
MANTHAN

A General Awareness Weekly

14th September to 20th September, 2020

PREFACE

Dear Students,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the Week. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfill aspirations.

Happy Reading

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National



India joins Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment as Observer

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

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

NDA candidate Harivansh elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

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

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

India wins three elections to key UN bodies

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

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

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

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

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

Hindi Diwas being observed across the country

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India will hold joint naval exercise with France, Australia

- India is looking at stepping up relations and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and could embark on a new series of joint military exercises with France and Australia, nations that have deep interests in the southern Indian Ocean.
- This gains significance given the current border tensions and recent aggressive deployments by the PLA Navy in the region, with analysts predicting that the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) will soon see a larger and dangerous Chinese presence. India already conducts the Varuna series of naval exercises with France, with the last edition featuring French aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle that operates the marine version of the Rafale fighter jets as well as a nuclear submarine.

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

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

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

Karnataka CM launches 'Arthika Spandana' loan disbursal scheme

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Union Government has set up a Task Force to reconsider the legal age of marriage for women. The taskforce will be headed by former Samata Party President Jaya Jaitly and will have among members VK Paul, Member, Health, NITI Ayog.
- The government has notified the taskforce which will examine the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with implications on the health of mothers and infants, impact of the age of marriage on infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, total fertility rate, sex ratio at birth and child sex ratio.
- The very first term of reference of the taskforce relates to revisiting the legal age of marriage for Indian women, with sources saying a debate is under way for parity between legal marriageable ages for men and women in India. While the legal age of marriage for women is 18 years, for men it is 21 years.

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



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

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

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

Israel becomes first country in world to impose second national lockdown

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

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

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

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

Yoshihide Suga sworn in as Japan’s new Prime Minister

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

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

China launches 9 satellites into space from ocean platform

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

10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs held

- 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by Russia was held via video link. The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations have deliberated upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries.
- The 2020 BRICS summit was originally scheduled to take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia from July 21 to 23, 2020, but was postponed indefinitely due to the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

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

Nepal begins its first broad-gauge railway service trials

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

Somalia names new prime minister

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

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



RBI mandates automated recognition of NPAs, provisioning by June 2021

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

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

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

- In a bid to protect the interest of depositors, Lok Sabha passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 replaces an ordinance that was promulgated on June 26.
- The bill, which comes in the backdrop of the PMC Bank scam, seeks to strengthen cooperative banks by increasing their professionalism, enabling access to capital, improving governance and ensuring sound banking through the RBI.
- Last year in September, the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam surfaced, putting the lives and savings of nearly 9 lakh depositors at stake.

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

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

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a press note permitting foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence production above 74 per cent on the automatic route.
- As per the current FDI policy, 100 per cent overseas investments are permitted in the defence industry -- 49 per cent under the automatic route, while beyond that government approval was required. According to the Press Note 4 (2020 series): “FDI up to 74 per cent under automatic route shall be permitted for companies seeking new industrial licences”.
- However, foreign investments in the defence sector would be subject to scrutiny on the grounds of national security and the government reserves the right to review any foreign investment in the sector that affects or may affect national security, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said.

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

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

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

India ranks 116 in World Bank's human capital index

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

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

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

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

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

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

IFSCA inks MoU with India Gold Policy Centre of IIMA

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

Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar appointed Executive Director, World Bank

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Apple's first online store opened in India

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

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

Rajasthan government signs pact with Sidbi to develop MSME ecosystem

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

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

Singapore tops smart city ranking for second year running

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

Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services

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

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



Inventions/Discoveries

Rajya Sabha passes Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- **Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.**
- **The Bill repeals the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance that was promulgated in April this year. The Act provides for the prevention of the spread of dangerous epidemic diseases.** The Ordinance amends the Act to include protections for healthcare personnel combatting epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.
- **The bill specifies that the central government may regulate: (i) the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port, and (ii) the detention of any person intending to travel from the port, during an outbreak.** The Ordinance expands the powers of the central government to regulate the inspection of any bus, train, goods vehicle, ship, vessel, or aircraft leaving or arriving at any land port, port or aerodrome. Further, the central government may regulate the detention of any person intending to travel by these means.
- **The bill specifies that no person can: (i) commit or abet the commission of an act of violence against a healthcare service personnel, or (ii) abet or cause damage or loss to any property during an epidemic. Contravention of this provision is punishable with imprisonment between three months and five years, and a fine between Rs 50,000 and two lakh rupees.** This offence may be compounded by the victim with the permission of the Court. **If an act of violence against a healthcare service personnel causes grievous harm, the person committing the offence will be punishable with imprisonment between six months and seven years, and a fine between one lakh rupees and five lakh rupees. These offences are cognizable and non-bailable.**

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

Parliament passes Homoeopathy and Indian System of Medicine bills

- **Parliament has passed the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020 and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2020 with the Lok Sabha approving them. The bills aim at ensuring availability of high quality medical professionals both for homeopathic treatment as well as for the Indian System of Medicine.**
- **The National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020 seeks to repeal the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 and to set up a National Commission for Homoeopathy.**

- The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of 20 members which will include a Chairperson, the President of the Homoeopathy Education Board, the Director General of National Institute of Homoeopathy, the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Homoeopathy in addition to other members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

World's largest rooftop greenhouse opens in Montreal

- The world's largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in Montreal, Canada. The greenhouse than spans 15,000 sq m was set up by Lufa Farms, on the top of a warehouse.

- The greenhouse was **opened to meet the growing demand for locally sourced foods**. This greenhouse, almost the size of three football fields, can **grow enough food to feed 10,000 families**.

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

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

Astronomers Discover First Giant Exoplanet Orbiting Dead Star

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

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

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

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

- **Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by 2100**, if greenhouse gas emissions continue, according to a study led by NASA.
- **The findings are in line with projections in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2019 Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere or portions of Earth's surface** where water is in solid form, NASA said. Melt water from ice sheets contribute about a third of the total global of the total global sea level rise, it said.
- **The IPCC report projected that Greenland would contribute 8 to 27 cm to global sea level rise between 2000-2100 and Antarctica could contribute 3 to 28 cm**, according to the US space agency. The findings, published in the journal The Cryosphere, come from the Ice Sheet Model Intercomparison Project (ISMIP6) led by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Paytm First Games ropes in Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador

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

Trinbago Knight Riders win Caribbean Premier League 2020

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

Dominic Thiem beats Alexander Zverev to win US Open

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

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

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

Tour de France - Lopez wins

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

MISCELLANEOUS

G20 environment ministers promote a more sustainable future for all

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

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

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

India's First Airport Coronavirus Testing Facility Launched In Delhi

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

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

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

Rajnath Singh launches 'Aero India 2021' website in Delhi

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

Formed 16-member committee to study ancient Indian culture

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

AAI to establish Greenfield Airport in Arunachal Pradesh

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

PERSONS IN NEWS

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

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

Deputy NSA gets one year extension

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

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

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

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

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

Indian Teen Chosen for UN Sustainable Development Goals Programme

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

AWARDS

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

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

Trump awards Kuwaiti emir with prestigious award; first since 1991

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

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

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

Mira Nair honoured with TIFF Tribute Award

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Democracy: 15 September

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

National Engineers Day 2020

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

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

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

World Bamboo Day 2020

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

International Day of Peace: 21 September

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

References:

The Hindu

The Economics Times

Indian Express

Press Information Bureau of India

The Times of India

Business Standard

News on AIR

Hindustan Times

QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following states and union territories have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019?
(a) Uttar Pradesh and Ladakh (b) Rajasthan and Lakshdweep
(c) Haryana and Chandigarh (d) Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Who won the men's singles US Open for his first Grand Slam title recently?
(a) Andy Murray (b) Alexander Zverev (c) Dominic Thiem (d) Novak Djokovic
3. Recently, which of the following union territories has announced a scheme to provide universal health insurance to all residents of the Union Territory?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Ladakh (c) Puducherry (d) Lakshadweep
4. Recently, which of the following has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East?
(a) Bahrain (b) Oman (c) Jordan (d) Tunisia
5. The first country in world to impose second national lockdown?
(a) USA (b) Italy (c) Israel (d) France
6. According to the recently released annual Ease of Doing Business rankings, Uttar Pradesh stands at _____ position in ranking.
(a) First (b) Second (c) Fifth (d) Eighth
7. According to a new science update released by the U.N., World Meteorological Organization and other global science groups, in the next five years, the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that's hot enough to put the global temperature at _____ above pre-industrial times.
(a) 1.3 degrees (b) 1.9 degrees (c) 2.7 degrees (d) 3.2 degrees
8. Which of the following teams won the 2020 edition of the Caribbean Premier League?
(a) Trinbago Knight Riders (b) Barbados Tridents
(c) Guyana Amazon Warriors (d) St Lucia Zouks
9. Recently, India's first coronavirus airport testing facility was launched at _____.
(a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(b) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(c) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
(d) Veer Savarkar International Airport
10. The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. It is observed on:
(a) 10th September (b) 11th September (c) 13th September (d) 15th September
11. Which state will celebrate an 'Anna Utsav' (food grains festival) on September 16, the eve of PM Narendra Modi's birthday?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Bihar
12. Recently, Parliament has passed the National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020. The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of _____ members.
(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 15 (d) 20

13. Who has been recently re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha?
(a) Ghulam Nabi Azad (b) Manoj Jha (c) Harivansh (d) Ram Gopal Yadav
14. Yoshihide Suga was recently elected as the new head of _____ ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
(a) South Korea's (b) Thailand's (c) Japan's (d) Vietnam's
15. Name the senior Indian bureaucrat who has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank, Washington.
(a) Atul Mahajan (b) Deepak Khanna (c) Rajesh Khullar (d) Birendra Bakshi
16. International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) - IIMA signed agreement to provide expertise to facilitate the establishment of _____ in India.
(a) International Bullion Exchange (IBE) (b) International Bullion Endebtity (IBE)
(c) International Billion Exchanger (IBE) (d) International Bullion Entity (IBE)
17. Name the bank, which has named its consumer banking head Jane Fraser as its next chief executive making her the first woman to lead a major Wall Street bank.
(a) Barclays Inc (b) Royal Bank of Scotland
(c) Citigroup Inc (d) Deutsche Bank
18. Which of the following companies has acquired TikTok in the US?
(a) Microsoft (b) Apple (c) Oracle (d) Genpact
19. Name the author who has been recently honoured with Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award by Dayton Literary Peace Prize officials.
(a) Bernardine Evaristo (b) Anna Burns (c) Margaret Atwood (d) George Saunders
20. Recently, the world's largest rooftop greenhouse has been opened in _____.
(a) Canada (b) Mexico (c) USA (d) Cuba
21. The first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal in the world is to come up in:
(a) Bhavnagar (b) Bhopal (c) Panaji (d) Navsari
22. Recently, Skytrax, an international airport industry rating body awarded _____ Fiumicino Airport "the COVID-19 5-Star Airport Rating".
(a) Rome (b) Paris (c) Milan (d) Lisbon
23. Which of the following countries has launched a Long March 11 rocket from an ocean platform in the Yellow Sea successfully sending nine satellites into orbit?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Korea (d) North Korea
24. Which of the following countries won a four-year term on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), a prestigious wing of the world body's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?
(a) Japan (b) India (c) Malaysia (d) China
25. The Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE _____ Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day.
(a) Rajiv Gandhi (b) M Visvesvaraya
(c) Shankar Dayal Sharma (d) Atal Bihari
26. Recently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated the automation of bad-loan recognition by banks by _____.
(a) June 30, 2021 (b) July 31, 2021
(c) September 30, 2021 (d) December 31, 2021

27. Recently, which of the following state's Department of Industries and SIDBI will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state?
 (a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Haryana
28. Which of the following IIM's based incubatee start-up has come up with a unique user friendly wearable device that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms?
 (a) Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata (b) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
 (c) Indian Institute of Management, Indore (d) Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode
29. Recently, Paytm First Games, a subsidiary of the digital financial service platform Paytm, has signed cricketing legend _____ as the brand ambassador for the platform.
 (a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Saurav Ganguly (d) VVS Lakshman
30. Recently, _____ Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi's debut novel about love between mother and daughter is among six books shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.
 (a) Burnt Sugar (b) Peacock on Trial
 (c) Journey to Dreamland (d) Burning Bush
31. Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University _____.
 (a) Bhavnagar (b) Navsari (c) Jamnagar (d) Surat
32. India is looking at stepping up relations and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and could embark on a new series of joint military exercises with France and _____ nations that have deep interests in the southern Indian Ocean.
 (a) Australia (b) Germany (c) USA (d) Austria
33. Recently, In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor _____ e-inaugurated an Online Process-Based Standardized & Scalable Career Education Platform for Students in Srinagar.
 (a) Manoj Sinha (b) Radha Krishna Mathur
 (c) Girish Chandra Murmu (d) Aravind Panagariya
34. Who has been elected as new Prime Minister of Japan?
 (a) Taro Aso (b) Toshimitsu Motegi (c) Yoshihide Suga (d) Shinjiro Koizumi
35. In a bid to protect the interest of depositors, the Lok Sabha passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the _____.
 (a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 (c) Reserve Bank of India (d) NITI Aayog
36. Recently, The fifth largest watch brand in the world, Titan Company Limited has partnered with country's lender _____ to introduce Titan Pay.
 (a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank
 (c) Bank of Baroda (d) Canara Bank
37. Recently, Astronomers have discovered a planet the size of _____ closely orbiting the smouldering remains of a dead star, the first time that an intact exoplanet has been discovered travelling around a white dwarf.
 (a) Venus (b) Mars (c) Jupiter (d) Saturn
38. Who has received the Jeff Skoll Award for Impact Media at a remotely conducted TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony?
 (a) Mira Nair (b) Anubha Tiwari (c) Prakash Jha (d) Sukirti Kandpal
39. Sports Ministry is set to upgrade _____ Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.19 crore with an aim to identify and groom future Olympic champions.
 (a) Four (b) Five (c) Eight (d) Ten

40. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated every year on:
 (a) 6th September (b) 8th September (c) 12th September (d) 16th September
41. Which of the following countries has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond?
 (a) Portugal (b) Mexico (c) Argentina (d) Brazil
42. Recently, Union Government has set up a Task Force to reconsider the legal age of marriage for women. Which matter is not to be examined by this task force?
 (a) Lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio (b) Improvement of Nutritional levels
 (c) Time to time Immunization (d) Matters related to the age of Motherhood
43. Recently, Power Ministry has drafted rules providing for Rights of Electricity Consumers for the First Time. What will be the maximum time period to provide new connection and modify existing connection in metro cities?
 (a) 7 Days (b) 14 Days (c) 21 Days (d) 28 Days
44. Recently, Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's First Private Jet Terminal at _____.
 (a) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (b) Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport
 (c) Indira Gandhi International Airport (d) Chaudhary Charan Singh Gandhi International Airport
45. Which of the following states has launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions?
 (a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
46. The 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by _____.
 (a) Brazil (b) Portugal (c) Russia (d) India
47. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a press note permitting foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence production above _____ per cent on the automatic route.
 (a) 25% (b) 49% (c) 74% (d) 100%
48. Recently, India has been ranked at the _____ position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
 (a) 36th (b) 47th (c) 87th (d) 116th
49. Recently, Central Government extended the tenure of Deputy National Security Adviser _____ for one year.
 (a) Pankaj Saran (b) Dibaker Bannerjee (c) Amit Panghal (d) Deepak Raheja
50. Who will be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic?
 (a) Vikas Khanna (b) Amit Behal (c) Shashikant Jhanjhar (d) Hitesh Shah
51. Recently, how many beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label?
 (a) Two (b) Three (c) Six (d) Eight
52. Who has been named by the United Nations to the 2020 cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals?
 (a) Udit Singhal (b) Anil Bhilania (c) Deepak Luthra (d) Akhand Pratap Singh
53. In the Union Territory of _____ Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).
 (a) Ladakh (b) Lakshadweep (c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Puducherry

54. Recently, Trial for _____ first broad-gauge railway service in Janakpur has begun with the arrival of two sets of rail to revive operation in the Janakpur-Jaynagar section.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Sri Lanka (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
55. Recently, The US President Donald Trump awarded one of the most prestigious awards — the US Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander to _____ Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
(a) Jordanian (b) Omani (c) Saudi Arabian (d) Kuwaiti
56. To provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside, public sector lender _____ has launched lead management system (LMS)-i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India
(c) Canara Bank (d) Union Bank of India
57. Recently, Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2020. The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by _____ per cent.
(a) 10% (b) 15% (c) 25% (d) 30%
58. Which of the following cities has topped the Institute for Management Development (IMD) Smart City Index for the second consecutive year?
(a) Helsinki (b) Budapest (c) Milan (d) Singapore
59. According to a study led by NASA, if greenhouse gas emissions continue Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by _____.
(a) 2030 (b) 2040 (c) 2075 (d) 2100
60. Name the Indian who has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.
(a) Dr Vishwas Pant (b) Dr Girija Shanker Mungali
(c) Dr Mahesh Jain (d) Dr Girish Chandra Parikh
61. Recently, A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of _____ Abhiyaan.
(a) MATRATIWA (b) SABALA (c) POSHAN (d) SWASTHA
62. India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at _____.
(a) Vishakhapatnam (b) Paradip (c) Mangaluru (d) Panaji
63. Which state recently announced Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) — a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Haryana (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
64. Recently, Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act _____ to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases.
(a) 1856 (b) 1897 (c) 1932 (d) 1947
65. Recently, Somali President appointed a political newcomer to become Prime Minister. What is the name of the newly appointed Prime Minister?
(a) Mohamed Hussein Roble (b) Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed
(c) Mohamed Bilal Rury (d) Hassan Ali Khaire
66. Apple will launch its first online store in India at _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru

67. Recently, A group of IIIT, Bhubaneswar students has developed a helmet-like ventilation device _____ that will make a difference in treating patients with breathing problems.
(a) Swastik (b) Swasner (c) Swasfit (d) Swater
68. International Day of Peace is observed around the world on _____.
(a) 15th September (b) 17th September (c) 19th September (d) 21st September
69. Recently, Amitabha Ghosh has passed away. He was the former _____.
(a) Chief Election Commissioner of India
(b) Chief Vigilance Commissioner of India
(c) Chief Justice of India
(d) Governor of Reserve Bank of India
70. Recently, who became the first woman politician in South India to clock a million followers on microblogging site Twitter?
(a) Kalvakuntla Kavitha (b) Poonam Mahajan
(c) Priyanka Chaturvedi (d) Supriya Sule



Career
Launcher

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. **d** State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019.
2. **c** Dominic Thiem produced a historic comeback to beat Alexander Zverev in a nervy five-setter and win the US Open for his first Grand Slam title.
3. **a** Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has announced a scheme to provide universal health insurance to all residents of the Union Territory.
4. **a** Bahrain has become the latest Arab nation to agree to normalise ties with Israel as part of a broader diplomatic push by US President Donald Trump and his administration to fully integrate the Jewish State into the Middle East.
5. **c** Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced a second national coronavirus lockdown in the country.
6. **b** Uttar Pradesh jumped 10 places to occupy the second spot in the country in ease of doing business according to the recently released annual ranking.
7. **c** In the next five years, the world has nearly a 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a year that's hot enough to put the global temperature at 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial times.
8. **a** Trinbago Knight Riders defeated St Lucia Zouks by 8 wickets to win the 2020 edition of the Caribbean Premier League.
9. **b** India's first coronavirus airport testing facility was launched at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
10. **d** The International Day of Democracy is observed on 15th September to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.
11. **a** Madhya Pradesh will celebrate an 'Anna Utsav' (food grains festival) on September 16, the eve of PM Narendra Modi's birthday, during which 37 lakh new below poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries will be covered under the government's scheme to provide food grains to them on highly subsidised rates, as per a decision taken by state government.
12. **d** The Commission for Homoeopathy will consist of 20 members which will include a Chairperson, the President of the Homoeopathy Education Board, the Director General of National Institute of Homoeopathy, the President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Homoeopathy in addition to other members.
13. **c** NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The upper house cleared his name with a voice vote.
14. **c** In Japan, Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's ruling, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
15. **c** Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank, Washington.
16. **a** International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) - IIMA signed agreement to provide expertise to facilitate the establishment of International Bullion Exchange (IBE) in India.
17. **c** Citigroup Inc named consumer banking head Jane Fraser as its next chief executive making her the first woman to lead a major Wall Street bank.

- 18. c** Satya Nadella-led Microsoft lost a bid to acquire TikTok in the US after the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform chose Oracle to be its technology partner for its American operations.
- 19. c** Margaret Atwood, whose sweeping body of work includes “The Handmaid’s Tale,” a depiction of a nightmarish totalitarian future for the United States, is this year’s winner of a lifetime achievement award that celebrates literature’s power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding.
- 20. a** The world’s largest rooftop greenhouse has opened in Montreal, Canada. The greenhouse than spans 15,000 sq m was set up by Lufa Farms, on the top of a warehouse.
- 21. a** The Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said Bhavnagar will become the first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal in the world, as the government has given its sanction to the Rs 1,900 crore brownfield project.
- 22. a** Skytrax, an international airport industry rating body awarded Rome’s Fiumicino Airport “the COVID-19 5-Star Airport Rating”.
- 23. b** China launched a Long March 11 rocket from an ocean platform in the Yellow Sea successfully sending nine satellites into orbit.
- 24. b** India beat China to win a four-year term on the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), a prestigious wing of the world body’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- 25. b** Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day.
- 26. a** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated the automation of bad-loan recognition by banks by June 30, 2021.
- 27. c** Rajasthan’s Department of Industries and Sidbi will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state.
- 28. d** Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode based incubatee start-up has come up with a unique user friendly wearable device that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms.
- 29. a** Paytm First Games, a subsidiary of the digital financial service platform Paytm, has signed cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar as the brand ambassador for the platform, ahead of the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- 30. a** Burnt Sugar, Indian-origin writer Avni Doshi’s debut novel about love between mother and daughter, is among six books shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.
- 31. c** The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.
- 32. a** India is looking at stepping up relations and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and could embark on a new series of joint military exercises with France and Australia, nations that have deep interests in the southern Indian Ocean.
- 33. a** In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha e-inaugurated an Online Process-Based Standardized & Scalable Career Education Platform for Students in Srinagar.
- 34. c** Yoshihide Suga has been sworn in as new Prime Minister of Japan. Emperor of Japan Naruhito ceremonially endorsed Suga at the Imperial Palace in line with constitutional requirements.
- 35. c** In a bid to protect the interest of depositors, the Lok Sabha passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI.

- 36. a** The fifth largest watch brand in the world, Titan Company Limited has partnered with country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) to introduce Titan Pay powered by YONO SBI.
- 37. c** Astronomers have discovered a planet the size of Jupiter closely orbiting the smouldering remains of a dead star, the first time that an intact exoplanet has been discovered travelling around a white dwarf.
- 38. a** Mira Nair received the Jeff Skoll Award for Impact Media at a remotely conducted TIFF Tribute Awards ceremony.
- 39. c** Sports Ministry is set to upgrade eight Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.19 crore with an aim to identify and groom future Olympic champions.
- 40. d** September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- 41. b** Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a Sovereign Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bond, an important step forward in the country's commitment to the achievement of the SDGs, and a major advance for development finance.
- 42. c** The Minister said, a Task Force has been set up in June this year to examine the matters related to the age of motherhood, lowering Maternal Mortality Ratio and improvement of nutritional levels.
- 43. a** There will be a time period of not more than seven days in metro cities, 15 days in other municipal areas and 30 days in rural areas, to provide new connection and modify existing connection.
- 44. c** The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has entered into an exclusive league of global airports which sports a dedicated terminal for private jets.
- 45. a** Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions.
- 46. c** 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by Russia, will be held via video link.
- 47. c** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a press note permitting foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence production above 74 per cent on the automatic route.
- 48. d** India has been ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
- 49. a** The Central Government extended the tenure of Deputy National Security Adviser Pankaj Saran for one year. Mr. Saran is a 1982 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service and was appointed Deputy NSA in May 2018. He was then serving as India's envoy to Russia.
- 50. a** Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna will be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive that he coordinated from thousands of miles away in his Manhattan home.
- 51. d** Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label.
- 52. a** Udit Singhal, has been named by the United Nations to the 2020 cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals, the highest profile recognition opportunity at the world body for youngsters who are leading efforts to combat the world's most pressing issues.

- 53. c** In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)
- 54. c** Trial for Nepal's first broad-gauge railway service in Janakpur has begun with the arrival of two sets of rail to revive operation in the Janakpur-Jaynagar section.
- 55. d** The US President Donald Trump awarded one of the most prestigious awards — the US Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander — to Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
- 56. c** To provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside, public sector lender Canara Bank has launched lead management system (LMS) - i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
- 57. d** The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by 30 per cent.
- 58. d** Singapore has topped the Institute for Management Development (IMD) Smart City Index for the second consecutive year, followed by the Finnish capital Helsinki and Swiss city of Zurich.
- 59. d** Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by 2100, if greenhouse gas emissions continue, according to a study led by NASA.
- 60. b** Retired Colonel Dr Girija Shanker Mungali has been appointed as one of the seven members of the Asian Football Confederation's task force for regulating football clubs in Asia and Australia.
- 61. c** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- 62. c** India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru.
- 63. a** Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) — a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state – to be launched on September 17, birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 64. b** Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.
- 65. a** Mohamed Hussein Roble's appointment came hours after the president and five regional leaders reached agreement on a revised election model in Mogadishu and international pressure.
- 66. b** The first one will be launched in Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) locality.
- 67. b** A group of IIIT, Bhubaneswar students has developed a helmet-like ventilation device that will make a difference in treating patients with breathing problems. According to the students-turned-developers, the device has been named as 'Swasner'.
- 68. d** Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September.
- 69. d** Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Governor for 21 days, Amitabha Ghosh, passed away at the age of 90.
- 70. a** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's daughter and former MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha became the first woman politician in South India to clock a million followers on microblogging site Twitter.