Table of Contents

01. INTERNATIONAL NEWS
02. NATIONAL NEWS
03. SPORTS
04. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
05. OBITUARY
06. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS
07. IMPORTANT DAYS
08. SUMMITS AND MOU’S
09. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
10. RANKING
11. BOOKS AND AUTHORS
12. BANKING AND ECONOMY
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India signs MoU with Denmark on Intellectual Property cooperation
- To further the objectives of National IPR Policy and become a major player in global innovation, India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Denmark in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) Cooperation.
- The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries by way of exchange of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP awareness among public, authorities, businesses and research and educational institutions of both countries.

Alexander Lukashenko sworn in as President of Belarus for 6th term
- President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko has been sworn in for a sixth term on 23 September 2020.
- The 66 year-old authoritarian leader won 80% of the vote in the presidential election to gain another 5 year term.
- Lukashenko is serving as the President of Belarus since the establishment of the office 26 years ago, on 20 July 1994.

India extends soft loan of $250 million to Maldives in largest bilateral financial aid
- India has extended financial assistance of USD 250 million to the Maldives to help it mitigate the economic impact of the C-19 pandemic.
- The budgetary support of USD 250 million has been extended without conditions.
- This financial assistance is being routed through the State Bank of India (SBI), Male so that it does not reflect in the external borrowings of the Maldives.

New Zealand becomes first country to mandate climate risk disclosures
- New Zealand has become the first country to pass legislation requiring financial entities to declare their climate-related risks. The rule will apply to banks, insurers, all listed debt and equity issuers.
- Financial entities in New Zealand will have to comply with the framework laid down by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

Brazil, India, and South Africa jointly call for comprehensive reforms in UNSC
- India South Africa and Brazil have jointly called for the comprehensive reforms in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the virtual meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers on September 16, 2020.
- The meeting was chaired by the Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and was attended by his South African Counterpart Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor and Brazilian Counterpart Fabio Marzano.
- The three ministers adopted a joint statement on the reform of the UNSC and emphasized the expansion of its membership by including the representation from developing and emerging countries.
Israel, Bahrain, UAE sign historic US-brokered peace deals
- Israel, Bahrain, and UAE signed Abraham Accords on September 15, 2020, in a signing ceremony which was presided over by the President of United States Donald Trump at the White House.
- The Abraham Accords have been signed to establish the foundation of peace agreements between Israel and the two Arab nations- Bahrain and UAE.

TikTok chooses Oracle as its technology partner for its US operations
- ByteDance has chosen Oracle as a US partner for its popular TikTok video service, a decision that comes as a deadline for a ban of the popular app draws near.
- Microsoft was also in a bid to acquire TikTok in the United States but the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform “TikTok” chose Oracle over Microsoft to be its technology partner for its American operations.

India becomes member of United Nation’s Commission on Status of Women (UNCSW)
- UNCSW is a body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is responsible for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- India will be a member of the UNCSW for four years — from 2021 to 2025. Three countries, India, China and Afghanistan had contested the elections in which India and Afghanistan have been elected to UNCSW while China has failed to do so.
- TS Tirumurti, permanent representative of India to the United Nations shared the information.

Liberia declares rape a national emergency after spike in cases
- Liberian President George Weah has declared rape a national emergency and ordered new measures to tackle the problem after a recent spike of cases in the West African state.
- The move comes after thousands of Liberians protested against rising incidents of rape in the capital Monrovia last month in a bid to draw attention to the country’s alarming rate of sexual assault.
- The government will also establish a so-called “national security task force” on sexual and gender-based violence.

Yoshihide Suga wins Japan’s ruling party’s leadership vote, set to become PM
- Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga won the leadership vote of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan on September 14, 2020. Mr. Suga will soon secure the position of the new Prime Minister of the country as on September 16, 2020, the Japanese parliament will confirm Suga as the head of the government.
- As per the final count, Mr. Suga had secured 377 votes of a total of 534 votes. Yoshihide Suga will be replacing the long-serving Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, who had resigned in August 2020 due to health problems.

India, U.S. and Israel collaborating in 5G tech
- India, Israel and the United States have begun collaboration in developmental area, and
in next generation of emerging technologies, including a transparent, open, reliable and secure 5G communication network.

- It was announced at the virtual US-India-Israel summit that focused on trilateral partnerships in the strategic, technology and development arenas.
- The branching out of this trilateral initiative in development and technological arena is a result of the people-to-people collaboration, in particular those by Indian diaspora in the US and Israel, that was initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his historic visit to Israel three years ago in July 2017.

Parachutist makes world’s first jump from solar-powered plane

- A parachutist completed the world’s first jump from a solar-powered aircraft after the plane soared to a height of 1,520 metres (nearly 5,000 ft) over western Switzerland.
- The two-seater prototype plane made the test flight in good weather and to promote renewable energy.
- Parachutist Raphael Domjan reached a speed of 150 kilometres per hour during his jump, landing near the project base in Payerne.

Apple’s first ‘floating’ store to be launched in Singapore

- Technology giant Apple Inc. has announced that it is going to open its first ever “floating” store, in Singapore on 10th September 2020.
- The floating Apple Store, will be located at Singapore’s posh Marina Bay Sands resort. It will be the third retail store of Apple in Singapore.

Wilmington as the first World War II Heritage City

- Donald Trump, President of the USA has announced Wilmington (located in southern US state North Carolina) as the first World War II Heritage City.
- The announcement was made at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. September 2, 2020 marks the 75th Commemoration of the End of World War II.

Saudi Arabia chairs G20 Foreign Ministers’ Extraordinary Meeting

- The G20 Foreign Ministers’ Extraordinary Meeting was held under the current Chair, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the backdrop of the C-19 pandemic crisis.
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al-Saud, chaired the virtual meeting. From India External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar represented the meeting.
- The discussions were held on strengthening international cooperation across borders in wake of C-19 crisis.

Chinese Navy becomes largest navy of the world

- Chinese Navy has become the world’s largest navy. The country looks forward to set up its new PLA bases in the Indo-Pacific region. This announcement was made by Pentagon in its report to the US Congress.
- The Pentagon also reported that China is planning to establish PLA facilities in over 12
countries.

Mustapha Adib becomes new Prime Minister of Lebanon
- Lebanon’s ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib was appointed prime minister in crisis-hit Lebanon. Adib, who has been Beirut’s Berlin envoy since 2013, is affiliated with a small Sunni party headed by former Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

India to receive development assistance loan worth Rs 3,500 Cr from Japan to fight C-19
- Japan has committed an official Development Assistance loan of 3 thousand 500 crore rupees for the C-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support.
- This programme loan aims to support India’s efforts in fighting C-19 and to prepare the health system to manage future epidemics and also to improve the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.

UAE’s DMCC launches “Agriota E-Marketplace”
- Government of Dubai Authority on commodities trade and enterprise, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) has rolled out a technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing platform “Agriota E-Marketplace”.
- The platform which uses blockchain will help in bridging the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the UAE's food industry.

Ministry of Home Affairs approves 3 more NIA branches at Chennai, Ranchi & Imphal
- The Home Affairs Ministry (MHA) has approved to set up 3 additional branches of National Investigation Agency (NIA) at Chennai, Ranchi and Imphal.
- The move is expected to ensure quick response to any emergency situation arising in these three states.It will also strengthen NIA's capability to interrogate terrorism-related cases and other matters related to National Security.
- Presently, there are 9 branches of National Investigation Agency (NIA) which are located at:
  1. Guwahati
  2. Jammu
  3. Mumbai
  4. Kolkata
  5. Kochi
  6. Hyderabad
  7. Raipur
  8. Lucknow
  9. Chandigarh

World’s longest span concrete deck extra-dosed cable stayed bridge inaugurated in Hyderabad
- Union MoS for Home G Kishan Reddy and Minister of Municipal Administration and
Urban Development KT Rama Rao inaugurated the World’s longest span concrete deck extra-dosed cable-stayed bridge at Durgam Cheruvu of Hyderabad.

- The bridge was constructed at the cost of Rs 184 crore and it was built by Larsen & Toubro.
- The cable-stayed bridge portion is 435 m long, including the approaches at both ends, 25.8 m wide with a total of 52 stay cables.

**Defence Minister unveils Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020 in New Delhi on September 28, 2020. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 will be applicable with effect from October 1, 2020.
- The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was first promulgated in 2002. Since then, the procedure has been revised periodically to provide a boost to the growing domestic industry and achieve enhanced self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- The Defence Minister had approved the constitution of the Main Review Committee under Chairmanship of DG (Acquisition) Apurva Chandra in August 2019 for preparation of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP).

**ICMR Vaccine web portal & C-19 National Clinical Registry launched**

- The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the first-of-its-kind national vaccine portal for C-19 on 28 September 2020, created by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- The vaccine web portal will act as a repository for all information related to C-19 vaccine development in India and abroad. Currently, 3 vaccines are undergoing clinical trials in India for C-19.
- The portal will also provide information related to C-19 vaccine data from the World Health Organisation (WHO). You can access the website at [https://vaccine.icmr.org.in/](https://vaccine.icmr.org.in/).

**PM Modi’s address at 75th UN General Assembly**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 75th United Nations General Assembly session on September 26, 2020 through a pre-recorded video statement, which was broadcasted at the UN General Assembly hall in New York.
- The Indian Prime Minister began his statement by congratulating each and every member country on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations on behalf of 1.3 billion people of India. He stated that India is proud of the fact that it is one of the founding members of the United Nations.
- The theme of the 75th UN General Assembly session is - "The Future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting the C-19 through effective multilateral action."

**Country’s apex regulator of medical education ‘National Medical Commission’ comes into existence**

- The National Medical Commission (NMC), in place of the Medical Council of India (MCI), as the country’s apex regulator of medical education and profession has come into
existence.

- With the NMC coming into being, the Board of Governors (BoG) which superseded the MCI on September 26th, 2018, to perform its functions, has been dissolved and the nearly 64-year-old Indian Medical Council Act abolished.
- The NMC comprises a chairman, 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members.

**Govt sanctions 670 electric buses, 241 charging stations to boost electric mobility**

- The government has sanctioned 670 electric buses and 241 charging stations to boost the electric mobility in the country.
- The buses have been sanctioned in the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Chandigarh whereas charging stations in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat and Port Blair under Phase-II of FAME India Scheme.
- The second phase of this scheme has been implemented from last year with a total budgetary support of 10 thousand crore rupees.

**UP govt launches unified portal ‘U-Rise’ to guide students in learning, career counselling, employment**

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a unified portal called ‘U-Rise’ to guide students in learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state. Uttar Pradesh was the first state to launch a unified portal along with the implementation of NEP.
- It is the biggest reform programme in the education sector after the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.
- The programme would connect students with practical and technical knowledge.

**Labour Codes passed by Parliament to reform labour laws**

- In a historic move, the Parliament has passed three labour codes on September 23, 2020 to reform the Labour Laws. These labour codes are Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code) and Social Security Code, 2020.
- These labour codes aim to introduce transparency in the changing business environment.

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

- Railways has planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023 said by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- Around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year. A total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country.

**EAM Dr S Jaishankar attends Special Ministerial Meeting of FMs of CICA**

- The Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar participated in the Special Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CICA on 24 September 2020.
- CICA is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting
peace, security and stability in Asia. CICA stands for the ‘Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia’.  
- The Secretariat of CICA is based at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. It has 27 member states including India; 8 observer states and 5 observer organizations.

Government implements O-SMART Scheme  
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences has implemented the Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources, and Technology (O-SMART) Scheme.  
- The scheme covers 16 sub-projects related to the Ocean development activities including resources, services, technology, observations, and sciences. The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre is also working under the O-SMART Scheme.  
- The Scheme generates and regularly update information on Marine Living Resources and their relationship with the physical in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Government to set up Neutrino Observatory in the country  
- The central government is planning to set up a Neutrino Observatory in the country. This was informed by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh on September 21, 2020 in a written reply in the lower house of the Parliament, Lok Sabha.  
- The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) will be a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover that will study the neutrinos produced in the atmosphere of the Earth.

Railway plans to complete 100% electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023  
- The Indian Railways have set the target to achieve 100 percent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023.  
- This information was stated by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 23 September 2020.

Narendra Modi becomes second Indian PM to win Ig Nobel Prize  
- Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education.  
- He has been awarded the prestigious award for “using the C-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can”.  
- PM Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to be honored with the Ig Nobel Prize. Prior to this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded in 1998.  
- PM Modi shares the award with Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, Donald Trump of the USA, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan.

Govt launched Platform “YuWaah” to make young people career ready.  
- Government has launched YuWaah – a multi-stakeholder platform to make young

- Basic objective of YuWaah project
  - Support young people by providing entrepreneurship classes (online and offline)
  - Upskilling of young people on 21st century works and skills
  - Create linkages with aspirational economic opportunities
  - Providing career guidance support to young people

J&K launched National Generic Document Registration System

- Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha launched the National Generic Document Registration System for the union territory.
- The system was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to address the diversity and variations that prevails across the states on account of formats, languages, processes and formulae.
- The national generic document registration system was developed under Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme.

Women officers to join Indian Navy’s helicopter stream for first time ever

- For the first time ever, two women officers will be joining the helicopter stream of the Indian Navy as “Observers” (Airborne Tacticians).
- These women officers will be first batch of women airborne combatants to operate from warships. The entry of women officers was earlier restricted to fixed-wing aircraft of Indian Navy.

Govt launches Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025.
- The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- The activities under the NAPDDR include awareness generation programmes in schools, colleges, Universities, workshop and provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.

PM to inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit on 2nd October 2020

- Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit on 2nd October’2020 through videoconferencing.
- The VAIBHAV Summit is a joint initiative of all S&T and Academic Organisations of India (working in Research, Academic and Scientific fields) to enable deliberations on thought processes, practices and R&D culture with a problem-solving approach for well-defined objectives.
- The month-long Summit will provide a platform to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for solving emerging challenges and create an
ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through global outreach.

10th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisors
- 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security was held virtually. The 10th meeting of the NSAs was hosted by the current chair of BRICS i.e. Russia.
- The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations met to deliberate upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries.
- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval represented India in a virtual meet of top security officials from Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping.

Tamil Nadu becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country
- Tamil Nadu has become the first state in India to launch policies on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies.
- Chief minister Edapaddi K Palaniswami unveiled the Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy, 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy, 2020, and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020 at Connect 2020.
- The project will be implemented by establishing and leveraging the State Family Data Base (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announces 1350 crore relief package for traders
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced an economic package of Rs 1350 crore for Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to boost the business and the other ailing sectors that have suffered huge losses for several years in the newly formed Union Territory.
- This is additional to the benefits of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and other measures taken by the government to comfort the business community.
- The state government has been decided to give 5% interest subvention to every borrower from the business community, without any conditions for six months in the current financial year.

Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee
- The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021.
- The committee, constituted in September 2019, is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary Rajesh Verma.
- It was set up to suggest measures to de-clog and improve functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to implementation of the Companies Act as well as the Limited Liability Partnership Act.

Union govt approves amendment in FDI policy in Defence Sector
- The Union Government has approved the amendment in Foreign Direct Investment
Policy in Defence Sector. The Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that for new licensees, FDI is allowed upto 74 percent through the automatic route and beyond 74 percent will be permitted through the government route.

- The Minister further said that for existing licensees, infusion of fresh foreign investment up to 49 percent will be allowed by making a declaration of change or transfer within 30 days.
- The move aims to enhance ease of doing business and contribute to the growth of investment, income and employment. The foreign investments in the defence sector shall be subject to scrutiny on grounds of national security.

**Atal Tunnel, World’s longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet, connecting Manali to Leh ready after 10 years**

- World’s longest highway tunnel connecting Manali to Leh under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range of Himalayas on the Leh-Manali highway is now completed after 10 years.
- The Tunnel is named after late and former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It’s the world’s highest tunnel situated at an altitude above 10,000 metres. The Tunnel is 9 km long. The tunnel will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by up to 46 kms. It will also reduce the travel time by up to 4 hours.

**Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed in Rajya Sabha**

- The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homeopathic education and practice. The Bill replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 that was promulgated on April 24, 2020.

**PM inaugurates Kosi Rail mega bridge in Bihar through video conferencing**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the historical Kosi Rail Mega Bridge to the nation and also inaugurated 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities to benefit the people of Bihar in Bihar via video-conferencing.
- The bridge has strategic importance along the India-Nepal border, which connects the Mithila and Kosi region. The historical project to build the bridge, which is 1.9 kilometres long and has been constructed at a cost of Rs 516 crore.
- With the construction of the bridge the rail distance between Nirmali and Saraigarh would come down from the present 298 kilometres to 22 kilometres.

**India’s first exclusive private jet terminal inaugurated at International airport in Delhi**

- The Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on September 17, 2020, inaugurated India’s first exclusive private jet terminal at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- The terminal will handle the flight operations of the private jets. The new terminal also
has the capacity to handle over 50 passengers every hour.
- The private jet terminal will enable the smooth movement of the chartered aircraft and the business jets.

**Fourth Global Ayurveda Summit organised virtually**
- The fourth edition of the Global Ayurveda Summit, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held virtually with the theme ‘Ayurveda For Immunity’. The summit was inaugurated by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- The objective of the summit is to showcase Ayurveda and herbal medicine to the world as a solution named ‘Health as One’ and ‘Immunity through Ayurveda’.
- The Global Ayurveda Summit 2020 will have 8-day International Conference, 30-day International Exhibition and Focused Business to Business Meetings.

**Tata Groups win new Parliament Building Contract under Central Vista Project**
- Tata Group has won the contract for the construction of the new Parliament Building with a bid of Rs. 861.90 crores. Tata has beaten Larsen & Toubro whose bid was at Rs. 865 crores.
- The Central Public Works Department had opened the financial bid for the new Parliament Building on September 16, 2020. In total, 7 companies had placed the pre-qualification technical bids for the construction of the new Parliament Building.

**Lok Sabha passes bill to bring Cooperative Banks under Reserve Bank of India**
- The Lok Sabha has passed an amendment bill to the Banking Regulation Act on September 16, 2020, to bring Cooperative Banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The amendment bill has replaced an ordinance that was issued on June 26, 2020. The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified that the powers of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies have not been encroached upon but the banking activities of the Cooperatives will not be regulated by RBI.

**Lok Sabha passes Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020**
- Lok Sabha on September 15, 2020, passed Essential Commodities Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The bill allows the central government to regulate the supply of some of the food items only under the extraordinary circumstances which include natural calamity of grave nature, war, famine, and extraordinary price rise.
- The latest bill passed in Lok Sabha seeks to increase the competition in the agricultural sector and to increase farmers’ income. It also aims to liberlise the regulatory system while also protecting the interests of the consumers.

**Cabinet approves establishment of new AIIMS at Bihar’s Darbhanga**
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar.
- The total cost will be Rs.1264 crore and is likely to be completed within four years from
the date of the approval of Government of India. The medical college will have 100 MBBS seats.

Parliament passes Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020, after Rajya Sabha approval
- The Parliament on September 15, 2020, passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 after it was approved by Rajya Sabha. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha on March 17, 2020.
- The bill aims to amend the Aircraft Act of 1934 and convert the 3 regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry into the statutory bodies.
- The 3 regulatory bodies include the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

Govt moves ahead with Orientation and Training Programme of iRAD App
- Road Transport and Highways Ministry is in the process of implementing Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD) which will be applicable across the country.
- In the first instance, it has been decided to implement the proposal in six states. These are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The basic iRAD app has been developed and will be customized as per the requirements of concerned states.

UP Government to set up a special security force that can arrest or search without a warrant
- The Uttar Pradesh State Government had announced on September 13, 2020, that a special security force will be constituted to protect airports, courts, administrative buildings, banks, metros, and other government offices.
- The Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF) will be allowed to conduct searches and arrests without any warrants if it is sure about the crime.
- The information regarding the special security force was shared by UP’s Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi during a press briefing.

Odisha Launches ‘GARIMA’ Scheme For Sanitation Workers
- The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched a new scheme named ‘GARIMA’ which aims to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state. Initially, the state government has allocated a corpus fund of Rs 50 crore for the scheme.
- GARIMA Scheme will be implemented by state Housing and Urban Development department in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha.
- Around 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families with about one lakh population will benefit from the scheme.

AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launches 'YSR Aasara’ scheme; 87 lakh women to benefit
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the ‘YSR Aasara’ programme aimed at “empowering women economically and socially”.
- Under the YSR Aasara scheme, Andhra Pradesh government will reimburse
outstanding bank loans of self-help groups as on April 11, 2019, in four instalments.

- Rs 6,792.2 crore towards the first installment of the total dues of Rs 27,169 crores was released to the banks of 87,74,674 women belonging to 8.7 lakh SHGs.

**MoHUA launches Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF 2.0)**
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0. To provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
- The initiative was launched by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs on 11 September in a virtual event organised by the Smart Cities Mission. The framework comprise of 28 indicators across five categories. They are:
  1. Energy and Green Buildings,
  2. Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity,
  3. Mobility and Air Quality,
  4. Water Management and
  5. Waste Management.
- The CSCAF 2.0 initiative will be implemented by the MoHUA, with support from the Climate Centre for Cities under National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). CSCAF initiative will inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

**Govt Releases Rs 6,195 crore to 14 States As Revenue Deficit Grant**
- The government released Rs 6,195.08 crore to 14 states as the sixth equated monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. This would provide them additional resources during the C-19 crisis.
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal are the 14 states to whom the grant has been released.

**India announces the states’ startup ranking list – Gujarat gets the best performer, while Karnataka and Kerala are top performers**
- Karnataka and Kerala have emerged as the top performers, while Gujarat was ranked as the best performer in second edition of States’ Startup Ranking 2019, as per the results announced by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The states in the leader category are Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Chandigarh.
- In the aspiring leaders category, states like Telangana, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Nagaland were included.
- In the Emerging Startup Ecosystem category, states included are Andra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu,
Uttar Pradesh.
- In the Best Performers category – Andaman and Nicobar Islands (among UTs and north eastern states)Gujarat (among all other states).

**Asian Development Bank and Suguna Foods Sign $15 Million Financing Deal**
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has signed a pact for a USD 15-million debt financing through the subscription of non-convertible debentures for Suguna Foods, to help sustain poultry farming operations, rural livelihoods and food security in India during the C-19 pandemic.
- DB’s assistance will provide essential liquidity support to Suguna’s operations during this C-19 crisis, help the company build inventory buffers and make timely payments to contract farmers and suppliers.
- The Bank's assistance comprises two-year amortising senior secured non-convertible debentures in three tranches.

**ADB, ENGIE sign Rs.466-crore loan for developing solar project in Gujarat**
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and France’s ENGIE group have signed a long-term loan of up to ₹ 466 crore for setting up a 200-MW solar power project in Gujarat.
- The project will be developed in the Raghanesda Solar Park. Electro Solaire Private Limited (ESPL), a special purpose vehicle owned by the ENGIE group, will implement the project.
- ESPL is collaborating with the Gujarat government to construct the project and has signed a power purchase agreement for 25 years with the State government.

**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin): PM to participate in ‘Griha Pravesh’ ceremony virtually**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in ‘Griha Pravesh’ ceremony and virtually inaugurate 1.75 lakh houses in Madhya Pradesh.
- The house of Subhash and Sushila of Urdan village of Betul district of MP has been completed recently under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

**Golden Temple gets FCRA Registration**
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved registration of the Sri Harmandir Sahib under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 on 9 September 2020.
- Sri Harmandir Sahib is famous as Golden Temple in Amritsar. The registration under FCRA 2010 will allow the Golden Temple to receive foreign funds. The FCRA registration will be valid for a period of five years.

**13th Aero India-21 to be held in Bengaluru in Feb 2021**
- The 13th edition of Aero India-21 is scheduled to be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3 to 07 February 2021.
- Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh has launched the website for Aero India 2021, so that the exhibitors can register and book their space online as well as Business and other
visitors buy their tickets online to visit the show.

- The website can be accessed at https://aeroindia.gov.in
- Aero India is Asia’s largest air show and aviation exhibition held biennially in Bengaluru since 1996.

**Meghalaya launched India’s largest “Piggery Mission”**
- The state government of Meghalaya has launched India's Biggest "Piggery Mission" with an outlay of Rs 209 Crores.
- It is being launched under the aegis of Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society (MLEADS) and funded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- The main objective of the Piggery Mission is to reduce the annual import of Pork worth Rs 150 Crore and make Meghalaya self-sufficient (“Aatma Nirbhar”) in pork production over the next 3 years.

**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin): PM to participate in ‘Griha Pravesh’ ceremony virtually**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in ‘Griha Pravesh’ ceremony and virtually inaugurate 1.75 lakh houses in Madhya Pradesh.
- The house of Subhash and Sushila of Urdan village of Betul district of MP has been completed recently under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

**Golden Temple gets FCRA Registration**
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved registration of the Sri Harmandir Sahib under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 on 9 September 2020.
- Sri Harmandir Sahib is famous as Golden Temple in Amritsar. The registration under FCRA 2010 will allow the Golden Temple to receive foreign funds. The FCRA registration will be valid for a period of five years.

**13th Aero India-21 to be held in Bengaluru in Feb 2021**
- The 13th edition of Aero India-21 is scheduled to be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3 to 07 February 2021.
- Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh has launched the website for Aero India 2021, so that the exhibitors can register and book their space online as well as Business and other visitors buy their tickets online to visit the show.
- The website can be accessed at https://aeroindia.gov.in
- Aero India is Asia’s largest air show and aviation exhibition held biennially in Bengaluru since 1996.

**Meghalaya launched India’s largest “Piggery Mission”**
- The state government of Meghalaya has launched India's Biggest “Piggery Mission” with an outlay of Rs 209 Crores.
It is being launched under the aegis of Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society (MLEADS) and funded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

The main objective of the Piggery Mission is to reduce the annual import of Pork worth Rs 150 Crore and make Meghalaya self-sufficient (“Aatma Nirbhar”) in pork production over the next 3 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, e-Gopala app

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 10, 2020, digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and e-Gopala app for farmers in Bihar.
- PM also launched several other initiatives for the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar.
- The yojana aims to focus on the sustainable and focused development of the fisheries sector in the country. While the e-Gopala app is a breed improvement marketplace and information portal launched for the direct use of the farmers.

Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa launches country’s first integrated air ambulance

- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa unveiled the country’s first integrated air ambulance service jointly launched in the State capital, Bengaluru by the International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT) and the Kyathi in the city.
- The ICATT Kyathi’s fixed wing aircraft for long distance emergency medical transport, combined with helicopter and land ambulance services providing last mile connectivity, will address the growing need for timely and quality emergency medical services in India.

Child Mortality Rate in India declined substantially between 1990 and 2019: UNICEF Report

- According to the new mortality estimates released by UNICEF, India’s child mortality rate has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019.
- The under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India declined to 34% in 2019 from 126% in 1990. The number of global under-five deaths has dropped to its lower point on record in 2019 to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990.
- The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality’ Report 2020 is a joint work of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank Group.

Silver Lake Partners has picked up 1.75 per cent stake in the retail arm of Reliance Industries for Rs 7,500 crore.

- This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.21 lakh crore. Silver Lake’s investment will translate into a 1.75 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis.
- This marks the second billion-dollar investment by Silver Lake in a Reliance Industries subsidiary after the USD 1.35 billion investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this
First World Solar Technology Summit of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held
- The first-ever World Technology Summit was scheduled on September 8, 2020, and it was organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and FICCI on a virtual platform.
- Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel addressed the inaugural session as well as the valedictory session of the summit. More than 26000 participants from 149 countries joined the virtual Summit.
- The first world solar technology summit aims to focus on state-of-art technologies and the next-generation technologies that will help towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently.
- The Summit included signing of four agreements between
  - ISA and International Institute of Refrigeration,
  - ISA and Global Green Growth Institute.
  - ISA and National Thermal Power Corporation,
  - A tripartite agreement between India’s Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the World Bank and the International Solar Alliance.
- ISA also launched a Journal on Solar Energy (I JOSE) that would help authors from across the globe to publish their articles on solar energy.

Tamil Nadu government releases new Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy 2020
- Tamil Nadu state government on September 7, 2020, released a new Electronic Hardware and Manufacturing Policy 2020 which aims at increasing the state’s electronics industry output to $100 billion by 2025.
- The policy will also be undertaking the skill training of over 1,00,000 semi-skilled and skilled people by 2024 in order to meet the incremental human resource requirement.

Centre releases draft guidelines on advertising, to treat non-legible disclaimers as misleading ads
- The Central Government has released a draft of the advertising code according to which celebrity endorsements through posts, personal tweets, blogs, or other testimonials must be based on either adequate information about or experience with the service or product being endorsed.
- As per the code, any disclaimers in small font sizes in advertisements and comparative advertising which is not factual will treated as misleading ads and can be penalized.
- The guidelines on advertising have been prepared by the Consumers Affairs Ministry under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Agriculture ministry approves Rs. 4 crore for up-gradation of soil testing labs in Kashmir
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare ministry has approved four crore rupees for up-gradation of Soil Testing labs across the Kashmir valley.
- For the quality control laboratory upgradation, 40 lakh rupees have been earmarked during the current year, which will facilitate upgradation and strengthening of fertilizer
quality control lab.

**J-K LG launches SPARROW system for J-K Administrative Service officers**
- The SPARROW system is aimed at bringing more transparency, avoiding loss of Appraisal Reports during the transition, ensuring better monitoring and timely completion of performance appraisals.

**Union Minister of Education launches mobile app “EnglishPro”**
- Union Minister of Education has launched a free mobile app named as “EnglishPro”. The mobile application has been developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad under University Social Responsibility (USR).
- The mobile application “EnglishPro” will help learners in developing Indian English Pronunciation in the unique “Indian” way.

**Assam re-launches self-employment scheme SVAYEM worth Rs 1,000 crore**
- The state government of Assam re-launched an old scheme titled ‘Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM)’ on 4 September 2020, which aims to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of the state.
- The SVAYEM scheme was launched by the government in 2017-18. This is the biggest self-employment programme launched by any government in Assam since Independence. The scheme has been re-launched with a budget of Rs 1000 crore.
- Under the scheme, the state government would provide Rs 50,000 each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures.

**35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific 2020**
- The 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) was held virtual format due to the global C-19 pandemic.
- The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference.
- The conference focused on regional priorities and issues such as C-19, the state of agriculture, natural resources management, food security and nutrition.

**First-ever cannabis medicine project to come up in Jammu**
- Union minister Jitendra Singh announced that the first-ever cannabis medicine project will soon be set up in Jammu.
- The cannabis medicine project will be set up with the collaboration of Canada at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu.
- It is the first major foreign investment in Jammu and Kashmir after it became a Union Territory (UT).
WhatsApp Partners with CyberPeace Foundation to create awareness on cyber safety among students
- The Facebook-owned WhatsApp has entered into a partnership with the cyber security think tank CyberPeace Foundation to create awareness on cyber safety among students. The awareness campaign has been launched under the “e-Raksha” programme and will be implemented in phases.
- In the first phase, 15,000 students will be covered in five regions by the end of 2020. They include Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
- CyberPeace Foundation will train teachers, parents and students using a co-created curriculum to arm them with tips and tricks to increase online safety for children in consultation with UNICEF and state police authorities about cyber threats such as cyberbullying, stumbling across child abuse material, cybercriminals disrupting online classes, the spread of misinformation, privacy issues etc.

Banks Sanctioned Rs 5,350cr To Cos In West Bengal As Emergency Loans
- Banks in West Bengal have sanctioned Rs 5,350 crore of loans till the last week of August to businesses to tide over liquidity woes amid the C-19 crisis.
- Public and private sector lenders have sanctioned the loans under the Centre’s Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). At the national level, the amount stood at around Rs 1.60 lakh crore.

Karnataka approves Rs. 600-cr watershed project ‘REWARD’ with World Bank assistance
- The Karnataka Cabinet has approved a project titled ‘Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agriculture Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD)’.
- The REWARD project is designed to ensure soil and water conservation in 20 taluks with low groundwater levels in Karnataka. The total cost of this project is Rs 600 crore.
- The World Bank will fund 70% of the project amount, which amounts to Rs 420 crore, whereas, 30% of the expenses (Rs 180 crore) will be borne by the state government of Karnataka.

England cricketer Ian Bell announces retirement
- Cricketer Ian Bell from England has announced that he will retire from all forms of cricket at the end of the 2020 domestic season.
- Ian Bell, 38, retired from ODIs in 2015 to focus on Test cricket. He is a five-time Ashes winner and has spent his entire career with Warwickshire.

Pierre Gasly wins F1 Italian Grand Prix 2020
- Pierre Gasly (Scuderia AlphaTauri, France) has won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix 2020 held on September 06, 2020. This is his first Grand Prix win.
- Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place.
- Lewis Hamilton ended at 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.
Apart from this, Charles Leclerc crashed out on the exit of Parabolica.

Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat programme: Goa paired with Jharkhand
- Under Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat, Goa is paired with Jharkhand. Lot of exchange activities are happening on this front.
- Lokotsav programmes held earlier in Goa in Panaji evoked good response. Stalls of Jharkhand displayed delicacies from that state and Goans enjoyed savouring the same.
- Folk dances presented by Jharkhand artistes also were appreciated by Goan artistes. Later Goan artistes also visited Jharkhand and presented Goan folk dances.

Sikkim & Delhi paired for cultural exchanges under Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat programme
- Sikkim is paired with Delhi under Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat for promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.
- The Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat programme aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and Union Territories in India.

Madhya Pradesh paired with Manipur and Nagaland under ‘Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat Abhiyan’
- Madhya Pradesh have been paired with Manipur and Nagaland for implementing the Centre’s ambitious scheme Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat Abhiyan.
- The people of three States are involved in various activities for understanding art and culture, education, literature and traditions of each other.
- The ‘Ek Bharat, Shresht Bharat’ programme aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and Union Territories in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.

India to host Quad meet and 2+2 dialogue
- India will soon be hosting the Quad meet involving Australia, Japan and the United States and the 2+2 dialogue with the United States. The details are being worked out for the same.
- The information regarding the diplomatic engagements was shared by the Ministry of External Affairs at the regular weekly briefing on September 3, 2020.
- The Quad or quadrilateral security dialogue is a grouping of four democracies - India, Australia, Japan and the United States. Two of the quad countries- Australia and Japan have assured huge investments in India’s infrastructure technology and supply chain.

India’s First Regional Voters’ Awareness Centre to Come Up in Jaipur
- Election Commission of India (ECI) will set up the country’s first regional voters’ awareness centre in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- It will cater to four states — Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.
- The centre will carry out various awareness activities under the Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme. Sunil Arora is the present
Chief Election Commissioner.

**Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel virtually attends 5th BRICS Culture Ministers’ Meet**
- The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers’ Meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Russian Federation. India was represented by Union Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in the 5th BRICS Culture Ministers’ Meet.
- The participants of the meeting deliberated on the impact of the epidemiological situation on the cultural sphere in the BRICS countries. It also reviewed the possible implementation of joint cultural online-projects within BRICS.
- The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers’ Meeting featured the participation of delegates from Culture Ministries of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of India, the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of South Africa.

**Andhra Pradesh to set up crop insurance firm**
- Andhra Pradesh, which is among the few States that have chosen to have their own crop insurance schemes, is in the process of establishing AP General Insurance Company (APGIC) to run the scheme. The State had begun implementing its own scheme from the rabi season.
- The farmers have been asked to enroll for the scheme by September 5 by paying a nominal premium fee of ₹1.
- The authorised share capital of the company is pegged at ₹101 crore divided into 10.10 crore equity shares of ₹10 each.

**Jal Shakti Ministry launches Water Heroes Contest 2.0**
- Union Jal Shakti Ministry launched the ‘Water Heroes – Share Your Stories’ Contest to spread awareness on water conservation and management. The Water Heroes Contest 2.0 will be conducted from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.
- Under this contest, the Ministry will consider up to 10 entries for awards every month.

**Government of India Blocks 118 Mobile Apps**
- The Union Ministry of Information and Technology has on September 2, 2020 imposed a ban on PUBG and 118 other mobile applications by invoking it’s 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.
- These applications have been blocked as there was information that these apps are engaged in activities which is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state as well as public order.
- This is the third such announcement by Indian Government to ban apps. Earlier, the government banned Tik Tok and other Chinese apps.

**India Targets 100 MT Coal Gasification By 2030**
- The Government of India has set the target to achieve 100 million tonnes (MT) coal gasification by the year 2030.
This will be achieved with an estimated investments of over Rs. 4 lakh crores.

The announcement was made by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Coal and Mine, while addressing a webinar on Coal Gasification and Liquefaction on 31 August 2020.

**European Investment Bank to Invest € 650 Million in Kanpur’s 1st City Metro Line**
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) will invest 650 million euro (€) in the construction of Kanpur’s (Uttar Pradesh) 1st city metro line.
- The 32.4 km urban rail line, with 18 elevated and 12 underground stations is EIB’s 2nd biggest operation outside the European Union (EU) till date.
- It is the 2nd metro rail project supported by the EIB in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**Union Cabinet approves J&K official languages Bill 2020**
- The Union Cabinet has approved J&K official languages Bill 2020 and will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session.
- According to the J&K official languages Bill 2020, Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi along with Urdu and English, will be the official languages in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Mission Karmayogi approved by Union Cabinet**
- Union Cabinet has approved Mission Karmayogi for Capacity Building of Civil Servants in India. Mission Karmayogi is a national initiative for civil services capacity building so that Indian bureaucrats remain be rooted in Indian culture while learning the best practices.
- Mission Karmayogi is a national programme for civil services capacity building to lay the foundation for the capacity building for civil servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while learning from best practices across the world.

**Coal India decides to invest over Rs. 1.22 lakh crores on 500 projects by 2023-24**
- Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has decided to invest over Rs. 1.22 lakh crores on the development of nearly 500 projects that are related to infrastructure, coal evacuation, project development, clean coal technologies, and exploration in the country.
- The major investment aims at making India self-reliant in terms of coal as well as achieve the production target of 1 billion tonnes by 2023-2024.
- Coal Mines minister, Prahlad Joshi, while addressing stakeholders’ meeting informed that the involvement of all the stakeholders in the company’s affairs will uncover and reduce the project risks.

**CFI all set to host First-Ever Cycling Summit in 2021**
- The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021, with an aim to promote the culture of cycling in the country.
- The CFI said that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a marketing exploration firm, Contarctica, for the summit.
- The Cycling Summit 2021 will be hosted in Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore and is expected to be a unique confluence of cycling enthusiasts, renowned athletes, and
businesses from all over the country.

**Defence Ministry signs ₹2,580-cr deal for 6 Pinaka rocket regiments**
- The Defence Ministry has signed a ₹2,580-crore contract with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML), Tata Power Company Ltd (TPCL) and Larsen & Toubro to equip the Army with six Pinaka rocket regiments.
- It will consist of 114 launchers with automated gun aiming and positioning system, 45 command posts and 330 vehicles.
- The new regiments will likely be operational by 2024.

**India plans to release forensic accounting and investigation standards**
- Indian government plans on coming up with forensic accounting and investigation standards (FAIS) as it aims at setting the basic quality parameters for conducting investigations.
- A committee has been constituted by The Institute of Chartered Accountant of India (ICAI) to deliberate on FAIS, which can be expected to be framed by the end of 2020. Atul Kumar Gupta, President of the Chartered Accountants body informed during a virtual conference.
- As per the ICAI, the decision of setting up the forensic accounting and investigation standards (FAIS) will make India the first country in the world to release the standards.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated a forensic audit for the transactions of over Rs. 200 crores while the companies or lenders individually call for such investigations or audits upon the suspected fraud.

**Air India’s privatization process to be completed within 2020**
- The Union Civil Aviation Minister, HS Puri on August 30, 2020, informed that he is hopeful of completing Air India’s Privatization process within 2020.
- The government has now initiated the process of divesting its share from Air India airlines and is now looking for suitable bidders.

**World’s Largest Solar Tree set up at Durgapur**
- World’s Largest Solar Tree has been developed by the CSIR-CMERI. The solar tree has been installed at the Residential Colony of CSIR-CMERI in Durgapur, West Bengal.
- The solar tree has the annual capacity to generate 12,000-14,000 units of Clean and Green Power while its installed capacity is above 11.5 kWp.
- The Solar Tree has been designed in such a way that it ensures maximum exposure of each Solar PV Panel to Sunlight. A single solar tree comprises of 35 Solar PV Panels each having a capacity of 330 wp each.

**India’s first toy cluster to come up in Karnataka**
- India’s first toy manufacturing cluster to come up at Koppal, Karnataka, has the potential to create 40,000 jobs in five years and attract over Rs 5,000 crore investment, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, said.
- With the eco-system to support toy cluster in place, this 400 acres SEZ will have top-
India withdraws from multilateral military exercise, Kavkaz 2020, in Russia

- The reason for this has been cited as the C-19 Pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics.
- Kavkaz 2020 would be held in Astrakhan province of Southern Russia where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.
- Other countries that would participate in this exercise are- China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Belarus, Turkey, Armenia, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

SPORTS

Valtteri Bottas wins Russian Grand Prix 2020

- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) has won the Formula One Russian Grand Prix 2020 held on 27 September 2020. This is his second win of the season.
- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by the 6-time world-champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), who stood third because of penalties.

Former cricketer Ash Barty wins Golf Club Championship

- Ashleigh Barty, who is the top-ranked WTA player in the world, and a former professional cricket player, has now added another feat in her sporting list by winning golf club championship.
- The 24-year-old, world number one Australian, has won the Brookwater Golf Club women’s championship.
- Ash Barty had withdrawn from participating in US Open and French Open due to C-19 pandemic.

Simona Halep & Novak Djokovic wins 2020 Italian Open title

- World number one Novak Djokovic beat Argentine Diego Schwartzman, 7-6, 5-3, to win 2020 Men’s Single Italian Open title and his fifth overall Rome title.
- In Women’s single, top seed Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.

Winners List

1. Men’s Single- Novak Djokovic
2. Women’s Single- Simona Halep
3. Men’s Double- Marcel Granollers / Horacio Zeballos
4. Women’s Double- Hsieh Su-wei / Barbora Strýcová

ITF Renames Fed Cup as Billie Jean King Cup

- The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has renamed the Fed Cup, an annual team competition in women tennis, as the “Billie Jean King Cup.”
- Billie Jean King was a pioneer in women’s tennis who helped the United States win the
inaugural event.

- The Billie Jean King Cup is the world’s largest annual women’s international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete.

**BWF Postpones Thomas And Uber Cup Finals To 2021**

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has announced that the Thomas Cup and the Uber Cup, which were scheduled to be held from 3 to 11 October 2020 in Denmark, has been postponed for 2021.
- This decision has been taken following the withdrawal of many participating countries from the tournament due to the C-19 pandemic.
- The alternative dates to reschedule the World Men’s and Women’s Team Championships is yet to be decided by BWF.

**Japan’s Naomi Osaka beats Victoria Azarenka to win US Open Tennis Tournament**

- In Tennis, Japan’s Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, to clinch the Women’s Singles title in the 2020 US Open Tennis tournament.
- This is the third Grand Slam title for the fourth seed Osaka. The victory has moved up Osaka to number 3 in the world rankings.
- The 22-year old Osaka previously won the title at the 2018 US Open and 2019 Australian Open. She is now the first Asian player to win three Grand Slam singles titles.

**Dominic Thiem wins US Open Men’s Tennis Tournament 2020**

- Austria’s Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev to win the men’s singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament.
- It was Thiem’s first Grand Slam title, and he becomes the first player in the Open Era to rally from two sets down in a US Open final.

**Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020**

- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Tuscan Grand Prix 2020 held on September 13, 2020. This was his 6th win of the season and 90th F1 win of his career.
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) came second followed by Alexander Albon (Red Bull – Thailand) at third place.
- The Tuscan Grand Prix (first edition) was the ninth race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

**US Open 2020: Indo-Canadian pair of Bopanna-Shapovalov enter men’s doubles quarterfinals**

- The Indo-Canadian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Denis Shapovalov have reached the quarterfinals of the ongoing US Open tennis.
- They defeated the German pair Kevin Krawietz and Andrea Mies in the second-round clash that had lasted for an hour and 47 minutes.
Novak Djokovic disqualified from US Open
- The current world no. 1, Novak Djokovic has been disqualified from the US Open in the most unexpected manner. Djokovic defaulted after a ball hit by him hit the line judge in the throat.
- Djokovic had struck the ball unintentionally but the official was down. The incident happened during Djokovic's match against Pablo Carreno Busta.

India’s P Iniyan wins World Open Online Chess Tournament
- Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan has won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament.
- He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top.
- A total number of 120 players from 16 countries participated in the event which included more than 30 Grandmasters.

Olympic giant slalom champion Rebensburg retired
- Olympic ski champion Viktoria Rebensburg retired from the sport, saying an injury from last season was keeping her from performing at her best.
- The 30-year-old German, who won the gold medal in giant slalom at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. She also won the season-long World Cup giant slalom title in 2011, 2012 and 2018, and won world championship silver in giant slalom in 2015 and 2019. She finishes with 19 career World Cup wins and 49 podium finishes.

Sumit Nagpal becomes first Indian in 7 years to enter the second round of Grand Slam Singles event
- Sumit Nagpal on September 1, 2020, created history by becoming the first Indian to win a singles' main draw match at a grand slam in the last 7 years. The 23 years old successfully stormed into the second round of the ongoing US Open.
- Sumit Nagpal defeated Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open in order to progress further into the tournament.
- Earlier in 2013, Somdev Devvarman had reached the second round of the Australian Open, US Open, and French Open. Sumit Nagpal who is world number 122 will now be facing either Spain’s Jaume Munar or Austria’s Dominic Thiem.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
India’s first RRTS train with design speed of 180 kmph unveiled
- The Centre on Friday unveiled the first look of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train that can attain a top speed of 180 kilometres per hour on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.
- The design is inspired by Delhi’s iconic Lotus Temple and is aligned with PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Make in India’ policy.
IIT Madras Develops ‘MOUSHIK’ Microprocessor For IoT Devices
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have successfully booted up MOUSHIK, an indigenously-made Microprocessor.
- MOUSHIK is a processor cum system on chip that can cater to the rapidly-growing IoT devices, an integral part of Smart Cities of a Digital India.
- There are three steps involved in the making of a microprocessor, namely design, fabrication and post-silicon boot-up,” Kamakoti Veezhinathan, Reconfigurable Intelligent Systems Engineering (RISE) Group.

India successfully conducts testing of Prithvi II missile
- India recently conducted the test fire of Prithvi II missile, developed indigenously and was successful.
- The test was conducted at Chandipur Integrated Test Range, Odisha.

DRDO successfully test fires high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) - ABHYAS
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested an indigenously-developed unmanned aerial vehicle, Abhya, that can be used as target for evaluation of various missile systems.
- Two Abhya vehicles, developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), were flight tested from a test range off Odisha coast.
- The High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was launched using twin underslung booster.

FELUDA: First Gene based C-19 test approved in India
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently approved the gene-based C-19 test called Feluda. The test was indigenously developed and uses cutting edge CRISPR (Clustered Regulatory Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) gene editing technology to detect the C-19 virus.
- The test was developed by scientists based in Council of scientific and Industrial Research Institute of genomics and integrative Biology CSIR-IDIB along with the TATA Group.
- FELUDA is the acronym of FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection. It is a paper strip test.

Scientists Develop World’s Smallest Ultrasound Detector
- Researchers at Helmholtz Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) have developed the world’s smallest ultrasound detector. It is based on miniaturized photonic circuits on top of a silicon chip.
- With a size 100 times smaller than an average human hair, the new detector can visualize features that are much smaller than previously possible, leading to what is known as super-resolution imaging.

Scientists detect potential signs of extra terrestrial life on Venus
- Scientists revealed on September 14, 2020 that they have detected potential signs on
life on the inhospitable Venus.

- The scientists have detected a gas called phosphine in the acidic clouds of Venus that indicates microbes may inhabit Earth’s neighbour.

**Vi launches integrated 4G network GIGAnet**

- VI (erstwhile Vodafone Idea) has launched GIGAnet network that is an integrated 4G network.
- With the launch of GIGAnet, VI aims to overcome the loss of customers and attract new customers from rivals Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.
- GIGAnet offers faster downloads & uploads, low latency, and real-time connectivity. It is built on many principles of 5G architecture that help in delivering a superior network experience.

**Microsoft, Nasscom’s FutureSkills to launch AI-skilling initiative in India**

- Microsoft in collaboration with Nasscom’s FutureSkills will launch a nation-wide initiative in India to skill students in Artificial Intelligence.
- The initiative aims to skill 1 million students by 2021.
- As part of the collaboration, Microsoft and Nasscom experts will skill the students in AI, machine learning and data science through modules such as live demos, hands-on workshops and assignments as part of the AI classroom series.

**India successfully test fires Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle at 11 am on September 7, 2020 from the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.
- The successful flight test of the indigenously-developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) enabled the successful demonstration of the Hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology, which is a major technological breakthrough for India.
- The Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle powers cruise missiles and operate on scramjet engines that can attain the speed of around Mach 6, which is far more advanced than ramjet engines that are used currently.
- India has thus become the fourth country after the United States, Russia and China to develop and successfully test hypersonic technology.

**SpaceX launches 60 Starlink satellites for faster internet**

- SpaceX has successfully sent 60 Starlink internet satellites aboard the Falcon 9 which is lifted off from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- The launch was Starlink’s first mission of the month. The Elon-musk owned space tech company has conducted sixteen missions this year.
- The satellites are meant to provide ‘cheaper and faster’ internet to inaccessible areas. The satellites in its initial tests had provided over 100 Mbps speeds.
IIT Delhi incubated startup launches “Chakr DeCoV” to decontaminate N95 masks
- In our series on Atmanirbhar Bharat, IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched ‘Chakr DeCoV’ to decontaminate N95 masks.
- Designed in the shape of a cabinet, Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.

Indian astronomers discover one of the farthest Star galaxies in universe
- Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement. India’s first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory ‘AstroSat’ has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

India, France discuss to provide Mission Alpha-like equipment for Gaganyaan Mission
- India and France are in discussions to provide Mission Alpha-like equipment to astronauts involved in the ‘Gaganyaan’ mission. As per the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) of France, the discussions are in the final stage.
- Mission Alpha is the name of French Astronaut Thomas Pesquet’s mission wherein he will be sent to International Space Station (ISS) on Crew Dragon spacecraft next year.

OBITUARY

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh Passes Away
- The former Union Minister Jaswant Singh has passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 82.
- Jaswant Singh had served as the external affairs minister, defense minister and finance minister of India, during the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet.
- Prior to pursuing career in politics with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mr. Singh was an officer in the Indian Army in the 1950s and 60s.

Noted Padma Bhusan Economist Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia passes away
- Renowned economist Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia has passed away after a 10-month-long battle with brain cancer. She was 74.
- Dr Ahluwalia was awarded with the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature.
- Ahluwalia served as the director and then the chairperson of Delhi-based Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) for a total of 15 years and built ICRIER into a leading global think tank.

PadmaShri Awardee Sekhar Basu passes away
- Veteran Atomic Scientist and Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC),
Sekhar Basu passed away due to C-19. He served as the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and as director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
- He developed the highly complex reactor for INS Arihant, India's 1st nuclear-powered submarine. He was the key person behind the design, construction and operation of nuclear recycle plants in Tarapur and Kalpakkam.

**Music legend S. P. Balasubramaniam passes away**
- Veteran playback singer SP Balasubramaniam passed away in Chennai hospital. He was 74.
- Balasubramaniam won numerous awards over the span of his 50-year career. He sang more than 40,000 songs, a Guinness World Record, in 16 languages, including Tamil, Telegu and Hindi.
- He was a recipient of six national awards, including the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri, India's third and fourth-highest civilian awards.

**Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi passes away at 65**
- Union Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi has passed away after he contracted Chinese virus disease. He was 65-years-old.
- Suresh Angadi was a four-time Lok Sabha MP from Karnataka’s Belagavi constituency. He was elected in 2004, 2014 and 2019.

**Former Australian Cricketer Dean Jones passes away**
- Former Australian cricketer and renowned commentator, Dean Jones passed away. He made his debut for Australia in a Test match in the West Indies in 1984.
- He played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia between 1984 and 1994 before venturing into the commentary. He scored almost 9500 international runs.

**Former Canadian PM John Turner passes away**
- Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner has passed away at his residence in Toronto. He was 91.
- Turner, who spent decades in federal politics as a cabinet minister and Liberal Party leader during some of the most turbulent moments, led Canada for 79 days in 1984, the second-shortest time in office of any Prime Minister.
- During his political career, Turner held several prominent cabinet posts, then he resigned as Liberal leader in 1990 and retired from politics in 1993.

**Noted Marathi actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar passes away**
- Noted Marathi actress and Bollywood’s veteran character artist Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away due to C-19 infection at a hospital in Satara in Maharashtra. She was 79.
- The actress had also worked in several Marathi films and Bollywood movies. She has over 100 movies, plays, and series to her credit.
- She also authored a book, ‘Gard Sabhowati’.
Assam Musician Bibhuranjan Choudhury passes away
- Music composer, singer, lyricist and actor Bibhuranjan Choudhury passed away at the age of 71 years due to cancer. He was from Assam.
- Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal condoled the demise of Bibhuranjan Choudhury.

Winston Groom, Author of 'Forrest Gump,' passes away
- Winston Groom, the writer whose novel “Forrest Gump” was made into a six-Oscar winning 1994 movie that became a soaring pop-cultural phenomenon, has died at age 77. He wrote 16 books, fiction and nonfiction.
- Groom served in the Army’s Fourth Infantry Division from 1965 to 1969, the university said. His service included a tour in Vietnam – one of the settings for “Forrest Gump.”

Renowned US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passes away at 87
- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an American jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, has passed away due to complications of metastatic pancreatic cancer. She was 87.
- She was appointed in 1993 by President Bill Clinton and served until her death in 2020. She was the second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande passes away
- Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande died at her residence in Mumbai due to old age. She was 91. Deshpande, was the daughter of Shripad Amrit Dange, one of the founders of the Communist Party of India.
- Deshpande had taken part in the Sanyukta Maharashtra Movement (the movement for the creation of the State of Maharashtra) and the Goa liberation struggle as a Member of the All India Students’ Federation. In 1974, she was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Bombay South Central constituency.

Former RBI governor Amitabha Ghosh passes away
- Amitabha Ghosh, the shortest-serving Governor of the Reserve Bank of India passed away at the age of 90.
- He had served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for 21 days between January 15, 1985 to February 4, 1985.
- It was a stop-gap arrangement when Amitabha Ghosh was serving as a deputy governor of RBI and waiting to hand over charge to the 17th RBI Governor R N Malhotra.

Veteran Ayurveda physician from Tamil Nadu PR Krishnakumar passes away
- Tamil Nadu based prominent Indian Ayurveda physician PR Krishnakumar has passed away. He was 69.
- Krishnakumar was the Founder and Managing Director of the iconic Coimbatore Arya Vaidya Pharmacy (AVP) as well as the Chancellor of the renowned Avinashilingam University in Coimbatore.
The Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri award in 2009 for his contribution to medicine.

Legendary scholar of Indian classical dance & arts, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, passes away at 92
- Veteran scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture and art history, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan has passed away. She was 92-year-old.
- Dr. Vatsyayan was the former Member of Parliament and had served as Education Secretary. She was the founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
- Some of the prestigious honors received by Dr Kapila Vatsyayan includes, Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship, the Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship, and the Padma Vibhushan.

Mali’s former president Moussa Traore passes away
- Former President of Republic of Mali, who was in power from 1968 to 1991, General Moussa Traore passed away. He was born in 1936 in Kayes, Mali.
- He was a former military leader, forcibly took over the reign from Modibo Keita (known as the ‘father of independence’).

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, who recently quit RJJD, passed away
- Former Union minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away while undergoing treatment in New Delhi. Singh, who had recently resigned from RJJD, had fallen critically ill.
- He was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha of India and represented the Vaishali constituency of Bihar. Often called the architect of the MGNREGA scheme, which was floated when he was the Union minister for rural development in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s cabinet.

Arya Samaj leader, Social activist Swami Agnivesh passes away
- Arya Samaj leader and social activist Swami Agnivesh passed away at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, ILBS in New Delhi. He was 80.
- Agnivesh was elected to Haryana Legislative Assembly in 1977 and served as a Cabinet Minister for Education in the state in 1979.
- He founded Bonded Labour Liberation Front in 1981 and worked against bonded labour. He also led numerous movements against alcoholism.
- Swami Agnivesh also served as president of the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, World Council of Arya Samaj.

‘Game of Thrones’ & Bond star Diana Rigg passes away at 82
- Actress Dame Diana Rigg, famous for roles including Emma Peel in TV series The Avengers and Olenna Tyrell in Game of Thrones, has died at the age of 82. Dame Diana also played the only woman who became Mrs James Bond.
- She played Tracy, who married George Lazenby’s 007 in the 1969 film On Her Majesty’s
Secret Service. She has won Emmy, Tony and Bafta awards.

**Telugu Actor Jayaprakash Reddy passes away**
- Veteran Telugu stage and film actor Jayaprakash Reddy died of heart attack at his residence in Guntur. He was 74. Jayaprakash Reddy, popularly known as JP, began his career as a school teacher. His passion for acting drove him towards the stage and he played varied roles in countless dramas.
- JP acted in more than 100 films along side the top heroes of Telugu films like Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna, Nagarjuna, Venkatesh, Pawan Kalyan and Mahesh Babu.

**Father of Indian Radio Astronomy Govind Swarup passes away**
- Father of India’s Radio Astronomy, Prof Govind Swarup passed away. He was the founding director of National Centre for Radio Astrophysics of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- Govind Swarup was the key person behind the concept, design and installation of the Ooty Radio Telescope (India) and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), which established India as one of the leading countries for radio astronomy research.

**Oscar winning Czech Director Jiri Menzel passes away**
- Oscar-winning Czech film director, Jiri Menzel passed away. He was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia on 23 February 1938.
- His 1st feature film, ‘Closely Watched Trains’ won an Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language film in 1968.

**Former England Cricketer David Capel passes away**
- Former England all-rounder and legendary cricketer, David Capel passed away. He had played around 15 tests and 23 One Day internationals(ODIs) representing England from 1987 to 1990.
- He made his Test debut against Pakistan in 1987.

**Former President, Bharat Ratna Pranab Mukherjee dies at 84**
- The former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, passed away at the age of 84 years. He had been in coma since a brain surgery earlier this month. He had gone into septic shock due to his lung infection. He developed a lung infection and renal dysfunction over the past few days.
- Pranab Mukherjee was the President of India from 2012 to 2017. He was the 13th President of India.
- He was Minister of Finance between 2009 and 2012, Minister of Defence (2004-2006), Minister of External Affairs (2006-2009). He was from Congress.
- Pranab Mukherjee was conferred Padma Vibhushan in 2008 and Bharat Ratna in 2019.

**Dr S. Padmavati, India’s First Female Cardiologist, Passes Away**
- Noted cardiologist Dr S Padmavati has died due to C-19. She was 103. Recipient of both Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan, Dr S Padmavati popularly known as ‘God
Mother of Cardiology’.

- In 1962, Dr Padmavati founded the All India Heart Foundation and went on to set up National Heart Institute in 1981 as a tertiary care modern heart hospital in Delhi with first cardiac catheterisation laboratory in the private sector in the Southern Hemisphere.
- For her achievements and contributions to development of cardiology in India, she was awarded Fellowship of the American College of Cardiology and FAMS.

K Shankar Bajpai, India’s Former Envoy For US, China and Pakistan Passes Away

- Katyayani Shankar Bajpai, a career diplomat who served as India’s ambassador to the US, China, and Pakistan, passed away. He was 92.
- The former diplomat was also the Indian government’s political officer in Sikkim from 1970 to 1974 and was involved in the integration of the state into the Indian Union.
- He became the first professor of Non-Western Studies, Brandeis University, in 1992 and 1993. He served as chairman of the National Security Advisory Board from 2008 to 2010.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

Senior bureaucrat P D Vaghela appointed TRAI chairman

- Senior bureaucrat P D Vaghela was on Monday appointed as chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Vaghela, a 1986-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, is currently Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals. He will succeed R S Sharma.

ITBP chief S S Deswal given additional charge of NSG DG

- ITBP Director General, S S Deswal has been given the additional charge of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) as its incumbent chief A K Singh is going to retire on September 30.
- This is the second time that Deswal, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service officer, has been directed to lead the NSG in an additional capacity.

Mali’s Former Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane appointed as new Prime Minister

- The interim President of Mali, Bah Ndaw, has named former Malian Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane as the prime minister West African nation.
- The 64-year-old served as foreign minister between 2004 and 2011 during Amadou Toumani Toure’s presidency.

Acer India appoints Sonu Sood as brand ambassador

- Personal computers brand Acer India has roped in actor Sonu Sood as its brand ambassador.
- The actor will endorse the brand’s innovative range of products to improving people’s lives through technology.
- The actor has been selected due to his contribution to empowering people which is
line with Acer India’s brand mantra of empowering people through technology.

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed appointed new PM of Somalia

- Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has appointed political newcomer Mohamed Hussein Roble as the country’s prime minister, hours after brokering an agreement with regional leaders for elections next year that abandons a promised one-person, one-vote model.
- He will replace former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire, who was voted out of office by parliament in July for failing to pave the way for fully democratic elections due before February 2021.

EESL appoints Rajat Sud as new Managing Director

- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) announced the appointment of Rajat Sud as its managing director from immediate effect.
- Sud takes over from S Gopal, director (commercial), who had taken on the additional charge of interim managing director.
- Before joining EESL, he served as executive vice president at Sterlite Power Transmission Ltd. He has also served in leadership positions at Siemens IT Solutions and PwC.

17-Year-Old Khushi Chindaliya Appointed As UNEP’s Indian Green Ambassador

- A 17-year-old girl from Surat, Khushi Chindaliya has been appointed as the Regional Ambassador for India for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza Eco-Generation, a recurring event with monthly goals.
- Khushi, who has been named India’s ‘Green Ambassador’ for her contribution to the conservation of the environment.
- Khushi will work with TEG on various awareness programs till February 2021. Crucially, Khushi is one of the 100 youths in India whose essays will be featured in a UNESCO book.

Govt extends term of Uday Kotak as Chairman of Debt-ridden IL&FS by One Year

- The government extended the term of Uday Kotak as non-executive chairman of debt-ridden IL&FS group by one year with effect from the 3rd day of October 2020.
- Kotak was appointed by the Government as the head of the lender’s board in 2018 to help the troubled company come out of difficulties, after the state took over the board.

RBI appoints AK Das as the new administrator of PMC Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed AK Das (ex-general manager at Union Bank of India), as the new administrator of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank.
- He has replaced JB Bhoria who has stepped down from his role as the administrator of the bank due to health reasons.
- In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC bank due to fraud and financial irregularities in the PMC bank.
Bah Ndaw named Mali’s interim president
- Former Mali defense minister and retired colonel Bah Ndaw has been named the president of the country’s new transition government, while the leader of the junta that seized power last month.
- Colonel Assimi Goita, was appointed vice president of the country.
- He will be in power for 18 months before holding elections and returning Mali to civilian rule.

Simanchala Dash appointed as advisor to IMF Executive Director
- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint Simanchala Dash as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington.

Anil Dhasmana becomes new chief of NTRO
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief, Anil Dhasmana, as the new Chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) for a period of two years with effect from 18 September 2020.
- NTRO is a technical intelligence Agency under the National Security Advisor in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which looks after geospatial intelligence and satellite imagery.
- He will replace former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Satish Chandra Jha. Dhasmana, a 1981-batch officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been the chief of RAW from 31 January 2017 to 29 June 2019.

Facebook India appoints Arun Srinivas as Director of Global Business Group
- Facebook India appoints Arun Srinivas as Director of Global Business Group. Facebook announced the appointment of Arun Srinivas as the Director of Global Business Group.
- Srinivas will spearhead the strategy and delivery of the India Marketing Solutions which aims to tap large advertisers and agencies.
- Srinivas has worked with Ola where he served as Chief Operating Officer and Global Chief Marketing Officer.

Harivansh re-elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- NDA candidate Harivansh has been re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
- The upper house cleared his name with a voice vote. BJP President JP Nadda had moved the proposal to elect Harivansh as the deputy chairman and his motion was adopted. Later, Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu announced his name.

Amazon signs Amitabh Bachchan for its Alexa voice assistant
- Amazon.com Inc has signed up Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan for its Alexa voice assistant.
- Alexa users will be able to access Amitabh Bachchan’s voice on Alexa by purchasing the
Amitabh Bachchan voice experience.
- He is the first Indian celebrity to lend his voice to Alexa.

**Sameer Kumar Khare appointed Executive Director at ADB**
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sameer Kumar Khare as new Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.
- Khare is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Assam cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under Ministry of Finance.

**Rajesh Khullar appointed Executive Director at World Bank**
- A 1988 batch IAS officer, Rajesh Khullar has been appointed as Executive Director at World Bank in Washington DC. The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Khulla for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the date of his superannuation (August 23, 2023).
- Khullar is currently posted as principal secretary to chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

**Jane Fraser named the first female CEO of Citigroup**
- Multinational investment bank, Citigroup named Jane Fraser as its next chief executive, tapping a woman to lead a giant Wall Street bank for the first time.
- Fraser began her career at Goldman Sachs Group Inc’s mergers and acquisitions department in London, before starting to work for Asesores Bursátiles in Madrid. She has been working for Citigroup for 16 years and been serving in her current capacity since 2019.

**Subhash Kamath elected as Chairman of ASCI**
- Subhash Kamath has been elected as the chairman of the board of governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).
- He is the chief executive at advertising agency BBH & Publicis Worldwide, India. He will replace Rohit Gupta, president, Sony Pictures Networks.

**UNICEF appoints Ayushmann Khurrana for children’s rights campaign**
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has appointed Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children’s rights campaign, “For Every Child”.
- He will work towards this initiative in India. He will support UNICEF to end violence against children.

**Paresh Rawal appointed as new Chairman of National School of Drama**
- Veteran actor Paresh Rawal has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National School of Drama (NSD), India’s premier theatre institute. The post had been vacant since 2017.
- The 65-year-old has years of experience in both theatre and cinema. In his career span
of over three decades, Rawal has been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1994 and the Padma Shri in 2014 for his contribution to the entertainment industry.

Anil Jain becomes new President of All India Tennis Association
- The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has elected Anil Jain as its new president, while Anil Dhupar was chosen as its secretary-general. India’s Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal was elected as the treasurer for a four-year term till 2024.
- All the office-bearers, as well as the new executive committee members, were elected unopposed. Anil Jain will replace Praveen Mahajan as AITA president. Dhupar will replace Hironmoy Chatterjee.

Vinkesh Gulati appointed as new President of FADA
- Vinkesh Gulati, has been appointed as the 35th President of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).
- He succeeds Ashish Harsharaj Kale and will serve the role of president from 2020 to 2022.
- The FADA is an apex national body representing automobile dealers of India.

Bureaucrat Kshatrapati Shivaji takes up India’s top statistical post
- The Government of India has appointed Kshatrapati Shivaji, a 1986-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, as secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- The secretary at this ministry is, by design, known as the chief statistician of India.
- The Government has not appointed a full-time Chief statistician yet while Kshatrapati Shivaji will continue to head the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Maruti CEO Kenichi Ayukawa elected president of SIAM
- Maruti Suzuki MD and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa has been elected as the new President of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). SIAM is the apex body of the Indian automotive industry.
- He will replace Rajan Wadhera and has been appointed for a term of two years. Vipin Sondhi, MD and CEO, Ashok Leyland, has been elected as the new vice president of SIAM.

MV Raja Sekhar takes charge as director (R&D), BEL
- The Bharat Electronics Ltd’s (BEL) Board of Directors has approved the appointment of M V Rajasekhar as Additional Director – Director (R&D).
- This comes after the Ministry of Defence on July 6 appointed Rajasekhar as Director – R&D vice Mahesh V, who has retired from services on August 31 on attaining superannuation.

Rajiv Lall resigns as chairman of IDFC First Bank
- Dr. Rajiv B. Lall has resigned from his post of Part-Time Non-Executive Chairman of
IDFC First Bank
- He has cited prolonged personal health issues as the reason for resignation. Lall was the founder MD of the erstwhile IDFC Bank.

BPCL Additional Charge of CMD K Padmakar
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has been given additional charge to K Padmakar, Director (HR) as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- He succeeds D Rajkumar who superannuated after attaining 60 years on August 31, 2020.

Murali Ramakrishnan becomes new MD & CEO of South Indian Bank
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Murali Ramakrishnan as Managing Director and CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2020.
- He represented the bank in the board of CIBIL and the risk advisory board of VISA for the Asia Pacific.

ACC approves appointment of V K Yadav as Railway Board’s first ever CEO
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of the current chairman of the Railway Board VK Yadav as the CEO, making him the first to hold such a post in the railway’s history.
- While Yadav has been appointed Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Pradeep Kumar has been appointed Member, Infrastructure, PC Sharma has been appointed Member, Traction and Rolling Stock, PS Mishara has been made Member, Operations and Business Development, Manjula Rangarajan has been appointed Member, Finance.

S Krishnan becomes new MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of S Krishnan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank. He will replace S Harishankar.

Vice Admiral S R Sarma assumes charge as Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy
- Vice Admiral S R Sarma assumed charge as the Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy.
- Admiral Sarma during his illustrious career spanning over three and a half decades has served onboard Indian Naval ships Vindhyagiri, Rana, Krishna and Mysore in various capacities.

Hemant Khatri assumed charge as CMD of Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- Retired Commodore Hemant Khatri succeeds Rear Admiral L V Sarat Babu (Retd) and assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing director (CMD) of Hindustan Shipyard limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Previously he was serving as the Director of Strategic Projects HSL.
In a first, female IPS officer appointed CRPF Inspector General in terror-hit Srinagar

- Charu Sinha has become the first female IPS officer to get appointed as the Inspector General (IG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the terrorist-hit Srinagar sector.
- Charu Sinha is a 1996-batch IPS officer from Telangana cadre. She will now be heading the Srinagar sector for CRPF as the Inspector General.
- However, this is not the first time that Sinha has been assigned such a tough task. Earlier as well, she has worked as Inspector General of CRPF in the Bihar sector and has dealt with Naxals. Under her leadership, several anti-Naxal operations were carried out.

CBDT chairman Pramod Chandra Mody gets six-month extension

- Pramod Chandra Mody was on Monday given a six-month extension till February next year as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- Mody, a 1982 batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre) officer, was appointed the CBDT chief in February 2019.
- He was in August last year re-appointed on the post for one year, till August 31, 2020, beyond the date of his superannuation on August 31, 2019.

Usha Padhee becomes first woman DG of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

- Usha Padhee, joint secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, has been given additional charge as director general of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
- Padhee is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post.
- Earlier, IPS office Rakesh Asthana was given charge of the BCAS. He has now been moved to the Border Security Force (BSF) as director general.

Aveek Sarkar elected new Chairman of Press Trust of India

- Aveek Sarkar has been elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India. He replaces Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers.
- Aveek Sarkar is the Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications. He was also the founding Managing Director of Penguin India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Translation Day

- Every year, the International Translation Day is marked on 30 September. The International Federation of Translators (FIT) organise the day ever since it was set up in 1953.
- The day aims to celebrate the work of language translation professionals which facilitates dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.
- 2020 theme: Finding the words for a world in crisis.

International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction

- International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction is observed globally
on 29th September. This year is the first-ever observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.

- It also comes during the global C-19 pandemic, that has brought about a global wake-up on the need to transform and rebalance the way our food is produced and consumed.
- The theme for International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction 2020 is “Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet.”

World Heart Day
- World Heart Day is observed on 29th September annually to draw people’s attention to heart illness and the range of associated health issues.
- The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures.
- The theme for World Heart Day 2020: “Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease”.

International Day for Universal Access to Information
- The International Day for the Universal Access to Information (commonly known as Access to Information Day) is held on 28 September ever year. Theme 2020: Access to Information – Saving lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope!
- Universal access to information means that everyone has the right to seek, receive and impart information for healthy and inclusive knowledge societies.
- Initially the day was designated by the UNESCO in November 2015 and was first held on 28 September 2016. It was later proclaimed on 15 October 2019 at the 74th UN General Assembly.

World Rabies Day
- World Rabies Day is observed on 28 September every year to make people aware of the prevention regarding rabies and to highlight the progress in defeating this horrifying disease.
- The theme for the 14th World Rabies Day in 2020 is ‘End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate’.
- The day also marks the death anniversary of the French chemist and microbiologist, Louis Pasteur’, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

World Tourism Day
- The World Tourism Day is observed worldwide on September 27 since 1980.
- This date was chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organization as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted.
- In 2020 the theme of World Tourism Day is “Tourism and Rural Development”.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- Every year, September 26 is observed as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.
- The aims of the day are to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to
humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination.

**World Environmental Health Day**
- World Environmental Health day is celebrated on 26th September every year to shed the light on important work of environmental health around the world.
- The Theme for the 2020 World Environmental Health Day is “Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention”.

**World Pharmacist Day**
- The World Pharmacist Day is observed on September 25 annually to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health.
- 2020 theme: "Transforming global health".
- The day was designated in 2009 by the FIP Council (International Pharmaceutical Federation or Federation International Pharmaceutique) at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Istanbul, Turkey.

**World Maritime Day 2020**
- World Maritime Day 2020 is observed globally on 24th September in the form of an online event. The exact date of celebrating World Maritime Day is left to the individual governments but is usually celebrated during the last week in September.
- The theme of World Maritime Day 2020 is “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet”.

**International Day of Sign Languages**
- The International Day of Sign Languages is observed globally on 23 September every year. This day is celebrated to raise awareness on sign languages and strengthen the status of sign languages.
- The theme for the 2020 International Day of Sign Languages is “Sign Languages are for everyone!”
- Also, the last full week of September is observed as International Week of the Deaf.

**International Day of Peace**
- The International Day of Peace (or World Peace Day) is observed annually on 21 September to spread awareness and preach peace and harmony all across the globe.
- The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.”
- The Day established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. It is also known as World Peace Day.

**World Alzheimer's Day**
- World Alzheimer’s Day is observed on 21 September every year to spread awareness about Alzheimer and Dementia disease.
- The theme for World Alzheimer Day 2020 is ‘Let’s talk about dementia’.
- In Alzheimer’s disease loss of connections between nerve cells (neurons) in the brain occurs. Progressively brain disorder which slowly destroys memory and thinking skills
etc. In older adults it is the most common cause of dementia.

**International Coastal Cleanup Day**
- The International Coastal Cleanup Day is being celebrated on 3rd Saturday of September of every Year. This year September 19 was celebrated as the International Coastal Cleanup Day to encourage people to clean beaches, remove the garbage plaguing it.
- The theme of this year is “Achieving a trash free Coastline”.

**International Equal Pay Day**
- International Equal Pay Day is observed globally for the first time on 18th September 2020. On the occasion of the first International Equal Pay Day, and in the midst of the fallout from the global C-19 pandemic.
- On November 15 2019, The third Committee at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly adopted resolution (A/C37/74/L.49) proclaiming 18 September as International Equal Pay Day

**World Bamboo Day**
- World Bamboo Day is observed every year on 18 September to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products.
- WBD was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.
- The theme for 11th edition of WBD 2020 is ‘BAMBOO NOW.’

**World Water Monitoring Day**
- The World Water Monitoring Day is observed every year on September 18 since 2003 to increase public awareness and involvement in water monitoring and protecting water resources around the world. Theme for 2020 WWMD is ‘Solve Water.’
- The day was established in 2003 by America’s Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) as a global educational outreach program by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

**World Patient Safety Day**
- The World Patient Safety Day is observed on September 17 to create global awareness for patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to make healthcare safer.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) observed the first WPSD in 2019. It was adopted at the 72nd World Health Assembly on 25 May 2019. The theme for 2020 WPSD is ‘Safe health workers, Safe patients.’

**International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September**
- The International Day for the preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day) is observed annually on September 16 to spread awareness of the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for solutions to preserve it.
- The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19,

- Theme for 2020 World Ozone Day: ‘Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection’.

**World Lymphoma Awareness Day**

- The World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is observed on September 15 every year. The day is dedicated to raising awareness of lymphoma, an increasingly common form of cancer.
- WLAD is a global initiative, initiated in 2004 by the Lymphoma Coalition (LC), a non-profit network organisation of 83 lymphoma patient groups from 52 countries around the world.

**International Day of Democracy**

- International Day of Democracy is observed globally on 15th September every year. The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.
- The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy. The day was observed for the first time in 2008.

**National Engineer’s Day**

- In India, the Engineer’s Day is celebrated on September 15 every year, since 1968, to recognise the contribution of engineers’ in the development of the nation.
- The day marks the birth anniversary of the engineering pioneer of India, Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshvaraya, (popularly known as Sir MV). Sir MV was regarded as the “Father of Modern Mysore”.
- He was awarded ‘Bharat Ratna’ for his exceptional contribution to the building of India in 1955.

**National Hindi Day**

- Hindi Divas or Hindi Day is an annual day celebrated on 14 September in India to celebrate the popularity of Hindi as an official language of the country.
- Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14 September because on this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.
- The language was adopted under the Article 343 of the Indian Constitution.

**International Day for South-South Cooperation**

- International Day for South-South Cooperation is observed globally on 12th September every year. The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south.
- Theme for 2020 is “Pathways toward the SDGs through South-South solidarity beyond C-19.”
- It also highlights the UN’s efforts to work on technical cooperation among developing
World First Aid Day 2020
- The World First Aid Day is observed on the second Saturday of September every year to create awareness about the importance of first aid in preventing injuries and saving lives. The World First Aid Day 2020 is being observed on 12 September.
- The day was started by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2000 to educate people in the world of the benefits of first aid, need of first aid and the right way to do first aid.

World Suicide Prevention Day
- World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed on 10 September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides.
- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) to host World Suicide Prevention Day with various activities around the world since 2003.
- The theme for 2020 World Suicide Prevention Day is 'Working Together to Prevent Suicide'.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack
- International Day to Protect Education from Attack is observed globally on 9th September. In proclaiming the International Day to Protect Education from Attack to be celebrated for the first time in 2020.
- The Day draws attention to the plight of more than 75 million 3-to-18-year-olds living in 35 crisis-affected countries and to their urgent need of educational support.

International Literacy Day 2020
- International Literacy Day is observed annually on September 8 across the world to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.
- The theme of International Literacy Day 2020 according to the UN is "Literacy teaching and learning in the C-19 crisis and beyond." The theme highlights literacy learning from a lifelong learning perspective and therefore focuses on youth and adults.
- The day was declared by UNESCO on 26 October 1966 at 14th session of UNESCO’s General conference. It was celebrated for the first time in 1967.

International Day of Clean Air for blue skies
- The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will be held on September 7th, 2020.
- The Day aims to: Raise public awareness at all levels—individual, community, corporate and government—that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, during its 74th session and invited the United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP) to facilitate the observance of the International Day.

**Brazilian Independence Day**
- Brazilian Independence Day is celebrated on 7 September every year to commemorate the birth of the nation. On 7 September, 1822, Brazil got its independence from Portuguese.
- In 1889 Brazil ended up with the monarchical system and became republic but kept 7 September as its Independence Day.

**Teachers Day 2020**
- In India, Teachers Day is celebrated on 5 September every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan - First Vice President of India and the Second President of India and an educationist at heart.
- Globally, Teachers Day is celebrated on 5th October. Teachers Day is important for the students as it gives them a chance to understand the efforts put in by their teachers to ensure that they get a proper education.

**International Day of Charity**
- International Day of Charity is celebrated on 5 September every year to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa and to make people understand about the importance of charity.
- The International Day of Charity officially was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2012. Also, this day was created by the Hungarian Civil society initiative in 2011 with the support of the Hungarian parliament and Government.

**Skyscraper Day**
- Skyscraper Day is observed on 3rd September every year to commemorate the birthday of the famous architect William Can Aien who is genius in constructing the Chrysler Building which is one of the iconic landmark in New York city.
- This day marks the ability of the man to construct industrial masterpiece.

**World Coconut Day**
- World Coconut Day is observed on September 02 every year since 2009.
- It is observed to tell people about the benefits of the coconut fruit.
- The theme of World Coconut Day 2020 is ‘Invest in coconut to save the world’.

**September to be observed as ‘Nutrition Month’**
- Prime Minister has announced that the month of September will be observed as “Nutrition Month” in the entire nation.
- During nutrition month, a food and nutrition quiz will be organized on MyGov portal and there will be a meme competition.
- PM has appealed to the public to participate and motivate others too to take part in it.
SUMMITS AND MOU’S

Microsoft acquires video game company ZeniMax
- Microsoft announced that it will buy ZeniMax Media, the company that owns well-known video game publisher Bethesda, for $7.5 billion in cash.
- The deal gives Microsoft access to a raft of successful game franchises, including Fallout, The Elder Scrolls and Doom.
- It’s the biggest gaming acquisition in Microsoft’s history, after the company bought Minecraft developer Mojang for $2.5 billion in 2014.

CCI approves merger of Medlife with PharmEasy
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination of Medlife and API Holdings.
- The deal pertains to the proposed acquisition of 100 per cent equity shares of Medlife by API Holdings. Medlife shareholders are to get up to 19.59 per cent equity share capital of API Holdings.
- Medlife, a Patna-based company, was valued at $375 million as of January 31, 2020.

KKR to invest in Reliance Retail for 1.28% stake
- Global investment firm KKR is going to invest in the Reliance Retail ventures Limited (RRVL). With investment of Rs 5,550 crore, KKR will be acquiring 1.28% equity stake in the RRVL on a fully diluted basis.
- This is the second such investment deal with Reliance Retail in past one month after American private firm Silver Lake invested Rs 7,500 cr into the company for a 1.75% Stake.
- This is also KKR’s second investment in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, as earlier this year, the firm had invested Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms for a 2.32 percent stake.

HCL & Google Cloud expands partnership for HCL’s Actian portfolio
- HCL Technologies and Google Cloud has announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to bring HCL’s Actian portfolio, starting with Actian Avalanche, to Google Cloud.
- HCL’s Actian Avalanche hybrid cloud data warehouse has been deployed by Fortune 500 customers to deliver powerful insights to manage business complexities for a variety of use cases, including fraud detection, real-time offers and market basket analysis.
- Actian Avalanche is a high-performance hybrid cloud data warehouse designed to power an enterprise’s most demanding operational analytics workloads.

India-UK held Water Partnership Forum on water conservation issue
- India-UK held the Water Partnership Forum on September 22, 2020 virtually to discuss issues related to the water conservation and infrastructure development.
- The inaugural address was given by Gaitri Issar Kumar, Indian High Commissioner to United Kingdom.
During the forum, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ganga and the British water.

**HCL tech acquires Australian IT firm DWS for $115.8 million**
- HCL Technologies has announced the acquisition of Australian IT firm DWS Ltd for $115.8 million in a bid to further expand its digital offerings especially in Australia and New Zealand.
- The DWS Group closed FY 2020 with revenues of $122.9 million and has over 700 employees with operations in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Canberra.

**MoU signed between AYUSH Ministry and WCD Ministry for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan**
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.

**HCL Technologies to acquire Australian IT solutions company DWS**
- Noida-based IT company HCL Technologies (HCL) announced that it would acquire DWS Limited, an Australian IT, business and management consulting group.
- The acquisition of DWS will enhance HCL’s contribution to digital initiatives in Australia and New Zealand while strengthening HCL’s client portfolio across key industries.

**HCL Technologies joins NVIDIA partner network, will pursue opportunities in AI space**
- HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, announced it has joined NVIDIA Partner Network (NPN), the US-based technology company’s partner program, with plans to pursue expanded opportunities in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) space.
- HCL also announced the launch of NEXT.ai, HCL’s AI Lab, focused on upskilling engineers and architects utilizing AI solutions across hardware and software technology stacks.
- This will enhance their capabilities to build AI-led solutions for multiple HCL clients across industry verticals.

**AIM partnered with Freshworks to empower AIM Startup Innovators**
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, has partnered with Freshworks Inc., a customer-engagement software company, with an aim to provide robust support to innovators and entrepreneurs in India.
- It also aims to increase the efficiency of several institutions and startups in the AIM portfolio. It also aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among startup innovators.
Vodafone Idea rebranded as 'Vi'
- Vodafone and Idea brands re-branded themselves under a new brand identify 'Vi' was launched by Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) on September 7, 2020. The new brand identity has been adopted keeping in mind the future, which is built for and around customers.
- The announcement was made by company’s MD and CEO Ravinder Takkar on 7th September 2020. Now all the products of the company will be available under the new unified brand identity and logo “Vi”.
- The integration of Vodafone and Idea marks the culmination of the largest telecom integration in the world.
- In an official statement, VIL stated that two of India's most loved brands "Vodafone and Idea"are now 'together for tomorrow' giving birth to a new brand called 'Vi', which is read as 'We'.

IndiGrid completes acquisition of GPTL from Sterlite Power
- IndiGrid has completed the acquisition of Gurgaon Palwal Transmission Limited (GPTL) from Sterlite Power for ₹1,080 crore.
- IndiGrid, India’s first power sector InvIT, is managed by Sterlite Investment Managers Limited, wherein KKR and GIC jointly own 57 per cent in the InvIT.
- With this acquisition, IndiGrid's AUM has increased by 9% to INR 133 Bn (USD 1.80 Bn).

Infosys acquires US-based Kaleidoscope Innovation for $42 million
- Infosys acquires US-based product design and development firm, Kaleidoscope Innovation, for $42 million.
- With this acquisition, the company will be able to expand its engineering services portfolio, especially in medical devices, consumer and industrial markets across the US.

SIDBI, Maharashtra Govt ink pact to develop MSME ecosystem
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maharashtra Government to develop the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) ecosystem in the state.
- Under the agreement, a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be deployed by SIDBI with the Government of Maharashtra.
- The role of the PMU will be to design schemes/programmes in the areas of equity support, interest subvention, resolution of stressed MSMEs, supporting MSME entrepreneurs and facilitate other need-based intervention based on evaluation of the existing status of MSMEs.

Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with CSIR for a bulk drug pharma park in the state
- The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) to establish a bulk drug park in the state.
• CSIR-IICT is the knowledge partner and will offer needed technical backing to make the proposal which will be submitted by the Andhra Pradesh government to the Department of Pharmaceuticals to seek financial assistance from the Centre.

**Vedanta Tied Up with SBI for Long Term Syndicated Loan of Rs.10000 Crore**

• Vedanta announced it tie up for a long-term syndicated loan facility for Rs. 10000 crore with State bank of India (SBI).
• This loan increases the average debt maturity profile of Vedanta limited and also improves the liquidity ratios as the near-term maturities are replaced by a long-term loan.

**Adani Group buys 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport**

• Adani Group has acquired 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) that operates Mumbai Airport. Mumbai Airport is the second largest airport in India.
• Under this, Adani Group will acquire 50.5% stake of GVK group. Additionally, Adani will also acquire 23.5% stake of minority partners Airport Company of South Africa (ACSA) and Bidvest.
• The acquisition will also give Adani’s ownership of the upcoming Navi Mumbai airport in which MIAL holds 74% stake.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**Usha Mangeshkar gets Lata Mangeshkar award**

• Maharashtra government announced the Lata Mangeshkar Award for 2020-21 to veteran singer Usha Mangeshkar.
• The award has been constituted for the felicitation of senior vocal artistes and their contribution. The award carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh and a citation.

**Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sanju Yadav win AIFF Player of the Year Awards for 2019-20 season**

• Indian men’s team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and women’s squad’s mid-fielder Sanju were declared the winners of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year awards for the 2019-20 season.
• This is the first time Gurpreet has received the award, and in the process, he became the second goalkeeper after Subrata Paul in 2009 to be named the AIFF Player of the Year.
• Meanwhile, national women’s team mid-fielder Sanju was selected the winner after an excellent season, while Ratanbala Devi won the 2019-20 Emerging Women’s Footballer of the Year Award.

**Sattra Basishta Deva Sarma Conferred Srimanta Sankaradeva Award**

• Assam’s Srimanta Sankaradeva Award 2017 was conferred on eminent Vaishnavite scholar, writer and ‘Satradhikar of Barpeta’ Sattra Basishta Deva Sarma.
• The award carries a citation, a ‘sarai’ (traditional Assamese bell metal item),
‘angabastra’ (scarf), a gold memento and a cheque of Rs 5 lakh.

Kerala wins UNIATF award for prevention and control of NCD 2020

- The award recognises achievements during 2019 on the multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs, mental health and the wider NCD-related sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Udit Singhal named in UN’s 2020 list of Young Leaders

- Indian teenager Udit Singhal has been named in the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has been named in the 2020 list of young leaders who promote sustainable development goals.
- Udit Singhal is the founder of Glass2Sand, an initiative that is based on a zero-waste ecosystem to tackle the challenge of glass waste in Delhi.

Margaret Atwood wins 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize

- Margaret Atwood (Canada) has won the 2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize’s lifetime achievement award.
- The award celebrated the power of literature in fostering peace, social justice and global understanding. It is a United States literary award.
- Margaret Atwood is famous for her novel, “The Handmaid’s Tale”.

Chef Vikas Khanna Named for 2020 Asia Game Changer Award

- New York-based Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna has been chosen to be honoured with the prestigious 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for feeding millions across India amid the C-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive ‘FeedIndia’.
- The Asia Game Changer Awards was launched by the Asia Society, a US-based non-profit organization, in 2014, to identify and honor true leaders who make a positive contribution to the future of Asia.
- Khanna is the only Indian among the six honourees named by the leading organisation.

Euromoney honours HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri with Lifetime Achievement Award

- Aditya Puri, MD of HDFC Bank has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.
- He has been awarded for his skills in building a world-class bank in India at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence.

Noted English Broadcaster David Attenborough wins Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019

- David Attenborough, a natural historian, and a renowned author has been conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 through a virtual ceremony.
- Mr. Attenborough has been recognized for his contribution through the books and films to awaken the humankind to protect and preserve the biodiversity on our planet. While
the Congress President Sonia Gandhi attended the ceremony, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the prize virtually.

**Lifetime Achievements Award to Prof. Aditya Prasad Padhi**
- Indian Chartered Accountancy Parivar and Delhi University Ramanujan College Professor Aditya Prasad Padhi, former Vice – Chancellor of Berhampur University has been honoured with “Lifetime Achievements Award” for his outstanding contribution to higher education in India.

**NTPC wins National Management Games 2020**
- Team of NTPC Limited, the Central PSU under Ministry of Power, has won the All India Management Association (AIMA) Chanakya (Business Simulation Game) National Management Games (NMG) 2020.
- The team from NTPC Vallur, Tamil Nadu won the championship which featured the participation of teams from 112 organisations from different parts of the country.
- AIMA Chanakya National Management Games is an online Business Simulation Game which is conducted every year. The championship aims to ensure that executives participating in the event get the on board experience about the complexities of running an organisation and gain expertise and skills from this event.

**RANKING**

**India ranked 89th in World Risk Report 2020**
- According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University’s Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).
- As per the World Risk Report 2020, India (6.62) was ‘poorly prepared’ to deal with ‘climate reality’, due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters.
- The Pacific island state of Vanuatu leads the index as the country with the highest disaster risk (49.74). Qatar has the lowest risk (0.31). In terms of the continents, Oceania ranks first in terms of highest disaster risk, followed by the Americas, Asia and Europe.

**Shivangi Singh becomes first woman pilot to fly Rafale aircraft**
- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh makes history by becoming the first woman fighter pilot to fly the recently inducted Rafale aircraft. The Rafale was officially inducted on September 10, 2020 in the Indian Air Force.
- Singh is currently receiving the training to fly the Rafale, which is based in Ambala.

**World Largest Telescope to have IT controls built in India**
- The square kilometre array also called the SKA, an international initiative building the world’s largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, an IT company based in India.
- Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the
HDFC Bank leads ‘BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands’ ranking
- HDFC Bank has topped the BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2020 Rankings. HDFC Bank has topped this ranking for the 7th consecutive year. It has a total brand value of more than $20.2 billion
- LIC is ranked second while Tata Consulting Services has been ranked at no. 3.

India ranks 116 in World Bank’s 2020 Human Capital Index
- India has been ranked at 116 positions among 174 countries in the latest edition of the World Bank’s annual Human Capital Index. The Index benchmarks the key components of the human capital across all over the countries.
- The 2020 Human Capital Index has included education and health data for 174 countries up to March 2020.
- As per the analysis by the World Bank, pre-pandemic most of the countries had made steady progress in building the human capital of children and the biggest strides were made in low-income countries.

India’s four major cities drop in ranking in Global Smart City Index
- India’s four major cities - New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad witnessed a drop in their rankings in the Global Smart City Index. The index was topped by Singapore.
- The Smart City Index 2020 was released by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD). The index is based on key findings on how technology is playing a role in the C-19 era.
- While New Delhi was ranked 86th on the 2020 Smart City Index, down from 68 in 2019, Hyderabad was placed 85th position (down from 67 in 2019), Bengaluru at 95th (79 in 2019) and Mumbai was at 93rd rank (down from 78 in 2019).

India Happiness Report 2020: Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Top List; Maharashtra & Delhi at Bottom
- The first all India Happiness Report covering all states and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country, which is based on a nationwide survey covering 16,950 people between March and July 2020 by Professor Rajesh K Pillania.
- In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the top three. Among the big states, Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana are among the top three states whereas, among smaller states, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the top three states in happiness rankings. Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories in happiness rankings.
- Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana have shown the worst possible impact of C-19 on happiness, whereas Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir are neutral and Manipur,
Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep have shown the best possible impact of C-19 on happiness.

**TCS Becomes Second Indian Firm to Cross Rs 9 Lakh Crore-market Valuation Mark**
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited.
- The company’s market valuation went past Rs 9 lakh crore in early trade helped by a rally in its share price.
- The stock of the software services firm gained 2.91 per cent to Rs 2,442.80—its record high on the BSE.

**India is second-fastest-growing freelance market in the world**
- India is the second-fastest-growing freelance market in the world with a massive increase in the number of freelancers this year, according to a report on ‘freelancing in 2020: An Abundance of Opportunities’ by Pioneer.
- Furthermore, India witnessed a 46 per cent increase in new freelancers from Q1 to Q2, 2020 as per the report. Apart from India, other popular markets for gig workers include the US, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

**India ranked 105th in Global Economic Freedom Index 2020; Top- Hong Kong**
- India (Score- 6.56/10) has been ranked 105th in the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 released by the Fraser Institute, Canada. HongKong (Score- 8.94/10) has topped the ranking followed by Singapore at the second spot.
- India has fallen 26 spots from 79th spot in last year's ranking. Venezuela has been ranked last among 162 countries. The rankings are prepared based on the data of the year 2018.
- The index measures the degree to which the policies and institutions of countries are supportive of economic freedom. The Index ranks countries based on five areas—the size of government, legal structure and property rights, access to sound money, freedom to trade internationally, regulation of credit, labour and business.

**A report on ‘Household Social Consumption: Education’: NSO**
- A report on ‘Household Social Consumption: Education’ was published by the National Statistical Office (NSO). As per the report, smaller states have done better than the developed ones.
- Average literacy rate of the country is 77.7%. Kerala scored 96.2% thus has the highest literacy rate among states. Delhi stands at second position with 89% literacy rate. Uttarakhand is at number three with a literacy rate of 87.6% while Assam freezes at number four with 85.9% literacy rate.
- Andhra Pradesh ranked the worst with 66.4% literacy rate. The male literacy rate is 84.7% while the female literacy rate is 70.3%, nationally.

**Bengaluru tops the list of cities for career in AI**
- Hyderabad is one of the top five cities in the country to offer jobs in the field of artificial
intelligence (AI), a latest report by job portal site Indeed has revealed.

- Bengaluru tops the list of destinations for a career in AI, followed by Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, and Chennai.
- Job searches in the field have risen 106 per cent in the past year (June 2019 to June 2020), and this has increased further by 20 per cent from March to July 2020, in line with the onset of the pandemic.

‘The State of Young Child in India’ report released, Kerala tops

- Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children, according to a report brought out by non-governmental organisation Mobile Creches and launched by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.
- It identifies eight States that have scores below the country’s average: they are Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- The index is part of the ‘State of the Young Child’ in India report released the 50-year-old NGO.
- The report has also developed another index called the young child environment index to understand the policy and environment enablers that influence a child’s well-being.

Andhra Pradesh tops Ease of Doing Business rankings of States and UTs, followed by UP and Telangana

- Andhra Pradesh retained its top position in ease of doing business ranking 2019, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, as per the State Business Reform Action Plan Ranking released by the commerce and industry ministry.
- The ranking was based on 180 reform points such as easy access to information, improved labour laws, speedy construction permits, land administration and single window approvals, and 36 states/UTs participated in the action plan that is aimed at improving business environment in states by simplifying procedures, digitization of information and easing compliance burden.
- Till date, State Rankings have been released for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017-18. The latest one is the fourth edition for 2018-19.

Oxford University tops THE World University Rankings 2021; IISc top Indian

- Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 has been released and under the overall category, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, has topped the list. It has retained the top spot for the fifth consecutive year.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is the top-ranked University from India and is ranked in the 301-350 band. A total of 63 universities from India qualified for the ranking.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and IIT Indore are the next best-ranked University/college from India.

India ranked 3rd in largest solar market in 2019: Mercom global listing; Top- China

- India has been ranked third in terms of the largest solar market in 2019 as per Mercer
Global listing for 2019. India had 9% of the world’s installed capacity.

- China has topped the ranking with 30 Gw (26% of world capacity). The US is on the second rank.
- Adani Green Energy has emerged as the top Solar Developer in 2019 with 12.3 Gw capacity.

**India’s Adani Green ranked as world’s No. 1 solar firm**

- Indian renewable energy company, Adani Green has been ranked as the world’s number 1 solar energy company in terms of capacity. The company is currently the world’s top solar developer with around 2.3 GW of operational projects.
- Adani Green Energy Limited has another 2 GW projects under construction and 8 GW of awarded projects (with contracted PPAs) for a total capacity of 12.3 GW. The solar capacity of the company exceeds the total installed capacity of the United States as of 2019.

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

'A bouquet of flowers' authored by Dr. Krishna Saksena launched by Rajnath Singh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched a book titled ‘A bouquet of flowers’ written by Dr. Krishna Saksena.
- Dr. Krishna Saksena is the first lady to get a PhD, in 1955 from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

'The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales’ for Kids by Neelakantan

- “Baahubali” series author Anand Neelakantan has written his debut book in the children’s space which tells some of the most hilarious stories about child asuras and their antics.
- The book titled ‘The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales’ has full-colour illustrations accompanying the narrative. It was put by Puffin.

A book titled “Voices of Dissent” authored by Romila Thapar

- A new book titled “Voices of Dissent” authored by Historian Romila Thapar will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books.
- The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.

Chef Vikas Khanna’s Next Book To Give Insights Into His ‘Feed India’ Initiative

- Michelin Star chef Vikas Khanna announced his next book titled “Kitchens of Gratitude”. In this book he will write about his Feed India initiative, one of the world’s largest food drives serving meals to the underprivileged amid the ongoing pandemic, said by publishing house Penguin Random House India.
Barack Obama’s first presidential memoir, ‘A Promised Land,’ to hit stands in November 2020

- Former US President Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled “A Promised Land.”
- A Promised Land is the first of two volumes of the book. This volume tells about his early political life, his presidential campaign in 2008, and ending with the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.
- The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020 in 25 languages.

A new book titled “Azadi” authored by Arundhati Roy

- The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism.
- The essay collection includes meditations on language and roles of fiction and alternative imaginations amid global pandemic due to C-19.

The End of an Era; India Exits Tibet by Claude Arpi

- French-born author, journalist, historian Claude Arpi has written fourth and final volume of his book titled End of an Era, India Exits Tibet.
- The book highlights India Tibet relation between 1947 and 1962. it also focuses on India losing all its influence in Tibet.
- It shows Nehru Memorial Library papers, de-classified Indian and Chinese documents and personal interviews.

Gauri Khan authors book titled ‘My Life in Design’

- Interior designer Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled “My Life In Design”, which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021.
- It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.

‘Breaking The Cocoon @ 40’ book authored by Radha Nair

- The book titled “Breaking The Cocoon @ 40” authored by Radha Nair has been released recently.
- “Breaking The Cocoon @ 40” is a delightful collection of select events from her life, which also holds a mirror to the time the incidents are set in.

Goonmeet Singh Chauhan’s New Book ‘Invertonomics’ Talks about Transforming India

- The book titled ‘Invertonomics’ authored by Mr. Goonmeet Singh Chauhan, and published by HarperCollins Publishers India, is a new way of looking at problem-solving.
- This book is a compilation of methodologies that invert problems into economic opportunities.
Memoir to authorised biography: Two books on Ma Anand Sheela to be published later this year

- Two books on Sheela Birnstiel, popularly known as Ma Anand Sheela, are set to be published. One of the books is an authorised biography, Nothing To Lose by Manbeena Sandhu which will acquaint readers with the woman behind the strong persona. This will be published by Harper Collins, India in October.
- In November, Penguin Random House will come out with Ma Anand Sheela’s memoir titled, My Story in My Own Words. Ma Anand Sheela’s life has been rife with controversies and enigma.
- She was the spokeswoman of the Rajneesh movement and later headlined the Rajneesh commune in Wasco County, Oregon, USA till she was imprisoned for four and a half years.

Ramachandra Guha to come out with new book on cricket

- Historian Ramachandra Guha will come out with a book on cricket in November, which will trace the entire arc of the game in India, across all levels at which it is played and also present vivid portraits of local heroes, provincial icons, and international stars.
- The book titled “The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind” will be co-published by HarperCollins India and William Collins UK.

A new book titled “Let Us Dream” by Pope Francis

- Pope Francis is set to release the book “Let Us Dream” in December 2020. In the book, Pope Francis explains how a crisis can teach an individual to deal with problems they face in their lives. He cites three major crises from his own personal life.
- The book will be an outcome of numerous exchanges between Pope Francis and his Biographer Austen Ivereigh in the weeks following the outbreak around the world. The book is being published by Simon & Schuster and will be released in English and Spanish Editions simultaneously.

The One and Only Sparkella by Channing Tatum

- American actor Channing Tatum is a proud dad and wants to honor his 7-year-old daughter by writing his first children’s book titled “The One and Only Sparkella” (Feiwel & Friends).
- The One and Only Sparkella was illustrated by Kim Barnes, and will be the first in a series of picture books.

A book title “The Big Thoughts of Little Luv” authored by Karan Johar

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha releases coffee table Books
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today released two Coffee Table Books, one for Labour & Employment Department and another for J&K Entrepreneurship Development (JKEDI) Institute at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar.

Gurcharan Singh co-authors his memoir, ‘pitching it straight’ at 85
- The book titled “pitching it straight” was released recently, which has been co-authored by Indian Cricket Coach Gurcharan Singh and senior journalist MS Unnikrishnan.
- In 186-page book, renowned coach Gurcharan offers priceless tips to the current generation with anecdotes.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI approves 3-member committee of directors for Lakshmi Vilas Bank
- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed a 3-member Committee of Directors (CoD) to look after the affairs of Lakshmi Vilas Bank. This comes after, RBI had earlier removed seven directors of the board of LVB.
- The three members are- Meeta Makhan, Shakti Sinha, and Satish Kumar Kalra. Meeta Makhan is the head of this Committee of Directors (CoD).

SBI Card launches new brand campaign ‘Contactless Connections’
- SBI Card announced the launch of its new brand campaign, Contactless Connections that spreads the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.
- The campaign endeavours to bring a fresh breath of positivity by demonstrating that people can connect emotionally and spread joy despite the social distancing practices by which we are bound.

Positive Pay System for Cheque Payments to Come into Effect from January 1: RBI
- In order to check banking fraud, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the ‘positive pay system’ for cheque, under which re-confirmation of key details may be needed for payments beyond Rs 50,000.
- Availing of this facility would be at the discretion of the account holder. However, banks may consider making it mandatory in case of cheques for amounts of Rs 5 lakh and above.
- Under the positive pay system, the issuer of the cheque will be required to submit electronically, through SMS, mobile app, internet banking or ATM certain minimum details of that cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee, amount to the drawee bank. These details will be cross-checked before the cheque is presented for payment. In case any discrepancy is flagged by cheque truncation system (CTS) to the drawee bank and presenting bank, redressal measures would be undertaken.
IRDAI Identifies LIC, GIC, New India Assurance Systemically Important Insurers

- Regulator IRDAI has identified LIC, GIC and New India Assurance as domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) and subsequently decided to subject them to enhanced regulatory supervision.
- The three insurers have also been asked to raise the level of corporate governance, identify all relevant risks and promote a sound risk management culture.

NCAER predicts India GDP for FY21 at -12.6%; For FY22 +7%

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected the GDP growth for the Indian economy at -12.6% For 2020-21 (FY21).
- For 2021-22, NCAER projects the GDP of India to grow by 7%.

ADB approves Rs 2,200 crore loan for secondary towns of Rajasthan

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of Rs 2,200 crore (USD 300 million) to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of Rajasthan.
- The project will strengthen the institutional capacity of local governments and Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water, Sewerage, and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.

RBI publishes "Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for UCBs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will implement the ‘Technology Vision for Cyber Security’ for Urban Co-operative Banks (2020-2023) to enhance the IT security system of Urban Co-operative banking to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from cyber-attacks.
- The Technology Vision Document aims at enhancing the cybersecurity posture of the Urban Co-operative banking sector against evolving IT and cyber threat environment. RBI will achieve this objective using its five-pillared strategic approach ‘GUARD’.
  - GUARD denotes:
    G – Governance Oversight,
    U – Utile Technology Investment,
    A – Appropriate Regulation and Supervision,
    R – Robust Collaboration
    D – Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skills set.
  - To accomplish the five pillared approach, RBI has established 12 specific action points spires to:
    - Involve more Board Oversight over Cybersecurity.
    - Enable UCBs to better manage and secure their IT Assets.
    - Implement an offsite supervisory mechanism framework for UCBs on cybersecurity-related controls.
    - Develop a forum for UCBs so that they can share best practices and discuss practical issues and challenges.
    - Implement a framework for providing awareness/ training for all UCBs.
Sebi constitutes technical group on social stock exchange
- Sebi set up a technical group on social stock exchange to develop a framework for onboarding non-profit organisations and for-profit enterprises as well as prescribe disclosure requirements on financials and governance.
- The regulator has constituted the technical group under the chairmanship of Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, former chairman of Nabard.
- Other members of the group include Ingrid Srinath, founder-director, Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy at Ashoka University; Pushpa Aman Singh CEO of Guidestar; and Santhosh Jayaram, Partner and Head- Sustainability and CSR Advisory at KPMG.

HDFC Life enters into partnership with YES Bank to sell insurance policies
- HDFC Life said it has entered into a partnership with YES Bank to sell policies to the bank’s customers.
- This CA arrangement will enable customers of YES Bank to avail HDFC Life’s wide range of life insurance products, which include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.

UNCTAD sees India growth moderating at -5.9% in 2020
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted that the GDP of India will contract by 5.9% in the year 2020.
- For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by 3.9%. The projection was made in its Trade and Development Report 2020.

India’s nominal GDP to grow 19 per cent in 2022: Finance Ministry
- Finance ministry has estimated that India’s nominal GDP will grow by 19 per cent in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22.
- In the first quarter of this financial year, the nominal GDP contracted by 22.6 per cent to Rs 38.08 lakh crore, compared to Rs 49.18 lakh crore in the same period last year.
- The finance ministry said it is not able to submit Medium Term Expenditure Framework with rolling targets of indicative expenditure for FY22 and FY23 as mandated under the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act because it is not possible to obtain reliable projections of GDP growth at this time due to the continuing impact of C-19 pandemic on the Indian economy.

Google Pay partners with Visa for card-based payments with tokenization
- Google Pay has partnered with VISA for the rollout of tokenization that will enable users to safely transact with their debit or credit cards.
- Through tokenization, Google Pay users can make payment by using the debit or credit card without physically sharing their credit or debit card details through a secure digital token attached to their phone.

Fitch Solutions projects India’s GDP growth at -8.6% in 2020-21
- Fitch Solutions has revised downward its forecast for Indian economic growth and now estimates that India’s GDP will contract by 8.6% in 2020-21 (FY21). Earlier this was
estimated at -4.5%.
- It has also forecasted a 5 percent year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in 2021 and 2022.

**Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services**
- Canara Bank has launched a lead management system (LMS) named as i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
- The initiative aims that each and every customer gets their banking needs covered, irrespective of where they are based, urban or rural.
- Customers can use internet banking, mobile banking, call center, SMS and missed call services to enquire and get services rendered to them. They can also use the CANDI mobile app of Canara Bank.

**UBS Securities projects India’s GDP to contract by 8.6% in FY21; For FY22=+10%**
- UBS Securities has projected India’s GDP for 2020-21 (FY21) to contract by 8.6%. (Earlier it was -5.8%). For FY22, UBS Securities projects India’s GDP to grow by 10%.
- UBS Securities is a Chinese investment bank and brokerage firm headquartered in Beijing, China.

**Govt to infuse Rs.20,000 cr into PSBs via recap bonds**
- State-run banks are poised to get ₹20,000 crore through recapitalization bonds this financial year, at a time the C-19 crisis threatens to bump up bad loans across the banking system.
- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the first batch of supplementary demand for grants in the Parliament, reflecting additional expenses sought by various ministries beyond the budget allocations.
- The government has sought the Parliament’s nod for additional cash expenditure of Rs 1.67 lakh crore, less than 1 percent of GDP, in the first supplementary demand for grants for FY21 tabled in the Parliament.

**Titan ties up with SBI to launch contactless payment watches**
- Titan Company has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch India’s first contactless payment watches named “Titan Pay”.
- Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI.
- Under this mechanism, payments of up to Rs. 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN, as per the RBI guidelines.

**OECD projects India’s GDP at -10.2% in FY21 & 10.7% in FY22, Global GDP at -4.5% in 2020**
- OECD projects India’s GDP at -10.2% in FY21 & 10.7% in FY22, Global GDP at -4.5% in 2020.
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.2% in FY21 (2020-21) as compared to its previous estimate of 16.7% in June.
For FY22 (2021-22), the Paris-based OECD projects India’s gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at 10.7%.

OECD expects the global GDP at -4.5% in 2020, which is an upward revision from its previous estimate of -6%. For the year 2021, the global economy is estimated to increase by 5%.

RBI asks banks to fully automate NPA recognition process
- The Reserve Bank of India has mandated banks to fully automate NPA classification and provisioning calculation process.
- All borrower accounts will be covered under the new regime. Lenders will have time till June 30, 2021 to complete this process.
- The new guidelines will include all borrower accounts, including temporary overdrafts, irrespective of size or sector. Banks’ investments will also be covered under the new system.

Asian Development Bank projects Indian economy to shrink by 9% in FY21, grow by 8% in FY22
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that the GDP of India is expected to contract by 9 percent in the fiscal 2020-21 (FY21). This estimate is worse that ADB’s previous estimate of -4%.
- However, for the FY22 (2021-22), ADB expects India’s GDP at 8 percent.
- ADB also expects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth for developing Asia at – 0.7 percent in 2020, the first negative economic growth since 1962.

Infosys to acquire Europe-based Guide Vision for €30 million
- IT major Infosys has signed a definitive agreement to acquire European consultancy firm Guide Vision for up to Euro 30 million (approximately $35 million).
- Guide Vision is one of the largest Service Now Elite Partners in Europe, specialised in offering strategic advisory, consulting, implementations, training and support.
- With this acquisition, Infosys will enhance its Cobalt portfolio of cloud services and further strengthen its Service Now capabilities for its clients in Europe.
- Infosys launched Cobalt in August 2020, which is a set of services, solutions, and platforms to help its clients, mostly large enterprises, build new cloud-first capabilities.

S&P Projects Indian Economy to Contract 9 Percent
- S&P Global Ratings slashed its growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent in the current fiscal, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier, saying that rising C-19 cases would keep private spending and investment lower for longer.
- S&P Global Ratings now expects the country’s economy to contract by 9 percent in the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2021.

Razorpay launches collateral free line of credit for SMEs
- In a bid to rescue MSMEs and improve their cash flows, Razorpay has launched a collateral free line of credit called Cash Advance.
• MSMEs can borrow working capital with a credit limit of Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh, within 10 seconds through the Razorpay dashboard, depending upon the credit history of the business.
• With this, Razorpay aims to support businesses with upto Rs 100 crores of credit by end of 2020.

**RBI defines Role and selection criteria of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) in Banks**
• The Reserve Bank of India has released the guidelines to be followed by commercial banks for the appointment of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO).
• Scheduled Commercial Banks (Excluding RRBs), Local Area Banks, Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks have to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) to have an effective compliance culture, independent corporate compliance function and a strong compliance risk management programme at bank and group level.
• The CCO shall have an overall experience of at least 15 years in the banking or financial services, out of which minimum 5 years shall be in the Audit / Finance / Compliance / Legal / Risk Management functions.

**CARE Ratings projects India’s GDP to contract between 8-8.2% in FY21**
• Indian rating agency, CARE Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract in the range 8 to 8.2% for 2020-21 (FY21).
• This is more than its earlier projection of -6.4%. The forecast for GVA growth in FY21 is -7.7%.

**Finance Minister launches Doorstep Banking Services by PSBs**
• Union Minister of Finance, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs). All 12 Public Sectors banks have been covered in this scheme.
• The service is available in 11 languages. It aims to deliver the services in 3 hours. For this 100 Doorstep banking centres have been established across India.
• Available Services: Services like- Cheques/DD/PO, New cheque book requisition, 15G, 15H forms, IT Challan, Standing Instructions request, A/c Statement, Non-personalised Cheque Books, DD, PO, Prepaid instrument/Gift card, TDS / Form 16 Certificate issuance, Term Deposit Receipt /Acknowledgement can be availed by the customers at their doorsteps.
• The service aims to provide banking services to the customers of Public Sector Banks at their doorstep via three modes-
  \- Call Centre (18001037188 or 18001213721)
  \- Web Portal (www.psbdsb.in)
  \- Mobile App (Doorstep Banking(DSB))
• The targetted customers are- Senior citizens, Defense personnel, CRPF, widows, Divyang individuals, Students, Salaried employees, Corporate clients, Retail shopkeepers and street vendors.
Crisil projects India’s GDP for FY21 at -9%
- CRISIL has projected India’s GDP rate at -9% for the financial year 2020-21 (FY21). CRISIL revising its forecast down from 5% owing to uncertainty over the spread of C-19 and lack of adequate financial support from the government.
- For FY22, Crisil has projected India’s GDP to grow at 10%. For the next three years, between fiscals 2023 and 2025, CRISIL projects the Indian GDP to average a growth of 6.2% annually.

ICICI Bank launches iStartup 2.0, dedicated offering for start-ups
- ICICI Bank has launched a new product named iStartup 2.0, to cater to the banking needs of startups and entrepreneurs.
- iStartup 2.0 is a startup bank account (in form of current account) that can be opened within 10 years of date of incorporation of the business. There are three variants of this current account.
- Eligibility: Partnership Firms and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) OR Private and Public Limited Companies and One Person Companies (OPCs).

India Ratings forecasts contraction of 11.8% in FY21 GDP
- The Indian arm of Fitch Ratings, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected India’s FY21 GDP growth forecast at -11.8% as against its earlier prediction of -5.3%.
- The rating agency estimates the economic loss in FY21 to be Rs 18.44 lakh crore. The rating agency also expects India’s GDP to rebound and grow at 9.9% year-on-year in FY22 primarily due to the weak base of FY21.

Goldman Sachs predicts India’s GDP for FY21 at -14.8%
- Goldman Sachs has predicted India’s GDP for FY21 at -14.8%. For Calendar Year 2020 it has projected a contraction of 11.1%.
- For FY22, Goldman Sachs predicts India’s GDP to grow at 15.7% and for Calendar Year 2021 at 9.9%.

SBI to launch loan product ‘SAFAL’ for organic cotton growers
- State Bank of India is planning to launch a loan product named “SAFAL” for organic cotton growers. The product Safe and Fast Agriculture Loan (SAFAL) is primarily focussed on organic cotton growers who don’t have any credit history.
- It stands for Safe and Fast Agriculture Loan (SAFAL). SBI will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for this purpose.

RBI announces OMO for sale, purchase of government securities of Rs 10,000 crore
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under the Open Market Operation (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore each on September 10.
- The RBI on August 31 had announced that it would conduct special simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under OMO for an aggregate amount of Rs 20,000 crore in two tranches of Rs 10,000 crore each as part of its measures to foster
orderly market conditions.

- The first auction is scheduled for September 10, 2020. It would be selling three securities totalling Rs 10,000 crore and also purchasing equal number of securities of the same amount.

**Fitch Ratings Projects Indian economy to contract 10.5% in FY21**

- In its September update of Global Economic Outlook (GEO), the US-based Fitch Ratings has sharply lowered the forecast for the gross domestic product (GDP) growth of India for the current fiscal 2020-21 (FY21) and now expects the GDP to contract 10.5 percent.
- Earlier in June Global Economic Outlook, the rating agency has estimated 5 percent contraction for FY21.
- The downward revision comes after India’s GDP shrank by 23.9% year-on-year in the April-June quarter, the worst performance in nearly four decades.
- The rating agency has also revised its forecast for global GDP and expects it to fall by 4.4 percent in 2020, which is a modest upward revision from the 4.6 percent contraction expected earlier.

**Banks sanction loans of Rs 1.61 lakh crore to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme**

- Banks have sanctioned loans of about Rs 1,61,017 crore under the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector reeling under the slowdown caused by the C-19 pandemic.
- However, disbursements against this stood at Rs 1,13,713 lakh crore till September 3.

**CII to create a 'National strategy for future business' along with DPIIT**

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will create a ‘national strategy for future businesses’ together with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The group will also provide policy inputs, identify new growth segments and establish international partnerships with a focus on growing such businesses.

**RBI ceased the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank to be act as a banking company**

- The Reserve Bank of India has issued a notification to all banks on September 03, 2020 stating that “Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited” has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with effect from July 28, 2020.
- Apart from this, “Westpac Banking Corporation” also ceases to be a banking company as announced by RBI.

**RBI releases revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines**

- The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Guidelines have been reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India. The review was executed to align the PSL Guidelines with evolving national priorities.
- In the revised PSL Guidelines, the Reserve Bank of India has included some fresh
categories eligible for finance under priority sector. These include loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants; loans for establishment of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants; and bank finance to start-ups of up to Rs 50 crore.

- The new guidelines will make better credit penetration into credit deficient areas and increase the lending to small as well as marginal farmers and weaker sections. It will also enhance credit to renewable energy, and health infrastructure.

**Nomura Slashes India’s GDP at -10.8% in 2020-21**
- Nomura has downgraded India’s economic growth rate for current financial year and now expects the GDP to contract by 10.8% in 2020-21.
- Earlier it had estimated the GDP to contract by 6.1%.

**Real GDP likely to contract by 10.9% in FY21: SBI Ecowrap**
- After the country’s economy contracted by a record 23.9 per cent in April-June quarter, real GDP for FY21 is expected to shrink by 10.9 per cent, according to State Bank of India’s research report – Ecowrap.
- It had earlier estimated real gross domestic product (GDP) at (-) 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal.
- According to the research report, there is a need to revive sectors such as construction, trade and hotels, aviation.

**RBI Announces Steps to Ease Pressure on Liquidity**
- The Reserve Bank of India has announced the following measures to ensure the orderly functioning of financial markets in India:
  - Additional special open market operation of Rs 20,000 crore: The Reserve Bank will conduct additional special open market operation involving the simultaneous purchase and sale of Government securities for an aggregate amount of Rs. 20,000 crore in two tranches of Rs. 10,000 crore each.
  - Term repo operations for an aggregate amount of Rs. 100,000 crore: The Reserve Bank will conduct term repo operations for an aggregate amount of ₹100,000 crore at floating rates (i.e., at the prevailing repo rate) in the middle of September 2020 to assuage pressures on the market on account of advance tax outflows. The banks which had availed of funds under the previous long-term repo operations (LTROs) may reduce their interest liability by returning funds taken at the repo rate prevailing at that time (5.15 per cent) and availing funds at the current repo rate of 4 per cent.
  - Increase of HTM up to an overall limit of 22 per cent of NDTL: Currently, banks are required to maintain 18 per cent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in SLR securities. The extant limit for investments that can be held in HTM category is 25 per cent of total investment. Banks are allowed to exceed this limit provided the excess is invested in SLR securities within an overall limit of 19.5 per cent of NDTL. RBI has decided to allow banks to hold fresh acquisitions of SLR securities acquired from September 1, 2020 under HTM up to an overall limit of 22 per cent of NDTL up to March 31, 2021.
India’s GDP contracts by 23.9% in Q1 of FY21: NSO data
- As per the official data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), India’s GDP has contracted by 23.9% in the first quarter (April-June 2020) for FY21.
- This is the first instance of an economic contraction for India in at least four decades. It is also the first GDP decline since India began publishing quarterly numbers in 1996.
- Gross value added (GVA) for India declined by 22.8%. All the sectors except agriculture witnessed contractions during the April-June quarter of 2020-21. The highest drop was witnessed by the construction industry of 50.3%.

India’s fiscal deficit to touch 7 per cent in FY21: Brickwork Ratings
- India’s fiscal deficit is expected to touch 7 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 fiscal as against budget estimate of 3.5 per cent, according to Brickwork Ratings.
- The impact of the C-19 on economic activity shows up starkly in the trends in the central government revenue collection during the first three months of fiscal 2020-21.

India’s foreign exchange reserves surge by USD 2.296 bn to USD 537.548 bn
- India’s foreign exchange reserves rose by 2.296 billion US dollar to reach 537.548 billion US dollar in the week to August 21.
- Foreign Currency Assets rose by 2.618 billion dollar to 494.168 billion US dollar in the reporting week.
- The country’s reserve position with the IMF also increased by 6 million to 4.634 billion US dollar during the reporting week.