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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

War II SpWorldy Becomes First Indian-origin Woman to Get Memorial Plaque in London

- Britain's World War II spy, Noor Inayat Khan, became the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former family home in central London.
- The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours notable people and organisations who were connected with particular buildings across London.

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe steps down due to poor health

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe resigned from his position on August 28, 2020 due to his declining health. However, he did not name his successor while stepping down.
- The long-serving Japan's Prime Minister has been combating chronic disease named 'ulcerative colitis' for many years. He was set to retire in September 2021.

UAE connects first Arab nuclear plant to power grid

- The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced that it has connected its Barakah nuclear power plant to the national grid in a first for the Arab world.
- The milestone follows the successful start-up of the plant's first reactor at the end of last month and launches the UAE on the road to meeting 25% of its electricity needs from nuclear power.

Iran announces locally made ballistic and cruise missiles

- Iran displayed a surface-to-surface ballistic missile named martyr Qassem Soleimani, that Defence Minister Amir Hatami said had a range of 1,400 kilometres and a new cruise missile, ignoring U.S. demands that Tehran halt its missile programme.
- The missile has a range of 1,400 km and the cruise missile, called martyr Abu Mahdi, has a range of over 1,000 km.

Apple Becomes First U.S. Company to reach \$2 Trillion Market Cap

- Apple Inc. has become the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach a market capitalization of over \$2 trillion, after its share price climbed above \$467.77 on 19 August 2020.
- Apple is also the world's only second company to hit \$2 trillion in market cap. Before this, Oil Major Saudi Aramco was the world's first and only publicly listed company to reach a \$2 trillion market value in December 2019.
- Apple was also the first publicly traded U.S. company to reach a \$1 trillion market cap.

India, Japan and Australia to launch Supply Chain Resilience Initiative to counter China

- India, Australia, and Japan have started the discussions for the launch of a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in order to reduce the dependency on China. The initiative which was first proposed by Japan might be executed.
- The officials have been working on the dates to hold the first meeting of the commerce

and trade ministers of the three countries. Earlier, Japan through its Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry had approached India and had pressed on the urgency of taking the initiative forward.

- In the light of China's aggressive moves in the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, the Indian government has decided to consider the proposal quite seriously. As per the sources, Tokyo was in favour of launching SCRI by November 2020.

European Union's 1-Million-Euro 'Nirmanshree' Project To Skill Women In Housing Sector

- European Union has launched project 'Nirman shree' for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector. This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India with 1-million-euro. The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.
- A non-profit organisation, Habitat for Humanity India has also join hands with EU for funding this project.
- The total cost of the project is EUR 9,49,694 (INR 7,40,85,628 or US\$1,075,307). 90 percent of fund provides by EU and remaining 10 percent will be issued by Habitat for Humanity India.
- 3,000 women will be trained for technical and entrepreneurial skills in housing sector which focus on area such as masonry, plumbing and electrical fitting, among others.

Historic peace agreement between UAE & Israel

- President of USA, Donald J. Trump, Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Nahyan have agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.
- Israeli and UAE delegations will meet in the coming weeks to sign bilateral agreements regarding investment, tourism, direct flights, security and the establishment of reciprocal embassies, they said.

Israel & United States successfully tests an advanced missile defense system Arrow 2

- Israel's Defense Ministry conducted a successful test of the nation's advanced missile defense system against long-range ballistic attacks on August 12, 2020.
- Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that the successful flight test of the Arrow-2 interceptor was part of Israel's technological effort, which ensure that they will always be one step ahead of their enemies.
- The test was conducted overnight jointly with the US Missile Defense Agency in central Israel. The Arrow-interceptor is a part of the multi-layered system, which Israel has developed to defend against both short and mid-range missiles. It can also intercept long-range missiles.
- The advanced missile defense system including the Arrow-3 system, Iron Dome and David's Sling is also capable of defending against threats from outside the atmosphere.

Russia announces world's first C-19 vaccine named "Sputnik V"

- Russian President, Vladimir Putin has announced that a C-19 vaccine named "Sputnik V" developed in the country has been registered for use.
- Russian Ministry of Health has given regulatory approval for what it claims is the world's first C-19 vaccine, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute. Russia is the first country to register a Chinese virus vaccine.
- Phase 3 trials would start on August 12, 2020, industrial production was expected from September. 20 countries had pre-ordered more than a billion doses.

Ex- Defence Minister Walter Roger Martos Ruiz takes over as new Prime Minister of Peru

- The former defence minister and retired army general, Walter Roger Martos Ruiz becomes new Prime Minister of the country. His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra.
- Ruiz will succeed Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.

Lebanon PM Hassan Diab Announces Resignation Over Deadly Beirut Blasts

- Lebanon's PM Hassan Diab and his government resigned on August 10, 2020 following the public outrage over Beirut blast that has caused massive destruction and claimed many lives.
- While announcing his resignation, Diab stated that he wants to stand with people and join their battle. He also added that the explosion was a result of endemic corruption.

Mohamed Ould Bilal becomes new Prime Minister of Mauritania

- Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania. The appointment was made by the Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.
- Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and has served as the head of the country's national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.

Walter Roger Martos Ruiz Becomes New Prime Minister of Peru

- President of Peru (Republic of Peru) Martin Vizcarra appointed Walter Roger Martos Ruiz, the former defense minister and retired army general, as the country's new Prime Minister.
- He succeeds Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima. The president also appointed attorney Luis Inchistategui as head of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Mauritius declares a state of environmental emergency after massive oil spill

- Mauritius' Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of environmental emergency on August 7, 2020 after a shipreck caused massive fuel spill.
- A Japanese-owned ship, which ran aground on July 25, has been leaking tons of oil into the Indian Ocean. The ship is reportedly carrying nearly 4000 tons of fuel oil and 200 tons of diesel on board.

- The Mauritius PM made the brief statement by tweeting that Mauritius does not have the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships, so he has asked for help from France.

Mahinda Rajapaksa's SLPP party wins landslide victory in Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections

- Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa-led Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) registered a landslide victory in the Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections on August 5, 2020. The party and its allies secured two-thirds of the seats at the elections.
- Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) won 145 seats in the 225-member parliament, while the allies managed to clinch more than five seats. Out of the total vote percentage, SLPP got around 59 percent of the popular vote, while SJB garnered around 23 percent of votes. The SJB is an offshoot of UNP, which was formed earlier this year.

US Senate approves TikTok ban on government devices

- The United States Senate has unanimously passed a bill banning the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok on government devices.
- The bill will now go to President Donald Trump to be signed into a law, which will prohibit federal employees from downloading or using TikTok.

Tick-borne SFTS virus re-emerges in China; 7 dead so far

- Tick-borne SFTS virus re-emerges in China, claiming 7 lives so far and infecting around 60. The spread of virus has raised the warning of chances of human-to-human transmission
- . The cases of the virus have been reported from East China.

UAE becomes first gulf nation to produce nuclear energy

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first country in the Arab world to produce nuclear energy. This was confirmed after it was announced on August 1, 2020 that Unit 1 of the Abu Dhabi-based Barakah nuclear power plant has now become operational. Unit 1 of the Barakah nuclear power plant is now using nuclear fuel to produce energy as part of the 'criticality' phase. which was initiated on July 31st. The nuclear reactor will be connected to the power grid will provide electricity during the upcoming testing phase.
- The plant is powered by South Korean technology and is situated in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi. It will produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity and meet up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs.

PM Modi inaugurates Supreme Court building of Mauritius

- Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Mauritian Prime Minister Pravin Kumar Jugnauth on Thursday virtually inaugurated the new Supreme Court building at Port Louis.
- The building has been constructed with Indian assistance as India's sign of cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
- It has been completed with the grant assistance of \$28.12 million from India.

Russia chaired 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting

- The 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of Russia. The Environment Ministers of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa participated in the meeting held via the video conference.
- The meeting was preceded by the BRICS Working Group meeting. India will host the next meeting in 2021.

NATIONAL NEWS

NITI Aayog Launches Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA) India Component

- NITI Aayog virtually launched the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA) on 27 August 2020.
- The NDC-TIA is a joint programme supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, Vietnam, and China.

Piyush Goyal Attends 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers' Meeting)

- 8th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) was held virtually which was attended by Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States.
- The Meeting was chaired by Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade of Viet Nam. From Indian side it was attended by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways and Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- During the meet discussions were held to accelerate economic growth, maintain supply chains and market stability, and strengthen the economic resilience of the EAS region post C-19.

CISF launches Pension Corner mobile app

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has introduced the Pension Corner mobile app. The Pension Corner app will help to fulfil the needs of all its retired personnel.
- The app has been made as part of an e-office initiative and has been introduced in the wake of the C-19 disease.

Assam Government to set up Skill University worth Rs 900 Crore at Darrang district

- The Assam Cabinet has approved the Assam Skill Development University Bill which allows for setting up a state-of-the-art skill University at Mangaldoi in Darrang district of Assam.
- The University at Mangaldoi will be the Centre of Excellence and first ever Skill University in north eastern states of the country. It will be spread over 100-bigha plot.
- The total cost of setting up the University is estimated at Rs 900 crore with financial

assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

Kerala to set up India's First International Women's Trade Centre

- Biju Prabhakar, IAS, Secretary, Department of Social Justice, Women & Child Development announced that Kerala will set up India's First International Women Trade Centre(IWTC) in accord with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations(UN) at Angamaly, Kochi, Kerala.
- This announcement was made during the webinar on "Scaling up Opportunities for MSME women Entrepreneurs in Kerala" organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(FICCI) Kerala State Council.

New Air Defence Command to be announced by October

- The Defence Ministry is working to restructure the armed forces to set up a new air defence command under the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Prayagraj by the second week of October 2020.
- The Department of Military Affairs has hastened its work to prepare the structure of the command under an Air Force officer. Efforts are being made to announce the creation of the air defence command at Prayagraj on Air Force Day on October 8, 2020, as per government sources.
- The air defence command has been proposed to be set up alongside the Central Command Headquarters of the IAF that controls important air bases including Agra, Gwalior and Bareilly. This comes amid India's ongoing tensions with China.

Chunauti- Next Generation start-up challenge contest launched by IT Minister

- "Chunauti", a Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest has been launched by the Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- The programme aims to identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities. The government has earmarked an amount worth Rs 95.03 crore over a period of 3 years for the programme.
- Under the contest, the Electronics and IT Ministry will invite startups in the following areas of work:
 1. Edu-Tech, Agri-Tech & Fin-Tech Solutions for masses
 2. Supply Chain, Logistics & Transportation Management
 3. Infrastructure & Remote monitoring
 4. Medical Healthcare, Diagnostic, Preventive & Psychological Care
 5. Jobs & Skilling, Linguistic tools & technologies

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches National GIS-enabled Land Bank system

- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal e-launched the National GIS (Geographic Information System)-enabled Land Bank system (<https://iis.ncog.gov.in/parks>) for six states.
- The platform will provide a database of industrial areas/clusters across the country and will serve as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information.

Government announces 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India

- The Ministry of Culture, India has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Prahlad Singh Patel, Culture and Tourism Minister in a video message informed about the decision.
- These 7 new circles are Raiganj, Trichy, Rajkot, Jhansi, Jabalpur, Meerut & Hampi. This new addition takes the total number of ASI circles across India to 36. The move is aimed at strengthening process of preservation of the archaeological monuments.

Tamil Nadu women top the list of MUDRA loan scheme beneficiaries

- Women of Tamil Nadu have topped the list of women borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) since its inception.
- More than 15 crore loans amounting to ₹4.78-lakh-crore have been disbursed to women borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).
- As on March 31, 2020 women in Tamil Nadu had availed Rs. 58,227 crore loan from the scheme followed by West Bengal Rs. 55,232 crore, Karnataka Rs. 47,714 crore, Bihar Rs. 44,879 crore and Maharashtra Rs. 42,000 crore loan.

NITI Aayog releases report on Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020

- NITI Aayog has released the report on Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness. The report evaluates the export preparedness and performance of Indian states.
- It aims to identify the challenges and opportunities; improve the effectiveness of government policies; and promote a facilitative regulatory framework.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupied the top three ranks in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.

Tata Group to launch “Super App” for digital services

- Tata Group is launching a new app named “Super App” purported to bring together the country’s disparate sales sector to offer a range of consumer goods.
- The app will put the conglomerate in competition with giants of the region like Reliance Industries and global titans like Amazon.
- The app will offer food and grocery ordering, fashion and lifestyle, consumer electronics and consumer durables, insurance and financial services, education, healthcare and bill payments.

Gol and AIIB sign MoU for \$500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III

- The Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signed a loan agreement for a \$500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- The aim of the project is to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.

20-year old Indian wins 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title

- India's Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash has won the 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title. The 20-year-old won the first-ever gold for India in Mental Calculation World Championship at Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO) held in London recently.
- Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash belongs to Hyderabad and he is currently pursuing Mathematics (Hons.) at Delhi University's St Stephen College. He is the proud owner of four world records and 50 Limca records for being the fastest human calculator in the world.
- Prakash's brain can reportedly calculate quicker than the speed of a calculator. He has broken the records once held by Math maestros like Scott Flansburg and Shakuntala Devi.

Kerala's 1st-ever Dragonfly Festival

- WWF-India Kerala State Office is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuram for the first-ever state "Dragonfly Festival" in Kerala, christened 'Thumbimahotsavam 2020'.
- Dragonfly Festival, a series of events will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of the society.
- This is part of the National Dragonfly Festival organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society in association with National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC.

Government launches 'Open API Service' in Aarogya Setu app

- An innovative feature 'Open API Service' has been introduced by Aarogya Setu to help the people, businesses and the economy in its efforts to return to normalcy.
- The newly launched service will help the organizations to get the health status of their employees as well as any other Aarogya Setu User without violating their data privacy.
- Aarogya Setu's Open API Service addresses the fear/risk of C - 19 infections and enables organizations to verify the status of Aarogya Setu and integrate it into its various Work from Home features.

Nabard launches credit guarantee programme for NBFC-MFIs

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has launched dedicated debt and credit guarantee product named Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Programme to NBFC-MFIs to ensure the unhindered flow of credit in rural areas hit by the C-19 pandemic.
- It will provide partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small and mid-sized microfinance institutions (MFIs). Nabard has signed a pact with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank for this.

India's longest river ropeway inaugurated in Assam

- The longest river ropeway of India has been inaugurated in Assam. The ropeway is 1.8 Km long and connects Guwahati and North Guwahati over Brahmaputra river.

- The ropeway will be operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati. The ropeway will allow passengers to witness the beautiful landscapes of Guwahati city, river Brahmaputra, and the Umananda Temple.
- It has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 56 crore and has as many as 58 CCTV cameras installed for round-the-clock monitoring of the ropeway service.

India to have its own vaccine portal soon: ICMR

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has announced that India will soon have its own dedicated vaccine portal. The portal is under development and will serve as a repository of data related to the vaccine development in the country.
- The portal will be launched by next week by the medical research body ICMR.

Nitin Gadkari launches mobile app 'Harit Path' to monitor plantation along national highways

- The Union Minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari has launched a mobile app called 'Harit Path' on 21 August 2020, via video conference while chairing a meeting to review 'New Green Highways Policy (Plantation)' and discuss use of new technologies in road construction.
- The app 'Harit Path' has been developed by the National Highways authority of India (NHAI) to monitor the plantation and transplantation of trees along the highways, through geo-tagging and web-based GIS enabled monitoring tools.

Population Projects India's Population to be More Feminine by 2036

- The National Commission on Population under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) submitted the Report of the Technical group on population projections July 2020, titled "Population projections for India and States 2011- 2036".
- The report projected that the India's sex ratio of the total population (females per 1000 males) is expected to be more feminine in 2036 compared to the population as of 2011.
- Youth population (15-24 years) is expected to increase from 23.3 crores in 2011 to 25.2 crores in 2021 and then continue to decrease to 22.7 crores in 2036.

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan Launches Online Registration and Renewal of Gold Hallmarking Centres

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan virtually launched an online system for registration and renewal of licence of gold assaying and hallmarking (A&H) centres. The online system can be accessed through the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) web portal – www.manakonline.in.
- The online mode of registration & renewal will help in ease of doing business for the jewellers and entrepreneurs who have established hallmarking centres or want to do so in future.

Santosh Gangwar launches official Logo of "Labour Bureau"

- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Santosh Gangwar has launched the official Logo of "Labour Bureau".

- It displays the three goals that Labour Bureau aspires to achieve in producing quality data i.e. Accuracy, Validity and Reliability.
- It also indicates that the Labour Bureau is a data-based organization which deals in data pertaining to workers and work.

NPCI launches its subsidiary firm – NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL)

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its wholly-owned subsidiary firm named NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- Ritesh Shukla has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL.
- NIPL will venture into newer international markets and co-create payment systems with participating nations.
- The primary focus of NIPL would be the internationalization of RuPay and UPI, along with a few more offerings of NPCI.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launches ‘Indira Rasoi Yojana’

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on August 20, 2020, launched the ‘Indira Rasoi Yojana’ in order to provide quality nutritious food to poor people at just Rs. 8.
- The newly launched scheme will be rolled in 213 urban local bodies of the state which will include 10 locations each in the state capital’s c greater and heritage area.
- Under Indira Rasoi Yojana, fresh and nutritious food will be provided at Rs. 8 per plate.

Tribal Affairs Minister launches “Trifood Project” of TRIFED

- The tertiary processing centres of “Trifood Project” of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been virtually launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda.
- The Trifood project has been launched in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. This project is expected to help in encouraging the tribal entrepreneurship.
- Two Minor Forest Produce (MFP) processing units will be set up in order to achieve the targets of the “Trifood Project”.

First rockets produced by private sector successfully test fired

- The Indian Army successfully test-fired the first ever privately manufactured Pinaka rockets recently from the firing range in Pokharan, which achieved the desired results by accurately hitting targets.
- The rockets have been manufactured by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) and are the first ammunition of its kind made by the private sector in India.
- Six Pinaka rockets were test fired as part of the final developmental trials.
- This development will enable Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to do away with its single-source dependency on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the rockets and also boost Make in India initiative.

Cabinet approves setting up of National Recruitment Agency

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the

proposal to set up a National Recruitment Agency (NRA).

- NRA will be the nodal agency to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for jobs in the government and state-owned banks. NRA will comprise of representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB as well as IBPS.
- NRA is expected to be a specialist body which will offer the state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment. A sum of Rs. 1517.57 crore has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
- The NRA will hold online exams every year for non-gazetted government posts and each district will have at least one exam centre. The score in these exams would be valid for three years and the candidate would have the option of taking the exam again to improve the score. The best of the three scores would be used during the selection process.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal – ‘Swasthya’

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named ‘Swasthya’. It is a first of its kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition-related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.
- Apart from this, an e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH was also announced. It is a quarterly newsletter.
- Opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal (for inviting online applications for the academic year 2020-21) was another important announcement that was made.

Ministry of AYUSH launches campaign “Ayush for Immunity”

- The Ministry of AYUSH launched a campaign on “Ayush for Immunity”. It is a three-month campaign and aims to promote Ayush solutions in the entire world for a healthier and happier life.
- The theme of the event is: accessible and affordable health for all, through Ayush solutions
- The campaign was rolled out during a webinar that featured the participation of More than 50 thousand people. The webinar was streamed by the Ministry of AYUSH on its new digital communication platform Ayush Virtual Convention Centre (AVCC).

PM Modi Announces One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative

- PM Modi in his speech of Independence Day 2020, announced the “One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG) plan. Under this, there will be a trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi first announced this idea of OSOWOG in 2018 during the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power.

GoI launches National Digital Health Mission

- While addressing the nation on 15 August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of a new campaign called National Digital Health Mission, under which all Indians will be given health IDs.
- This Health ID will work as each Indian's health account. Every test, disease and diagnosis, medicines prescribed by doctors and medical reports along with medicines will be stored in every citizen's health ID.
- The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), has been launched under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- It is expected to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of health services in the country.

All villages to be connected with optical fibre in next 1,000 days: PM Modi

- PM Modi in his speech of Independence Day 2020, made the announcement that the project to connect all the villages of India with optical fibre network will be completed in the next 1,000 days.
- Under this project, more than six lakh villages will be connected with optical fibre network in the coming 1,000 days in India.
- Apart from this, a high-speed internet connectivity via submarine optical fibre cable will be extended to Lakshadweep in the next 1,000 days to provide high-speed internet services in the region.

NITI Aayog's AIM, NASSCOM launch Artificial Intelligence Step-up modules for school students

- On August 14, 2020 National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)'s Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) in collaboration with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has launched Artificial Intelligence(AI) based Step-up module for school students.
- The module was launched in a virtual platform attended by CEO NITI Aayog Mr Amitabh Kant, Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission Mr R Ramanan and NASSCOM President Debjani Ghosh.

India celebrates its 74th Independence Day

- One of the largest democracies in the world, India will celebrate its 74th Independence Day on 15th of August, 2020. This day is celebrated to pay tribute and to remember the sacrifice and struggle of our brave heroes in the fight for freedom.
- The main function was held at the Red Fort of the national capital where Prime Minister hoisted the National Flag. Various cultural programs involving schools and organisations are held in Delhi. But this year due to the C-19 the celebrations will be different. All states and government offices have been ordered to webcast their events.

'Air India One' to be handed over to India soon

- A joint team of senior officials of Air India, security officers, and senior government

officials has left for the United States to accept the delivery of the Special Extra Section Flight (SESF) or VVIP aircraft Air India One.

- One out of the total two Boeing-777 ER aircraft is ready for delivery in August to India. The Air India One has been specially designed for the Prime Minister, President and Vice President of India.
- Air India One is equipped with an advance and secure communication system which allows availing audio and video communication function at mid-air without hacked or taped. Air India will receive the aircraft and later hand it over to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Sports Ministry organises Fit India Freedom Run during 15 August to 2 October

- Union Sports Ministry will be organising the 'Fit India Freedom Run' from 15th August to 2nd October 2020. The largest country-wide run was launched by Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.
- In order to ensure social distancing amid the C-19 situation, people have been advised to run at their own pace anytime and anywhere.

AIM & NIITI Ayog with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship 2.0 Programme

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies has launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). The programme was launched following the success of SEP 1.0.
- SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers. The students will receive mentor support, end-user feedback, prototyping and testing support, intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products, manufacturing support, and the launch support of the product in the market.
- The main objective of the programme aims to create over a million neoteric innovators and potential job creators of the country.

Education Minister launches Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020 in New Delhi on August 11, 2020.
- During the launch, the Minister highlighted about unique architectural beauty of India, its monuments and temples. He highlighted how the architecture of India is rooted in its history, culture and religion.
- He further added that the Council of Architecture should draw inspiration from the present and past treasures of Architecture and bring a paradigm shift in the field of Architecture to make India a world leader again.

Goa's 'Khaje', 'Harmal Chilli' and 'Moira banana' get GI tag

- Goa's traditional festive sweet dish 'Khaje', spicy Harmal Chilli and Myndoli Banana

(Moira Banana) has obtained Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.

- A GI tag protects the produce from being illegally used, and ensures benefits to the local growers' community.

Paytm launched India's 1st pocket android POS device

- Paytm has launched India's 1st Pocket Android POS (Point of Sale) Device named 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' for contactless ordering and payments in India.
- This is the first such Android-based device to be introduced in India and is much more powerful than the portable Linux based POS devices presently available in the country.
- It is an effort to digitise and empower a large number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The company aims to issue over 2 lakh devices within the next few months which will generate over 20 million transactions per month.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Addresses 'India@75 Summit: Mission 2022' for upliftment of MSME

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari addressed the 'India@75 Summit: Mission 2022' on 8 August in New Delhi, via video-conferencing.
- The event was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to look towards improving presence of MSME industry in the 115 identified aspirational districts of the country.

Google launches People Cards in India

- Google has launched its new "People Cards" feature in India that let users create their virtual visiting card and build their public profile for search engine. The Google People Cards feature has been in a testing phase for a few years in India and has finally been launched now.
- People Cards is a new listing feature of Google that help users create their virtual Visiting or Business Cards and enhance their online presence. The People Cards feature uses Knowledge Graph of the Google to display information shared by the users.
- Individuals, entrepreneurs, employees, influencers, self-employed people, businesses, online marketplaces, freelancers, and anyone can be benefitted through the People Cards by getting discovered easily on being searched.

PM to launch platform for Transparent Taxation 'Honoring the Honest'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to launch the platform for Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest through video conference on August 13, 2020.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT had carried out several major tax reforms in direct taxes in recent years.
- The Corporate Tax rates were reduced from 30 percent to 22 percent last year and for new manufacturing units, the rates were reduced to 15 percent. The board had also abolished the Dividend distribution Tax.
- The main aim behind the tax reforms is a reduction in tax rates and simplification of

direct tax laws.

Jal Shakti Minister launches Swachh Bharat Mission Academy

- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM Academy) on August 11, 2020 in New Delhi, as part of the ongoing week-long behaviour change campaign Gandagi Mukht Bharat.
- After launching the SBM Academy by dialing the designated IVR toll-free number, the Minister stated that IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has transformed rural India by manifesting into a Jan Andolan for sanitation. This had led to the historic achievement of Open Defecation Free declaration by all villages, districts and states on October 2, 2019.

SC rules daughter is entitled to equal property rights even born before 2005

- Supreme Court has ruled that daughters enjoy equal property rights even if they are born before the 2005 amendment to Hindu Succession Act, 1956.
- Daughters have equal rights in the properties of Hindu Undivided Family (HUF). This is valid even if the father was not alive at the time of 2005 amendment.

PM releases financing facility of Rs. 17,000 crores for farmers

- Prime Minister on August 9 launched a financing facility of Rs. 1 lakh crores under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for agri-startups, entrepreneurs, farmer groups, agri-tech players for the post-harvest management and nurturing farm assets.
- Under the government launched PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Prime Minister transferred Rs. 17,000 crores into the bank accounts of 8.5 crores farmers. It was also informed that the amount went straight to farmers without any middlemen and commission.
- The new Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was launched via a video conference by PM Modi. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and other senior ministry officials were also present at the occasion.
- Under the scheme, around Rs. 1 lakh crores will be sanctioned under the financing facility in partnership with the multiple lending institutions as loans to farmer groups, primary agri-credit societies, agri-entrepreneurs, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), agri-tech players and startups.

NPCI launches omni-channel loyalty platform 'nth Rewards'

- The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a loyalty platform named 'nth Rewards'. Here nth represents "infinite possibilities".
- It is an analytics-enabled omni-channel multi-branded loyalty platform. It allows users to earn "nth" (infinite) loyalty points through various bank transactions. These rewards point can be redeemed for various purposes including online shopping.
- Customers will earn loyalty points on almost every transaction made digitally, especially while using the credit and debit cards. 'nth Rewards' platform has a smart dashboard for users where they can see their points accumulation.

Andhra Pradesh launches state Industrial Development Policy 2020-23

- The Andhra Pradesh government launched state Industrial Development Policy 2020-23 on August 10, 2020. The State Industries Minister Gautam Reddy unveiled the much-awaited policy.
- While speaking at the launch, Reddy said that the state Industrial Development Policy 2020-23 envisages all-round and holistic development with the idea of empowerment being crucial.
- It will also enable the development of specific industrial parks as per local needs. The Industrial zoning will be a key focus area to ensure planned Industrial development.
- The policy will further aim to provide a 'risk-free' investment-friendly environment for industries in the state. It will also ensure minimised impact on the environment.

Gujarat launches Industrial Policy 2020

- Gujarat Industrial Policy 2020 has been unveiled by the state that aims to provide an estimated Rs 40000 crores as subsidies to the industries within the next five years.
- The aim of this policy is to lease out government land to industrialists, provide incentives to private industrial parks and also provide relocation incentives to units intending to relocate in wake of C-19.

India bans import of 101 Defence items, gives big push for 'Make in India'

- The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Ministry of Defence (MoD) has prepared a list of 101 defence items for which there would be restriction on the import, beyond the timeline indicated against them.
- This step has been taken to boost indigenisation of defence production in India and push the country towards becoming Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The embargo on imports is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 and 2024.
- The list includes high technology weapon systems such as assault rifles, artillery guns, sonar systems, corvettes, light combat helicopters, transport aircraft, radars, and many other items.
- As per the Defence Ministry, the list also includes wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) with an embargo date of December 2021, of which the Indian Army is expected to contract almost 200 AFVs at an approximate cost of over Rs. 5,000 crores.
- In addition to this, the defence ministry has also bifurcated the capital procurement budget for the financial year 2020-21 between domestic and foreign capital procurement routes.

Delhi Govt launches new "Electric Vehicle Policy"

- Delhi government has launched the "Electric Vehicle Policy" for the national capital under which will waive registration fee, road tax, and provide an incentive of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh for new cars. The government aims to generate employment to give a boost to Delhi's economy and reduce pollution levels in the national capital.
- There is already the Centre's scheme on electric vehicles called 'Fame India Phase-2',

under which the Union government also provides some incentives.

- Under the policy, the Delhi government will give an incentive of up to Rs. 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, e-rickshaws and freight vehicles while for cars, it will provide an incentive of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- The new EV policy as “progressive” and the policy also aims to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024, which is currently just 0.29% in the national capital.
- The Delhi government will also give a low-interest loan on electric commercial vehicles.
- The Delhi Chief Minister said his government will also set up 200 charging stations in a year to ensure that people driving these vehicles can get a charging station within the radius of three kilometres.
- The Delhi government will give a “scrapping incentive” under the electric vehicle policy, which will be first-of-its-kind in the country.

Maharashtra ties up with Google to start virtual classes

- Considering the shutdown of schools due to the C -19, the state government of Maharashtra has tied up with technology giant Google to launch online education project for the students in the state.
- Under the tie-up, students and teachers will get access to Google Classroom and G Suite for Education to provide solutions to support remote learning. Maharashtra is the first state in the country to introduce such a project.
- Key features of Google Classroom and G Suite
 1. The Google Classroom and G Suite allows interactive sessions, which will enable teachers to explain lessons using audio or video presentations.
 2. Students can also ask their doubts while sitting at home
 3. Homework and assignments can be uploaded, and teachers can check them online.
 4. Parents can submit their complaints or suggestions through the system
 5. Around 250 participants can attend the class at a time.
 6. The initiative will cover over 1.09 lakh government, private, aided, and unaided schools, and benefit over 22.03 million students.

Jal Shakti Ministry launched new version of India Water Resources Information System

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS).The new version of India-WRIS is open to the public, and accessible through the web portal www.indiawris.gov.in.
- The new system provides with new functionalities and features. The advanced version is to address the requirement of a strong data base and a reliable information system.
- The portal contains information related to Water Resources for rainfall, water levels & discharge of rivers, water bodies, groundwater levels, reservoir storages, evapotranspiration and soil moisture, and modules on water resources projects, water bodies, hydro-met data availability and tools for GIS layer editing.

Serum Institute of India, Novavax sign agreement for C-19 vaccine supply

- Pune's Serum Institute of India and US-based Novavax signed an agreement for supply

of the Novavax C-19 vaccines in India as well as in other low- and middle- income countries.

- Under the agreement, at least 1 billion doses of vaccine, also known as NVX-CoV2373, will be made available for India and other countries.

First 'Kisan Rail' to run from 7 August between Maharashtra, Bihar

- Railways Ministry will run India's first 'Kisan Rail' from August 7, 2020 between Maharashtra and Bihar. The train will begin from Devlali, in Maharashtra at 11 am and its last stop will be at Danapur, Bihar.
- The train will be making several stoppages at stations carrying fruits and vegetables. It will not carry regular passengers.

First Mobile RT-PCR lab of India developed by IISc launched in Karnataka

- The State Government of Karnataka launched India's first mobile RT-PCR lab in Bengaluru. The lab was developed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- The lab has been named Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting (MITR) lab. It is capable of conducting 9000 tests per month. Apart from testing C-19, the lab can also be utilised to test HCV, H1N1, TB, HIV, HPV, etc.
- The main advantage of the lab is that it can be used for molecular diagnostic testing in C-19 hotspots quickly.

India contributes USD 15.46 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

- India has contributed the next tranche of \$15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, under its commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- This tranche of \$15.46 million including \$6 million for the overall fund, in which all developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million is dedicated to Commonwealth countries.
- The cheque was handed over by India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Director Jorge Chediek.

Government forms draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has formulated a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020), with the objective to make India self-reliance in defence manufacturing and to position the country amongst the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors.
- The new policy is a part of the announcements made under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package' to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing. The policy framework aims to position India among the leading countries of the world in defence and aerospace sectors.

The Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 has laid out the following goals and objectives:

- To achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000Crores (USD 25 Billion) including export of Rs

35,000 Crore (USD 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.

- To develop a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.
- To reduce dependence on imports and take forward “Make in India” initiatives through domestic design and development.
 1. To promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains.

To create an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.

National Programme ‘Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21’ launched

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched ‘Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21’. It is a national programme which has been launched to popularize science among school students of Class 6th to 11th.
- The programme has been designed to identify the talent in the field of science and to promote the scientific acumen among the students.

Andhra Pradesh government launches ‘E-RakshaBandhan’

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has launched a one month-long innovative virtual cybercrime awareness programme ‘E-Rakshabandhan’ on 3 August 2020
- The campaign organised by the Andhra Pradesh CID and the police, aims to bring awareness among the public in cyberspace, especially women, youth and children.
- The slogan for the campaign is “Let us make August a month of e freedom and e-safety.” Cybercrime experts will speak on different types of cyber crimes and create awareness among the public.

First Pan India 1000 Genome sequencing of SARS- CoV-2 completes successfully

- Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare announced the completion of Pan-India Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2. He reviewed the C-19 activities of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and DBT-Autonomous Institutions (AIs) in the meeting with DBT.
- He also launched the establishment of Five C-19 Bio Repositories by the DBT at Faridabad, Bhubaneshwar, New Delhi, Pune and Bangalore.

Central Government gave nod to Indian Premier League 2020 in UAE

- The Indian Government has provisionally granted permission for the 13th edition of Indian Premier League’s (IPL’s) 2020 to be rescheduled in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from September 19 to November 10, 2020, due to C-19.
- Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament. BCCI has also decided to host a Women’s T20 Challenge to be held from November 1 to 10 in UAE.

Government approves Khadi Agarbatti AtmaNirbhar Mission

- The Union Government approved Khadi Agarbatti AtmaNirbhar Mission on August 2, 2020 to generate employment and make India self-reliant in agarbatti production.
- Union Minister for MSME, Nitin Gadkari approved the unique employment generation scheme, which was proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to help India become Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti production.
- The “Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission” will help create employment for a large number of unemployed and migrant workers in different parts of the country.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurated upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in Bihar

- As a part of the renovation of the Mahatma Gandhi Bridge/Setu over river Ganga in Bihar, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) Nitin Jairam Gadkari virtually inaugurated its upstream carriageway. This means the two lanes are completed of the 4-lane bridge which is being renovated at a cost of Rs1,742 crore.
- During the inauguration ceremony, a new 5 km long, 4-lane Bridge over river Ganga in parallel to MG Setu, was also announced by Nitin Gadkari to facilitate movement of ships under it. With an outlay of Rs 2,926.42 crore, it will get completed by 2024.

‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ scheme extended to 4 more states, taking total states to 24

- Four additional states, namely Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand have been to the One Nation One Ration Card scheme have been integrated with the ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ plan of the Central government.
- With this, now a total of 24 States/UTs are connected under One Nation One Ration Card effective from 01 August 2020. These 24 States/UTs includes: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Central government to set up single-window clearance for business

- The central government is working on a single window portal which will reduce the time for businesses to get clearances; further increasing India’s ranking in the ease of doing business. Single Window System is completely digital and provides for unified and integrated business procedures.
- With six states on board, it will showcase five lakh hectares of land that has already been identified. This will allow online viewing of land available for companies, from their distant offices, precluding the need to frequently visit the offices of land-owning agencies.

SPORTS

India's first: Joint champions in chess Olympiad

- India and Russia have been jointly announced the winner of first-ever FIDE Online Chess Olympiad 2020. This was the first time FIDE was holding the Olympiad in an online format.
- India were initially declared to have lost the final round against Russia. Two Indian players (Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh) were declared to have lost on time in the final round after an apparent loss of internet connection for them.
- After this, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich had made a decision to give gold medals of to both teams.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Belgian Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Belgian Grand Prix 2020 held on August 30, 2020. This was his 5th win of the season.
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came second followed by Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) at third place.

Sri Lankan cricketer Tharanga Paranavitana retire from International Cricket

- Sri Lankan Opening batsman Nishad Tharanga Paranavitana announced retirement from all forms of International Cricket at the age of 38.
- He has represented Sri Lanka in 32 Test Matches scoring 1792 runs including two hundreds and 11 fifties.

Bryan brothers duo announces retirement from professional tennis

- The Bryan brothers, the most successful men's doubles team in the history of tennis, have announced retirement with immediate effect on 27 August 2020, ending their 22-year professional careers.
- The American Bryan Brothers are identical twin brothers Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, both 42-years of age and have won more professional games, matches, tournaments and Grand Slams than any other men's pairing..
- They held the World No. 1 doubles ranking jointly for 438 weeks.

James Anderson first-ever fast bowler to take 600 wickets in Test Cricket

- England's James Anderson has become the first-ever fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets. 38 year-old Anderson created history during England's third test match against Pakistan on August 25, 2020 in Southampton.
- He reached the milestone when he dismissed Pakistan's Azhar Ali and claimed his 600th Test wicket.
- Overall he is the 4th bowler to take 600 test wickets after 3 spinners Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, and Anil Kumble.

Indian Table Tennis star Poulomi Ghatak announced retirement

- Indian Table Tennis star, Poulomi Ghatak has announced retirement. The Kolkata-born

athlete is a seven-time national champion, winning between 1998 and 2016.

- She had represented India at the Commonwealth Games in 2006 and Commonwealth championships between 2000 and 2008. She entered the Olympics in Sydney for the first time when she was 16.

Bayern Munich wins UEFA Champions League 2019-20

- Bayern Munich overcame Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 to lift the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 trophy in Lisbon. Kingsley Coman scored the only goal in an entertaining affair between the league champions of Germany and France.
- Bayern lifted their sixth Champions League trophy and a first one since the 2012-13 season. The final was played in Lisbon, Portugal.

First female golfer from Germany Sophia Popov wins Women's British Open

- World number 304 Sophia Popov became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland.

5 Sportsperson to be awarded Khel Ratna 2020

- Five sportspersons will be awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020 this year. These are:
 - 1) Rohit Sharma- Cricketer (4th cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, and Virat Kohli to win this)
 - 2) Vinesh Phogat- Wrestler
 - 3) Manika Batra- Table Tennis player
 - 4) Mariyappan Thangavelu- Para Athlete
 - 5) Rani Rampal- Hockey Player
- They will receive the award on National Sports Day on August 29. This is for the first time that 5 players have been selected for this award.
- Apart from this 27 sportsperson have been selected for the ARJUNA AWARD 2020.

INOX Group becomes sponsor of Indian team for Tokyo Olympics

- The governing body for the Olympic Movement in India, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and INOX Group has signed a sponsorship agreement to support Team India for Tokyo Olympics, which was rescheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.
- The partnership agreement will further support team India's promotions through the Group's entertainment company, Inox Leisure Limited.

England World Cup winner Laura Marsh retires

- England World Cup winner all-rounder, Laura Marsh has announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. She was a key member of the England Women's team that won the 2017 World Cup.
- Marsh had played in 103 one-day internationals, 67 T20 and 9 Test matches during her career.

Kevin de Bruyne named Premier League Player of the Season 2019-20

- In Football, the Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has been named as the Premier League Player of the Season 2019-20.
- He is the only third Belgian footballer to win the award for the league's top performer, after Eden Hazard (2014-15) and Vincent Kompany (2011-12). The 29-year-old scored 20 goals in the 2019-20 season.
- Other awards includes:
 - Young Player of the Season – Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool)
 - Manager of the Season – Juergen Klopp (Liverpool)
 - Goal of the Season – Son Heung-min (Tottenham Hotspur)
 - Premier League 2 (PL2) Player of the Season – Curtis Jones (Liverpool)

Dream 11 wins title sponsorship rights of IPL 2020

- The title sponsorship rights of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 has been bagged by the fantasy gaming start-up "Dream 11". The fantasy gaming start-up has bagged the title sponsorship rights for Rs 222 crore.
- This comes after the previous sponsor, Vivo backed out of IPL 2020. The IPL will be held from September 19 to November 10, 2020.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2020

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020 held on August 16, 2020. This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career.
- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.

MS Dhoni retires from international cricket

- Former Indian skipper, MS Dhoni announcement his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020. The 39-year-old World Cup-winning captain made the announcement through his social media account.
- Dhoni shared this information on Instagram on August 15, 2020 as- "Thanks. Thanks for ur love and support throughout. from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired"
- Dhoni is the only Captain to win all three major International Cricket Council (ICC) trophies — the World Cup, the World Twenty20 and the Champions Trophy.
- Since he has announced retirement from International cricket, he will continue to play for Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Dhoni has been the recipient of many awards including the ICC ODI Player of the Year award in 2008 and 2009 (the first player to win the award twice), the Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna award in 2007 and the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour, in 2009. Mahendra Singh Dhoni has emerged as one of India's most successful cricket captains.

Suresh Raina retires from International Cricket

- Suresh Raina, a renowned Indian Cricket player has announced his retirement from

international cricket on August 15, 2020.

- His announcement came right after MS Dhoni's announcement of retirement from international cricket. Suresh Raina informed about his decision through his Instagram account, which shocked millions of his fans all around the country.
- He also especially acknowledged playing with MS Dhoni and mentioned that with pride he has decided to join in the journey of retirement with the former captain of the Indian Cricket team.
- Suresh Raina became the first batsman in the world and the first Indian to hit the T20I century. He is also the only Indian to score centuries in both T20I and ODI World Cup.

Max Verstappen wins 70th Anniversary Grand Prix

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen took a sensational surprise victory in the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix to bring Mercedes' domination to an end. This race was officially called as Emirates Formula 1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020.
- The race was the fifth round of the rescheduled 2020 Formula One World Championship. Lewis Hamilton finished second and Valtteri Bottas finished third.
- Max Emilian Verstappen from Netherland had won at the Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, United Kingdom and became the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in the 2020.

India To Host 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Australia to Host 2022 Edition, Women's CWC Postponed

- The Cricket governing body, International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to C -19 will be held in Australia in 2022.
- Also, India will be the host country for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 as planned earlier.
- ICC has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February – March 2022 because of the impact the C -19 on cricket globally.

Former Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas retires from football

- Former Real Madrid and Spain goalkeeper, Iker Casillas have retired from football. He made 725 appearances for Real during a 16-year career at the Bernabeu, winning three Champions League titles and five La Liga crowns.
- He also helped Spain win the 2010 World Cup and two successive European Championships in 2008 and 2012.
- He won 167 international caps for Spain between 2000 and 2016.

World Cup winner Benedikt Howedes retires from soccer

- The professional German footballer, Benedikt Howedes, who helped Germany win the World Cup title in 2014, has announced his retirement from soccer, citing family reasons.
- The 32-year-old defender, represented the Germany national football team from 2011 to 2017 during which he played 44 matches.

Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2020

- Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton has won the Formula One British Grand Prix 2020 held at the Silverstone Circuit, United Kingdom.
- Max Verstappen (Red bull) ended up second in this F1 race while Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) came third. This is the third win for Hamilton in this season of F1 races.

Sport committee formed for National Sports Awards 2020

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports formed a selection committee for selecting awardees for various sports awards for the National Sports Awards 2020.
- The committee will be headed by Retired Justice of Supreme Court Justice Mukundakam Sharma along with Virendra Sehwaag (Cricket), Sardar Singh (Hockey), Monalisa Baruah Mehta (Table Tennis), Deepa Malik (Para-athletics), Venkatesan Devarajan (Boxing) and Sports Commentator Manish Batavia and Sports Journalists Alok Sinha and Neeru Bhatia.

Stuart Broad becomes 7th bowler to take 500 Test wickets

- Stuart Broad joined one of cricket's most exclusive clubs when he took his 500th Test wicket as England completed a series-clinching win over the West Indies at Old Trafford.
- The 34-year-old became fourth pacemen to reach the landmark when he had opener Kraigg Brathwaite plumb lbw for 19 on the fifth day of the third Test.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Class 9 student from Manipur develops mobile game 'Coroboi' amid C-19 pandemic

- A 13-year old boy from Manipur, Baldeep Ningthoujam has developed a mobile game named Coroboi amid C-19 which became a popular android based game worldwide.
- The game which was launched in google play store has become one of the most popular searches and download games.

Indian Satellite 'AstroSat' Detects UV Light From Galaxy 9 Billion Light Years Away

- India's first multi-wavelength satellite, AstroSat, has detected an extreme ultraviolet (UV) light from a galaxy, called AUDFs01. This galaxy is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth, in the Hubble Extreme Deep field.
- AstroSat is India's first multi-wavelength satellite, which has five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes working in tandem. The discovery was made by an international team of astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha, associate professor of astronomy at the Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA).
- This research was published on August 24, 2020, by Nature Astronomy.

Chandrayaan-2 captures crater on Moon, ISRO names it after Vikram Sarabhai

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Friday announced that Chandryaan-2 has captured images of the Moon, and named one of the craters after Vikram Sarabhai. Sarabhai is the father of the Indian space programme.

- Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said that it is a fitting tribute to his legacy, who completed his birth centenary year on August 12. Singh also lauded the the achievements of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) which has put India in a leading position for space research.
- The Sarabhai Crater is around 250 to 300 kilometres east of the crater where the Apollo 17 and Luna 21 Missions had landed.

ISRO and IISc Researchers develops sustainable process for making 'Space Bricks' on Moon

- Team of researchers of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, Karnataka and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) developed a sustainable process for making brick-like structures named "Space Bricks" on the surface of the moon. The process uses the lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans to make the space brick.
- The process uses the Urea – sourced from human urine and lunar soil as the raw materials for the construction on the lunar surface which reduces the overall expenditure.

India's first upper-stage rocket engine test-fired by Skyroot Aerospace

- Aerospace startup venture Skyroot Aerospace has successfully test-fired an upper-stage rocket engine, thus becoming the first private company in India to demonstrate the capability to build a homegrown rocket engine.
- The engine is 3-D printed and named as Raman, after the Nobel Laureate CV Raman.
- It has fewer moving parts and weighs less than half of conventional rocket engines with similar capacity.

OBITUARY

'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman passes away at 43

- American actor Chadwick Boseman, who became a global icon for his role as Black Panther in the hit Marvel superhero franchise, has passed away after battling cancer since past four years from 2016. He was 43.
- Chadwick made his Marvel superhero debut as T'Challa/Black Panther in 2016's Captain America: Civil War, after which he became a household name.
- He made his big-screen debut in 2008 in the biopic The Express: The Ernie Davis Story where he played Floyd Little.

'Scooby Doo' Co-Creator Joe Ruby Passes Away at 87

- Joe Ruby, the co-creator of the cartoon series Scooby-Doo, has passed away due to natural cause. He was 87.
- Ruby, an American animator, television editor, writer, and producer, created the much-loved characters of beloved kids show Scooby-Doo, along with his creative partner Ken Spears.
- Together, the pair started their own production company Hanna-Barbera Productions

and created other memorable cartoons as well.

Veteran Athletics coach Purshottam Rai passes away at 79

- The veteran athletics coach Purshottam Rai has passed away due to a cardiac arrest on 28 August 2020. He was 79.
- Rai was to be conferred the prestigious Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category on 29 August 2020, on the occasion of the National Sports Day.
- Rai is known for providing coaching top athletes such as Olympian quarter miler Vandana Rao, hept athlete Pramila Aiyappa, Ashwini Nachappa, Murali Kuttan, MK Asha, EB Shyla, Rosa Kutty and GG Pramila.

Writer-journalist Gail Sheehy, author of bestselling book 'Passages,' passes away

- Gail Sheehy, the journalist, commentator and pop sociologist whose best-selling Passages helped millions navigate their lives from early adulthood to middle age and beyond, has died in Southampton, New York. She was 83.
- She has written nearly 17 books, the most prominent and influential was "Passages" (1976), which examined the predictable crises of adult life and how to use them as opportunities for creative change.

Former Supreme Court Judge Justice A.R. Lakshmanan passes away

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice, A.R. Lakshmanan passed away. He was born in Devakottai in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu on March 22, 1942.
- He was appointed as the supreme court judge on December 20, 2002 and retired on March 22, 2007.
- Currently he was the sitting representative of Tamil Nadu in the Mullai Periyar Panel headed by Justice A.S.Anand.

Computer Pioneer Arnold Spielberg passes away

- Arnold Meyer Spielberg, a pioneered computer designer & an innovative engineer passed away at the age of 103. Spielberg and Charles Propster designed the GE-225 mainframe computer in the late 1950s while working for General Electric.
- The machine allowed computer scientists at Dartmouth College to develop the programming language BASIC, which would be essential to the rise of personal computers in the 1970s and '80s.
- Spielberg helped to develop the 1st point-of-sale computerised cash register, it is regarded as his greatest contribution.
- He designed and patented the 1st electronic library system, which was implemented as an interrogation system for data stored on an array of magnetic tapes.

Former Congo President Pascal Lissouba passes away

- Former President of the Republic of Congo, Pascal Lissouba passed away. He served as the president from 1992 to 1997.
- He became the minister of agriculture in 1960 after Congo became an independent country.

Former Congo President Pascal Lissouba passes away

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- He served as the president from 1992 to 1997. He served as the Prime minister under the Presidency of Alphonse Massamba Debat.

Former Indian cricketer Gopala swamy Kasturirangan passes away

- Former Cricketer, Administrator and Pitch Curator, Gopala swamy Iyenger Kasturirangan passed away.
- He began his career in the 1948-49 season representing Mysore in the Ranji Trophy and retired from first-class cricket after the 1962-63 season.
- Kasturirangan was also the former BCCI Curator and Vice President of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

Computer Scientist Russell A. Kirsch, who Invented Pixel, passes away

- Computer scientist Russell A. Kirsch, the inventor of the pixel, and developer of the first digital photograph. has passed away. He was 91 years old.
- His pioneering contributions to computer science made digital imaging possible.
- He created a small, 2-by-2-inch black-and-white digital image of his son, which was among the first images ever scanned into a computer. Pixels are the digital dots that are used to display photos, video and more on phone as well as computer screens.

Renowned classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passes away

- Indian classical vocalist, Pandit Jasraj passed away. He was born in Haryana in 1930, his musical career spanned eight decades. His performances of classical and semi-classical vocals have become albums and film soundtracks.
- Jasraj has taught music in India, Canada, and the US. Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist, belonging to the Mewati Gharana. His musical career spanned for more than eight decades. Many of his performances of classical and semi-classical vocals have now become albums and film soundtracks.
- Pandit Jasraj was a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 1975; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1987 and Padma Bhushan in 1999. In the year 2000, the government of India conferred him with Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honor in the country.
- In 2019, the International Astronomical Union had named a minor planet after Pandit Jasraj. The minor planet is located between Mars and Jupiter.

Filmmaker Nishikant Kamat passes away

- Director-actor Nishikant Kamat passed away. He made his directorial debut in 2005 with Marathi movie Dombivali Fast, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Marathi.
- Nishikant had directed some popular Bollywood movies like Force, Drishyam, and Madaari. He made his silver screen debut in 2004 with the Hindi movie Hava Aney Dey.

In 2008, Kamat helmed his first Bollywood film Mumbai Meri Jaan.

- As an actor, he was known for his performances in Daddy, Rocky Handsome, Julie 2, and Bhavesh Joshi.

Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh Minister Chetan Chauhan

- Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh minister Chetan Chauhan has passed away due to multiple organ failure. He was 73.
- Chauhan played 40 Tests matches for India, during his 12-year-long cricket career, scoring 2084 runs with 16 half-centuries and two wickets.
- He was Minister for youth and sports in the state of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet in 2018 and has also served as Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, PRD and Civil Security in the UP Cabinet.

Noted Sports Journalist GK Menon Passes away

- Veteran sports journalist Gopal Krishna Menon has passed away. He was 93. He had worked with the Indian Express and The Times of India.

Noted Urdu Poet Rahat Indori passes away

- Noted Urdu poet Rahat Indori passed away. He was also a bollywood lyricist and known for the lyrics of songs like "M Bole to" from Munna bhai MBBS (2003), and "Neend Churai Mei" from Ishq (1997).
- His poem "Bulatihaimagarjanekanaahi" went viral on social media earlier this year.

Former India defender and Mohun Bagan captain Laishram Manitombi Singh passes away

- Former Indian footballer and Mohun Bagan captain, Laishram Manitombi Singh has passed away, after suffering from a prolonged illness.. He was 39.
- He captained Mohun Bagan for consecutive two seasons (2003-2004) wherein he scored three goals, and also led the club to win the Airlines Gold Cup in 2004.
- Manitombi was a key member of the India Under-23 side that lifted the LG Cup in 2003 by defeating Vietnam 3-2 in Ho Chi Minh City. He also represented India in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan.

Wrestling legend 'Kamala' passes away

- Wrestling legend James 'Kamala' Harris passed away at the age of 70 on August 9, 2020. The news was confirmed by WWE.
- The WWE released an official statement saying that it was "saddened" to learn about the death of the former wrestler. He was 70.
- James Harris, known popularly as Kamala in WWE, made his pro wrestling debut in 1978,. He was best known for his appearances with WWE (formerly named WWF) from 1984 to 2006.

Former Congress leader and eight-time MP, Nandi Yellaiah, passes away

- A senior Congress leader and eight-time Member of Parliament from Telangana, Nandi

Yellaiah has passed away due to C-19. He was 78.

- Yellaiah was the vice-president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee. (TPCC). He was a six-term member of Lok Sabha and two-time Rajya Sabha member.

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Shirley Ann Grau passes away at 91

- Shirley Ann Grau, a Pulitzer Prize-winning fiction writer from America, whose stories and novels were based primarily in the Deep South, has passed away. She was 91.
- Grau won the 1965 Pulitzer Prize for her fourth book, "The Keepers of the House."
- During her writing career, Grau wrote six novels and four short story, all of which were set in the Deep South, from New Orleans to north Louisiana and Alabama, telling both the dark secrets and the beauty of the Deep South.

Renowned TV actor Sameer Sharma passes away due to suicide

- Veteran Television actor Sameer Sharma is no more. The 44-year-old actor committed suicide on 5 August 2020, by hanging from the kitchen ceiling of his home.
- Sharma has been part of some renowned TV serials like 'Geet – Hui Sabse Parayi', 'Left Right Left', 'Kahaani Ghar Kii', 'Four' and 'Sshhhh....Koi Hai'.
- He was also seen in Sidharth Malhotra's movies 'Hasee Toh Phasee' and 'Ittefaq'.

Former Maharashtra CM Shivaji rao Patil Nilangekar passes away

- Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Shivaji rao Patil Nilangekar passed away on August 5, 2020 due to prolonged illness. He was 89.
- Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar had served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra between 1985 and 1986.

Theatre maestro Ebrahim Alkazi passes away

- Indian theatre director and drama teacher, Ebrahim Alkazi, has passed away. He was 94. He was the first and longest serving Director of the National School of Drama (NSD), and held the position from 1962-77.
- Ebrahim was considered as the father of modern Indian theatre and has mentored generations of actors, including Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, Rohini Hattangadi, Surekha Sikri and Pankaj Kapoor.
- The thespian has a lot of accolades to his name and has won many of India's most prestigious awards, such as Padma Shri (1966), the Padma Bhushan (1991), and India's second highest civilian award the Padma Vibhushan in 2010. Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Direction in 1962, and the Akademi's highest award the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for lifetime contribution to theatre.

Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume passes away

- The prominent Northern Ireland politician and former Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume passed away. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, along with David Trimble, for his role in ending the conflict in Northern Ireland.
- He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.

William English, the co-inventor of the computer mouse, passes away

- William Kirk English, the American computer engineer who co-invented the world's first computer mouse, has passed away. He was 91 years old.
- In 1964, he was the first person to co-develop the mouse along with Douglas Engelbart, at the Stanford Research Institute and 'demonstrated it in 1968, in what was dubbed 'the mother of all demos.'

UP Cabinet Minister Kamal Rani Varun passes away

- Cabinet Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Kamal Rani Varun passed away due to C-19. She was the minister of technical education in the state government.
- Kamal Rani Varun had also served as an MP twice. Once in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and then Twelfth Lok Sabha. She was MLA from Ghatampur in Kanpur.

Rajya Sabha MP & former SP leader Amar Singh passes away

- Rajya Sabha MP and former Samajwadi Party leader Amar Singh passed away. He was undergoing treatment in Singapore since past few months.
- Amar Singh, who hailed from Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time from Uttar Pradesh in 1996 and got re-elected in 2003.
- Amar Singh was the general secretary of the Samajwadi Party and was later expelled from the party by chief Mulayam Singh Yadav on February 2, 2010.

Padma Shri awardee Sonam Tshering Lepcha passes away

- Folk musician and Padma Shri awardee, Sonam Tshering Lepcha passed away. He was 92. He started his career as a soldier. He travelled to various parts of Sikkim and compiled a wide range of Indian folk and traditional Lepcha songs and played folk music on All India Radio in 1960.
- He was highly revered in Sikkim, where he spent much of his time for his role in the revival of Lepcha culture, which is an indigenous one in Sikkim. He was awarded the Padma Shri for his contribution in the field of folk music.

Malayalam actor Anil Murali passes away

- Malayalam actor, Anil Murali passed away. He made his silver screen debut with Kanyakumariyil Oru Kavitha in 1993. He went on to star in over 200 movies across Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu film industries.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Banks Board Bureau recommends Dinesh Kumar Khara as next SBI chairman

- The Banks Board Bureau (BBB) recommended SBI's senior-most managing director Dinesh Kumar Khara as the next chairman of the country's largest lender.
- Khara will replace SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term comes to an end on October 7.

TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer resigns

- Kevin Mayer resigns as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TikTok. His resignation comes just less than 3 months after his appointment.
- For now, Vanessa Pappas, the General Manager of TikTok North America, will take over as the interim head of the company.

Sanjiv Singh joins Reliance as Group President

- Former Indian Oil Corp (IOC) chairman Sanjiv Singh has joined Reliance Industries Ltd as Group President.
- Sanjiv will lead and drive the Group manufacturing services (GMS) organisation which is the backbone of our oil-to-chemicals business.

Rajiv Srivastava Steps Down as MD & CEO of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)

- Rajiv Srivastava, the Managing Director & CEO of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has resigned on August 24, 2020 from the board of the company with immediate effect, due to his personal reasons.
- The board of directors of the company have given Satyanarayan Goel the additional charge of Managing Director and CEO for an interim period.

Vinay Tonse becomes new MD and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund

- Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Mutual Fund (MF).
- He will replace Ashwani Bhatia, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of State Bank of India.

DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy gets two-year extension

- Renowned Indian scientist, G Satheesh Reddy was given a two-year extension as the chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- He was appointed to the post in August 2018 for two years.

Ashwani Bhatia appointed MD of State Bank of India

- The government has appointed Ashwani Bhatia as the next managing director of India's largest public sector bank State Bank of India (SBI).
- Bhatia is currently serving as the managing director (MD) and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund, and had been tipped to be a front runner for his new post through the selection process.

Rajiv Kumar appointed as new Election Commissioner

- Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed new election commissioner. He will replace Ashok Lavasa, who resigned earlier this week. Mr Kumar will take charge the day Mr Lavasa leaves his office on August 31.
- Rajiv Kumar is a 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre. He was designated as finance secretary in July 2019 and during his tenure he played a major role in merging

10 public sector banks into four. He has also served as establishment officer (EO) in the personnel ministry.

Equatorial Guinea Re-elects Francisco Asue as PM of the country

- Francisco Asue has been reappointed as Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea.
- This is Asue's third consecutive term as PM. He was first appointed as PM of Equatorial Guinea in 2016.

Luis Rodolfo Abinader sworn in as President of Dominican Republic

- Luis Rodolfo Abinader has been sworn in as 54th President of the Dominican Republic on 16 August 2020.
- The 53-year-old economist and businessman Abinader succeeds Danilo Medina, who served the country from 2012 to 2020.

Rohit Sharma appointed Oakley's brand ambassador in India

- Sports eyewear brand "Oakley" has appointed Indian cricketer, Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador for a period of two years in India.
- With this appointment, Sharma joins the likes of athletes such as Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand before.

Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner of India, appointed as ADB Vice President

- Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner of India to join the Philippines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its Vice- President in September 2020.
- Earlier on 15th July 2020, Lavasa was appointed as the Vice President of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Satya Pal Malik appointed as Governor of Meghalaya

- Satya Pal Malik, Governor of Goa, has been appointed as the Meghalaya Governor, succeeding Tathagata Roy. Roy completed his 5-year tenure by serving as Tripura Governor for 3 years and the Governor of Meghalaya for the remaining two years.
- Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been asked to perform duties of Goa Governor for the time being.

SEBI appoints G P Garg as Executive Director

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said it has appointed G P Garg as executive director (ED).
- Prior to his promotion as ED, Garg was Chief General Manager in Sebi and has handled several assignments since joining in January 1994.

Rakesh Asthana becomes new DG of BSF

- The government of India has appointed Rakesh Asthana as the new director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF). Currently, DG Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) chief S S Deswal was holding the additional charge of BSF since March this year.

- Asthana is currently heading the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) with an additional charge of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The central bank of India appoints Ashwini Kumar Shukla as Chief Risk Officer

- The central bank of India has appointed Mr. Ashwini Kumar Shukla as Chief Risk Officer.
- As part of the reform agenda announced by the Ministry of Finance last year in August 2019, the Central bank of India is the first one to appoint a CRO from the market.

Kaushik Khona appointed as CEO of GoAir

- Kaushik Khona has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoAir. He will replace Vinay Dube.
- GoAir is an Indian low-cost airline based in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is owned by the Indian business conglomerate Wadia Group.

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi assumes charge as DGNO

- Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM has become the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO). He is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare and was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01st July 1985.
- The alumnus of National Defence Academy Khadakwasla, has served on frontline warships of the Navy as Signal Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer.

SS Mundra becomes new non-executive Chairman of IBH

- Former RBI deputy governor, Subhash Sheoratan Mundra has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) with immediate effect.
- He had joined the board of IBH in 2018 as an independent director.

PESB selects Soma Mondal as next chairman of SAIL

- Soma Mondal has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- She will be taking charge when the present Chairman Anil Chaudhary.

Pramod Bhasin becomes new Chairman of ICRIER

- Pramod Bhasin has been appointed as a new Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He is currently the vice-chair of the board of governors at ICRIER.
- He will replace Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who has stepped down due to health reasons. Isher had been in this position for 15 years.

Former NABARD Chief Harsh Bhanwala appointed as executive chairman of Capital India Finance

- Former NABARD Chief, Harsh Kumar Bhanwala has been appointed as executive chairman of the Capital India Finance Limited. Prior to this, Bhanwala was chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for over six years.

- He was appointed as the chairman NABARD in December 2013 and demitted the office on May 26, 2020.

Former SBI Card head Hardayal Prasad appointed new MD& CEO of PNB Housing Finance

- PNB Housing Finance Ltd. has appointed Hardayal Prasad as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company.
- The former SBI Card head, Hardayal Prasad will assume charge on August 10.
- Currently, the housing finance company is headed by its interim Chief Neeraj Vyas.

Pradeep Kumar Joshi takes over as new Chairman of UPSC

- Pradeep Kumar Joshi, an Educationist Professor, has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on 7 August 2020.
- He succeeds Arvind Saxena, whose tenure as UPSC chairman ended on 7 August 2020. Joshi will serve as the chairman of the UPSC till May 12, 2021.

P S Ranipse becomes new IG of CRPF

- Odisha cadre IPS officer, P S Ranipse has been appointed as Inspector General (IG), in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- He will hold the post on Central deputation for a period of five years from the date of joining.

Girish Chandra Murmu appointed as new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

- Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. He will assume office on 8 August 2020.
- Murmu is the 14th CAG of India. He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi, a 1978 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, as the CAG.
- Murmu, a 1985 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, was the first Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Ajay Tyagi gets 18 Months extension as SEBI Chairman

- According to a Personnel Ministry, Ajay Tyagi has been given an 18-month extension, as the chairman of markets regulator SEBI.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of Tyagi's term for 18 months, with effect from September 1, 2020 up to February 28, 2022.
- Mr Tyagi, a 1984 batch IAS (retired) officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, was appointed as the SEBI chairman in March 2017 for three years.

Manoj Sinha appointed as new LG of Jammu and Kashmir

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed former Union minister Manoj Sinha as the next Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He will replace Girish Chandra

- Murmu who resigned. Murmu's resignation has been accepted by the President.
- Sinha has represented the parliamentary constituency of Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh thrice in the Lok Sabha. Sinha has also served as junior railways minister.
 - Murmu officially took charge as the first L-G of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, 2019, under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

RBI approves Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank CEO and MD

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of HDFC Bank. Mr. Jagdishan will take charge of the outgoing MD Aditya Puri on October 27, 2020 and will remain on the position for three years.
- HDFC Bank mentioned that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank will be held in due course to approve the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the new MD and CEO of the bank.
- Along with Sashidhar Jagdishan, HDFC Bank had also submitted the names of Sunil Garg, Global CEO of Citi Commercial Bank, and Kaizad Bharucha (ED at HDFC Bank) for the RBI's consideration.
- Sashidhar Jagdishan had joined HDFC Bank in 1996 as a manager in the finance function and later became a business head-finance in 1999.

Mark Phillips sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana

- Former Chief-of-Staff of the Guyana Defence Force Brigadier (retired), Mark Anthony Phillips has been sworn in as Prime Minister of Guyana. Additionally, former President Bharrat Jagdeo was named Vice President.
- Mohamed Irfaan Ali, a former member of parliament and housing minister, has been sworn in as the President of Guyana on 2 August 2020.
- The 40-year-old People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) candidate has taken over as the 10th President of the country. He succeeds David A. Granger.

Mohamed Irfaan Ali named as President of Guyana

- Former Guyanese housing minister Mohamed Irfaan Ali(40 years old)became the President of the country after he was declared as the winner of the disputed March 2, 2020 general election following a recount.
- He is a member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP). He succeeds David Arthur(A.) Granger.

Kavita Devi, Babita Phogat appointed as Haryana Sports Deputy Directors

- Babita Phogat and Kavita Devi have been appointed as Deputy Directors in the Haryana's Department of Sports and Youth Affairs. Babita Phogat stated that she will work to make sure that players in the state get all the facilities required by them.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances : 30 August

- The International Day of the Disappeared is held on August 30 each year to draw

attention towards increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances of individuals in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction unknown to their relatives and/or legal representatives.

- The day was adopted by UN General Assembly on 21 December 2010 and was first observed in 2011.

National Sports Day

- Every year India observes the National Sports Day, (Rashtriya Khel Divas), on 29 August to mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, who is regarded as nation's greatest hockey player of all time.
- The National Sports Day was celebrated for the first time in 2012. Major Dhyan Chand Singh won Olympics gold medals for India in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936. He has scored over 400 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948.
- The day is used as a platform to launch various sports schemes as well as organise various sporting events and seminars to spread awareness about the importance of physical activities and sports in life.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

- The International Day against Nuclear Tests is held on August 29 since 2010. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 2009.
- The day aims to increase awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

World Water Week 2020 observed on 24-28 August

- The World Water Week is an annual global event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991 to address the planet's water issues and related concerns of international development.
- The World Water Week 2020 has been organised from 24-28 August in virtual format due to the C-19.
- The theme for World Water Week 2020 at Home is 'Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action'.

Women's Equality Day

- This day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted the women right to vote. In 1971, the U.S. Congress officially recognized August 26 as Women's Equality Day.
- A day which holds a lot of political significance in world history.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is a UNESCO designated day held every year on August 23 to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
- It is a day to honour the memory of the men and women who, in Saint-

Domingue in 1791, revolted and paved the way for the end of slavery and dehumanization.

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

- The second annual International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is being observed on 22 August 22, 2020.
- The international day aims to remember the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.
- The day was adopted at the 73rd UN General Assembly on 28 May 2019 as proposed by Poland.

World Senior Citizen Day

- The World Senior Citizen Day is observed globally on 21st August every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting older people, such as deterioration with age and the abuse of the elderly and support, honour and show appreciation to seniors and to recognize their achievements.
- The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1990.
- The World Senior Citizen's Day also recognises and acknowledges the contributions of older people to society.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is a UN recognised day observed on August 21 to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks.
- The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly in 2017 and first time the day was observed in 2018.

Indian Akshay Urja Day 2020

- Indian Akshay Urja Day or Renewable Energy Day is observed on 20th August every year. Indian Akshay Urja is observed to mark the importance of renewable energy resources in India.
- This day marks the birthday anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

World Mosquito Day

- World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August annually to raise awareness about the causes of malaria and how it can be prevented.
- The day also commemorates the discovery made by British doctor Sir Ronald Ross in 1897 that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.

Sadbhavana Diwas

- Every year on 20th August, the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day. This year on 20th August 2020, we are going to celebrate the 76th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- The Indian National Congress instituted Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award in 1992, a year after his death.

World Photography Day

- The World Photography Day is celebrated on 19 August every year to promote photography as a hobby and also inspire photographers around the globe to share a single photo with the rest of the world.
- The first official World Photo Day was observed on August 19, 2010.
- The origin of World Photo Day comes from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837.

World Humanitarian Day

- The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year on 19 August to pay tribute to humanitarian personnel and those workers who lost or risked their lives while doing humanitarian service. In 2020 we are celebrating the 11th WHD.
- The theme for 2020 WHD is #RealLifeHeroes. The theme is a tribute and a heartfelt thanks to all aid and health workers who have committed their lives to helping others, during this difficult time of pandemic.

World Organ Donation Day

- The World Organ Donation Day is celebrated every year on August 13 to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people to donate organs after death.
- The day provides an opportunity to all to come ahead and pledge to donate their precious organs, because one organ donor can save up to eight lives.

International Lefthanders Day

- The International Left Handers Day is observed on August 13 every year to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of the left handers and raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of being left-handed in a predominantly right-handed world.
- The day was first observed in 1976 and was officially declared in 1997.

World Elephant Day

- World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 worldwide for the preservation and protection of the global elephants.
- The main objective of World Elephant Day is to create awareness on elephant conservation, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better protection and management of wild and captive elephants.

- The day is being officially celebrated since 2012.

International Youth Day

- The International Youth Day (IYD) is observed on August 12 annually to draw attention of governments and others towards youth issues worldwide.
- The day was designated by the United Nations in 1999. The first IYD was observed on 12 August, 2000. Theme of 2020 is 'Youth Engagement for Global Action'.

World Biofuel Day

- The International Biofuel Day (World Biofuel Day) is observed every year on August 10 to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- The theme for 2020 World Biofuel Day is 'Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

- The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (World Tribal Day) is observed on 9 August annually to protect the rights of the world's indigenous population and recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.
- The day was recognised by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1994. The theme for 2020 is C -19 and indigenous peoples' resilience.

Quit India Day

- Every year, the Quit India Day (or August Kranti Day) is observed on 8 August to commemorate the anniversary of Quit India Movement, launched by Father of Nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, on 8 August 1942 at the All-India Congress Committee session in Bombay.
- In 2020, we are celebrating the 78th anniversary of Quit India Day.
- Quit India Movement also known as Bharat Chodo Andolan and August Kranti Movement was a 'do or die' call to the people of India initiated by Gandhiji to demand an end to the British rule in India.

World Lung Cancer Day

- Every year, the World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1 to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and highlight the issues of lack of sufficient research funding for the ailment.
- The campaign was first organised in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and also the American College of Chest Physicians.
- The IASLC is the largest organisation in the world of its kind that only deals with lung cancer.

National Handloom Day

- National Handloom Day will be celebrated on August 7, 2020 to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in 1905.
- This year, the Union Ministry of Textiles will organise a virtual programme, which will have Textiles Minister Smriti Irani as the Chief Guest.
- The function will connect handloom clusters across India, NIFT campuses and all the 28 Weaver Service Centres and National Handloom Development Corporation.
- The main objective behind celebrating the day is to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.

Hiroshima Day (Anti Nuclear Day/ Nagasaki Day)

- Annually 6th of August marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima during World War II. The horrific incident took place on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named "Little Boy", on the town of Hiroshima in Japan, followed a few days later by another drop on the city of Nagasaki on August 9.
- This was the first time in the history of warfare when a nuclear bomb was used against a nation. Although these bombings effectively ended World War II, the two cities were terribly destroyed and casualties were estimated at around 200,000, mostly civilians.
- This day is remembered to promote peace and spread awareness about the danger of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

World Sanskrit Day 2020

- World Sanskrit Day, (also known as Sanskrit Diwas), is celebrated every year on Shraavanapoornima, that is the Poornima day of the Shraavana month in the Hindu calendar, which is also marked as Raksha Bandhan.
- In 2020, this day is being observed on 3 August 2020. The day commemorates the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit and aims to promote its revival and maintenance.
- The Government of India decided to celebrate World Sanskrit Day in 1969, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan that falls on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shraavana.

World Ranger Day 2020

- World Ranger Day is celebrated annually on July 31 around the world and it is promoted by the 54-member Association of the International Ranger Federation (IRF).
- The day celebrates the accomplishments done by rangers around the world and honors those who have died in the course of their duties.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

NeGD signs MoU with CSC E-Governance Services India Limited

- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) has partnered with CSC (Common Service Center) e Governance Services India Limited.
- The partnership aims to enable delivery of UMANG services to citizens through the network of 3.75 lakh CSCs.

CCI approves Siemens' acquisition of C&S Electric

- Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it approved the proposed acquisition of C&S Electric by Siemens.
- As per a statement issued by Siemens in January, it had inked an agreement to acquire 99 per cent equity in New Delhi-based C&S Electric for around Rs 2,100 crore.

General insurance companies ICICI Lombard and Bharti AXA announces merger

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company and Bharti AXA General Insurance Company have announced the merger of their businesses.
- The merger would result in an entity with a combined annual premium of Rs 16,447 crore and a market share of nearly 8.7%.
- After the merger, ICICI Lombard will become the third-largest non-life insurer in India.

Ministry of Tourism signed MoU with TAAI and FLO to promote tourism as sustainable livelihood model

- The Union Minister of State for Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was virtually signed today by the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) with the Ministry of Tourism for women empowerment.
- The MoU provision will create awareness, along with state tourism departments and state tourism corporations and gives an opportunity to increase participation of women in the tourism sector.

Flipkart partners with the U.P. Government's ODOP scheme

- India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, Flipkart has signed an MoU with One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The MoU will bring the artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme into the scope of the "Flipkart Samarth" initiative.
- This will provide artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the ODOP scheme a momentum to expand their business online as they face social and economic challenges.

Reliance Retail acquires majority stake in online pharmacy Netmeds for Rs 620 crore

- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the subsidiary company of Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has acquired a majority equity stake in online pharmacy Vitalic Health Pvt Ltd and its subsidiaries (commonly known as Netmeds) for a cash consideration of around Rs 620 crore (\$83.08 million).
- The announcement regarding this was made by the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). Reliance Retail Director Isha Ambani stated that the deal is in line with the commitment to provide digital access to all in the country.
- Chennai-based Netmeds is a licensed e-pharma portal, incorporated in 2015, that offers authenticated prescription and over the counter (OTC) medicine along with other health products in India.

Reliance Foundation partners with W-GDP & USAID to bridge gender digital divide in India

- Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, has entered into partnership with US Agency for International Development (USAID) to bridge the gender digital divide in India.
- The partnership will enable Reliance Foundation to join forces with Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative.
- Under this, various W-GDP Women Connect Challenge would be organised across India in 2020, with the shared goal to help bridge both the gender divide and the digital divide in India.
- The Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative was launched in 2019 by President Donald Trump to advance global women's economic empowerment. It is led by Ivanka Trump.

MoD signs MoU with IIT Kanpur & Department of ARPG

- Department of Defence (DoD) Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- The MoU aims to conduct predictive analysis of public grievances.
- The project is aimed to help the MoD to identify the cause and nature of grievances and bring about systemic changes and policy interventions wherever required.
- Under the MoU, IIT-Kanpur will develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Techniques to conduct exploratory and predictive analysis of Public Grievances received on the web-based Centralized Public Grievances Redress & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) pertaining to the MoD.

R Power & JERA inks loan agreement for Bangladesh's power plant

- Reliance Power and Japanese energy major JERA have signed an agreement with a group of banks for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh.
- The signed agreement will provide full finance of about \$642 million (approxRs 4,798 crore) for a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. This is one of the largest funding tie-ups for a project in Bangladesh's power sector.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Punjab University wins prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for second consecutive year

- The Panjab University has been conferred with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad(MAKA) Trophy for the year 2019.
- This is the second consecutive year in a row that Panjab University has won this coveted trophy, which is given to overall top performing University in Inter-University Tournaments.

Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld wins International Booker Prize 2020

- The International Booker Prize 2020 has been won by Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld for her debut novel 'The Discomfort of Evening'.
- The novel has been translated from Dutch to English by Michele Hutchison.
- The £50,000 prize (\$66,000) will be split equally between the author and translator to give equal recognition to both.
- The 29-year-old Dutch writer Marieke Lucas Rijneveld is the youngest author to win the International Booker Prize.

NLCIL bags "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township

- The Government of India Navratna, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has bagged the award for making an extremely valuable contribution in the implementation of the "Swachhta Hi Seva Programme".
- Rakesh Kumar, CMD of NLCIL hailing the efforts of NLCIL in transforming the entire Neyveli into a plastic-free, clean and green campus, and announcing the "Swachhta Hi Seva 2019" Award.

Tomyas Award for Reshma Mohandas

- Reshma Mohandas, a nurse with the Government Medical College (MCH), Kottayam, has been selected for the Tomyas Award worth ₹1 lakh for the best nurse in Kerala.
- The award was instituted in memory of Treesa Ignatius, mother of Thomas Pavaratti, owner of Thrissur-based Tomyas Advertising Agency.
- The Award will be presented by Bobby Paul and Antio Paul, directors of Star Plastics, at Tomyas Garden, Peramangalam, on October 2.

Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava wins Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019

- Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava has won the 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019' in air adventure category. The Indian Air Force congratulated Yadava for the special award through a post on Twitter.
- Gajanand Yadava is a Parachute Jump Instructor. He is also a member of IAF's Skydiving Team 'Akash Ganga'. He has undertaken more than 2900 jumps till date, stated the Indian Air Force in its post.
- The IAF also shared few glimpses of Gajanand Yadava skydiving and flying a parachute.

Anand Mahindra and Shantanu Narayen selected for 2020 Leadership Awards by USISP

- Anand Mahindra (Mahindra group Chairman) and Shantanu Narayen (Adobe Chairman and CEO) will be awarded the 2020 Leadership Awards by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- They will be awarded during the third Annual Leadership Summit, titled "US-India Week: Navigating New Challenges", which will be held virtually from August 31, 2020 to September 03, 2020.

'Am I?' wins 1st prize in Online Short Film Contest of I&B Ministry & NFDC

- Short film 'Am I?' has won the first prize in the Online Short Film Contest that was organized by Information and Broadcasting Ministry along with NFDC - National Film Development Corporation.
- The film has been directed by Abhijit Paul.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020

- The National Sports Awards Committee recommended cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, table tennis champion Manika Batra and Paralympian Mariappan Thangavelu for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020.

ACJ Journalism Awards 2019 announced

- Journalists Nitin Sethi and Shiv Sahay Singh were declared winners of the Asian College of Journalism's (ACJ) Award 2019 for Investigative Journalism and the K. P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism, respectively.
- The awards were presented in a virtual ceremony by Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organisation (WHO), at the inauguration of the Class of 2021.
- ACJ with the support of the Media Development Foundation has instituted two awards to recognise and encourage the best works of investigative journalism and journalism for social impact produced for an Indian audience.

Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, 2020

- A total of 121 Police personnel have been awarded the "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020.
- The award of "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" seeks to encourage high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.

DIAT wins 1st prize in Smart India Hackathon 2020

- The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020. The SIH grand finale was held between August 1-3, 2020 at the Noida Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uttar Pradesh.
- This 36- hour non-stop digital product building competition was a national level competition for software edition, which was organized jointly by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and All India Council for Technical Education.

RANKING

Amul (16th) becomes first Indian dairy company to be in Rabobank's Global Top 20 list; Top- Nestle

- Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has been ranked 16th in the Rabobank's Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list. Amul has achieved an annual turnover of \$5.5 billion.

- Switzerland's Nestle topped the list with a turnover of US \$22.1 billion. Amul is the first Indian company to enter the top 20 ranking of Rabobank's Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list.

Jeff Bezos becomes first person to hit a net worth of \$200 million

- Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO on August 26, 2020, became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 million.
- Earlier in August 2020, Jeff Bezos had sold shares worth \$3.1 billion in the e-commerce company.

India ranked 57th in Digital Quality of Life Index 2020, Denmark tops

- India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality, according to a global research released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark.
- In a global index on digital quality of life in 85 countries, India ranked 9th on the internet affordability indicator, and 15th on e-government.
- Overall, India ranked 57th on the Digital Quality of Life Index 2020. Scandinavian countries Denmark and Sweden topped the index, with Canada rounding up the top three.

Swachh Survekshan 2020: Indore ranked 1st as cleanest city

- Indore city of Madhya Pradesh has been ranked as the cleanest city of India under the Swachh Survekshan 2020. It has won the Cleanest city tag for the fourth consecutive year.
- 2020 Swachh Survekshan is the 5th edition of the annual exercise and covered 4,242 cities. The results were announced on 20 August by the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA), Hardeep Singh Puri.
- Surat (Gujarat) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) are the second and third most cleanest city, respectively in the ranking.

India ranked 1st in number of organic farmers, Sikkim 1st state to be fully organic

- India has been ranked first in the number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming.
- Sikkim has become the first state in the world to become fully organic. Other states including Uttarakhand and Tripura have also set similar sustainability targets.
- North-east India has traditionally been organic and the consumption of chemicals is far less than the rest of the country. The tribal and island territories are also being encouraged to take forward their organic methods.

IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.
- The premier institute has topped in the list of top centrally funded innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi,

IISc Bengaluru and IIT Kharagpur are the among the top five centrally funded institutions in the list respectively.

- The ARIIA ranking was launched in 2019 by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startup, and Development amongst faculty and students.

Mumbai becomes first Indian city to get female symbol on traffic signage

- Mumbai has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage, as a symbolic gesture towards gender equality in public spaces..
- The Brihan mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed female traffic signals, that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.

Mukesh Ambani now Fourth-Richest Person in the World

- According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman of Reliance Industries, has become the fourth wealthiest person in the world.
- Ambani is now worth \$ 80.6 billion after adding \$22 billion in 2020.

Reliance Industries ranked No 2 globally after Apple

- Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the Future Brand Index 2020.
- The 2020 list is topped by Apple, while Samsung is ranked third, followed by Nvidia, Moutai, Nike, Microsoft, ASML, PayPal and Netflix. Reliance ranks 91st on PWC 2020 list
- The Future Brand Index is a global perception study that reorders PwC's Global Top 100 Companies by Market Cap on perception strength rather than financial strength.

Hurun Global Unicorn List 2020

- The Hurun Research Institute released Hurun Global Unicorn List 2020, a global ranking of the world's billion-dollar tech startups founded in the 2000s, and not yet listed on a public exchange. The 2020 list is the second edition of the annual list and has ranked a total of 586 unicorns in the world, based in 29 countries and 145 cities.
- The total value of these unicorns adds to US\$1.8 trillion, which is equivalent to the GDP of Italy. The average age of these unicorns is nine years. The valuations of the startups is as on March 31, 2020.
- The United States has the highest number of Unicorns, at 233, followed by China at 227. These two countries represents 80% of the world's known unicorns. The United Kingdom was third with 24, followed by India at fourth position with 21 unicorns. The total value of these stands at \$73.2 billion.
- Among all Indian unicorns, the Fintech company Paytm is India's highest valued unicorn, at \$16 billion. The average age of Indian unicorns is seven years.

Microsoft India most attractive employer brand

- According to Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2020, Technology giant

Microsoft India has emerged as the country's most attractive employer brand, followed by Samsung India and Amazon India in the second and third place, respectively, says a survey.

- Microsoft India scored high on financial health, strong reputation and utilisation of the latest technologies.
- The REBR revealed that in 2020, work-life balance emerged as the top Employee Value Proposition (EVP) driver for the Indian workforce while choosing an employer as it was cited by 43% respondents, followed by attractive salary and employee benefits (41%) and job security (40%).

Apple dethrones Saudi Aramco to become world's most valuable company

- Technology giant Apple Inc. has become the world's most valuable publicly traded company in the world on 31st July 2020, surpassing the state oil giant Saudi Aramco.
- The shares of Apple closed up 10.47% on 31 July, giving it a market valuation of \$1.84 trillion.
- Meanwhile, Saudi Aramco, which had been the most valuable publicly listed company since its market debut in 2019, now trails at \$1.76 trillion as of its last close.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Army Chief releases book on National Security

- Indian Army Chief, General Manoj Mukund Naravane has released a book titled "National Security Challenges: Young Scholars' Perspective" penned by university students, ranging from the undergraduate level to doctoral candidates.
- The book published by the Army think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).
- The book is a collection of the 2018-2019 Field Marshal Manekshaw Essay Competition (FMMEC) award-winning and few select essays, which are divided into three themes, namely: Conceptual understanding and facets of India's national security; Technological evolution, cyber threats and security and national, regional and global experiences.

Book on renowned Cricket Coach Vasoo Paranjape titled 'Cricket Drona' to be released on September 2

- A book titled "Cricket Drona" which is based on the life of one of India's most respected cricket coaches, Vasoo Paranjape, is scheduled to be released on 2 September 2020.
- The book is published by Penguin.
- It has been co-authored by Paranjape's son, former India player and current national selector Jatin along with cricket journalist Anand Vasu.

Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life' Book by Tenzin Priyadarshi and Zara Houshmand

- The book titled 'Running Toward Mystery: The Adventure of an Unconventional Life' is an account by Tenzin Priyadarshi, president and CEO of The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of his lifelong journey as a seeker.

- Co-written with Iranian American author and literary translator Zara Houshmand.
- In "Running Toward Mystery, Priyadarshi shares his thoughts on science and technology, meditation and spiritual disillusionment, and the relationship between Buddhism and the modern world.

A book titled "Gastric Cancer" released by Jitendra Singh

- Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named "Gastric Cancer" edited by Dr Ashok K. Vaid. Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.
- The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology. The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education.

Book titled "Who painted my lust red?" authored by Sree Iyer launched

- A book titled "Who painted my lust red?" that has been authored by Sree Iyer has been launched. The book is something about when Bollywood meets Cricket meets Politicians.
- This is the second book in this series of Sree Iyer's Money Trilogy series. The first book was "Who painted my money white?"

Book titled 'India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders', released

- The book titled "India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders", has been released recently. It is written by academicians Pradeep Chhibber and Harsh Shah and published by Oxford University Press (OUP)
- The book, which includes interviews of politicians below 50 years likes of Rahul Gandhi, Smriti Zubin Irani, Varun Gandhi, Omar Abdullah and Akhilesh Yadav, among others.

Former Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam pens book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020"

- Retired Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam has written a book which throws light on comprehensive account of war and conflict in contemporary India over the past five decades next month.
- The book titled "Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020" is a sequel to his previous book "India's Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971". It has been published by HarperCollins India and will be released in September 2020.
- The new book covers every major operation that the armed forces have participated in since 1972, including the Kargil conflict of 1999.

A book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" by Dalai Lama

- The Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, will release a new book titled "Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World" on climate change with German environmental journalist, Franz Alt in November.
- It follows his 2019 publication dedicated to children, "The Seed of Compassion: Lessons

from the Life and Teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama“, his autobiography and a book on philosophy.

- In 2018, “Ecology, Ethics, and Interdependence: The Dalai Lama in Conversation with Leading Thinkers on Climate Change” was published.

Third series of book titled ‘Connecting, Communicating, Changing’ comprising collection of speeches by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released

- The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Prakash Javadekar unveiled an e-version of the book titled ‘Connecting, Communicating, Changing’.
- Apart from this, the print coffee table version of the book was also released by Union Minister of Defense Shri Rajnath Singh.
- The book chronicles Shri M Venkaiah Naidu’s three years in office as the Vice President of India.

A book titled ‘Amazing Ayodhya’ authored by Neena Rai

- The book titled ‘Amazing Ayodhya’ has been authored by Neena Rai. The book is publishing by house Bloomsbury.
- The book offers “authentic information” about the city, which will not only help understand the life and times of ancient Hindus but also the revered figures of Rama and Sita.

‘RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations’ authored by Yatish Yadav

- The book, titled “RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations” has authored by investigative journalist and author Yatish Yadav.
- A new book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India’s external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and thereby narrates a gripping account of what actually happens behind the grey walls of the secret society.

Union Ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Smriti Irani launch the book Swachh Bharat Kranti

- The book “The Swachh Bharat Kranti” was officially launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Union Minister of Textiles and Women & Child Development Smt. Smriti Irani in New Delhi.
- The book was edited by Shri Parameswaran Iyer, Secretary of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been translated into Hindi and published as the Swachh Bharat Kranti.
- The translation of the book Swachh Bharat Kranti is “The Swachh Bharat Revolution”.

A book titled “Vishesh: Code To Win” authored by Nirupama Yadav

- The book, titled “Vishesh: Code To Win”, has been written by sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav and published by the publishing house Bluerose.
- The inspirational story on the life of Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, India’s youngest basketball team captain, is set to be released on August 29, the National Sports Day.

A book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Vijay Kumar Choudhary

- Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar has released a book titled “Siyasat Mein Sadasyata” authored by Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary. The book is a compilation of the author’s views, three dozen articles on different important issues and his life journey.
- The book was published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat.

‘Greenlights’ the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey

- ‘Greenlights’ the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey published by Crown Publishing Group is set to be released on 20th October 2020. The book was described as “not a traditional memoir but a playbook” based on the adventures and life experiences of McConaughey.
- McConaughey describes ‘Greenlights’ as an album, a record and the story of his life and he shared his anecdotes, poems and life lessons in this book.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Reliance Retail to acquire Future Group's retail, wholesale businesses for Rs 24,713 crore

- Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) announced on August 29, 200 that it is acquiring the retail, wholesale business, logistics and warehouse business of Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore.
- The announcement has come amid ongoing concerns on a slump sale basis for lumpsum aggregate consideration. Reliance Retail will be buying the businesses from the Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore, subject to adjustments as set out in the composite scheme of arrangement.
- The acquisition is a part of Future Group's decision of merging certain companies and carrying on the businesses into Future Enterprises Limited (FEL). Reliance Retail Ventures Limited is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited.
- Under the new acquisition agreement, Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited will be taking over the retail and wholesale undertaking of Future Group.

SBI gets global recognition for HR initiative ‘Nayi Disha’

- State Bank of India (SBI) has got global recognition for its HR initiative “Nayi Disha” which over the course of 1.5 years has touched more than 2.40 lakh employees.
- The bank has won three Brandon Hall Excellence Awards, also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development in three categories viz. Best Learning Program supporting a Change Transformation Business Strategy, Best Use of Blended Learning and Best Unique or Innovative Learning and Development Program.
- It recognizes the best organizations that have successfully deployed programs, strategies, modalities, processes, systems, and tools to achieve measurable results.

RBI to dissolve Banking Codes and Standards Board of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to dissolve the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI).

- BCSBI was set up by the Reserve Bank in February 2006 as an independent and autonomous body, assigned to formulate codes of conduct to be adopted by banks voluntarily for ensuring fair treatment of customers.
- BCSBI, in collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), has evolved two codes – Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers and the Code of Bank's Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises – which set minimum standards of banking practices for member banks to follow when they are dealing with individual customers and micro and small enterprises.

HDFC Bank & Adobe partners to enhance digital customer experiences

- HDFC Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers.
- The partnership is powered by Adobe Experience Cloud Solutions and will help HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere.
- The Bank will use platforms like Data Management Platform in Adobe Audience Manager to develop a deep understanding of the customers.

Axis Bank introduces 'Axis Liberty Savings Account' for millennial customers

- The private sector lender Axis Bank has launched a new savings account called the 'Axis Liberty Savings Account', with focus on millennial customers.
- The product is aimed at salaried professionals under the age of 35, because they are digitally savvy, well-informed and are on the look-out for offers and deals which they compare before choosing.

RBI predicts India's growth at (-) 4.5% for 2020-21

- The Reserve Bank of India has projected the country's growth rate at (-) 4.5 percent for 2020-2021. In an annual report released by the bank on August 25, 2020, the global growth rate has been projected between (-) 6.0 percent and (-) 7.6 percent.
- The report also informed that the expected headline inflation will remain elevated in the current year but is likely to ease in the second half of the fiscal. While mentioning that it is difficult to accurately assess the economic impact of C-19 pandemic as the dynamics have still been evolving.
- Reserve Bank of India in its report mentioned that it looks like that the decline in economic activity had reached its trough in the April-June quarter of 2020-2021 and has recovered thereafter at a gradual pace.

ICICI Bank uses satellite data to assess creditworthiness of farmers

- Private lender ICICI Bank makes use of satellite data, imagery from Earth observation satellites, to assess credit worthiness of farmers.
- ICICI Bank has become the 1st bank in India to use such a technique to measure an array of parameters related to the land, irrigation and crop patterns and use it in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make quick lending decisions for farmers.

Rs. 8,594 cr to be disbursed to stressed NBFCs and HFCs

- The Finance Ministry said 24 proposals by stressed non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) worth ₹8,594 crore have been sanctioned under the special liquidity scheme.
- The scheme was announced in July, as part of the ₹20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package.

Centre announces Tax exemptions for businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh

- The Ministry of Finance has announced that the businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh are now GST exempt. Earlier, this limit was Rs 20 lakh.
- The Ministry has also informed that those businesses with an annual turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only 1 percent tax.

India and AIIB sign agreement for \$500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signed a loan agreement (with Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation) for a \$500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- The aim is to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
- With a population of 22.8 million (2011), Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is the most populous metropolitan region in India and is expected to reach 29.3 million by 2031 and 32.1 million by 2041.

Axis Bank launches hiring initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'

- Axis Bank has launched a new initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'. The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country.
- This hiring model comprises two working patterns. One is the full-time permanent job and the second is based on the duration of a project and is temporary in nature.

RBI Releases NSFE 2020-25, Suggests Action Plan to Promote Financial Education

- The 'National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025' (NSFE), released by the RBI, has suggested a multi-stakeholder-led approach for creating a financially aware and empowered India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came out with a '5-Core Actions' approach for promoting financial education, which among other things include development of relevant content for school children and adults, community participation and collaboration among various stakeholders.
- The five Cs, outlined by the strategy paper, are: Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.
- Strengthening financial inclusion in the country has been one of the important developmental agendas of both the Government of India and the four financial sector

regulators (RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA).

World Bank sees higher GDP fall in India than 3.2% it projected for FY21

- The World Bank said it was likely to project a steeper contraction in India's economy than the 3.2 per cent it had forecast for the current financial year, given the rising number of C-19-19 cases and the resultant regional C-19s.
- In its report on India Development Update, 2020, the Bank also warned that credit risks play out as firms and households find it more difficult to service their interest and repayment obligations in a slowing economy.

Google launches 'Kormo' app in India to help people find jobs

- Google has launched its employment application named 'Kormo Jobs' in India. It would help millions of Indians to get entry-level jobs. Kormo Jobs will help to provide entry-level jobs to thousands of people, to help those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic and young professionals who are looking for jobs.
- Google had first launched the employment application in Bangladesh in 2018 and further expanded it to Indonesia in 2019. In 2019, Google had also tested this app in India but under the brand 'Spot' on Google Pay app, which saw more than 2 million verified jobs posted on the platform, including from companies like Zomato and Dunzo.

Fino Payments Bank launches Jan BachatKhata

- Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.
- Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.
- Earlier, Fino Payments Bank had introduced Shubh and Bhavishya, subscription-based savings accounts targeted at specific customer segments.
- Neo bank means- A bank without any branches. A bank that is entirely online rather than being physical. Neo banking provides complete digital banking experience through mobile applications.

India's GDP to contract 16.5 per cent in April-June quarter

- State Bank of India's research report Ecowrap expects the country's GDP to contract by 16.5 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal.
- Earlier in May, Ecowrap had estimated Q1 FY21 GDP contraction at over 20 per cent and now pegs it at much lower contraction of 16.5 per cent for the quarter.

RBI releases framework for authorisation of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments

- Reserve Bank of India has released the 'framework for authorization of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments' in India.
- This means that RBI has allowed companies/entities to apply to RBI to set-up pan-India

umbrella entity/entities focussing on retail payment systems in India. After receiving approval from RBI, the entity may start functioning as an Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments in India just like NPCI.

- Presently NPCI is the only Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments in India.

MCX to launch India's first bullion index named "Buldex"

- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), India's largest commodity derivatives exchange, will launch India's first bullion index named "Buldex", on August 24, 2020. Bullions, viz. gold and silver are already being traded as individual commodities on the country's premier commodity exchange.
- With gold and silver as underlying, Buldex will have a market lot size of 50 and be a cash-settled futures contract. MCX had tested bullion index futures trade in mock trading exercises in July.

HDFC Bank launches Shaurya KGC Card

- The largest private sector bank in the country, HDFC Bank, launched 'Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card, a loan product for the armed forces.
- This is the first-of-its-kind scheme meant for the army personnel in the country and is based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines of the government. This credit card comes with a life cover of Rs 10 lakhs.

Punjab National Bank launches campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN'

- Punjab National Bank has launched a campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' to encourage customers to use digital banking channels. The campaign launched by the bank's Managing Director S S. Mallikarjuna Rao on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021.
- PNB encourage customers to use digital channels and participate in the noble cause of donating to the PM CARES Fund for C-19.

Barclays Slashes India's GDP growth to -6% in FY21

- Barclays has predicted India's GDP to contract by 6% in 2020-21 (FY21). Earlier it had estimated a contraction of 3.2%.
- The reason for this downward revision of GDP is India's rising C-19 infection curve.
- For FY22, Barclays has predicted India's GDP at 7% as compared to 7.4% earlier.

LIC starts 'Special Revival Campaign' to revive lapsed policies

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a special scheme to revive lapsed policies named 'Special Revival Campaign'.
- Those policies that have lapsed during the premium-paying term and not completed policy term as on the date of revival, are eligible to be revived during the campaign.
- The campaign is launched to benefit those policyholders who were not able to pay the premium due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed.
- The policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from the date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions.

RBI approves Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the Central Government for 2019-20

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2019-20.
- The decision was taken at the 584th meeting of the Central Board of RBI under the chairmanship of Shri Shakti kanta Das, Governor RBI. RBI has decided to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5%.

RBI announces 'positive pay' feature to help avert cheque frauds

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' feature for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above. This feature helps to avert cheque frauds. The limit of Rs 50,000 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value.
- Positive pay is a fraud-prevention system offered by most commercial banks to companies to protect them against forged, altered and counterfeit checks.

Centre Constitutes Panel to fix ceiling rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has constituted a three-member committee to determine the ceiling rates for reimbursement of taxes and duties to exporters under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme.
- The committee would comprise of former Home Secretary G K Pillai as Chairman. The committee shall interact with the administrative ministries, export promotion councils, commodity boards, trade bodies and other stakeholders so as to take their views on the ceiling rates under RoDTEP scheme.
- The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme for reimbursement of taxes was announced by the government to replace Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and make Indian products competitive in global markets..
- The RoDTEP scheme aims to reimburse the taxes and duties incurred by exporters such as duty on power charges, VAT on fuel in transportation, farm sector, captive power generation, mandi tax, stamp duty and central excise duty on fuel used in transportation, which are not exempted or refunded under any other existing scheme.

Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies by RBI in August 2020

- The Reserve Bank of India has released the Monetary Policy Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies 2020-21. The major points that are important from exam point of view is mentioned below:
- Additional standing liquidity facility (ASLF)- National Housing Bank (NHB) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will be provided with an additional standing liquidity facility (ASLF) of Rs 5,000 crore each.
- Advances against Gold Ornaments and Jewellery- Presently, loans sanctioned by banks against pledge of gold ornaments and jewellery for non-agricultural purposes should

not exceed 75 per cent of the value of gold ornaments and jewellery. RBI has increased the permissible loan to value ratio (LTV) for loans against pledge of gold ornaments and jewellery for non-agricultural purposes from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. This relaxation shall be available till March 31, 2021.

- Positive Pay Mechanism for Cheques– The RBI shall soon launched a mechanism named Positive Pay for all cheques of value ₹50,000 and above to further augment customer safety in cheque payments and reduce instances of fraud occurring on account of tampering of cheque leaves

RBI introduces Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) System for Digital Payments

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the introduction of an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) system for resolving customer disputes and grievances pertaining to digital payments.
- This ODR shall be a system-driven and rule-based mechanism with zero or minimal manual intervention. Subsequently, the ODR arrangement would be extended to cover disputes and grievances other than those related to failed transactions.

IndusInd Bank acquires 7.82% stake in Eveready by invoking pledged shares

- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank has acquired 7.82 percent stake in battery maker Eveready Industries by invoking pledged shares following loan default.
- The bank invoked pledge on 56,83,320 shares which constituted 7.82 percent of paid-up equity share capital of Eveready Industries.
- As per the information, the equity shares of Eveready Industries India Ltd. held by Williamson Magor and Co. Ltd were pledged with the IndusInd bank for securing the outstanding dues of Seajuli Developers & Finance Limited (Seajuli), the borrower company.

RBI constitutes committee for financial parameters to be factored in Resolution Framework for C-19 related Stress

- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the constitution of an Expert Committee to make recommendations on the required financial parameters to be factored in the Resolution Framework for C-19 related Stress’.
- The committee will be headed by Shri K.V. Kamath. (President of New Development Bank.

RBI launches pilot scheme for Offline Retail Payments Using Cards and Mobile Devices

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched pilot scheme for small value payments in offline mode. The pilot scheme shall be undertaken till March 31, 2021 only.
- Under the scheme, authorised Payment System Operators (PSOs) – banks and non-banks – will be able to provide offline payment solutions using cards, wallets or mobile devices for remote or proximity payments.
- This has been done to do away with the impediments caused due to lack of internet connectivity or low speed of internet, especially in remote areas.

RBI 7th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India held its meeting in New Delhi. The committee was headed by RBI Governor Shakti kanta Das.
- The repo rate was kept the same at 4%. The reverse repo rate was kept at 3.35%
- The members decided to provide Rs 10,000 crore additional liquidity facility to National Housing Bank (NHB), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). In order to mitigate C-19 impact on households, loans against gold have been enhanced to 90% of the value as against the current 75%
- In June, the retail inflation was 6.09%. This includes food items such as meat, cereals, fish and pulses.

National Bank of Bahrain selects Infosys to transform them digitally

- National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) has selected Infosys Finacle to digitally transform its transaction banking business.
- NBB will be implementing the Finacle Liquidity Management Platform, and upgrading its existing Finacle Corporate Online Banking platform to a full-fledged Digital Engagement Suite – with the latest versions of the Finacle Corporate Online and Mobile Banking solutions, along with the Finacle Digital Engagement Hub.

SIDBI & Trans Union CIBIL launches portal “MSME Saksham”

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched one-stop knowledge portal named as “MSME Saksham” in association with Trans Union CIBIL.
- The platform has been launched for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). MSME Saksham is a comprehensive financial education and knowledge platform for MSMEs and will support them in managing their credit obligations.

SIDBI, TransUnion CIBIL launched financial knowledge platform “MSMESaksham” for MSMEs

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with TransUnion CIBIL has launched a comprehensive financial education and one-stop knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises “MSMESaksham”, which will guide MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) seeking quick access to finance and will also support them in managing their credit obligations.
- The portal will have a consolidated list of all the schemes launched by the Centre and state governments for MSMEs.

MobiKwik Launched mpay.me, a Personalized UPI Payment Link

- Digital wallet company, MobiKwik has launched “mpay.me” UPI link service that allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app. Users can share it with anyone over chat, SMS, email, etc to collect payments.
- This single link created using mpay.me can be shared anywhere to send and receive money and will work seamlessly on mobile as well as desktop. Through mpay.me, users will now be able to generate their own mini personal payment gateways using their phone numbers.