the award. Earlier, Atal Bihari Vajpayee won the 1998 Peace award for "aggressively peaceful explosions of atomic bombs."**

## Chaitanya Tamhane-directorial 'The Disciple' wins Amplify Voices Award at TIFF

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

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

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

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

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

# IMPORTANT DAYS

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

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

## International Equal Pay Day 2020

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

## World Alzheimer's Day

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

## World Rhinoceros Day

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

## World Maritime Day 24 September

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

### 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. Recently, International Equal Pay Day was observed for the first time in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 2<sup>nd</sup> September (b) 6<sup>th</sup> September (c) 11<sup>th</sup> September (d) 18<sup>th</sup> September
2. Recently, FICCI-SAM knowledge report on 'India & \_\_\_\_\_' was launched.  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Japan (c) South Korea (d) Russia
3. Recently, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha. The amendments seek to make \_\_\_\_\_ mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions.  
(a) ID (b) Aadhar (c) Pan Card (d) Passport
4. Which of the following railway division of Southern Railways launched mobile app 'Freight Seva' with a motive of strengthening its customer base and attracting new streams of freight and parcel traffic?  
(a) Chennai division (b) Tiruchirappalli division  
(c) Madurai division (d) Salem division
5. Recently, Pakistan Armed Forces contingent participated in opening ceremony of multinational military exercise, named Kavkaz-2020, held at Astrakhan region, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Russia (b) Kazakhstan (c) Turkmenistan (d) China
6. To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode \_\_\_\_\_ started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme).  
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India  
(c) Union bank of India (d) Canara Bank
7. Recently, The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021. The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Anil Khatri (b) Rajesh Verma (c) Manoj Rai (d) Govardhan Patnaik
8. According to the researchers, including those from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the U.S., as much as \_\_\_\_\_ of the extra heat trapped on the Earth by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide is held in the world's oceans, making it important to monitor the temperature of ocean waters.  
(a) 60% (b) 65% (c) 75% (d) 95%
9. Who has been recently appointed as the chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), India's technical body that is responsible for geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery?  
(a) Anil Dhasmana (b) Aniket Parashar (c) Vivek Agnihotri (d) Mayank Parrikar
10. Who among the following became the first keeper in the world to 250 dismissals in T20 cricket?  
(a) Kamran Akmal (b) MS Dhoni (c) Parthiv Patel (d) Dinesh Kartik
11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is inaugurated Atal Tunnel on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Jammu (b) Manali (c) Chamba (d) Pahalgam
12. Recently, first ever direct cargo ferry service between India & \_\_\_\_\_ jointly e- launched.  
(a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Sri Lanka (d) Seychelles
13. In which of the following states / union territories, Indian Army organized a Shikara race in world-famous Dal Lake to promote tourism.  
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Ladakh (d) Jammu & Kashmir

14. Recently, Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Puducherry (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
15. e- Peek Pahani mobile application will reduce hardships of farmers and help them get the right price and good market for their produce in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Punjab
16. In a first in North India, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU) in \_\_\_\_\_ has established a special blood bank for dogs.  
 (a) Ludhiana (b) Patiala (c) Chandigarh (d) Amritsar
17. World's First Bionic Eye to Fully Restore Vision in Blind People was performed by scientist's in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Canada (b) USA (c) Singapore (d) Australia
18. Who won the Italian Open women's singles title?  
 (a) Serena Williams (b) Naomi Osaka (c) Simona Halep (d) Karolína Pliskova
19. World Alzheimer's Day is observed on \_\_\_\_\_ to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia.  
 (a) 17<sup>th</sup> September (b) 21<sup>st</sup> September (c) 23<sup>rd</sup> September (d) 25<sup>th</sup> September
20. Who has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for 'Medical Education'?  
 (a) Narendra Modi (b) Shashi Tharoor (c) M Swaminathan (d) Push Kumar Matha
21. Which of the following states becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country?  
 (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat
22. In a first, name the two women officers who have been selected to join as 'Observers' (Airborne Tacticians) in the Indian Navy's helicopter stream?  
 (a) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh  
 (b) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Mrinalini Saha and SLt Manisha Pilagaonkar  
 (c) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Deepali Yadav and SLt Roli Sharma  
 (d) Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Deepti Rawat and SLt Yashi Chauhan
23. The first city in the world to roll out smart roads that can charge electric vehicles as they drive along, with a pilot project set to trial an electric public transportation system?  
 (a) Copenhagen (b) Mogadishu (c) Tel Aviv (d) Lisbon
24. The world's first full-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) project is to come up in:  
 (a) Hungary (b) Finland (c) Canada (d) Norway
25. Recently, SEBI has set-up a technical committee on the social stock exchange, which will develop a framework for on boarding profit and non-profit organisations on such bourses and prescribe disclosure requirements relating to financials and governance. The technical group would be chaired by \_\_\_\_\_ former chairman of NABARD.  
 (a) Harsh Kumar Bhanwala (b) A K Garg  
 (c) Hashim Ahmed Khan (d) Bijoy Dutta
26. Recently, India's first solar power-run auto unveiled in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal
27. Recently, The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO from the Interim Test Range, \_\_\_\_\_ in Odisha.  
 (a) Paradip (b) Balasore (c) Puri (d) Bhubaneswar

28. American electric car maker brand Tesla will have its research centre in India soon at \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Pune (d) Gurugram
29. Who won Men's Singles event in Italian Open 2020?  
 (a) Novak Djokovic (b) Diego Schwartzman (c) Andy Murray (d) Roger Federer
30. The world celebrates World Rhinoceros Day on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 11<sup>th</sup> September (b) 17<sup>th</sup> September (c) 21<sup>st</sup> September (d) 22<sup>nd</sup> September
31. Recently, the first-ever annual 'India Happiness Report', which is India specific and studies happiness in the thirty-six states and union territories of India, has been released. In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, which are the top three?  
 (a) Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands  
 (b) Sikkim, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir  
 (c) Manipur, Sikkim, Lakshadweep  
 (d) Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Nagaland
32. Who will be the first woman pilot to fly Rafale, India's most modern multi-role fighter aircraft?  
 (a) Mohana Singh (b) Deepti Narayanan (c) Anjani Katariya (d) Shivangi Singh
33. United Nations and \_\_\_\_\_ will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement.  
 (a) Britain (b) France (c) Germany (d) Portugal
34. What is the name of the first Indian Airline to offer in-air WiFi services?  
 (a) Vistara (b) Go Air (c) Air India (d) Indigo
35. What is the name of the undergoing exercise between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in Eastern Indian Ocean Region?  
 (a) PASSEX (b) NOMADIC ELEPHANT  
 (c) INDAUS (d) AJNEYA WARRIOR
36. Recently, Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the Rajya Sabha clearing it. National Forensic Sciences University will be in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Gujarat (b) Delhi (c) Haryana (d) Maharashtra
37. Recently, Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is started in \_\_\_\_\_ on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.  
 (a) Punjab (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Haryana (d) Madhya Pradesh
38. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organization successfully conducted test firing of Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile from \_\_\_\_\_ at K K Ranges in Ahmednagar.  
 (a) MBT Krishna (b) MBT Karna (c) MBT Naag (d) MBT Arjun
39. Indian Railways have planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 2021 (b) 2022 (c) 2023 (d) 2025
40. Name the only Indian Actor who featured in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People Of 2020 list.  
 (a) Akshay Kumar (b) Ayushmann Khurrana  
 (c) Ranveer Singh (d) Karthik Aryan
41. The 51<sup>st</sup> Edition of the International Film Festival of India will be held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Goa (b) Sikkim (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Kerala

42. Recently, who became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs?  
 (a) Rohit Sharma (b) Virat Kohli (c) Suresh Raina (d) KL Rahul
43. Who among the following has virtually inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October this year?  
 (a) Dr Harshvardhan (b) Smriti Irani (c) Amit Shah (d) Narendra Modi
44. Recently, which of the following states launched “Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni”?  
 (a) West Bengal (b) Assam (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Chhattisgarh
45. Which of the following banks will launch contactless debit card-based payment facility, SafePay, allowing transactions up to Rs 20,000 per day?  
 (a) IDFC First Bank (b) Bandhan Bank (c) Federal bank (d) HDFC Bank
46. Recently, On occasion of nation-wide online \_\_\_\_\_ the Prime Minister launched Fit India Age-Appropriate Fitness Protocols.  
 (a) Fit India Dialogue (b) Exercise India Movement  
 (c) Work India Dialogue (d) Play India Dialogue
47. Recently, which of the following states launched “Arundhati Gold Scheme” a scheme to provide cash value of ‘tola’ (nearly 10 gm) of gold to newlywed brides from economically backward families?  
 (a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Manipur (d) Jharkhand
48. A virtual \_\_\_\_\_ Water Partnership Forum will be held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.  
 (a) India-UK (b) India-France (c) Bangladesh-Germany (d) Nepal –India
49. Which of the following South Asian countries opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim has secured a majority in Parliament to form a new government that is “strong, stable and formidable”?  
 (a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) Bangladesh (d) Nepal
50. Recently, India conducted a successful test fire of its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a base in Odisha. The missile has a strike range of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) 100 kms (b) 200 kms (c) 300 kms (d) 350 kms
51. Which of the following countries will send the Arab world’s first mission to the moon in 2024?  
 (a) UAE (b) Qatar (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Jordan
52. Name two women officers who have been selected to join as “Observers” (Airborne Tacticians) in the helicopter stream.  
 (a) Lieutenant Rupali Saha and Sub Lieutenant Pooja Singh Rathore  
 (b) Lieutenant Shivangi Sharma and Sub Lieutenant Ritika Malhare  
 (c) Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh  
 (d) Lieutenant Anamika Khanna and Sub Lieutenant Neena Agnihotri
53. Which of the following companies announced India’s first in-flight telecom service?  
 (a) Reliance Jio (b) Vodafone Idea (c) BSNL (d) Airtel India
54. Recently, A passenger plane powered by a \_\_\_\_\_ fuel cell has successfully completed a test flight in Bedfordshire, in a zero emission journey hailed as a “world first” by green aviation specialist ZeroAvia.  
 (a) Hydrogen (b) Methane (c) Nitrogen (d) Xenon

55. Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, which was recently passed by the parliament. Which of the language is not in the list?  
(a) Hindi (b) Urdu (c) Bodo (d) Dogri
56. Recently, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information Technology portal with effect from \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (b) 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (c) 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (d) 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021
57. India's first green village is located in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Manipur (d) Meghalaya
58. Which of the following governments is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddedar?  
(a) Bangladesh (b) India (c) Sri Lanka (d) Pakistan
59. World Maritime Day 2020 was recently celebrated on:  
(a) 14<sup>th</sup> September (b) 18<sup>th</sup> September (c) 20<sup>th</sup> September (d) 24<sup>th</sup> September
60. Recently, The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme). Headquarters of IATA is located at:  
(a) Montreal, Canada (b) Lisbon, Portugal (c) New York, USA (d) Paris, France
61. The first tram in the world to have a library is now open in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Madrid (b) Kolkata (c) Paris (d) Budapest
62. Recently, U-Rise portal has been launched by \_\_\_\_\_ government to help students find jobs.  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Telangana (d) Assam
63. Nagorno-Karabakh also known as Artsakh is a landlocked region in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) North Caucasus (b) EastCaucasus (c) South Caucasus (d) West Caucasus
64. Recently, In order to keep a check on the banking fraud, the \_\_\_\_\_ has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the 'positive pay system' for cheque payments.  
(a) Reserve Bank of India (b) Ministry of Finance  
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (d) NITI Aayog
65. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the formation of a three-member committee of directors to temporarily run the struggling Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. The committee will be headed by:  
(a) Shakti Sinha (b) Satish Kumar Kalra (c) Anurag Makheeja (d) Meeta Makhan
66. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ announced the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) for handling payment services related to bills.  
(a) Vedanta Ltd (b) Vakrangee Ltd (c) Kalyani Ltd (d) Metcalf Ltd
67. According to the scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) Dehradun, over 70 hot springs in Uttarakhand and \_\_\_\_\_ with potential to generate electricity have been identified.  
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Ladakh
68. Which of the following countries revealed Abu-Mahdi long-range cruise missiles for its navy recently?  
(a) Iraq (b) Syria (c) Iran (d) Jordan

69. The General Assembly commemorates \_\_\_\_\_ as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.  
(a) 11<sup>th</sup> September      (b) 13<sup>th</sup> September      (c) 19<sup>th</sup> September      (d) 26<sup>th</sup> September
70. Which of the following Indian states won a United Nations award for its “outstanding contribution” towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals?  
(a) Tamil Nadu      (b) Maharashtra      (c) Andhra Pradesh      (d) Kerala



Career  
Launcher

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **d** International Equal Pay Day, observed for the first time this 18 September under an initiative by the UN, aims at highlighting the importance of achieving equal pay for work of equal value.
2. **b** With the discouraging statistics to do with economy and growth, making it to headlines in the past few weeks, the FICCI-SAM knowledge report comes as a renewed ray of hope. The report is titled India—Japan: Time to Seize New Opportunities.
3. **b** The Bill seeks to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism, enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year.
4. **a** Chennai division of Southern Railway launched mobile app 'Freight Seva' with a motive of strengthening its customer base and attracting new streams of freight and parcel traffic.
5. **a** Pakistan Armed Forces contingent participated in opening ceremony of multinational military exercise, named Kavkaz-2020, held at Astrakhan region, Russia.
6. **b** To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode, State Bank of India (SBI) started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme).
7. **b** The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021. The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma.
8. **d** According to the researchers, including those from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the U.S., as much as 95% of the extra heat trapped on the Earth by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide is held in the world's oceans, making it important to monitor the temperature of ocean waters.
9. **a** Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), India's technical body that is responsible for geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery.
10. **b** The 39-year old former India captain became the first keeper in the world to 250 dismissals in T20 cricket. Dhoni is followed by Pakistan's Kamran Akmal.
11. **b** "Prime Minister is inaugurated Manali on October 03 for inauguration of Atal Tunnel.
12. **a** First ever Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched.
13. **d** In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army organized a Shikara race in world-famous Dal Lake in Srinagar to promote tourism
14. **c** Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy.
15. **c** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has said that e- Peek Pahani mobile application of the State Government will reduce hardships of farmers and help them get the right price and good market for their produce.
16. **a** In a first in North India, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana has established a special blood bank for dogs.
17. **d** Australian University Develops World's First Bionic Eye To Fully Restore Vision In Blind People.

- 18. c** In Italian open tennis, top-seeded Simona Halep of Romania lifted the title as Czech player Karolína Pliskova retired half way following injury in the finals played this evening at Rome.
- 19. b** World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21<sup>st</sup> September every year to raise the awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia.
- 20. a** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize for 2020 for 'Medical Education'.
- 21. a** Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to come out with Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies in the country.
- 22. a** Sub Lieutenant (SLt) Kumudini Tyagi and SLt Riti Singh would, in effect, be the first set of women airborne tacticians in India who would operate from the deck of warships.
- 23. c** The Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality announced that it is on track to become the first city in the world to roll out smart roads that can charge electric vehicles as they drive along, with a pilot project set to trial an electric public transportation system.
- 24. d** Norway announced that it will finance 16.8 billion kroner (US\$1.8 billion) out of an estimated total investment of 25.1 billion kroner for.
- 25. a** The technical group would be chaired by Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, former chairman of NABARD.
- 26. b** Tamil Nadu-based M Auto Group has come up with 13 kinds of solar-powered eco-friendly electric autorickshaws, which can double up as ambulances, besides passenger and garbage-lifting vehicles that can negotiate narrow roads easily.
- 27. b** The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target was conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha.
- 28. b** American electric car maker brand Tesla may soon have its research centre in Bengaluru.
- 29. a** In tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic won a record 36<sup>th</sup> Masters title by beating Diego Schwartzman in the Italian Open at Rome.
- 30. d** Every year on September 22, the world celebrates World Rhinoceros Day.
- 31. a** In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the top three. Among the big states, Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana are among the top three states whereas, among smaller states, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the top three states in happiness rankings. Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories in happiness rankings.
- 32. d** Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first woman pilot to fly Rafale, India's most modern multi-role fighter aircraft.
- 33. a** United Nations and Britain will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement.
- 34. a** Vistara will offer in-flight WiFi services on its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, which are currently being used to operate Delhi-London flights.
- 35. a** PASSEX underway between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in Eastern Indian Ocean Region.

- 36. a** The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat.
- 37. d** Mukhymantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is being started in Madhya Pradesh on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- 38. d** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated Defence Research and Development Organization for successfully conducting test firing of Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile from MBT Arjun at K K Ranges in Ahmednagar.
- 39. c** Railways have planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023.
- 40. b** Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is the only Indian film star to feature in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People Of 2020 list.
- 41. a** The 51<sup>st</sup> Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January, next year in Goa.
- 42. d** Kings XI Punjab captain KL Rahul became the fastest Indian batsman to reach 2000 IPL runs.
- 43. d** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October this year.
- 44. b** It is to be mentioned that the scheme has been launched by the transport department following an announcement made by the Chief Minister in his Independence Day speech on Aug 15 last year that Light Motor Vehicle Service would be launched in the villages of the state and ten thousand villages would be covered in the first phase by the scheme with financial outlay of Rs 100 crore whereby one vehicle would be provided to one beneficiary per village.
- 45. a** IDFC First Bank will launch contactless debit card-based payment facility, SafePay, next week allowing transactions up to Rs 20,000 per day.
- 46. a** On occasion of nation-wide online Fit India Dialogue, the Prime Minister launched Fit India Age-Appropriate Fitness Protocols.
- 47. a** The Assam government launched a scheme to provide cash value of 'tola' (nearly 10 gm) of gold to newlywed brides from economically backward families.
- 48. a** A virtual India-UK Water Partnership Forum will be held to discuss ways to collaborate on issues pertaining to water conservation and infrastructure development.
- 49. b**
- 50. d** The missile has a strike range of 350 km.
- 51. a** The UAE will send the Arab world's first mission to the moon in 2024.
- 52. c** Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh will be the first women officers in the Indian Navy to embark on Navy warships as part of ship's crew.
- 53. a** Mukesh Ambani's telecom behemoth Jio, is now taking it to the skies — literally — as it announces India's first in-flight telecom services.

- 54. a** A passenger plane powered by a hydrogen fuel cell has successfully completed a test flight in Bedfordshire, in a zero emission journey hailed as a “world first” by green aviation specialist ZeroAvia.
- 55. c** The Act makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 56. a** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information Technology portal with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> of next month.
- 57. b** Khonoma is India’s first green village. Situated near the Indo-Myanmar border, in the Indian state of Nagaland.
- 58. a** The government of Bangladesh is financing a film on the life of revolutionary freedom fighter Pritilata Waddadar.
- 59. d** This year’s World Maritime Day was celebrated on 24 September 2020 in the form of an online event, due to social distancing measures caused by the pandemic.
- 60. a** It is headquartered in Canada in the city of Montréal, with Executive Offices in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 61. b** The first tram in the world to have a library is now open in Kolkata.
- 62. a** U-Rise portal has been launched by Uttar Pradesh government to help students find jobs.
- 63. c** Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus.
- 64. a** In order to keep a check on the banking fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the ‘positive pay system’ for cheque payments
- 65. d** The plan will exercise the discretionary powers of the chief executive and will be headed by existing independent director Meeta Makhan, the bank said in a statement. The other two members of the panel are Shakti Sinha and Satish Kumar Kalra, who are also independent directors on the bank’s board.
- 66. b** Vakrangee Ltd announced that it has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) for handling payment services related to bills.
- 67. a** Over 70 hot springs in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh with potential to generate electricity, have been identified by the scientists of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) Dehradun, said the institute.
- 68. c** Iran revealed its Abu-Mahdi long-range cruise missiles for its navy.
- 69. d** The General Assembly commemorates 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- 70. d** Kerala won a United Nations award for its “outstanding contribution” towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.