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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Micheal Martin takes over as the Prime Minister of Ireland

- Micheal Martin has been appointed as the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of the Republic of Ireland on 27 June 2020.
- The 59-year-old will lead a three-party coalition government consisting of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green Party.
- Martin is serving as the 15th Taoiseach of the country. He succeeds Leo Varadkar.

Lazarus Chakwera wins President election in Malawi's

- Lazarus Chakwera becomes the new President of Malawi. He defeated incumbent Peter Mutharika with 58.57% of votes. Chakwera won with 2.6 million votes against 1.75 million for Mutharika. He is the head of the Malawi Congress Party(MCP).

VaYu, World's first yoga University outside India inaugurated in Los Angeles

- The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, as a part of the 6th International Yoga Day commemorations.
- The University has been named as Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU), and will offer programmes that combine scientific principles and modern research approaches to the ancient Indian practice of yoga.
- VaYU will offer online graduate programmes based on scientific principles and modern research approaches to yoga.
- Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana(SVYASA) is the world's first yoga university, set up in Bengaluru, India.

Russia plans to take first tourist for spacewalk in 2023

- Russia's Energia Space Corporation plans to take its first tourist for spacewalk in the year 2023. The Energia entered into a contract with Space Adventures of United States to take two space tourists in 2023 to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Energia is a part of Roscosmos, Russia's Space Agency.

Pakistan to remain on FATF grey list

- Pakistan will remain on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for failing to suits the worldwide terrorist financing watchdog's deadline to prosecute and penalise terrorist financing in the country.
- FATF had expressed serious concerns over Pakistan's failure to finish its 27-point action plan in line with the agreed timelines, which led to September 2019.

Iran to develop military base in Indian Ocean

- The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) of Iran is planning to set up its permanent military base in the Indian Ocean.
- Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri announced that the military base is expected to be developed by March 2021.

World's first yoga University outside India launched in LA

- The world's first yoga university outside India has been launched in Los Angeles, United States as a part of the 6th International Yoga Day commemorations.
- The Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) will offer programmes that combine scientific principles and modern research approaches to the ancient Indian practice of yoga. The university combines best of the East, which is yoga and its applications and best of the West, which is modern scientific research.

India elected as non-permanent member of UN Security Council for a two-year term

- India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for a two-year term during the 2020 UNSC elections held on 17 June 2020. India's two year term for the 2021-22 will begin on January 1, 2021.
- The country won 184 votes out of 192 valid votes polled in 193 member UN General Assembly. India was the sole candidate from the Asia-Pacific category.
- This is the eighth time that India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Council. Its previous terms are 1950—1951, 1967—1968, 1972—1973, 1977—1978, 1984—1985, 1991—1992 and 2011—2012.
- Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway were the other countries that also won the 2020 Security Council election.

Kathy Lueders becomes first female to head Human Space Flight Program of NASA

- Kathy Lueders has been appointed as the new Associate Administrator of Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate. With this, she becomes the first female to head the human space flight program of NASA.
- Lueders has been assisting NASA in sending astronauts to space since 2014 on private spacecraft.

Facebook joins hand with tech-giants, including Google and Microsoft for 'Project Protect' to fight online child sexual abuse

- Facebook has joined hands with Microsoft, Google, Twitter and 14 other tech giants for a new initiative called 'Project Protect' to help combat child sexual abuse and exploitation online. Facebook will lead this initiative.
- These tech giants have been working together under Technology Coalition since past 14 years, since its formation way back in 2006. Project Protect is a renewed commitment from the Technology Coalition for the next 15 years to protect kids online and guide its work.
- Project Protect will focus on five key areas: tech innovation, collective action, independent research, information and knowledge sharing, and transparency and accountability.

UK's economy shrinks by record 20.4 percent in April

- The United Kingdom's economy shrank by record 20.4 percent in April, amid strict , revealed official data on June 12, 2020.
- The record slump in the economy is likely to be the low point before a long and slow

recovery, as Britain readies to open up its economy.

- The Office of National Statistics stated that the gross domestic product of Britain contracted by 10.4 percent in the three-month period till April in comparison to the previous three-month period.

Apple becomes first US company to hit \$1.5 trillion market cap

- On 10 June 2020, US based tech-giant Apple Inc's market capitalization surpassed \$1.5 trillion, making it the first U.S. company to reach that mark.
- Market capitalization is the share price multiplied by the number of outstanding shares of the company's stock, yielding the company's overall stock market value.
- At a current price of around \$352 per share and with roughly 4.3 billion shares outstanding, Apple's market capitalization is now at around \$1.53 trillion.

World Bank: India's economy to contract by 3.2 per cent in fiscal year 2020/21

- According to World Bank, India's economy will shrink by 3.2 per cent in the current fiscal.
- The Washington-based multilateral lender said that the C-19 and the multi-phased imposed to curb its spread has resulted in a devastating blow to the Indian economy.
- In its latest edition of the Global Economic Prospect, the World Bank downgraded its projection of India by a massive negative nine per cent.
- In India, growth is estimated to have slowed to 4.2 per cent in the fiscal year 2019/20 (the year ending in March-2020) and output is projected to contract by 3.2 per cent in fiscal year 2020/21.

Gol facilitates filling of NIL GST Return through SMS

- The Government of India has allowed taxpayers to fill their NIL GST monthly return form through SMS. This will improve ease of GST compliance to more than 22 lakh taxpayers.
- The facility of filing the NIL form through SMS has been made available in GSTN portal. The portal also allows the users to track their returns.
- The GST is the single tax imposed on goods and services. The GST bill was first introduced in 2014 as the Constitution (122nd) Amendment bill.

New Zealand declared as C-19 free

- New Zealand on June 8, 2020 declared itself C-19 free following the recovery of its last patient. The country has not reported any new C-virus positive case in last 17 days. With this, all the restrictions imposed across the country will be lifted off including social distancing.
- However the country will continue to follow strict border controls. The nation that has a population of 5 million had 1,154 confirmed C-19 cases and 22 deaths.

Russia declares state of emergency after massive fuel spill in Arctic Circle

- Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a state of emergency on June 4, 2020 after a massive fuel spill in the Arctic Circle. At least 20,000 tonnes of diesel leaked from a

power plant in Norilsk last week and spilled into the Ambarnaya River in Siberia, making it turn red.

- Russia has imposed a state of emergency in the region, as emergency workers and maritime clean-up specialists are putting in intensive efforts to clean up the fuel spill.
- The major diesel spill reportedly took place on May 29, 2020 after a fuel tank at a power plant ruptured in the Siberian city of Norilsk. The city is located above the Arctic Circle in north-central Russia.

World food price index hits 17-month low in May 2020: UN

- The United Nations food agency announced on June 4, 2020 that the world food prices fell for the fourth consecutive month in May 2020, hitting a 17-month low.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index averaged 162.5 points in May, the lowest monthly reading since December 2018. The index measures monthly changes in the prices of cereals, dairy products, oilseeds, meat and sugar.
- The dairy price index also dropped by 7.3%, led by sharp falls in prices of butter and cheese, partly because of lower import demand.
- The cereal price index also fell by 1% as coarse grain prices continued to fall with US maize prices falling and wheat export prices falling, amid expectations of ample global supplies. However, international rice prices have edged higher during this period. Rice production reached an all-time high of 508.7 million tonnes in 2020, up by 1.6% from 2019.
- The meat index also slipped 0.8%, as poultry and pig meat prices continued to fall, reflecting high export availabilities and despite an increase in import demand in East Asia.

US President Trump invites PM Modi for G7 meet

- US President Donald Trump has invited PM Narendra Modi for the G7 meeting during telephonic conversation held between both the leaders on June 2, 2020.
- PM Modi and President Trump discussed the issue of C-19, G-7 meeting, Indo-China border and others. The G7 meeting has been rescheduled to September 2020.

India to be re-elected as non-permanent member of UNSC

- India to be soon re-elected as a UNSC non-permanent member. The United Nations Security Council will hold its elections in June 2020 and India is highly expected to win the elections from the Asia Pacific seat.
- India is the sole contender from this region and its name was proposed by all the Asia Pacific member countries.

WHO launches 'C-TAP' for equitable access to life-saving tech

- WHO has launched the 'C-19 Technology Access Pool' for equitable access to life-saving tech. This comes after at least 37 countries jointly appealed to the World Health Organisation for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and other diagnostic tools to combat the global health crisis.
- C-TAP aims to accelerate the development of vaccines and medicines through the

sharing of research and information and to increase manufacturing capacity for any products that are developed. WHO has also issued a 'Solidarity Call to Action' urging other stakeholders of the UN health agency to join the cause.

NATIONAL NEWS

Ban on 59 Chinese apps for safety, security and integrity of India

- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has announced that "Government of India Bans 59 Chinese mobile apps", which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the state and public order".
- The Ministry of Information Technology, invoking its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009 and in view of the emergent nature of threats has decided to block 59 apps.
- The Ministry had also received concerns from citizens regarding security of data and risk to privacy in operation of certain apps. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre under the Home Ministry had also sent a recommendation to block such malicious apps.

The complete list of 59 Chinese App Banned in India is given below:

Chinese Mobile Applications

1. TikTok
2. Shareit
3. Kwai
4. UC Browser
5. Baidu map
6. Shein
7. Clash of Kings
8. DU battery saver
9. Helo
10. Likee
11. YouCam makeup
12. Mi Community
13. CM Browsers
14. Virus Cleaner
15. APUS Browser
16. ROMWE
17. Club Factory
18. Newsdog
19. Beutry Plus
20. WeChat
21. UC News
22. QQ Mail
23. Weibo
24. Xender

25. QQ Music
26. QQ Newsfeed
27. Bigo Live
28. SelfieCity
29. Mail Master
30. Parallel Space
31. Mi Video Call – Xiaomi
32. WeSync
33. ES File Explorer
34. Viva Video – QU Video Inc
35. Meitu
36. Vigo Video
37. New Video Status
38. DU Recorder
39. Vault- Hide
40. Cache Cleaner DU App studio
41. DU Cleaner
42. DU Browser
43. Hago Play With New Friends
44. Cam Scanner
45. Clean Master – Cheetah Mobile
46. Wonder Camera
47. Photo Wonder
48. QQ Player
49. We Meet
50. Sweet Selfie
51. Baidu Translate
52. Vmate
53. QQ International
54. QQ Security Center
55. QQ Launcher
56. U Video
57. V fly Status Video
58. Mobile Legends
59. DU Privacy

Delhi Government to start its own Plasma Bank

- Delhi government will start its own 'Plasma Bank' for treatment of Chinese virus positive patients. Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal has urged all the C-19 recovered patients in national capital to donate their plasma for the bank.
- Plasma Bank will begin its operations in next two days at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi.

PM FME Scheme launched under Atmanirbhar Bharat

- The Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal formally launched Pradhan Mantri Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises as a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan on 29 June 2020.
- The scheme aims to enhance the competitiveness of the existing individual micro enterprises by increasing their access to credit, modern technologies among other things.
- The All India Centrally Sponsored Scheme has an outlay of Rs.10,000crore for 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 and Provide employment to about nine lakh skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Uttarakhand forest department develops India's 1st lichen park

- Uttarakhand forest department has developed India's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari, Pithoragarh district. Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels.
- The project aims to study the distribution of different lichen species, their habitat, their morphological and physiological aspects, surveying and literature review, the establishment of species, current threats to their habitat including anthropological and climatic factors, and coming up with suitable conservation strategies and protection strategies.
- These Jurassic-era lichen species are used in food, perfumes, dyes and traditional medicines.

India becomes 1st country to control locusts through drones

- India is the first country to control locusts through drones. Under the Make in India initiative, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), Agriculture Ministry has indigenously developed a vehicle-mounted Ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control.
- In total 60 ground control teams of Locust Circle Offices and 12 drones are being used for locust control operations in the affected areas.
- Locust is a crop-threatening migratory pest that has entered the country through the India-Pakistan border.

Piyush Goyal chairs 49th Governing Council Meeting of NPC

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Commerce & Industry Minister and President of NPC Governing Council chaired the 49th Governing Council Meeting of National Productivity Council (NPC).
- The meeting witnessed the participation of Government Officers, Leaders of Industry Associations, Industry captains, Trade Union leaders, Productivity Councils of States and other eminent personalities.
- NPC is an autonomous body which comes under the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Indian Navy inducts Advanced Torpedo Decoy System “Maareech”

- The Indian Navy has inducted the Advanced Torpedo Decoy System ‘Maareech’ in its fleet on 26 June 2020, to further enhance the Anti-Submarine Warfare capability of the Indian Navy
- Maareech is capable of being fired from all frontline warships.
- The Design and Development of this anti-torpedo decoy system has been undertaken indigenously by DRDO labs-(NSTL and NPOL).

NITI Aayog launches behaviour change campaign ‘Navigating the New Normal’

- NITI Aayog has launched a behaviour change campaign titled ‘Navigating the New Normal’ and its website to guide people to follow norms during the ‘Unlock’ phase of the c- 19, in order to contain the spread of the deadly virus.
- The campaign has been developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6, constituted by the GoI, under the Chairmanship of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.

Maharashtra Govt introduced “Maha Parwana” plan to boost investment

- Maharashtra State Government has introduced “MahaParwana” plan to attract fresh investment in industries. This plan will offer incentives and a single-window clearance system.
- The companies with investment proposals for Rs.50 crore or more will get relaxation on getting clearances from multiple departments with assurance letters (Maha Parwana).
- These companies should apply at the Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MAITRI), single window system and get online permission within 48 hours.

PM launches Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a 125-day campaign on 26th June 2020 that will provide employment migrant and daily wage workers in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The campaign is called Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Abhiyan. The campaign was launched through video conferencing in the presence of Yogi Adityanath (Chief Minister Uttar Pradesh).
- The mega job scheme launched by Prime Minister today is part of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan that was launched on 20th June 2020 by Prime Minister himself.
- The Campaign launched will focus on providing employment in a total of 31 districts of Uttar Pradesh. There are more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers in each of the 31 districts. It was also announced that 5000 tool kits will also be distributed under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Initiative in the state.

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launches eBlood Services Mobile App

- Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on June 25, 2020 launched the eBlood Services Mobile Application. The application is an initiative of the Indian Red Cross Society, which is dedicated to the fight against C-19.
- Those in need can get registered on the app and know where to get the required blood.

- The Health Minister stated that people can demand up to four units of blood.
- The Indian Red Cross Society's blood banks will wait up to 12 hrs for them.

Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Introduces Nishtha Vidyut Mitra Scheme for Women Empowerment

- The Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited (MPMKVVCL) introduced the Nishtha Vidyut Mitra Scheme for women empowerment.
- Under this scheme, women Self-Help Groups at Gram Panchayat level will act as Nishtha Vidyut Mitra.

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches CGSSD

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Nitin Gadkari on 4 June 24, 2020 launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-ordinate Debt (CGSSD).
- Under the scheme, a guarantee cover worth Rs 20,000 crore will be provided to the promoters who can take debt from the banks to further invest in their stressed MSMEs as equity.
- The scheme aims to extend support to the promoters of the operational MSMEs that are stressed and have become NPA as on April 30, 2020.
- Under the scheme, Promoters of the MSMEs will be given credit equal to 15 percent of their stake or 75 lakh rupees whichever is lower. There will be a moratorium of 7 years on payment of principal whereas maximum tenure for repayment will be 10 years.

India to give USD 10 million to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

- India has pledged to contribute USD 10 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The amount would be contributed over the coming two years.
- The contribution of USD 10 million would be an additional amount over and above USD 5 million contribution announced for year 2020.
- The announcement was made by the Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan while addressing the Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA.

CCEA approves establishment of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved setting up of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth Rs 15000 crore.
- The fund is a part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package that was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharam to revive economic growth. The Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund would facilitate much-needed incentivisation of investments for dairy and meat processing and value addition infrastructure and establishment of animal feed plant in the private sector.
- The Indian Government would also set up a Credit Guarantee Fund worth Rs 750 crore to be managed by NABARD.

Govt forms IN-SPACE to guide private sector in space activities

- The Union Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space, Jitendra Singh announced that a new institution- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) has been formed. The institution will guide the private industries in the space activities with the help of encouraging policies in a friendly regulatory environment.
- The Union Minister informed that Indian National Space, Promotion & Authorisation Centre is not a new institution but now its role has been extended into the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Patanjali launches Ayurvedic medicine, claims 100 pc recovery within 3-7 days

- Patanjali on June 23, 2020 launched 'Coronil and Swasari', its Ayurvedic medicine, which it claims can treat C-19. There is no official confirmation on the same by any scientific or government authority.
- Patanjali stated that the medicines showed 100 percent favourable results during clinical trials on the confirmed patients. Two clinical trials were conducted, the first clinical controlled study that took place in Delhi and Ahmedabad and many other cities.
- Around 280 patients were included in the trial and as per Patanjali, 100 percent of those recovered.
- However, the efficacy of Patanjali's medicines has not received any backing from any medical body as yet. The World Health Organization (WHO) had recently said that though many drug trials are going on, there is currently no proof that any drug can cure or prevent C-19.

Rajasthan Government to launch "Indira Rasoi Yojana"

- Rajasthan state government will soon launch Indira Rasoi Yojana for the poor. This scheme will start to ensure that "no one sleeps hungry" in the state. Under this scheme, pure and nutritious food on concessional rates is going to be provided to the needy twice each day. The State government will spend Rs.100 crores every year on the scheme.

NITI Aayog to launch project "Decarbonising Transport in India"

- NITI Aayog has collaborated with International Transport Forum (ITF) for "Decarbonising Transport in India" project, with the aim to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India.
- The project will be launched online on 24 June, 2020, at YouTube livestream, which can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/l2G5x5RdBUM>. The "Decarbonising Transport in India" project will provide the government with a detailed understanding of current and future transport activity and the related CO2 emissions as a basis for their decision-making.
- ITF is Paris, France based intergovernmental organisation for transport policy. India has been a member of ITF since 2008. The project is part of the ITF's "Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies" (DTEE) family of projects, which supports transport decarbonisation across different world regions.

France commits 200 million Euros loan for India to scale up Government's existing response

- France has signed a loan agreement of 200-million-euros with India to boost India's C-19 response. With the loan agreement, France aims to increase the state and central governments' capacities to support India's most vulnerable people in the wake of the C-19 crisis.
- World Bank has developed the programme design in collaboration with the Indian authorities to optimize and expand the existing social protection measures taken by India.

Emergency funds granted to Indian armed forces amid Indo-China clash

- Central government has granted emergency funds to all the three armed services to acquire arms and ammunition amid the border standoff at Indo-China border.
- The funds of Rs 500 crore are granted for per procurement project. Moreover, special financial powers have been granted to armed forces for procurement of weapons and military equipment.

Government to establish 1,000 district-level Khelo India Centres

- The Ministry of Sports has decided to establish 1,000 Khelo India Centers (KIC) at the district level across the country.
- These centers will either be run by a past champion or have them as coaches. For the financial year 2020-21, 100 such centres have been proposed.

Solstice ring of fire solar eclipse on 21 June

- An annual and the deepest solar eclipse of the century has been visible from Earth on June 21, 2020.
- A solar eclipse is an event that takes place when the moon passes from between the earth and the sun. The eclipse has occurred on the longest day of the year and will continue for almost 6 hours.

PM Narendra Modi addresses the nation, promotes yoga to fight

- PM Modi in his message on sixth International Yoga Day stated that Yoga has emerged as a force of unity and it also deepens the bonds of humanity. It doesn't discriminate and goes beyond color, race, faith, gender, and nations.
- It was the first time that Yoga day celebration was held virtually, ever since it was instituted in 2015. This day is celebrated every year on June 21. The date June 21 was suggested by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address.
- PM Modi picked this date, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern hemisphere. This day also shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

Union Minister launches R&D Portal "SATYABHAMA"

- Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi has launched R&D Portal "Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)".

- The R&D Portal SATYABHAMA has been designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division. It has been integrated with NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog.
- The newly launched portal will increase efficiency as well as effectiveness in the implementation of the Scheme as it allows online submission of project proposals along with monitoring of the projects and utilization of funds/grants.

India will serve as UNSC president for August 2021

- India will be serving as UNSC President for August 2021. India was earlier elected as the non-permanent member of the 15-member United Nations Security Council. The UNSC presidency is held for a month by each of its members in alphabetical order.
- For a two-year term beginning on January 1, 2021, India, Norway, Mexico, Ireland, and Kenya were elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on June 17, 2020.
- This will be the eight-time that India will sit at the council's table. India was elected previously for the years 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and the most recent in 2011-12

Coal Ministry & FICCI Initiated e-Auction Process of 41 Coal blocks for Commercial mining

- On the lines of the announcement made by Central government under the 20 Lakh crore Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, on June 18, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the two stage electronic auction of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining through video-conference.
- The commencement of the auction process of these blocks is likely to contribute Rs 20,000 crore revenues annually to the state governments. On the Central Government front, it is expected to garner Rs 33,000 crore of capital investment over next five to seven years.

Manipur Observes the 19th Great June Uprising Day

- The 19th Great June Uprising Day was observed on 18th June at Kekrupat, Manipur. The day is being observed every year on 18 June to pay tribute and respect to 18 persons who lost their lives in June, 2001 to protect the territorial integrity of Manipur.
- On the occasion, family members of the 18 martyrs and leaders of some organisations paid floral tribute & respect to 18 persons at Kekrupat, Manipur.

PM Modi to launch Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on 20 June

- "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan" will be launched by the Government of India from Village Telihar, Block Beldaur of Khagaria District of Bihar. It is a massive rural public works scheme that will empower and offer livelihood opportunities to the returnee migrant workers as well as rural citizens.
- The programme will be joined by the villages across 116 districts in the six States through the Common Service Centres and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The six states are: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Harsh Vardhan launched India's 1st Mobile Lab

- Union Health Minister, Harsh Vardhan has launched India's first mobile lab for C-19 testing. The Rapid Response Mobile Laboratory has been developed with the support from the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Andhra Pradesh Med-tech Zone (AMTZ) under DBT-AMTZ COMManD (Medtech Manufacturing Development) Consortia.
- The mobile lab which is also called Infectious Disease Diagnostic Lab or I-Lab will be able to run 25 RT-PCR and about 300 ELISA tests in a day. The lab can also take additional tests for TB, HIV as per CGHS rates.

Two Indian Companies – Zest Money and Stell apps – Named in WEF's Technology Pioneers of 2020

- Two Indian firms namely Zest Money and Stell apps have figured in the 2020 Technology Pioneers list released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 16 June 2020.
- 2020 Technology Pioneers is the 20th edition of the annual list and comprises the names of companies from around the world that are poised to have a significant impact on business and society by addressing global issues with cutting-edge technology. Of the 100 companies in the 2020 class, one-fourth are led by female founders.

Uttar Pradesh becomes top state to provide employment to workers under MGNREGA

- Uttar Pradesh has become the top most state in the country to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme MGNREGA.
- According to the data released by officials, the state provided employment to 57 lakh 12975 workers on 15 June 2020. These workers are engaged across 56,981 panchayats out of the total 58,000 panchayats in the state.
- Uttar Pradesh now accounts for 18 percent of the total workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country and has generated 7.93 crore man-days.

Sports Ministry to set up "Khelo India State Centres of Excellence"

- Under the Sports Ministry's flagship programme "Khelo India Scheme", the ministry is going to set up Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE).
- To create a robust sporting ecosystem in the entire country, as well as to strengthen India's pursuit for excellence in Olympics, one KISCE will be identified in each state and unionterritory (UT).
- In the first phase of setting up KISCE, sports ministry has identified state-owned sports facilities in eight states of India. These states are: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Kerala, Telangana, Nagaland, Karnataka, and Odisha.

Trustees of PM CARES fund appoints SARC & Associates as its auditor

- The Trustees of the Prime Minister's Citizens Assistance and Relief in Emergency

Situations (PM CARES) fund has appointed, New Delhi based Chartered Accountants, SARC & Associates, as its auditors for the next three years.

- The SARC & Associates headed by Sunil Kumar Gupta is also the auditor of the PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) appointed in 2019.

AYUSH Ministry launches 'Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family' Campaign

- The AYUSH Ministry has launched 'Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family' campaign to mark the International Yoga Day 2020.
- Under the campaign, the Ministry will encourage people to perform Yogasanas from their homes, while maintaining social distancing and other restrictions imposed during the C-19.

New fish species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- A new fish species named as "Schizothorax sikurumensis" has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. The new fish species was discovered by Dr. Keshav Kumar Jha. He discovered a new fish species from genus Schizothorax.

Maharashtra signs MOUs worth Rs 16,100 crore with 12 global corporations

- Maharashtra government on June 15, 2020 signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with 12 global corporations from China, US, South Korea, Singapore and India.
- Some of the prominent companies investing in Maharashtra include ExxonMobil, Great Wall Motors Company, API Motors and United Phosphorus.
- The Memorandum of Understanding worth Rs 16,100 crore were signed for various developmental projects in information technology, I-T enabled services, automobile, oil and petroleum, chemicals, logistics and food processing sectors. Around 40,000-acre land has been earmarked for these projects.

India along with 12 other Countries leads '#VERIFIED' initiative at UN

- India and 12 other countries have come together to lead United Nations initiative '#VERIFIED', which aims to counter misinformation by spreading fact-based content.
- The other countries are Australia, Chile, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Senegal and South Africa.
- Apart from these 13 nations, 132 other nations are endorsing the global call to fight the "infodemic" or manipulated information relating to the C-19.
- Led by the UN Department for Global Communications (DGC), 'Verified' will provide information around three themes:
 1. science — to save lives
 2. solidarity — to promote local and global cooperation
 3. solutions — to advocate for support to impacted populations

India becomes founding member of Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence

- India has become the Founding Member of the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), a global multi-stakeholder initiative. The initiative guides the development and use of Artificial Intelligence which is grounded in diversity, human

- rights, innovation and economic growth.
- The initiative will also work towards facing challenges around the Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- GPAI was launched by a group of leading economies namely UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Italy, Japan, USA, Mexico, New Zealand and India.

Centre Launches "Aarogyapath" Healthcare Supply Chain Portal

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched a healthcare supply chain portal named "Aarogyapath", to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies to manufacturers, suppliers and customers.
- The portal AarogyaPath can be accessed at <https://www.aarogyapath.in>.
- The initiative aims at filling a critical gap in last-mile delivery of patient care within India through improved availability and affordability of healthcare supplies.

India gets first diagnostics lab for infectious diseases

- India has got its first infectious disease diagnostics lab as a part of PM Narendra Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan'. This mobile laboratory has been built in a record time of only 8 days after the receipt of Automotive Chassis from Bharat Benz.
- The Department of Bio-Technology has supported the development of this lab.

PepsiCo to invest USD 3 million for safe water access

- PepsiCo Foundation announced on June 15, 2020 that it will invest USD 3 million to provide safe water access to agricultural communities and help women in high water-risk areas in West Bengal and Maharashtra in association with Water Aid.
- The safe water access programme will provide around 2 lakh farmers and their families access to piped water supply for household use and increased water resources. It will also help establish community-managed water distribution systems in these communities.
- This decision is a part of PepsiCo Foundation's new goal of reaching 100 million people with safe water access worldwide by 2030. The foundation has helped more than 44 million people gain access to safe water since 2006.

CM Uddhav Thackeray and Dr Harshvardhan e-launched 'I-FLOWS' a flood warning system in Mumbai

- The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray and Union Earth science Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan jointly launched the state-of-the-art Integrated Flood Warning System (I-FLOWS) – Mumbai
- The system monitors the flood activities by providing early warning in the city during high rainfall and cyclone events by as early as 3 days in advance.
- It was developed by Meteorological Department (IMD) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) functioning under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches 'Sahakar Mitra'

- The Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP) to provide paid internship to youth and ensure availability of assured project loans to young cooperators.
- This scheme is an initiative by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- Sahakar Mitra: SIP scheme will provide an opportunity to the young professionals to get practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC and cooperatives as a paid intern. Under the scheme, each intern will get financial support over a 4 months internship period.

Odisha becomes 1st state to get ISO for tribal hostels

- Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students. The ST & SC Welfare Department has launched the 'Mission Suvidya' project to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources.
- Mission Suvidya has launched in December 2019, it aims to improve the quality of basic facilities in the SC (Scheduled Castes) and ST (Scheduled Tribes) hostels like safe building, functional toilets, safe drinking water, proper kitchen and dining, safety, security, health, hygiene and food provisions for students.

NHAI goes completely digital

- The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has gone completely digital. It is the first organisation of the construction sector that has been transformed into online portal completely through the Data Lake and Project Management Software.
- The entire NHAI work will now be carried out online amid the C-19. The online portal will help the NHAI employees in continuing their work without any physical contact.

Madhya Pradesh becomes the top wheat procurer; pumps Rs 25,000 crores to boost farmers

- MP becomes India's largest wheat procurer in the year 20-21 surpassing Punjab. Rs 25,000 crore introduced to boost farmers. MP also produced the most wheat about 30 million tonnes this year.

Coimbatore becomes Koyampuththoor as TN changes English names of 1,018 places

- The Tamil Nadu government has issued a notification as per the recommendation of an experts committee for changing the names of 1,018 places, including of many important places, in accordance with how they are exactly pronounced in Tamil.
- For instance Coimbatore will be called Koyampuththoor and Ambattur has been re-christened as Ambaththoor. Vellore will be known as Veeloor.

Population of Asiatic Lions in Gujarat's Gir Forests increase by 28.87 percent in five years to 674

- The population of Asiatic Lions in the Gir forest region of Gujarat has witnessed a massive jump of 28.87 percent in the last five years, from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.
- The state forest department conducted an exclusive population estimation exercise called Poonam Avalokan (full-moon night estimation exercise), on the night of June 5 and 6 when there was full moon.
- The population of 674 comprises of 161 males, 260 females, 116 sub-adult lions and 137 cubs. It is the highest growth rate recorded so far.

"Panchvati Yojna" launched in Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched "Panchvati Yojana" for the senior citizens of rural areas of the state. Under the "Panchvati Yojana", state government of Himachal Pradesh will set up parks and gardens in every development block with all the necessary amenities.
- State government is eying to develop 100 such parks in the state in the current financial year.

Centre mandates to display green sticker on all BS-VI compliant vehicles of any type

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification, making it mandatory for all BS-VI compliant motor vehicles of any fuel type to have a strip of green colour of 1 cm width, at the top of the existing third registration sticker plate.
- This means for petrol or CNG, which have a light blue colour sticker and a diesel vehicle which is of orange colour sticker, both will have a green strip of 1 CM on top as mandated.
- This green strip will carry details of registration of BS-VI vehicle and its fuel type. The order will come into force from October 1, 2020. The order has been issued by amending the Motor Vehicles (High Security Registration Plates) order, 2018.

Highest Allocation to MGNREGA Programme

- The Government of India has allocated Rs 1,01,500 crores under the MGNREGA programme in the year 2020-21 so far. This is the highest provision of funds allocated for the scheme since its launch.
- The Government of India has already released Rs 31,493 crores. So far 6.69 crore persons have been offered work under the scheme. In May 2020, Rs 2.51 crores was spent for the scheme per day. The GoI increased the wages under the scheme from Rs 182 to Rs 202 per day.
- Under the scheme, the focus is given to irrigation, water conservation, horticulture. The scheme also focuses on beneficiary works that promote livelihood.

World Bank lends Rs 1950 crore loans to West Bengal

- West Bengal government has received a loan amount of Rs 1950 crore from the World Bank. The loan amount has been lend to the West Bengal Government to tackle C-19 situation and developmental work in the state.

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that out of it, Rs. 1,100 crore will be spent for creating Industrial infrastructures and remaining Rs. 850 crore have been allocated for spending on various Social-Welfare schemes.

Garisain declared as summer capital of Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand Government has declared Bhararisen, also known as Garisain, as new summer capital of Uttarakhand. Garisain is located in the Chamoli district of the state.
- With this, Uttarakhand becomes the second state or UT after the Jammu & Kashmir to have two capitals - Summer and Winter. The another capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun.
- Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh to become India's 27th state on November 9, 2000.

IAF develops rescue pod "ARPIT" for evacuation

- Indian Air Force has indigenously designed, developed and manufactured an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT). This pod will help for the evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including C-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote areas.
- The system has been formed as a lightweight isolation system made from aviation certified material. This indigenously designed, developed and manufactured system has been developed for Rs 60,000 only. The cost is much less in comparison to the imported systems costing up to at least Rs 60 lakh.

Andhra Pradesh launches online waste exchange website "APEMC"

- Online waste exchange website of Andhra Pradesh Environment Management Corporation (APEMC) has been launched by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- The website was launched on the occasion of World Environment Day. Andhra Pradesh has become India's first state to launch waste exchange website.

India Loses 750 Tigers in Last Eight Years: NTCA Survey

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has shared the data related to details of tiger deaths during the eight year period between 2012 and 2019. According to the official data of NTCA, as many as 750 tigers died in the country in the last eight years due to poaching and other causes.
- Of these total tiger mortalities, 369 were due to natural causes, 168 due to poaching, 70 deaths are under scrutiny and 42 due to unnatural reasons, including accident or conflicts events and 101 seizures.
- The data showed that Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of 526 tigers in the country. However, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest tiger deaths during this eight year period at 173, of which, 38 were due to poaching, 94 natural deaths, 19 under scrutiny, six due to the unnatural causes and 16 seizures.

CSIR and Atal Innovation Mission sign a Letter of Intent to foster Innovation in India

- This partnership will support world class start-ups through CSIR Incubators under AIM initiatives and jointly work on new models of innovation, including setting up of CSIR Innovation Parks.
- It also stimulates innovation and research in the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) industry by CSIR in collaboration with ARISE, an initiative of AIM.

India to donate USD 15 million for Global Vaccine Alliance

- India has pledged to make donation of USD 15 million for GAVI - Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation. The donation was made during the virtual Global Vaccine Summit that was hosted by United Kingdom (UK).
- Prime Minister Modi attended the meeting and mentioned that the huge demand for the vaccine in India will make it cheaper.

Ayush Ministry launches 'My Life, My Yoga' international competition

- The Ministry of Ayush launched the My Life, My Yoga international video-blogging competition on June 5, 2020. The competition invites participation from people across the globe.
- The participants have been asked to post a 3-minute video on their social media accounts by tagging the Ministry of Ayush to participate in the competition.
- The participants can also use the hashtag “My Life, My Yoga” in the comment section on the social media platforms while sharing their video blogs. The winners will be awarded Rs 1 lakh cash prize.

Important Cabinet Approvals

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi held meeting. Following are the major approvals given during the meet:

- Renaming of Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. The Kolkata Port is the first Major Port as well as the only riverine port of the country.
- Re-establish Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH by merging into it Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL)- the two central laboratories established at Ghaziabad since 1975.
- Setting up of an “Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) and Project Development Cells (PDCs) in Ministries/Departments of Government of India for attracting investments in India”. This new mechanism will reinforce India’s vision of becoming a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- Signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment.

Union Cabinet clears ordinance to create ‘One India, One Agriculture Market’

- The union cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved an ordinance on June 3,

- 2020, that will pave the way for the creation of 'One India, One Agriculture Market'.
- The ordinance aims at setting up an ecosystem where farmers and traders will have the freedom of choice of sale and purchase of the agricultural produce.
 - The Cabinet decision was announced by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.

GoI launches "The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)"

- Government of India has launched "The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)". This programme is an initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of HRD, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.
- TULIP programme aims to provide internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as well as Smart Cities across the nation.
- The programme would also facilitate practical experience to the students of India and hence help in infusing fresh ideas and innovative thinking into the working of Urban Local Bodies and smart cities.

India- Australia Virtual Meet

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 4 held the first-ever 'India-Australia' virtual summit with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The Australian PM was earlier scheduled to visit India this year.
- The 'bilateral virtual summit' signifies the strengthening of India's ties with Australia as both the countries also signed 7 agreements on defence, public reforms, and critical technology.

Government launches Electronics Manufacturing Scheme 2.0 (Outlay- Rs 50,000 Crore)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the Electronics Manufacturing Scheme 2.0 with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore (approximately USD 7 billion). It includes three sub-schemes.

- The PLI (Production Linked Incentive) Scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segments, to eligible companies, for a period of five years subsequent to the base year.
- Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs) and The SPECs (Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors) shall provide financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for the identified list of electronic goods, i.e., electronic components, semiconductor/ display fabrication units, Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units, specialized sub-assemblies and capital goods for manufacture of aforesaid goods.
- The EMC 2.0 (Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters) shall provide support for creation of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities, including Ready Built Factory (RBF) sheds / Plug and Play facilities for attracting major global electronics manufacturers, along with their supply chains.

PM SVANIDHI Scheme launched to help street vendors with affordable loans

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched PM SVANIDHI (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi) scheme, which is a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loan to street vendors, to help them to resume their livelihoods.
- The scheme is as per the announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 14 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat economic package.
- The scheme is valid until March 2022 and will provide total liquidity of Rs 5,000 crore. SIDBI will be the technical partner for implementation of the scheme.

Cyclone Nisarga heads towards coast in Maharashtra, Gujarat

- As per the information shared by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), a deep depression is likely to intensify into cyclonic formation in next 12 hours in the east-central Arabian sea.
- The Tropical cyclone 'Nisarga' is heading towards the coast in Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is expected to hit the coast of Mumbai on June 3.

Government launches Mudra Shishu loan

- The Central Government has announced the launch of 'Mudra Shishu loan' for small businesses and industries. The scheme would benefit around one lakh companies to avail of the loan with an interest benefit of 2% in a year.
- Earlier, the scheme was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.

Cabinet revises Definition of MSME

- The Union Cabinet has approved the revised definition of the MSME on June 1, 2020. As per the new Definition of MSME, the investment of up to Rs 50 crore and a turnover of Rs 250 crore will now define a company as a Medium Unit.
- The new and old definition of MSME is mentioned below:

Category	New Capital	New Turnover	Old Capital	Old Turnover
Micro	1 Crore	5 Crore	25 Lakh	10 Lakh
Small	10 Crore	50 Crore	5 Crore	2 Crore
Medium	50 Crore	250 Crore	10 Crore	5 Crore

- The turnover with respect to exports will not be counted in the limits of turnover for any category of MSME units whether micro, small or medium. This will help in attracting investments and creating more jobs in the MSME sector.
- Earlier, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced few economic measures under the Rs 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan to revive the economy of India.

DRDO develops 'Ultra Swachh' to disinfect PPEs, electronics items, fabrics

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit called 'Ultra Swachh' to disinfect a wide range of materials including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics and others.
- The technology has been developed by a Delhi-based laboratory of DRDO, Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences along with industry partner Gel Craft Health care Private Ltd. The 'ultra swachh' uses an advanced oxidative process comprising of multiple barrier disruption approach using Ozonated Space Technology for disinfection.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launches India's National AI Portal www.ai.gov.in

- The Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal called www.ai.gov.in, on 30 May 2020, to mark the the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government
- The portal has been jointly developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IT Industry. It will be jointly run by National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry.
- The minister also launched a National Program for the youth, "Responsible AI for Youth", to give the young students of our country a platform and empower them with appropriate new age tech mind-set, relevant AI skill-sets and access to required AI tool-sets to make them digitally ready for the future.

SPORTS

Rahul Dravid beats Sachin Tendulkar in Wisden India's poll

- According to a poll conducted by Wisden India, Rahul Dravid is the greatest Indian Test batsman of all time. Dravid beats Sachin Tendulkar by a narrow margin of votes in the final round of voting. Dravid got 52 percent of the votes. Dravid saw off Tendulkar within the final round of the voting by a narrow margin despite trailing at 42 per cent.
- The poll initially had 16 Indian batting greats, with Sunil Gavaskar and Virat Kohli being the 2 others to possess made it through to the 'semi-finals'. Gavaskar beat Kohli within the 'third-place play-off' by a narrow margin.

New Zealand, Australia to jointly host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup

- Australia and New Zealand will jointly be hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023. The Federation of International Football Associations made the announcement on June 25, 2020 following the voting done by FIFA Council during its virtual meeting.
- New Zealand Football and Football Federation Australia had earlier submitted a joint bid for hosting the World Cup 2023.

India to host 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) will be hosting the Women's Asian Cup 2022 of Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The decision was taken during the AFC Women's Football Committee. The Committee had recommended India to host the

tournament earlier in February 2020.

- It will be the first time for India to host the Women's Asian Cup 2022 since 1979.

2022 Women's Asian Cup will held in India

- India has been awarded the hosting rights of the 2022 Women's Asian Cup by the Asian Football Confederation. The tournament will held in India for the second time since 1979.
- As hosts, India will get an automatic qualification to the tournament. The tournament has been expanded from the previous slots of eight teams to 12 teams.

36th National Games postponed indefinitely

- The 36th National Games, which were scheduled to be held between October and November in Goa, have now been postponed indefinitely.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had recently asked the Goa government to host the National Games as scheduled from October 20- November 4, 2020. However, the National Games organising committee decided to postpone the games.
- The National Games organising committee will be hosting a meeting in September, following which the new dates for National Games will be decided. The previous edition of the Games was held back in 2011 in Jharkhand.

Virat Kohli only cricketer in Forbes' 2020 list of world's highest paid athletes

- India skipper Virat Kohli is the only cricketer to feature in Forbes' list of the top 100 highest-paid athletes in the world for the year 2020. Kohli is ranked at number 66 with estimated earnings of \$26 million.
- Swiss tennis great, Roger Federer has topped the list of world's highest-paid athlete for 2020 with an estimated \$106.3 million.

Rohit Sharma nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020

- Rohit Sharma has been nominated by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020. Among other nominations, the BCCI nominated Shikhar Dhawan, Deepti Sharma and Ishant Sharma for Arjuna Awards.
- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports had sought invitations for the awards from the board. The period of consideration for the nominations is from January 1, 2016- December 31, 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA headquarters to be renamed for Mary W. Jackson

- NASA has announced that its headquarters in Washington, D.C., will be named after Mary W. Jackson, one of its history-making engineers. The information was passed by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.
- Mary. W. Jackson was an aerospace engineer and a mathematician who was part of a group of very important women who had NASA succeed in getting American astronauts into space.

Sachin Bansal's startup "Navi" launches new instant lending app

- Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal's financial services startup "Navi" has launched a mobile app "Navi lending" to provide instant personal loans targeted at consumers in the middle-income segment.

ISRO receives patent for "Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment"

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has received a patent for its Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG). Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG) is a protective garment for human spaceflight. It is a close fitting long garment that covers the torso as well as the limbs from neck to toe as a single piece lightweight comfort inner wear.
- The flight suit has to be worn by the astronauts over the LCHG. The garment permits the long term use without any impact on the wearer in terms of skin irritation or infection.

Scientists observe "Fifth State of Matter" for first time in space

- A team of NASA scientists has observed the fifth state of matter for the first time in space. This observation will help scientists in solving some of the Bose-Einstein Quantum universe's difficult questions.
- The existence of Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC) fifth state of matter was projected by Albert Einstein and Indian mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose a century ago.

Astronomers confirm the existence of Earth Size Planet at Proxima Centauri

- The researchers found that the Earth-like planet Proxima b is 1.17 times the mass of the Earth which is smaller than the older estimate of 1.3 times. The planet orbits its star in just 11.2 days.
- With the use of state-of-the-art astronomical instruments, it has been informed that Earth-like planet has been orbiting the closest star to our solar system, Proxima Centauri.

NASA Astronauts enters International Space Station in SpaceX's Crew Dragon

- The SpaceX astronaut mission completed its first journey as the astronauts in the Crew Dragon Capsule entered the International Space Station (ISS) on May 31. Elon Musk's SpaceX company built the Dragon module that lifted from Florida spaceport on May 30, 2020.
- The spacecraft successfully docked with the orbiting laboratory at 10.16 am ET. Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley then disembarked Crew Dragon and joined the three crew currently onboard the International Space Station which was launched in 1998 and inhabited in 2000.

OBITUARY

1971 war hero SqnLdr Parvez Jamasji passes away

- Vir Chakra awardee, SqnLdr (ret'd) Parvez Jamasji passed away. He was commissioned in 1965 and retired in 1985. He was awarded the Vir Chakra for gallantry during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

Former Indian shooter Pournima Zanane passes away

- Former Indian shooter and coach Pournima Zanane passed away due to cancer. She represented India at multiple ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships, Commonwealth Championships, amongst other tournaments.
- Pournima Zanane was a national record holder in 10m Air Rifle event.

Rajinder Goel, highest wicket-taker in Ranji Trophy, passes away at 77

- The legendary first-class cricketer player, Rajinder Goel, who holds the record for most wickets in the history of Ranji Trophy, has passed away due to age related issues. He was 77.
- In all, the left-arm spinner took 750 wickets, in 157 first-class matches which he played.

Major General (Retd) Lachhman Singh Lehl passes away

- Major General (Retd) Lachhman Singh Lehl passed away. He was one of India's finest military brains and one of its last surviving officers to have taken part in both the 1948 and 1971 wars.
- He was commissioned in the Regiment of Artillery in 1943.

Veteran economist & FC member B.P.R. Vithal passes away

- Veteran economist and the member of 10th Finance Commission, B.P.R. Vithal passes away. He was a former IAS officer of the 1950 batch.
- He also served as the Secretary, Finance and Planning, government of Andhra Pradesh, from 1972 to 1982.

Maharashtra based senior journalist & freedom fighter Dinu Randive passes away at 95

- Senior journalist and freedom fighter from Maharashtra, Dinu Randive has passed away due to old age. He was 95.
- Randive played a key role in the struggle movement called Samyukta Maharashtra movement to carve out Maharashtra state. He also participated in the Goa liberation movement.

Maha Vir Chakra Awardee Lt Gen Raj Mohan Vohra passes away

- MahaVir Chakra awardee Lt Gen (ret'd) Raj Mohan Vohra passed away due to C-19. He was a 1971 war hero. Lt Gen Vohra had received the coveted award in 1972.
- The MahaVir Chakra is that the country's second-highest gallantry award. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry within the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air.

Uttarakhand folk singer Heera Singh Rana passes away

- Noted folk singer of Uttarakhand, Heera Singh Rana passed away. He was born in 1942 in Manila Dandholi village of Almora. He visited Kolkata with a scholarship to review music.
- Recently he was appointed vice-chairman of Garhwal, Kumaoni and Jaunsari Academy by the govt of Delhi.

India's oldest first-class cricketer Vasant Raiji passes away at 100

- Vasant Raiji, the oldest first-class cricketer of India has recently passed away. He was 100-year-old.
- The legendary cricketer Vasant Raiji celebrated his 100th birthday on 26 January 2020.
- Raiji, a right-handed batsman, played in 9 first-class matches from 1939 to 1950, scoring 277 runs with 68 being his highest score.

Former New Zealand cricketer Matt Poore passes away

- Former New Zealand Test cricketer, Matt Poore passed away. He was featured in 14 Tests for New Zealand, scoring 355 runs and picking up nine wickets between 1953-1956.
- He also played 61 Tests for Canterbury and scored 2,336 runs and ended up with 68 wickets.

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput passes away

- Bollywood Actor Sushant Singh Rajput passed away. He made his Bollywood debut with the 2013 movie "Kai Po Che!" and was renowned for his role in the 2016 hit MS Dhoni: The Untold Story. He earned massive fame with a TV show "Pavitra Rishta" and made a successful transition to films. The actor delivered major hit films such as 'PK' and 'Kedarnath'. His biggest hit was 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story', a film based on the life of former Indian skipper MS Dhoni.
- His upcoming project included Mukesh Chhabra's 'Dil Bechara' opposite Sanjana Sanghi. The film is an official remake of the Hollywood film 'The Fault in Our Stars'. Sushant Singh Rajput's last release was Nitesh Tiwari's Chhichhore, which released in September 2019.

Manchester United Legend, Tony Dunne, Passes Away

- The former Republic of Ireland international footballer, Tony Dunne, has passed away. He was 78.
- He played for Manchester United for 13 years in which he made 535 appearances.
- He played as defender for Manchester United's European Cup-winning team in 1968, becoming the first English side to lift the continent's most-prestigious trophy.

Veteran Urdu poet Gulzar Dehlvi passes away

- Veteran Urdu poet, Anand Mohan Zutshi Gulzar Dehlvi passed away. He was the editor of 'Science ki Duniya', the only science magazine published in Urdu by the government,

which was launched in 1975.

- He is also credited with setting up Urdu schools across India. He was also associated with the freedom movement since the '30s, when he was in school.

Former member of Planning Commission, A. Vaidyanathan passes away

- The former member of the Planning Commission, A. Vaidyanathan passed away. He was a member of the perspective planning division of the Planning Commission from 1962 to 1972.
- He was also a professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies and Centre for Development Studies.

Padma Shri awardee Pritam Singh passes away

- Former director of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow, Pritam Singh passed away. He chaired the subcommittee on Institutional Management and Leadership Development in Higher Education by the 12th Planning Commission for the 5-year plan (2012-2017).
- He was a member of the Ministry of Home Affairs Committee for capacity building of IPS officers.

Former union minister and Odisha MP Arjun Charan Sethi passes away

- Former Union Water Resources Minister Arjun Charan Sethi passed away. He was eight-time MP from Bhadrak, Odisha. He was Water Resources Minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet from 2000 to 2004.
- The veteran politician was also elected to Odisha Assembly twice on Janata Dal ticket in 1991 and 1995 from Bhandaripokhari.

Kannada actor Chiranjeevi Sarja passes away

- Kannada actor Chiranjeevi Sarja passed away. He had made his debut with the movie 'Vayuputra'. He has featured in films such as Samhaara, Aadyaa, Khaki, Sinnga, Amma I Love You, Prema Baraha, Dandam Dashagunam and Varadhanayaka among others.
- He was last seen in the Kannada action-drama Shivarjuna.

Former Governor and Delhi Police Chief Ved Marwah passes away at 87

- Ved Marwah who had served as the former Governor of Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand has passed away. He was 87.
- Marwah had also served as the Delhi Police Commissioner. He had also penned a book 'Uncivil Wars: Pathology of Terrorism in India'.

Legendary Filmmaker Basu Chatterjee passes away

- Legendary Filmmaker & the National Film Award winner Basu Chatterjee passed away. He was known for his middle-of-the-road cinema and films like "Chhoti Si Baat" and "Rajnigandha". He also directed two hit TV serials namely "Byomkesh Bakshi" and "Rajani".
- He received National Film Award for Best Film on Family Welfare for his film Durga in

1992.

Renowned lyricist Anwar Sagar passes away

- Veteran lyricist and member of Indian Performing Right Society Limited (IPRS), Anwar Sagar passed away.
- The lyricist also has to his credit films like Khiladi, Yaarana, Salaami, Aa Gale Lag Jaa and Vijaypath among more.

NBA Hall Of Famer Wes Unseld Passes Away At 74

- NBA legend Wes Unseld, one of the greatest American professional basketball player, has passed away at the age of 74.
- Unseld is universally considered as the greatest player in league's history.
- He led his franchise 'Washington Wizards' (the then Baltimore Bullets) to the NBA Championship in 1978.

Former Olympic sprint champion Bobby Morrow passes away

- American sprinter, Bobby Joe Morrow passed away. He won three athletics gold medals at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. He won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in Melbourne, becoming the first man only after fellow American Jesse Owens (1936) to win sprint treble.
- He was named Sports Illustrated's "Sportsman of the Year" in 1956 and set 11 ratified world records during his career.

Wajid Khan of Sajid-Wajid Music Composer Duo passes away

- Singer & music composer Wajid Khan passed away. The singer was renowned for his partnership with his brother Sajid and the duo was known as Sajid-Wajid.
- They made their Bollywood debut in 1998 with movie Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya and went on to work in various films such as Garv, TereNaam, Tumko Na Bhoole Payenge, Partner and various others.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Rabi Sankar becomes new Chairman of IFTAS

- Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS) has announced the appointments of T Rabi Sankar as the Chairman of the organization. IFTAS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India.
- T Rabi Sankar, currently serving as Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India for Payment Systems, Information Technology, Risk Management and Fintech has taken over concurrent charge, ex officio, as the Chairman of IFTAS.

World Athletics appoints Laurent Boquillet as new Head of Global Development

- World Athletics on June 22 announced that Laurent Boquillet has been appointed as the Head of Global Development. World Athletics mentioned that the global search to fill out the new position was conducted in January 2020.
- The new position of Head of Global Development supports the body's vision which is 'to

use the power and accessibility of athletics and our athletes to create a healthier and fitter world.

- Laurent Boquillet spent his entire career in athletics, in a diverse range of roles and most recently as the CEO of the European Athletics Championships Paris 2020.

Nirakar Pradhan becomes new chief of PRMIA

- Dr Nirakar Pradhan has appointed as new as the Chief Executive Officer of the Professional Risk Managers' International Association (PRMIA) of its new India office.
- Pradhan has led teams at State Bank of India and Generali Group in India and Europe.

Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan confirmed as National Science Foundation Director

- The U.S. Senate has appointed Indian-American scientist Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan as the Director of the National Science Foundation(NSF),a top American body supporting fundamental research in non-medical fields of science and engineering.
- He would replace France Cordova, whose six-year term ended in March, as the 15th director of the NSF. He is expected to take office on July 6.

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed as Chairman of NIPFP

- Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).His four-year term will begin from June 22, 2020.
- The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy is an autonomous research institute under the Ministry of Finance, based in New Delhi. It conducts research on public finance and contributes to the process of policy-making relating to public finance.

Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir Elected President of 75th UN General Assembly

- Volkan Bozkır, a veteran Turkish diplomat and parliamentarian was elected as the President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on June 17. He was the sole candidate for the post.
- Bozkır is the first Turkish national who has become the President of the General Assembly.

UTI mutual funds appoint Imtaiyazur Rahman as CEO

- UTI Asset Management Board appointed Imtaiyazur Rahman as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the UTI Asset Management Committee (AMC)
- He will succeed Leo Puri whose 5-year tenure was over in August 2018.

Anil Valluri appointed as senior director for Google Cloud India

- Google Cloud has appointed Anil Valluri as Senior Director for Google Cloud in India. Valluri has over 30 years of experience in sales and marketing in the hi-tech industry.
- He has also headed several technology transitions in India for customers across banking, telecommunications, public sector and manufacturing. Before joining Google Cloud, Valluri was the President of India & SAARC operations at Net App.

Brajendra Navnit becomes India's new ambassador to WTO

- India has appointed Brajendra Navnit as India's new ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO). He is a 1999 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre. He will be posted at the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the WTO in Geneva.
- Navnit, who recently completed his tenure as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. He replaces JS Deepak at the PMI, whose two-year extended term ended on May 31.

Uday Kotak takes over as President of CII

- MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Uday Kotak has taken over as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the year 2020-21.
- He has replaced the chairman and MD of Kirloskar Systems, Vikram Kirloskar as the President of CII.

Gaitri Kumar appointed India's next High Commissioner to UK

- Gaitri Kumar has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.
- She is presently serving as the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union.

Ex Google CFO Patrick Pichette Appointed as new Chairman of Twitter's Board

- Twitter Inc has appointed Patrick Pichette, a former chief financial officer (CFO) at Google, as the new chairman of the company's board.
- It is the first time in Twitter's history that an outsider will preside over the group. Pichette will replace Omid Kordestani.

Sibi George appointed India's next Ambassador to Kuwait

- Sibi George has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Kuwait.
- He was presently serving as the Ambassador of India to Switzerland.

V N Datt takes over as C&MD, National Fertilizers Limited

- Virendra Nath Datt has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). Datt has been serving as the Director (Marketing) of the Company since October 2018.
- As Director (Marketing) at NFL, Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of the company from 43 Lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 Lakh MT in 2019-20.

Raveesh Kumar becomes new Ambassador of India to Finland

- Raveesh Kumar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Finland. He is presently serving as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry.
- He is an IFS officer of 1995 batch.

Pradip Kumar becomes new Secretary in Ministry of Steel

- J&K cadre IAS, Pradip Kumar Tripathi, has taken over as Secretary, Ministry of Steel,

Govt. of India. Prior to this, Shri Tripathi has been posted as Special Secretary and Establishment Officer in Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Power Finance Corporation board Appoints R S Dhillon as CMD

- State-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Ravinder Singh Dhillon as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the company.
- He will succeed incumbent CMD Rajeev Sharma, who is attaining superannuation on May 31, 2020.
- Dhillon's appointment will be with effect from 01 June 2020, till the date of his superannuation (May 31, 2023) or until further orders.

Arun Singhal Appointed CEO of Food Regulator FSSAI

- Senior bureaucrat Arun Singhal has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). He will succeed GSG Ayyangar.
- The FSSAI comes under the purview of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It is responsible for setting up standards for the food industry and regulate the manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, and import of foods.

Anita Kotwani becomes Chief Executive Officer of Carat India

- Anita Kotwani has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Carat India, a media agency owned by Dentsu Aegis Network (DAN).
- She was earlier serving as the senior vice president, new business and client lead, for The Walt Disney business at Mindshare India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Asteroid Day

- The International Asteroid Day, also known as Asteroid Day is a United Nations proclaimed day observed globally on June 30 every year to raise awareness about asteroids and what can be done to protect the Earth, its families, communities, and future generations from a catastrophic event.
- The event marks the anniversary of the Siberian Tunguska event that took place on June 30, 1908, and was the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth in recent history.
- The first International Asteroid Day was held in 2015.

International Day of Parliamentarism

- International Day of Parliamentarism is observed globally on 30 June every year. The Day celebrates parliaments and ways during which parliamentary systems of government improve the everyday lives of individuals throughout the world.
- It is also a chance for parliaments to spot challenges and stock ways to deal with them effectively. The 2020 event is the third edition of the celebration.

National Statistics Day

- The Government of India celebrates Statistics Day on June 29 every year since 2007 to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitize the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of Father of Indian Statistics, Prof. P C Mahalanobis, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2020 is SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day: 27 June

- The United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is held on June 27 since 2017 to celebrate the work of MSME in local and global economies and their contribution to sustainable development.
- 2020 Theme is "C-19: The Great C- 19 and its impact on Small Business"

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

- International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed on 26th June every year. This day is observed by the United Nations to raise awareness among the people about the human torture that it is not only unacceptable but it is also a crime.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed globally on 26th June every year. The day is observed by the United Nations as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- The theme of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2020: "Better Knowledge for Better Care".

India's first Cricket World Cup lifted on this day in 1983

- India lifted its first-ever ICC Cricket World Cup on June 25 in the year 1983. 37 years ago, India made history by lifting its Cricket World Cup by defeating West Indies by 43 runs at Lord's Cricket Ground, England.
- Kapil Dev-led Indian cricket team managed to score only 183 runs that were enough to beat the West Indies.

International Widows' Day

- International Widows Day is observed globally on 23rd June every year. The day is widely known to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they have.
- Several women around the world after losing her life partner faces challenges and do long-term struggle for basic needs, their human right and dignity.

World Hydrography Day

- World Hydrography Day is observed globally on 21st June every year. This day was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) as an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography.
- World Hydrography Day 2020 theme is “Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies”.

World Music Day

- World Music Day is observed globally on 21st June every year. This day is celebrated to honour amateur and professional musicians. Over 120 countries celebrate World Music Day by organizing free public concerts in parks, streets, stations, museums and other such public places.
- The aim of celebrating World Music Day is to provide free music to everyone, and also to encourage amateur musicians to showcase their work to the world.

International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice

- International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice is observed globally on 21st June. This day brings awareness about solstices and equinoxes and their significance for several religions and ethnic cultures.
- Solstice is that the point at which the Sun is at its greatest distance from the world and equinox is when space is that the lowest.

World International Day of Yoga

- United Nations celebrates International Day of Yoga globally on 21 June every year to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word ‘yoga’ derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- The theme of International Day of Yoga 2020 is ‘Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family’.

Father's Day

- Father's Day is a day of honoring fatherhood and paternal bonds, as well as the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic countries of Europe, it has been celebrated on March 19 as Saint Joseph's Day since the Middle Ages.
- Father's day is celebrated in many parts of the world at different times of the year, mostly in March, May, and June. However, Father's Day is usually celebrated in India on the third Sunday in June, meaning that Father's Day 2020 will be celebrated on June 21.

World Refugee Day

- United Nations celebrates World Refugee Day globally on 20 June every year. The World Refugee Day 2020 aims to remind the world that everyone, including refugees, are capable in contributing towards society and Every Action Counts in the effort to

create a more just, inclusive, and equal world.

- The theme of World Refugee Day 2020 is “Every Action Counts”.

World Sickle Cell Day 2020

- Every year on June 19 the World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed to increase public knowledge & understanding about sickle cell disease. The day also aims to put forth the challenges faced by these patients, their families and caregivers.
- World Sickle Cell Day was 1st organised by the United Nation General Assembly in the year 2008 to recognise sickle cell disease as a public health problem.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed globally on 19th June every year.
- This day is seen to bring issues to light of the need to stop strife related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all or any those that have fearlessly dedicated their lives to and lost their lives in going to bat for the annihilation of those violations.

Autistic Pride Day

- Every year, Autistic Pride Day is observed on June 18 globally to create awareness about autism among people and recognise the importance of pride for autistic people and its role in bringing about positive changes in the broader society.
- The day is represented by a rainbow infinity symbol which denotes the infinite possibilities that autistic people have.
- Autistic Pride Day was first celebrated in Brazil in 2005, at the initiative of an organisation named Aspies for Freedom.

Sustainable Gastronomy Day

- Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed globally on 18th June every year. This day is observed to acknowledge gastronomy as a cultural expression related to nature as well as the cultural diversity of the world.
- It also reaffirms that each one culture and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development throughout the planet.
- The UN General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2016 its resolution A/RES/71/246 and designated 18 June as an international observance, Sustainable Gastronomy Day.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17th June every year. The day is observed to spread awareness among people about the cooperation required to combat desertification and the effects of drought.
- The theme of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2020: Food. Feed. Fibre. – the links between consumption and land.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is marked every year on 15 June to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.
- The theme in 2020 for WEAAD is “Lifting Up Voices”.

Global Wind Day

- Every year the Global Wind Day is celebrated worldwide on 15 June to spread awareness about wind energy, the various uses of wind energy, and the ways and possibilities as to how wind energy can help change the world.
- 2020 marks the 13th year of Global Wind Day.

International Day of Family Remittances

- International Day of Family Remittances is observed on 16th June every year. The day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home and to create a future of hope for their children.
- This year International Day of Family Remittances is celebrated under the theme: “Building resilience in times of crisis” .

World Blood Donor Day

- World Blood Donor Day is marked by the World Health Organization (WHO) all around the world on every 14 June to create awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.
- The theme for the Blood donor day 2020 is ‘Safe Blood Saves Lives’. It would be promoted with the slogan ‘Give blood and make the world a healthier place.’

International Albinism Awareness Day 2020

- International Albinism Awareness Day is celebrated worldwide on June 13, 2020. The day aims at creating awareness and acknowledging the multiple forms of discrimination that people with albinism face worldwide.
- Albinism is non-contagious, genetically inherited, rare difference present at birth. This condition results in a lack of pigmentation in skin, hair, and eyes causing vulnerability to the sun and bright light.
- This year’s International Albinism Awareness Day theme is ‘Made to Shine’. The theme has been chosen to celebrate the achievements and successes of people with albinism worldwide.

World Day Against Child Labour

- The World Day Against Child Labour is held every year on June 12 to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.
- The theme for 2020 is “C-19 – Protect children from child labour now, more than ever”.
- It is an International Labour Organization (ILO)-sanctioned holiday first launched in

2002, and is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.

World Accreditation Day (WAD)

- The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated every year on 9 June to promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy.
- The theme for WAD 2020 is “Accreditation: Improving Food Safety”.

World Accreditation Day 2020

- The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated globally on 9th June every year to highlight and promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy.
- The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) decided the theme for WAD 2020 as “Accreditation: Improving Food Safety”.

World Oceans Day

- World Oceans Day is marked annually on the 8 June to celebrate the role of the oceans in our everyday life and inspiring action to protect the ocean and sustainably use marine resources.
- The theme of UN World Oceans Day 2020 is “Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean.”
- World Oceans Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2008.

World Brain Tumour Day

- World Tumour Day is observed on June 8 every year to spread awareness about this deadly disease, ensure its early diagnosis, as well as as pay tribute to brain tumour patients and their families.
- The day was first initiated by the German Brain Tumour Association (GBTA) in 2000.

World Food Safety Day 2020

- The second World Food Safety Day (WFSD) is observed on 7 June 2020. The aim of the day is to raise awareness about different foodborne risks and the measures of how to prevent it.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), this year theme is ‘Food safety, everyone’s businesses.
- The campaigns will also spread awareness that how food safety is very much important and related to different other important factors of life such as human health, economic growth, and many others.

UN Russian Language Day

- The UN Russian Language Day is observed annually on 06 June. It is one of the six official languages used by the United Nations throughout the Organization.
- The day was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010.
- 6 June is chosen as UN Russian Language Day as it coincides with the birthday of

Aleksandr Pushkin, a Russian poet who is considered the father of modern Russian language.

World Environment Day 2020: Global CO2 emissions hit record high in May

- The World Environment Day 2020 was observed across the globe on June 5, 2020 with an emphasis on the need to care for nature and humanity. World Environment Day is observed every year to raise global awareness on environmental issues.
- This year's theme of Environment Day is 'Biodiversity'. The World Environment Day 2020 theme is extremely important, especially with the recent events of major bushfires in Australia, Brazil and the United States.
- The day provides an opportunity to broaden the "basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises, and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment."

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed globally on 4th June every year. This day affirms the UN's commitment to guard the rights of children.
- This day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the planet who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. The main aim of celebrating today is to spread the notice about the pain and sufferings faced by the victims as children.

World Bicycle Day

- Every year the International World Bicycle Day is observed on 3rd June to recognise the uniqueness, longevity and versatility of the Bicycle as a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transport.
- The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018.

World Milk Day

- The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations celebrates World Milk Day every year on 01st June to recognize the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy sector.
- The World Milk Day 2020 is the 20th anniversary of World Milk Day. This year, the day was celebrated with a "Enjoy Dairy Rally" that commenced on 29th May 2020 and culminated with World Milk Day i.e. on 01st June 2020.
- The theme of World Milk Day 2020 is "20th Anniversary of World Milk Day".

Global Day of Parents

- The United Nations has proclaimed to observe June 1 every year as the Global Day of Parents to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.
- The theme for Global Day of Parents 2020 is "Appreciate all parents throughout the world".

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

CCI approves Jaadhu Holdings LLC's acquisition of 9.99 percent stake in Jio Platforms

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Jaadhu Holdings LLC's acquisition of a 9.99 percent stake in Jio Platforms.
- Jaadhu Holdings LLC is a newly incorporated company, which was formed in March 2020 under the laws of the US state of Delaware. It is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Facebook.
- Jio Platforms hold 100 percent of the issued and outstanding share capital of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL).

MoHUA& SIDBI signs Mo/U for PM SVANidhi scheme

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi). PM SVANidhi is a Special Micro-Credit Facility for Street Vendors.
- The credit guarantee to the lending institutions would also be managed by the SIDBI through Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

Empays partners with Mastercard to enable contactless ATM withdrawals

- Cloud-based payment solutions provider, Empays Payment Systems India has partnered with Mastercard to launch contactless ATM solution in India due to virus.
- Under the partnership, Mastercard will help Empays to launch 'Cardless ATM powered by Mastercard.

RIL to sell 1.16% in Jio to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for Rs 5,684 cr

- Jio Platforms has received investment of Rs 5683.50 crore from a wholly owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). Hence, ADIA has bought 1.16% stake in Jio Platforms with its investment of Rs 5683.50 crore.
- The investment done by ADIA valued the Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

India, Denmark sign agreement for boosting cooperation in power sector

- India and Denmark have signed an MoU to develop cooperation in the power sector. The agreement was signed between the Union Ministry of Power and Denmark's Ministry for Energy, Utilities and Climate.
- The main objective behind the agreement is to develop a strong, deep and long-term co-operation between the two countries in the power sector on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

MoU between ISRO and ARIES for cooperation in Space Situational Awareness, Astrophysics

- On 4th June 2020, for the cooperation in the Field of Space Situational Awareness(SSA) and Astrophysic, The Indian Space Research Organization(ISRO), Bengaluru signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aryabhata Research institute of

Observational Science(ARIES).

- R. Umamaheswaran, Scientific Secretary of ISRO from ISRO headquarters and Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, Director of ARIES from ARIES headquarters signed the MoU on the virtual platform.

Jio-Mubadala deal for 1.85% Stake in Jio Platforms

- Abu Dhabi-based firm, Mubadala Investment Company has recently invested into Reliance Jio Platforms to acquire 1.85 percent stake in the company. Under this deal, Mubadala will be investing Rs 9,093.60 crore into Jio Platforms., the telecom branch of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).
- The Jio-Mubadala deal awaits regulatory and customary approvals. It is the sixth such deal in last 1.5 months. The other five deals were carried out with Facebook, Silver Lake, General Atlantic, Vista Equity Partners and KKR.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

World Bank Approves USD 500 mn loan to improve quality of education system in 6 Indian States

- The World Bank has approved loan worth \$500 million (about Rs 3,700 crore) for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS) on June 24, 2020, to improve quality and governance of school education in six Indian states. The six states are Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- The STARS program builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank (since 1994), for strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing Education for All.

PhonePe partners with ICICI Bank on UPI multi-bank model

- Flipkart-owned PhonePe has partnered with ICICI Bank on UPI multi-bank model giving its users the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with ICICI and Yes Bank's handles.
- The '@ibl' handle for ICICI Bank users and '@ybl' handle for YES Bank users will enable easy, quick and contactless payment services to over 200 million registered PhonePe users.

e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020 to Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh state Panchayati raj department wins 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskar-2020. This prize was given by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj. All the 3,226 panchayats of the state have been provided internet facility and people can access various services online.
- The various services such as family register, registration of birth, death and marriages are registered online in the panchayats. Union ministry of Panchayati raj has made a lot of efforts to bring in transparency, efficiency and accountability in gram panchayats's functioning.

Nobel-laureate Indian economist Amartya Sen wins 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

- Nobel-laureate Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen has been selected for the 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for his decades-long work around issues of global justice.
- The 86-year-old Harvard professor and past Nobel prize winner will be awarded during a ceremony on 18 October 2020 in Frankfurt. The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade comes with a cash prize of €25,000 euros (\$28,000).
- He has been chosen for the prestigious prize for his pioneering work addressing issues of global justice, social inequality in education and healthcare.

Anmol Narang becomes 1st observant Sikh to graduate from US Military Academy

- Anmol Narang has made history by becoming the 1st observant Sikh to graduate from the distinguished United States (US) Military Academy at West Point. She was among about 1,100 cadets who graduated at the premier institution's campus in New York with the rank of 2nd lieutenant.
- She is hopeful that her efforts to represent her religion and community will encourage Americans to find out more about Sikhism. She was born and raised in Roswell, Georgia.

Indian-American Dr. Rattan Lal awarded with World Food Prize 2020

- Indian-American Dr. Rattan Lal has been awarded with the 2020 World Food Prize for developing a soil centric approach for increasing food production while conserving natural resources and mitigating the climate change.
- Lal has been helping over 500 million small farmers through measures such as improved management, less soil degradation and recycling of nutrients. He will receive USD 250,000 as prize money.
- Lal serves as Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and founding Director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center at The Ohio State University (OSU).

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2020 Deferred

- Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2020 have been cancelled due to the C-19. The Awards, considered as Asia's version of Nobel Prize, are conferred by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.
- The award is bestowed upon the Asian individuals showcase excellence in their respective fields and who work selflessly to serve others.

Javed Akhtar became first Indian to bag Richard Dawkins Award 2020

- Writer and lyricist Javed Akhtar has become the first Indian to be awarded with the prestigious Richard Dawkins Award 2020. He was conferred with the award for humanist value, critical thinking and advancing human progress.
- The Richard Dawkins Award is bestowed every year to a distinguished individual from the field of entertainment, scholarship, science, and education.

Hyderabad airport wins ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports Platinum Recognition 2020

- The Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific announced the results of the ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2020 on 5 June 2020.
- The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad has received the Platinum award in the 15-35 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category for its water management practices.

India's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw named EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020

- Indian billionaire entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been named as the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 (WEYOY).
- She has been emerged as the winner from among a distinguished list of 46 Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) country award winners from 41 countries and territories.
- Mazumdar-Shaw is the first woman entrepreneur from India and the third Indian to win the title in the award's 20-year history.
- UdayKotak of Kotak Mahindra Bank (2014) and N R Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys Ltd, (2005) are the other winners from India.

RANKING

At 26th position, Bengaluru Becomes India's Only City in Top 30 Global Startup Ecosystems Ranking 2020 Released by Startup Genome

- According to the report, 'Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2020; the New Normal for the Global Startup Economy and the Impact of -19' released by Startup Genome, Bangalore has become the only city in the country to be included in the world's top-30 startup ecosystem ranking & placed 26th position. At the same time, the nation's capital Delhi has been ranked 36th in the list.
- Further, Mumbai ranked first in a parallel "100 emerging ecosystem rankings 2020" followed by Jakarta, Zurich.

India slips down at 77th place in accounting money in Swiss banks

- Swiss National Bank (SNB) has released 'Annual banking statistics, 2019'. According to the latest SNB data, India has moved down three places to 77th rank in terms of money parked by its citizens.
- However, many neighbouring countries are below India in the list. Among them, Pakistan is ranked 99th, Bangladesh 85th, Nepal 118th, Sri Lanka 148th, Myanmar 186th and Bhutan 196th.

India becomes 12th largest US govt securities holder

- India has become the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of April 2020 with a holding worth USD 157.4 billion. The US Treasury Department data showed that after significantly reducing the exposure in March to USD 156.5 billion, India marginally hiked the holding by USD 0.9 billion to USD 157.4 billion the next month.

- While India's holding touched a record high of USD 177.5 billion in February, the same was drastically reduced in March. The exposure had stood at USD 164.3 billion in January. At the end of April, Japan remained the country with the maximum exposure at USD 1.27 trillion, followed by China at USD 1.1 trillion and the UK at USD 368.5 billion.

Mukesh Ambani becomes 9th richest person globally

- Reliance Industries (RIL) chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani, has entered into the list of world's top 10 richest persons, according to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list and Bloomberg Billionaires Index .
- Ambani's net worth rose to \$64.6 billion on 19 June 2020, making him the 9th richest person in the world. With a total net worth of \$160 billion, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is still the wealthiest person in the world. He is followed by Bill Gates (\$112 billion) and Mark Zuckerberg (\$90.6 billion).

IMD's World Competitiveness Index ranks India at 43rd; Singapore tops the list

- An annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) has ranked India at the 43rd position.
- Singapore has successfully retained the top position on the 63rd nation list. Denmark has moved up to the 2nd position, it was 8th last year. Switzerland has ranked 3rd while Netherland has retained its 4th place. Hing Kong has secured the 5th place, it was 2nd in 2019.
- India has ranked 41st on the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking every year since 1989. It slipped to 45th in 2017 but improved to 44th in 2018 and then to 43rd in 2019. The ranking is produced by the business school based in Switzerland and Singapore.

India 9th largest FDI recipient in 2019: UN

- India received USD 51 billion in foreign investment in 2019, stated the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its report. India was among the top five FDI recipient economies in the developing Asia region and the largest in South Asia.
- The report revealed that India was the world's ninth-largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and it said that the nation's large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments.
- The foreign direct investment in India has increased by 20 percent, sustaining the country's upward FDI trend. Most of the investments were in information and communication technology and the construction industry.

FIFA's latest ranking: India retains 108th slot

- India football team retained its 108th spot in the latest FIFA rankings. While Belgium ranked first and world champion France is in 2nd place and Brazil is at 3rd spot.
- In the wake of the C-19 , the qualifier tournaments have been postponed for the FIFA World Cup and other major games at the international level.

Amazon's Jeff Bezos Richest Man in the World; Ambani at 12th Position: Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- The Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the world's richest people.
- Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has emerged as the richest person in the world with a total net worth of \$150 billion after he added almost \$35 billion to his net worth so far this year.
- Bill Gates is the second richest person having total net worth of \$115 billion. Bernard Arnault (\$94.7 billion), Mark Zuckerberg (87.9 billion) and Warren Buffett (79.4 billion), makes up the top five.
- India's Mukesh Ambani is the 12th richest person in the world. The total net worth of Ambani is 57.2 billion.

Gujarat tops India's Food Safety Index among larger states

- Gujarat has topped India's food safety index among larger states, while Chandigarh topped among the union territories. Goa topped the index among the small states, as per the information shared by FSSAI on June 7, 2020.
- Gujarat was followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra among the larger states in food safety and Goa was followed by Manipur and Meghalaya among the smaller states.
- Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was followed by Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in food safety.
- The FSSAI had shared the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index' on June 7 during a webinar to commemorate the World Food Safety Day.

Amazon tops Brand Finance Global 500 2020 report; Tata Group top Indian brand

- Brand Finance has released its annual Brand Value Report 5000 for the year 2020.
- It is for the third consecutive year that Amazon has retained the title of the world's most valuable brand having brand valuation of \$220,791 million. It is also made history by becoming the first brand in Brand Finance Global 500 to exceed US\$200 billion value mark.
- Google has jumped one place up to come second in the list at \$159,722 million. In 2019 it was at 3rd spot. Apple (\$140,524M), Microsoft (\$117,072M) and Samsung Group (\$94,494M) makes top 5 brand in the list.
- Among Indian companies, Tata Group has once again retained its position as top Indian brand. It is the only Indian brand to feature in top 100.

India Drops 6 Places to be Ranked 23rd in Startup Blink's Startup Ecosystem Rankings 2020

- Startup Blink has launched the Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020 that ranks 1,000 cities and 100 countries worldwide, based on their startup ecosystem strength and activity level. Startup Blink is global startup ecosystem map and research center.
- India has dropped 6 places to be ranked at 23rd spot in the latest ranking, with a score of 5.698. Last year it was placed at 17th spot.
- United States has topped the ranking list with a score of 123.167.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Amish Tripathi launches his new fiction book – ‘Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India’

- The author of The Immortals of Meluha has announced the launch of his new book, Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India. Published by Westland Publications Pvt Ltd, his latest fiction is set in 11th-century, India.
- The book begins with Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion and the massacre of the holy Somnath Temple. The book has been published by Westland Publications.

The Debut Novel of Megha Majumdar – “A Burning”

- The Penguin Hamish Hamilton released the “A Burning”, debut novel of Megha Majumdar. The 32-year-old New York’s writer who was born and raised in Kolkata. The book was published on 2nd June 2020 by Knopf Doubleday publishing Group.
- The book is about the lives of three characters, Tommy Orange, YaaGyasi and Jhumpa Lahiri who want to rise to the middle class, to political power, to gain fame in the film industry and how their lives changed in Indian society.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

IMF predicts Indian economy to contract by 4.5% in FY21

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that Indian economy will experience a sharp contraction of 4.55% in Fiscal Year 2021, as compared to that of 1.9% expansion projected in the month of April 2020. The international organization has called this a “historic low” for India.

World’s First Gold-backed Digital Gold Currency launched in India

- IBMC Financial Professionals Group, an internationally recognized financial services institution and business consultants, has joined hands with US Gold Currency Inc and Blockfills to bring the world’s first monetary gold-backed digital gold currency to India.
- The currency is also being simultaneously introduced in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Middle East and Africa. Each US Gold digital currency is backed by US American Eagle one ounce (33.931 gram) gold coin, minted by US Federal Agency, US Mint.
- The holders of the currency can redeem their digital assets as physical gold coin or in US dollars anywhere in the world.

RBI directs banks, NBFCs, digital lending platforms to disclose full information

- The Reserve Bank of India has directed the banks, Non Banking Financial Corporations and digital lending platforms to disclose full information up front on their websites to customers to make the digital lending more transparent.
- The RBI’s follows several complaints against exorbitant interest rates and harsh recovery measures of the lending platforms.
- The RBI stated that a letter must be issued to the borrower on the letter head of the bank/ NBFC concerned immediately after the loan sanction. A copy of the loan agreement shall also be provided to all borrowers at the time of the disbursement of

loans. The RBI also asked the banks and NBFCs to create awareness about the grievance redressal mechanism.

GoI brings all cooperative banks under supervision of RBI

- The Union government on June 24 has decided to bring 1,482 urban cooperative banks and 58 multi-state cooperative banks under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The news was announced by I&B Minister, Prakash Javadekar after the Union Cabinet's meeting.
- The Union minister informed that RBI's power as they apply to the scheduled banks will now also apply to the cooperative banks. He added that the government has decided to introduce an ordinance that will put cooperative banks under RBI's supervision.
- This decision will give an assurance to more than 86 million depositors in these banks that their money amounting to Rs 4.84 trillion will stay safe.

India retains its position as 3rd Largest Economy on PPP basis for 2017: World Bank Report

- The World Bank has released the new purchasing power parity (PPP) for the reference year 2017, under the International Comparison Program (ICP), that adjust for differences in the cost of living across economies of the world. Globally, 176 economies participated in 2017 cycle of ICP.
- India has retained its position as the third-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) for 2017, as per the World Bank data. India was 3rd largest in 2011 round of World Bank's International Comparison Program (ICP) also.

Moody's Projects India's GDP at -3.1% for Calendar Year 2020 and 6.9% in 2021

- Moody's Investors Service has sharply revised its forecast for India's annual GDP growth and has projected the Indian economy to shrink 3.1 percent in the Calendar year 2020, caused by the disruptions due to the C -19.
- Moody's released its June update to Global Macro Outlook (2020-21) on 22 June 2020.

RIL reaches \$150-billion market valuation mark

- The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has reached \$150-billion mark in term of market capitalisation. Hence, the Mukesh Ambani-helmed RIL has become India's first \$150-billion company in terms of market capitalisation.
- RIL achieved this milestone when its share price had gained 6.23% to close at Rs 1,759, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 11.15 lakh crore i.e. around \$150 billion.
- With this achievement, the market capitalisation of Reliance Industries Limited is more than that of Total SA, Royal Dutch Shell and BP among the top global energy players.

ICICI Home Finance launches "SARAL" scheme for affordable house loan

- ICICI Home Finance Company Limited (HFC) has launched "SARAL" scheme for a special affordable house loan for urban and rural areas.
- The beneficiaries are women, lower, middle-income customers and economically weaker sections, with a maximum household income up to Rs 6 lakh per annum.

AIIB Approves \$750 million loan to India

- Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved USD 750 million as a loan to India to help government to strengthen its response to the effect of the Chinese virus on millions of poor households.
- AIIB is co-financing the loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This is the second loan for India under AIIB's C-19 Crisis Recovery Facility (CRF). Earlier, the bank had provided USD 500 million C-19 emergency response to India.
- With this, AIIB's total sovereign loans to India that have already been approved amount to USD 3.06 billion.

Fitch revises India's outlook to negative from stable

- Fitch Ratings has revised India's long-term outlook to negative from stable, citing risks due to continued acceleration in the number of new C-19 cases as the is eased gradually in the country.
- The global credit rating agency has affirmed the country's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade.
- Fitch expects Indian economic to contract by 5% (-5 percent) in the fiscal year ending March 2021 (FY21).

ADB Forecast India's GDP at -4% for FY'21; 5% for FY'22

- India's economy is forecast to contract by 4 percent in 2020-21, as per the latest Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report of the Asian Development Bank released on 18 June 2020, due to the adverse effect of the .
- For FY2021, ending March 2022, India's GDP is projected to grow at 5%.
GDP for 2020-21 : -4%
GDP for 2021-22 : 5%

Bank of Baroda to completely digitise lending operations

- Bank of Baroda, India's third-largest lender has decided to completely digitise its lending operations including agriculture, home, MSME, auto and personal loans.
- The bank is looking to completely do away with paper-based lending. It has reached out to the big four consultants like McKinsey and Boston Consulting Group to help set up a "digital lending department".
- The approval and disbursement of fresh loans will now happen through the new digital platform while past loans will also be digitised to cut costs and improve profitability. The bank is planning to set up its digital department within two months.

India's forex reserves cross \$500 billion-mark'

- India's forex reserves have now crossed the \$ 500 billion mark, according to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The reserves rose to \$ 501.7 billion, marking an increase of \$ 8.22 billion in a week. Reserves had surged \$3.43 billion to a fresh all-time high of \$493.48 billion in the week-ended May 29.

RBI constitutes Internal Working Group to review ownership, corporate structure of Indian private sector banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a five-member Internal Working Group (IWG) to review the extant guidelines related to ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks.
- The committee will be headed by Dr. Prasanna Kumar Mohanty, Director, Central Board of RBI. It will submit its report by 30 September, 2020.

Indian economy expected to contract 5% in FY21: S&P Ratings

- The GDP growth of India is expected to contract by 5 percent in the fiscal year 2020-21, according to latest forecast by S&P Global Ratings.
- The growth is expected to rebound in 2021-22 at 8.5%

Summary
FY21: -5%
FY22: 8.5%
FY23: 6.5%

RBI releases Framework for sale of Loan Exposure and Securitization of Standard Assets

- The Reserve Bank of India recently released draft framework for “Sale of Loan Exposures” and “Securitization of Standard Assets”.
- The guidelines issued are applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks. This includes All India Financial Institutions such as EXIM Bank, NABARD, Non-Banking Financial Companies.
- The Guidelines has proposed Two Capital Measurement approach. This includes Securitisation External Ratings based approach and Securitisation Standardised Approach.

Fitch Ratings Projects Indian economy to grow at 9.5% in FY22

- Fitch Ratings has forecast India’s GDP growth rate of 9.5 percent in the fiscal year 2021-22.
- Earlier, Fitch Ratings had forecast a 5 percent contraction in the GDP in the ongoing financial year 2020-21.
- Further, it estimates that India’s GDP growth is likely to return to higher levels than ‘BBB’ category peers after the global crises.

OECD Projects India’s GDP at -7.3% for FY21 if strikes again

- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in its OECD Economic Outlook, has projected India’s economy to contract 7.3 percent in the current fiscal year 2020-21 if there is a second wave of the () later this year.
- However, OECD expects the economy to contract 3.7 percent during the year 2020 if there is no second wave. Further, for the fiscal year 2021-22, GDP is estimated at 8.1 percent in case of a second wave and at 7.9 percent in other case, i.e. no second wave.

HDFC Bank launches 'Summer Treats' to meet post needs of customers

- India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has launched 'Summer Treats', to offers a range of products to help meet the changing needs of merchants as well as salaried and self-employed customers.
- As C-19 have changed consumer lifestyles and demands such as work from home and school from home, there have been an increased demand for phones, tablets, computers and related accessories. Similarly, demand for safe digital payments and private transport is also rising as well as the need for business finance has also increased.
- Summer Treats fulfills all such needs by providing a host of exciting offers. The key offers include:

RBI creates Payment Infrastructure Development Fund

- The Reserve Bank of India created Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs 500 crores. The apex bank has made an initial contribution of Rs 250 crores towards the funds. The rest of the fund is to come through the card issuing banks.
- The fund has been created to increase point of sale infrastructure and other digital payment infrastructure in the country.
- The funds are being allocated in line with the measures proposed in the vision document on payment and settlement systems in India 2019-21.
- The funds are to be governed through an advisory council. However, the funds will be administered and managed by RBI.

IndusInd Bank Launches India's First Mobile-based current account opening facility

- IndusInd is the first bank in India to introduce this assisted mobile application based facility which will enable the Bank to open current accounts for self-employed individuals and businesses digitally, in just a few hours.
- The IndusInd app uses multiple 'Application Programme Interface' (APIs) and enables secured validation of KYC documents from authorised government platforms such as the Goods and Service Tax (GST), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), Import Export Code (IEC) and Aadhaar.

Axis Bank MasterCard and World line launches 'Soft POS', first financial payments service

- Axis Bank Ltd, Mastercard India & World line India partnered to launch a digital point-of-sale(POS) solution 'Soft POS', the 1st financial payments service in India to transform everyday smartphones into merchant POS terminals.
- Soft POS provides a cost-effective card acceptance solution for all micro-merchants and SMEs in India by eliminating the need to invest in a POS device. The app allows banks to have complete visibility of a merchant's transactions, which makes it easier for small merchants to get business loans.
- It helps offline merchants and Kirana stores accept payments using their smartphones. Merchants can accept contactless payments directly by their own Android

smartphones, this functionality is called “Tap on Phone” which means a cardholder can tap his/her contactless card on the merchant Smartphone with NFC functionality and so encourages social distancing.

- The solution enables merchants to accept payments through various digital form factors which include Bharat QR, sending payment links to customers and accepting Near Field Communication(NFC) based technology payments to boost contactless payments in the country.

Facebook to acquire 9.9% stake in Jio Platforms via Jaadhu Holdings

- Facebook will acquire this stake in Jio Platforms via a new entity named Jaadhu Holdings LLC. According to a submission made to the Competition Commission of India, Jaadhu Holdings, LLC is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Facebook, Inc.
- Jaadhu is a newly incorporated company formed in March 2020 under the laws of the State of Delaware, US. Jaadhu is not engaged in any business in India or anywhere in the world.

Moody's downgrades India's sovereign rating to 'Baa3', maintains negative outlook, revises GDP for FY21 to -4%

- Moody's Investors Service has downgraded India's sovereign rating one notch to the lowest investment grade (Baa3) from "Baa2", with negative outlook.
- "Baa3" is the lowest investment grade, just a notch above junk status.
- Moody's has also revised its FY21 GDP estimate for India to 4% contraction against 0% growth projected earlier. However, the economic growth is projected to pick up at 8.7% in FY22 and 6% in FY23.

Yes Bank acquires 24.19% stake in Dish TV via pledged shares

- Private sector lender YES Bank has acquired 24.19 percent stake in Dish TV India Ltd, making it the second-largest shareholder in the direct-to-home (DTH) company.
- Yes Bank Ltd has acquired the stakes by invoking pledges against 44.53 equity shares kept as collateral with the private lender for a loan.