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MAY 2020

NATIONAL NEWS:

Shivraj Singh Chauhan launches Jeevan Shakti Yojana in MP:

Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Chauhan launched the **Jeevan Shakti Yojana**. Under this scheme, women in urban areas can earn by making masks at home. The government will pay **Rs 11 per mask**.

Assam govt launches new medicine delivery scheme called 'Dhanwantari':

The Assam state government has launched a special scheme called '**Dhanwantari**', under which locally unavailable medicines will be delivered to patients at home by **MPWs (Multipurpose Health Workers)**, ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers.

Jagan Mohan Reddy re-launches zero interest loan scheme for Women SHGs:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** re-launched zero interest loan scheme for Women Self-Help Groups(SHGs) by releasing a sum of **Rs 1, 400 crore to 8.78 lakh** SHGs.

Narendra Singh Tomar issued guidelines for SVAMITVA scheme and SOP for e-Gram Swaraj:

Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, **Narendra Singh Tomar** issued guideline of the **SVAMITVA Scheme** aimed at providing people residing in Rural parts with the right to document their residential properties & **SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)** regarding the e-Gram Swaraj Yojana.

Assam government announced Rs.50 lakh insurance cover to journalists:

Assam State government has announced an insurance cover of **Rs.50 lakh** for the frontline **journalists** who have been bravely covering COVID-19 against all odds, risking their lives. The announcement was passed by Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**.

Gujarat government launches unique initiative 'Umbare Aanganwadi' to help children during lockdown:

Gujarat state Government has launched an unique initiative **called Umbare Aanganwadi** (means doorstep Aanganwadi) under **ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services)** programme to reach out to children during the lockdown.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation commences coal production at Talabira-II & III Opencast Coal Mine:

NLC India has commenced coal production at its **Talabira-II** and **III** Opencast Coal Mine in **Odisha**. The Talabira II and III coal mines were allotted to this **Navratna firm** in 2016 to meet the requirement of its existing and future coal-fired power plants.

Andhra Pradesh launches pharmacy app for surveillance on cold, fever patients:

Concerned over steady rise in Coronavirus positive cases, **Andhra Pradesh** Government began tracking patients who could be suffering from cold and fever. It has launched a customised mobile application- '**Covid Pharma**' for pharmacies across the state.

Andhra Pradesh CM launched Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme:

Andhra Pradesh Cheif Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the **Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme**, to provide **100%** fee reimbursement to all students. The

reimbursed amount will directly be credited into the accounts of the mothers of the students in four instalments annually.

Cheif Minister also announced a helpline number, **1902**.

Kerala Starts 'Ayur Raksha' Clinics At Govt Hospitals:

Kerala government has set up **Ayurveda bodies** at the state, regional and district levels for a COVID-19 prevention programme and started '**Ayur Raksha**' clinics at government hospitals at district and taluk levels.

ADB gives \$ 346 million loan for power sector in rural Maharashtra:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **USD 346 million** loan to Indian government to provide reliable power connection in rural areas of **Maharashtra**. The loan will support the state government's high voltage distribution system (HVDS) program.

Cauvery Water Management Authority brought under the Jal Shakti Ministry:

Central government:

The central government has brought the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** under the **Jal Shakti Ministry**, which was earlier under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and **Ganga Rejuvenation**.

For NIP projects, the Centre would invest **39%** of the projected expenditure while states' share would be **40%**, followed by the private sector with **21%**.

AYURAKSHA programme was organized for Delhi Police:

A programme titled AYURAKSHA "**Corona Se Jung- Delhi Police Ke Sang**" was organized

for **Delhi Police** personnel at New Delhi on 30 April. The programme aims to fight against corona through simple and time tested Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures.

DST launches "YASH" with focus on COVID-19:

National Council for Science & Technology Communication (**NCSTC**), Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication "**Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)**" with focus on COVID-19.

Manipur black rice, Gorakhpur terracotta bagged GI tag:

Black rice of Manipur, also called the **Chak-Hao, Gorakhpur Terracotta** and **Kadalai Mittai** of **Kovilpatti** bagged Geographical Indication tag. Chak-Hao, a scented glutinous rice cultivated in Manipur over centuries, is characterised by its special aroma.

Kovilpatti kadalai mittai is manufactured in **Kovilpatti** and adjacent towns and villages in **Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu**.

Tripura govt to launch agri entrepreneur facilitation desk to boost economy:

Tripura government has announced the launch of an agro-based entrepreneurship facilitation desk in a bid to boost primary sectors, such as **agriculture**, after nationwide lockdown restrictions.

Ministry of Coal launches Project Monitoring Unit for facilitating early operationalisation of coal mines:

Minister of Coal **Pralhad Joshi** has launched a **Project Monitoring Unit** for facilitation of early operationalisation of coal mines allocated by the Government. This is an important step forward to promote **Ease of**

Doing Business as it will support in obtaining timely approval to operationalise the mines.

National Board for Wildlife Permits Coal Mining in Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in Assam:

National Board for Wildlife has recommended that part of 59 hectares reserve forest land that is a part of **Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve** be used for opencast coal mining by **North-Eastern Coal Field of Coal India Limited** while the rest of the area may be considered for underground coal mining.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari launches 'MSME Bank of Ideas, Innovation and Research' portal:

Union Minister of Road transport & Highways & MSME, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari has launched '**MSME Bank of Ideas, Innovation and Research**' portal (<http://ideas.msme.gov.in/>) along with 'Ayush Entrepreneurship Development Program' through Video Conference.

Through the portal, the registered users can upload their ideas and innovations regarding the **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** sector within **5-6 Minutes** to raise money (crowd funding) from venture capitalists

Maharashtra becomes first state in India to provide free & cashless insurance cover to its people:

Maharashtra announced that all citizens will be covered under the state government's health scheme, and it will be the first state to provide free and cashless insurance protection to its people. **85%** of the state's population was covered under **MJPJAY**

(Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana).

Indian Navy launches operation 'Samudra Setu' to return Indians stranded abroad:

Indian Navy announced Operation 'Samudra Setu' to repatriate Indian citizens who were stranded overseas because of the global grounding of airlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **INS Jalashwa** and **INS Magar** are currently enroute to the port of Male.

Chief of the Naval Staff: **Admiral Karambir Singh.**

West Bengal govt launches exit app for stranded people of other states:

West Bengal state Home Secretary, **Alapan Bandopadhyay** announced that the WB Government (govt) launched an "**exit app**" for people of other states who are stranded in the state due to the lockdown and want to return to their native place.

Himachal Pradesh to launch Nigah Scheme:

Himachal Pradesh State Government is to launch the "**Nigah**" Scheme to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained. The announcement was made by Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur.**

Under **Nigah Scheme**, a team of ASHA workers, health workers, and Anganwadi workers would visit the family members of persons arriving from other states.

Uttar Pradesh launched Ayush Kavach app to boost immunity through Ayurveda:

Uttar Pradesh state government unveiled the **Ayush Kavach app** that will provide health-related tips and information about ayurvedic medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ayush Kavach mobile app will help people access prescriptions to strengthen their resistance through the ancient mode of Yoga and Ayurveda of India.

Uttar Pradesh suspends majority of labour laws to attract investment:

Uttar Pradesh government has suspended many labour laws in the state for **3 years** with a view to attract investment & to help both existing & new industrial units. It has also decided to establish **Japanese** help desk to attract the investment from **Japanese companies**.

Tamil Nadu raises retirement age of government employees from 58 to 59:

In **Tamil Nadu**, the retirement age of the government staff, teachers and those in public sector units has been raised by a year from **58** to **59**. The order comes in the wake of reports of loss of revenue due to the pandemic.

J&K: National Webinar on 'Education and Leadership During A Crisis' organized to deal with COVID-19 crisis:

A two-day National Webinar on '**Education and Leadership During A Crisis**', being organised by School of Education, Central University, Jammu, under Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching scheme began in **Jammu**.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works produces automatic medical trolley to serve patients in hospitals without human contact:

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works in West Bengal is mostly engaged in manufacturing of Railway engines. To deal with the Corona threat CLW has produced an automatic medical trolley which can reach to patients in hospital **without human contact**.

Madhya Pradesh becomes the first state in country to provide Mid-Day Meal ration:

The Central Government appreciated that Madhya Pradesh (MP) has become the first state in the country to provide a **mid-day meal ration**.

Manoj Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development, informed that this information has been given in the review meeting conducted by the Central Government

Sanjeevani: Unique vehicle developed at local level in Madhya Pradesh:

In **Madhya Pradesh**, in a first of its kind initiative, a unique vehicle named "**Sanjeevani**" has been developed at the local level. With the help of this vehicle, health workers can investigate any suspected patients without coming into the contact of him.

Tripura Chief Minister launches online portal scholarships.gov.in:

In Tripura, Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb** has launched an online portal scholarships.gov.in under '**Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana**'.

Government will provide **Rs. 5, 000** to 14, 608 youths who are in final year in colleges or Universities as a grant for Smart Phones.

India has more internet users in rural areas than urban: IAMAI report

Internet users in rural areas surpassed those in urban areas for the first time, according to the '**Digital in India**' report by the **Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMA)**.

Indian Navys PPE clears certification by INMAS:

Indian Navy designed and produced **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**.

The PPE was tested and approved by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (**INMAS**), **Delhi** which is a DRDO organization tasked with the testing and certification of PPE. It is certified to be mass-produced and used in clinical COVID-19 situations.

Gujarat creates a fund of Rs 100 crore for COVID start-ups:

The **Gujarat** government has announced to help the start-ups who would join the battle against Covid-19 with their knowledge and expertise by creating a fund of **Rs 100 crore**. As many as 31 such startups are supported by this fund.

Yogi Adityanath launches 'Pravasi Raahat Mitra' app for migrant Workers:

Chief Minister Of Uttar Pradesh **Yogi Adityanath** launched the '**Pravasi Raahat Mitra**' mobile application developed by the state revenue department in collaboration with **United Nation Development Program** to provide support for the migrant workers of **Uttar Pradesh** in other states to access the advantages of the government schemes.

Uttar Pradesh becomes first state to provide facility of beds with ventilators in each district:

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide the facility of beds with **ventilators in hospitals** of all 75 districts of

state. In order to curb the spread of COVID-19 in every village through community surveillance, the government has constituted a Village Supervision Committee or **Gram Nigrani Samiti**.

Black panther spotted in Goa's Netravali sanctuary:

A **Black panther** was spotted in Goa's **Netravali sanctuary**. While the area is a known habitat of tigers, this is for the first time a Black Panther has been captured in camera in Netravali sanctuary. Netravali is an important tributary of **River Zuari**.

Giriraj Singh awards Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge winners:

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Giriraj Singh** awarded the winners of "**Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge**".

The Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge was launched by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, in partnership with **Startup India**.

Bengaluru launches Pranavayu programme to create awareness on need to self-examine respiratory health:

Prana Vayu programme launched by the city Corporation in **Bengaluru** has been creating awareness through advertisements in media about the need to carry out **self-examination** for early detection of any ailment that could aggravate the situation if contracted.

It is an attempt to help people with **low oxygen level** in blood.

India launches Mission Sagar to assist island nations in Eastern Indian Ocean:

India launched **Mission Sagar** as part of the government's outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Indian Naval Ship **Kesari** has departed for **Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros**, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and **Special Ayurvedic Medicines** with Medical Assistance Teams embarked.

Tamil Nadu forms panel under ex RBI Governor C Rangarajan to improve fiscal position:

Tamil Nadu govt set up the high – level committee has **21** members to examine **fiscal** challenges facing the state owing to the pandemic and suggest the way forward to improve its fiscal position he committee, which will also consist of Finance Secretary **S Krishnan** as coordinator.

MP Home Minister launches country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar' Yojana:

Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to launch the scheme. According to the scheme people need not be required to visit a police station to lodge an **FIR**. It has been started as a pilot project in **23 Police Stations**.

Atal Pension Yojana marks 5 years of implementation:

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched in **2015** by PM Modi with an objective of delivering old age income security particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector and Government providing a guarantee of minimum pension after **60 years** of age.

Education dept with Doordarshan starts online classes for School children: Jharkhand

The State Education Department & **Doordarshan** started online classes & educational programs to provide education to students of the state through video & thematic lectures. The lectures are designed for students from class 1 to 12.

National Gallery of Modern Art launches a virtual program 'NGMA Ke Sangrah Se' to showcase artworks:

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) New Delhi, has launched a virtual program called "**NGMA KE SANGRAH SE**" to showcase an iconic and rare collection of artifacts from its repository.

The event is based on various weekly/ daily themes & for the current week, the theme is '**Artist by Artists**' and dedicated it to Poet **Rabindranath Tagore**, whose 159th birth anniversary was celebrated on 7th May 2020.

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launches Central University of Odisha helpline 'Bharosa' to help students in distress:

Union HRD Minister launched the Central University of **Odisha** Helpline '**Bharosa**' to relieve distress of student community during the pandemic. The helpline aims at providing Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services to all University Students of **Odisha**.

MSME Ministry launches CHAMPIONS portal:

MSME Ministry has launched CHAMPIONS portal www.Champions.gov.in, a technology-driven control room-cum-management information system. **CHAMPIONS** (Creation and Harmonious

Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength).

Consumer Affairs dept partners with 2 start-ups to power 'Suraksha Store initiative':

Dept of **Consumer Affairs** partnered with tech start-ups **Safejob** and **Seekify** to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local **Kirana stores**. The objective is to educate store owners about safety guidelines & protocols to be followed. The protocols were decided by **FSSAI & MHA**.

Jitendra Singh addresses Indo-Bangladesh Virtual Conference organised by ASSOCHAM:

Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister of State Independent Charge (I/C) **Jitendra Singh** addresses the Indo-Bangladesh 'Virtual Conference' organised by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India(**ASSOCHAM**).

Uttarakhand CM launches ' HOPE', a portal for unemployed youth to get jobs:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched a portal aimed at creating employment avenues for the trained youth as well as offering them **skill development** opportunities to increase their employability. **HOPE** stands for **Helping Out People Everywhere**.

KVIC to implement "Vocal for Local" initiative; Issues Guidelines:

Prime Minister **Modi** recently announced "**Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**". Under the scheme, around 20 lakh crore rupees have been allocated. Along with the scheme, the Prime Minister also announced "Vocal for Local".

The **KVIC** (Khadi and Village Industries Commission) has come forward to become "**Vocal for Local**".

Narendra Singh Tomar held meeting Pesticide Manufacturing Industry representatives to prevent locust attacks:

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** held a meeting with representatives of the Pesticide Manufacturing Industry through video conferencing to check the strategy to prevent locust attacks on agricultural fields.

Government of India is taking several measures to ensure uninterrupted sowing and harvesting operations amid lockdown.

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan re-launched Sambal Yojana for dalits tribals and poor:

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** re-launched **Sambal Yojana** to strengthen the lives of the poor and Scheduled Caste(SC) and Scheduled Tribe(ST) communities by providing them social security cover, right from birth to death. He transferred **Rs 41.33 crores** to **1903** beneficiaries account.

Kerala launches portal for non-residents to book cabs for home:

Kerala Tourism launched an online platform to enable non-residents **Keralites** to book vehicles of tour operators to travel back to the state. Keralites stranded in other parts of the country can submit enquiries through the department's website.

Gujarat CM announces Atma-Nirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojana:

Gujarat announced **Atma-Nirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojana**, a scheme for **small shop**

keepers and self-employed hit by the lockdown. Under the scheme, one lakh rupees **collateral-free loan** will be given at two per cent for the beneficiaries for three years. Over **10 lakh** self-employed & shop keepers to be benefited.

Haryana and J&K to provide tap water to every household by Dec 2022: Jal Jeevan Mission:

Jammu & Kashmir and the state Government of **Haryana** have planned to provide tap connection to supply water to all rural families by December **2022** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission** (JJM). While the national target has been set for the year **2024-25**.

West Bengal govt launches Matir Smriti scheme:

West Bengal government launched **Matir Smriti scheme** to utilise 50, 000 acres of barren land in six districts for income-generating activities like **horticulture** and **pisciculture**. The scheme will benefit around **2.5 lakh** people in rural Bengal.

Arjun Munda launches 'Goal' programme of MoTA for digital skilling of tribal youth in partnership with Facebook:

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** launched the "**GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)**" programme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with **Facebook** at a Webinar

40 gharials released in Ghaghara river amid lockdown:

40 gharials were released in the **Ghaghara river** by **Uttar Pradesh** forest division, amid the nationwide lockdown due to the novel coronavirus disease. They are critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Species.

MHRD launched e-Governance platform, SAMARTH:

Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has developed an e-Governance platform, **SAMARTH** Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP), under the National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (**NMEICT**).

The aim of the e-Governance platform, SAMARTH, is to provide quality education to students across all Universities & **Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**.

Investment Capacity of India in renewable sector reached 500-700 billion USD:

The **Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis** published a study according to which India has increased its potential for renewable energy in **solar power** in the country. The **Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan** is the largest solar park in the world.

India target to install **175 GW** of renewable energy by **FY2021-22**.

Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicates COVID-19 testing machine COBAS 6800 to the nation:

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, visited the National Centre for Disease Control in **Delhi**, and dedicated the **COBAS 6800** COVID-19 testing machine to the nation. It performs RT-PCR tests for COVID-19.

Madhya Pradesh launches Charan Paduka initiative for migrant labourers:

In Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind of initiative, **Charan Paduka campaign** has been started for the **migrant labourers**

passing through the state. Under this, migrant labourers going barefoot are **providing shoes** and **slippers** to reduce their pain.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: One TV channel each for Class 1 to 12:

Digital education initiative for students called PM e-Vidya to be launched which will be an earmarked **TV channel** per class from **1 to 12**. Also, top 100 universities to be permitted to automatically start online courses by 30 May 2020.

Five-member panel formed to probe Vizag gas leak: Andhra Pradesh:

Andhra Pradesh government has formed a 5-member high-powered committee led by **Neerabh Kumar Prasad** to probe into the causes behind the leakage of styrene gas from the LG Polymers India Ltd located at RR Venkatapuram in Visakhapatnam. The panel required to submit its final report within one month.

The gas leak had claimed 12 lives and left more than 200 people ill after they inhaled the styrene gas.

Rajnath Singh approves Rs 400-crore defence testing infrastructure scheme:

To provide private sector defence and aerospace companies affordable facilities to test and validate weaponry they are designing, Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** approved a **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme** (DTIS) with an outlay of **Rs 400 crore**.

Each project to receive **75%** of its cost as government funding.

Government implements Shekatkar Committee recommendations related to creating border infrastructure:

Union Government has implemented Lt. General **D B Shekatkar Committee's** recommendations related to creating border infrastructure. These were related to road construction leading to socio-economic development in the border areas along India's border with China.

Government of West Bengal announces new schemes- 'Sneher Porosh' & 'Prochesta':

The Chief Minister of **West Bengal** launched two schemes '**Sneher Porosh**' to provide support for the migrant workers and '**Prochesta**' to help the workers of the unorganized sector of Bengal to enable them to earn their living in the lockdown situation.

Prochesta Scheme is to provide wages to all **daily wage workers**.

Karnataka launches incubator for cyber security start-ups in India:

Karnataka launched its first cyber security-specific accelerator programme '**H.A.C.K**'. The programme is implemented by **CySecK**, which is state's **Centre of Excellence** in **Cyber Security** meant to create a cyber-safe environment for industry collaboration.

Gujarat mandates digital payment for home delivery in Ahmedabad:

Preventing the spread of Covid-19 through currency notes, **Gujarat** government has mandated digital payment for all home delivery services in the worst-hit city of **Ahmedabad** and also issued protocol to be followed by the delivery persons.

"Tatpar" scheme in Ranchi to transport migrant workers:

'**Tatpar**' programme was launched by the **Ranchi** district, Jharkhand administration to ease their tiresome journey on foot.

Under the programme, officials collect information about those walking on national highways or on any other road to provide them **transport facilities**.

'Mee Annapurna' initiative launched for farmer's welfare across Maharashtra:

Government of **Maharashtra** announced a **3 year** empanelment of insurance companies and intermediaries for implementation of crop insurance scheme, the **Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited (IRIBL)**, announced '**Mee Annapurna**' for farmer's welfare across Maharashtra

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III).

About **1674 km** road will be constructed using Coir Geo textiles in 7 states namely- **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telengana** with a cost of around **Rs.70 Crore**.

Ministry of Defence inks MoU with eGov Foundation for online management of Cantonment Boards:

Ministry of Defence has signed an MoU with **eGov Foundation** for online management of Cantonment Boards. The joint initiative sees **Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE)**, Ministry of Defence and eGov Foundation working together to drive e-governance.

Rajiv Gandhi University to host Central Centre of Excellence on Sports Science Education and Research:

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry has selected **Rajiv Gandhi University** (RGU) at **Rono Hills**, near here, to establish a centre of excellence on Sports Science Education and Research under the ministry's scheme of

National Centre of Sports Sciences and Research (NCSSR).

Cabinet approves Rs 3 lakh cr emergency credit line for MSME; loans at 9.25% rate:

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved additional funding of up to **Rs 3 lakh crore** at a concessional rate of 9.25 per cent through the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** for the MSME sector hit hard by the coronavirus crisis.

Under the scheme, **100 per cent** guarantee coverage will be provided by **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC)** for additional funding of up to **Rs 3 lakh crore** to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers, in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line (**GECL**) facility.

Centre launches scheme to solarise entire Konark Temple, Konark town:

The scheme envisages setting up of the **10-MW** grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications such as solar trees, solar drinking water kiosks and off-grid solar power plants with battery storage, with a 100 per cent **central financial assistance (CFA)** support of around **Rs. 25 crore** from the Government of India through the **MNRE**.

Chhattisgarh government launches Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** launched the **Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana (RGKNY)** on the death anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in Raipur .Acc. to the government, about 19 lakh farmers of the state will be benefitted by this scheme.

Madhya Pradesh Government begins Didi Vehicle Service for rural women:

In the tribal-dominated **Jhabua district** of **Madhya Pradesh**, the women of **Rural Livelihood Mission** have started **Didi Vehicle Service** for rural women for the safe delivery. This vehicle service is completely free.

AndhraGreens portal to facilitate e-commerce of fruits and vegetables in Andhra Pradesh:

Andhra Pradesh government launched a website to procure & sell fruits online as part of supporting the horticulture farmers in the state. Through **Kalgudi digital** platform, **AndhraGreens.com** is a farmer-to-consumer e-commerce portal specialized in **fruits, vegetables & spices**.

Union HRD Minister Launches Online Masters Programme in Hindi of IGNOU:

Union HRD (Human Resource Development Minister) **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched IGNOU'S (Indira Gandhi National Open University) Online Programme for **Master of Arts (MA)** in **Hindi**, through facebook live session

Rajnath Singh participates in MSMEs E-conclave "SIDM MSME Conclave 2020":

Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** said the lockdown to combat the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) had hit the **manufacturing sector**, disrupted supply chains and the defence industry had also been affected due to the strict confinement measures.

SIDM MSME Conclave 2020 was jointly organized by the **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** and the department of defence production.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan represents India in NAM Health Ministers virtual meet:

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, attended the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** Health Minister's meeting on May 20 which took place through a video conference.

NAM Health Minister's virtual meet was chaired by **Ogtay Shiraliyev**, Minister of Health, **Republic of Azerbaijan**.

Govt extends 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana' by 3 yrs till Mar 2023: The Union Cabinet extended the **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVY)**, a social security scheme for senior citizens, for three years till **March, 2023**. The assured rate of return for fiscal **2020-21** has been pegged at **7.4 per cent** per annum and thereafter to be reset every year.

Chhattisgarh to observe May 25 as Jhiram tribute day:

Chhattisgarh government will observe **May 25** as '**Jhiram Shraddhanjali Diwas**' to pay tribute to Congress leaders who were killed in a Maoist attack in Bastar district on this day in 2013 as well as other victims of Naxal violence

Madhya Pradesh CM to inaugurate 'Everybody will get employment' scheme:

In **Madhya Pradesh**, Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** will inaugurate the '**Everybody will get employment**' scheme through video conferencing. Under this scheme, MNREGA job cards will be distributed to the labourers.

Under '**Shram Siddhi Abhiyan**', labourers will be registered under skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled categories and work will be provided.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches Rs 1, 110 crores 'ReStart' to revive MSME sector:

Andhra Pradesh government launches **ReStart** to revive MSME sector Andhra Pradesh(AP)'s Chief Minister(CM) **Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched **Rs 1, 110 crores 'ReStart'** a new programme to support & boost the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise**(MSME) sector in the State.

Sports Authority Gujarat sign an MoU TCLL to train 2000 athletes:

Sports Authority Gujarat signed an MoU with the **Times Centre for Learning Limited (TCLL)** to impart training for personality and skill development for aspiring athletes in the state. This will be the first-of-its-kind training in the State.

Mizoram cabinet grants industry status to sports:

Mizoram becomes the **1st** state to give industry status to sports. State sports minister **Robert Romawia Royte** said the cabinet has cleared the proposal by state **sports** and **youth** service department to grant sports an **industry status**, which according to him, was a significant move to take forwards the segment in a more systematic and sustainable manner.

Uttarakhand releases report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras:

Uttarakhand is the first state to release a report highlighting its conservation efforts to save over 1, 100 **rare plants** from extinction. Around 1, 145 species are conserved of which **46** species are endemic & **68** species are rare, endangered or threatened. Around **386**

species, conserved, have medicinal properties.

Tamil Nadu begins work on implementing Solar Fence Farmland Protection Programme:

Tamil Nadu government has started preliminary works for implementing the **unique Solar Fence Farmland Protection Programme**, under the Central Agriculture Improvement Scheme.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Mazumdar-Shaw recognised among world's top 20 inspirational leaders in Biopharma:

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon Chairperson has been recognized as one of the world's top 20 inspirational leaders in biopharmaceuticals in The Medicine Maker '**Power List 2020**' for her contribution to the world of medicine as an innovative business leader.

EAM Jaishankar to participate in BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting on response to COVID-19 pandemic:

The foreign ministers of the BRICS grouping discussed measures to combat COVID-19. External Affairs Minister **Shri S Jaishankar** represented India at the meet. The video conference was hosted by Russia as it is the current rotating head.

11th Session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue held via video conferencing:

The 11th session of **Petersberg (Germany)** Climate Dialogue witnessed India along with 30 other countries deliberating over ways and means to tackle the challenge of reinvigorating economies and societies after COVID-19. **Prakash Javadekar** represented India.

Bangladesh gets 500 million-dollar ADB loan to manage COVID-19 impact:

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved an additional loan of **500 million** dollars to Bangladesh to manage the impact of Corona virus on its economy and public health. 1.5 million workers, mostly women, in export industries will receive salary support.

ADB had approved **\$100 million** concessional loan for **Bangladesh**.

AIIB grants \$500 mn loan to India to deal with coronavirus disaster:

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a loan worth of **\$500 million** for India's '**COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project**' to assist nation's efforts to stop the risk posed by coronavirus (Covid-19).

WHO and UN Postal agency release commemorative postage stamp on 40th anniversary of eradication of smallpox:

In May 1980, the **33rd** World Health Assembly issued its official declaration that the world is free from **smallpox**. It ended after a **10-year** global effort that involved thousands of health workers around the world to administer half a billion vaccinations.

WHO released first "State of the World's Nursing Report – 2020" stating a global shortfall of 5.9 million nurses:

Countries facing greatest shortfall of nurses are in **Africa, South East Asia** and the **WHO Eastern Mediterranean region** as well as some parts of Latin America.

India attends SCO meeting through video conference:

External Affairs Minister of India Shri **S Jaishankar** represented India at **SCO**

(Shanghai Cooperation Organization) foreign minister meet. The meet was attended by foreign ministers through video conferencing. The preparation of the SCO Summit in **St Petersburg, Russia** was also discussed. It is scheduled to be conducted on **June 9-10, 2020**.

Piyush Goyal participates in virtual session of G20 trade ministers:

Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** attended a video conference meeting of commerce ministers of **G-20 countries**.

The meeting was called to discuss ways to minimise disruption to trade and global supply chains which have been affected by the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Israel names street in Tel Aviv after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary:

Israel named a street in **Tel Aviv** after Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore on his **159th** birth anniversary to honor his valuable contributions in the field and to mankind.

Israel: PM Benjamin Netanyahu to Continue 5th Term In Office:

Israel's Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** has secured a historic **fifth** straight term to form his government, after a controversial power-sharing deal with rival-turned-partner **Benny Gantz**.

President **Reuven Rivlin** officially granted Netanyahu, two-week mandate to form his government, following which, Netanyahu announced the formation of his coalition government on 17 May 2020.

Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan participates in 73rd World Health Assembly online session:

Union Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** participated in the 73rd **World Health Assembly (WHA)** via video conferencing. A session of the WHA, the decision-making body of the **WHO**, began its first-ever teleconference due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Saudi Arabia replaced Iraq as top oil supplier to India in April:

Saudi Arabia replaced **Iraq** as the top oil supplier to India in April after a gap of three months as refiners in **Asia's third largest** economy were drawn by deep discounts on Saudi crudes. UAE retained the No.3 spot followed by **Nigeria**. India's oil imports in April totalled **4.63 mn. barrels per day**.

India and Israel join forces to develop rapid testing system to fight Coronavirus:

India and **Israel** will put in joint research and development efforts for rapid testing of coronavirus to enable normalisation of life amid the pandemic. The two sides discussed joint **R&D** for rapid diagnosis based on big data and artificial intelligence.

India builds state-of-the-art training facility for Ugandan defence forces:

The Indian Association Uganda (IAU), in association with the Indian Military Advisory and Training Team there, handed over a state-of-the-art military training facility to **Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF)**. The war game centre, named '**INDIA**', was inaugurated by Gen.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

Transcorp becomes the 1st non-bank company to receive RBI nod to enter into co-branding arrangements:

The Leading forex and payment solutions provider **Transcorp International Ltd(TIL)** becomes the 1st non-bank company to receive Reserve Bank of India(RBI) nod to enter into co-branding arrangements for prepaid Instruments.

It has also launched its multi-wallet **RuPay**-powered prepaid cards which allow corporate houses to pay wages, incentives, reimbursements & recurring payments to their employees or beneficiaries

RBI announces Rs 50, 000-crore Special Liquidity Facility for mutual funds:

RBI decided to open a special liquidity facility of **Rs 50, 000 Cr** for mutual funds to ease liquidity pressure on mutual funds. Under the SLF-MF, RBI shall conduct repo operations of 90 days' tenor at fixed repo rate. The scheme is available from April 27.

SIDBI launches special liquidity scheme for MSMEs:

Small Industries Development Bank of India launched a special liquidity scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through banks including Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies including fintech NBFCs and Microfinance Institutions.

Tenor of these loans will be **90 days**.

Ind-Ra cuts India's FY21 GDP growth further to 1.9%, lowest in 29 years:

India Ratings has further slashed its growth expectations for the economy to **1.9%** for the ongoing fiscal, down from **3.6%** in March. This will be the lowest GDP growth in the last

29 years and assumes that the partial lockdown will continue till mid-May.

ADB approves 1.5 billion USD for India to fight COVID-19:

Asian Development Bank unveiled a \$1.5 billion Covid-19 package for India and is in discussions with the government on further aid for specific sectors. Earlier this month, the World Bank had provided a **\$1 billion** package for the healthcare sector.

Axis Bank to buy 29% stake in Max Life Insurance for Rs 1, 600 crore:

Axis Bank will acquire an additional **29%** stake in Max Life Insurance for an estimated price of **Rs 1, 592 crore**, raising its total holding in the life insurer to 30% after the completion of the deal. Max Financial Services will hold the remaining 70% in JV.

Moody declined India's growth estimate to 0.2% for CY 2020 from 2.5%:

Moody also forecasted India's growth for 2021 at **6.2%**. The projection of GDP of G-20 advanced economies as a bloc is also declined by **5.8%** in 2020.

India Post delivers cash worth Rs 412 crore in doorstep banking revolution:

India Post has delivered cash worth **Rs. 412 cr.** at doorstep delivery. This service is provided by the department irrespective of the bank in which the holder has an account or a village without a branch. This has been made possible due to **AePS** facility of IPPB.

KVGB launched 'Vikas Abhaya' loan scheme:

Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB), a regional rural bank headquartered in Dharwad, has launched a loan scheme "**Vikas Abhaya**" to provide relief to borrowers whose

business activities are disrupted on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

RBI extends regulatory benefits under SLF-MF scheme to all banks:

RBI has initiated a special liquidity facility of **Rs 50, 000 crore** for MFs. The bank claiming these extended regulatory benefits will not be required to avail back-to-back funding from the central bank under the **SLF-MF scheme**.

RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based The CKP Co-operative Bank:

Reserve Bank of India cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based **The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd.** in view that the financial position of the bank is highly adverse & unsustainable. With this process of paying the depositors as per **DICGC Act, 1961** will happen. Every depositor is entitled to repayment of upto, **Rs 5 Lakh**.

SIDBI Launches SME Service Platform To Boost Digitisation, Credit Access:

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is launching an **SME service platform** to facilitate the **digitisation** of small businesses and make access to credit easier for those caught in a cash crunch owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The platform would also include several features to help **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** resume their operations remotely.

DBS Bank slashes India's FY21 GDP forecast to 1% from 1.5%:

The general government (the Centre and States) deficit is likely to rise to 10-10.5% of GDP in FY21 vs around 6% of GDP earlier. Public debts level to rise from **70%** of GDP to **75-80%**.

Creation of a special purpose vehicle (SPV) is required to directly purchase corporate bonds (to arrest widening spreads vs government securities and temper volatility)

Nabard disburses Rs 12, 767cr to state cooperative banks, RRBs for onlending:

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has disbursed **Rs 12, 767 crore** to state cooperative banks and regional rural banks for onlending to farmers. The loans are being offered for one year at an interest rate of **4.8 per cent**.

Public Sector Banks sanction loans worth Rs 5.66 lakh Cr for more than 4181000 accounts during March-April:

PSBs have sanctioned loans worth **5.66 lakh crore** rupees for more than 41 lakh 81 thousand accounts during March-April this year. These borrowers are from **MSME, Retail, Agriculture & Corporate sectors**, waiting for disbursal soon after lockdown lifts.

India's unemployment rate shoots up to 27.11% amid COVID-19 crisis: CMIE:

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (**CMIE**) the country's unemployment rate rose to **27.11%** for the week ended May 3 due to the COVID-19 crisis, up from the under **7%** level before the start of the pandemic in mid-March.

Cooperative Banks come under SARFAESI Act:

Cooperative Banks established under a State Law or Multi-State Level Societies come within the ambit of the **SARFAESI, 2002**. The Act prescribes a procedure for faster recovery of dues.

Public Sector Banks sanction loans worth Rs 5.66 lakh Cr for more than 4181000 accounts during March-April:

PSBs have sanctioned loans worth **5.66 lakh crore** rupees for more than 41 lakhs 81 thousand accounts during **March-April** this year. These borrowers are from **MSME, Retail, Agriculture & Corporate sectors**, waiting for disbursal soon after lockdown lifts.

Government raises FDI limit in defence production to 74% from 49%:

Finance Minister N Sitharaman announced raising the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** limit in the defense sector under the automatic route from **49% to 74%**. Also, Ordnance Factory Boards to be corporatised for better management & eventually get listed in stock markets.

NABARD Sanctions Special Liquidity Support of Rs.1500 Crore for The Farmers of Punjab:

NABARD has sanctioned **Rs 1, 500 crore** for Punjab to ensure continuous credit flow to farmers, through state cooperative banks. This is part of NABARD's **Rs 25, 000 crore** nationwide SLF, made available ensure the flow of credit to farmers during the pandemic.

Canara Bank launches special gold loan business vertical:

Canara Bank, the fourth-largest public sector lender launched a special business vertical dedicated for gold loans. The Bank's gold loan products are aimed at providing a quick, hassle-free experience for customers with **low-interest cost till 30 June 2020**.

NABARD disburses Rs 20, 500 crore to coop banks, RRBs:

NABARD has disbursed **Rs 20, 500 crore** to **cooperative banks** and **RRBs** for on-lending

to farmers. The amount is a part of the Rs 25,000 crore of special refinance facility provided by RBI to NABARD for refinancing RRBs, cooperative banks and **MFIs**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes first Indian lender to allow video KYC:

Kotak Mahindra Bank has introduced **video-KYC** facility for customers opening savings account on **Kotak 811** - the bank's digital banking platform. The private lender is the first Indian bank to offer video based "zero-contact" onboarding service.

Fino Payments Bank to partner with NBFCs to source loans in rural areas:

Fino Payments Bank (FPB) is planning to partner with two-three **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** to source loans for them in rural areas. The bank is expecting good appetite for loans from rural India, where 80 per cent of its **4-odd lakh** touch-points are located.

ICICI Bank launches special FD scheme for senior citizens:

Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** announced a special fixed deposit scheme for senior citizens, which offers a higher interest rate.

Named '**ICICI Bank Golden Years FD**', the scheme offers senior citizens an interest rate of 55 per annum for deposits up to Rs.2 crore with tenure of more than five years to **10 years**.

HDFC Bank launches special FD scheme for senior citizens:

Private sector lender, **HDFC Bank** launched an FD scheme for seniors called '**Senior Citizen Care FD**'. According to this scheme, the bank is offering an additional 75 basis points for deposits with more than 5-year tenors with investments up to **Rs 5 crore**.

IRDAI allows Union Bank of India to continue 30% holding in IndiaFirst Life Insurance:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has allowed **Union Bank of India's** proposal to continue with its **30 percent** holding in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance** with the condition that the lender will hold no control in the management of the insurer.

Edelweiss Mutual Fund to launch second tranche of Bharat Bond ETF:

Edelweiss Asset Management announced the launch of the second tranche of **Bharat Bond ETF** in July with two new series after initial series in December last year.

Bharat Bond ETF programme is an initiative of the government's **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management** which has given the mandate to Edelweiss AMC to design and manage the product.

Canara Bank releases emergency credit facilities for MSMEs:

Canara Bank has announced '**CANARA CREDIT SUPPORT**' for all of their borrowers who have been affected by COVID-19.

The bank has sanctioned nearly 6 lakh loans amounting to **Rs 4, 300 crore** under agriculture, SHGs and Retail categories.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

IIFL Wealth Finance buys L&T Capital Markets for Rs 230 crore:

L&T Finance Holdings has sold its wholly-owned subsidiary L&T Capital Markets (LTCM) to IIFL Wealth Finance for **Rs 230 crore**. As at end-March 2019, LTCM had total income of

Rs 124.81 crore while the net worth stood at Rs 82.45 crore.

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Bharat-22 ETF picks shares worth Rs.59 crores in NALCO:

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Bharat-22 ETF picked up shares worth nearly Rs 59 Cr in **National Aluminium Company** through an open market transaction. As per the data on NSE, over 1.71 Cr shares were purchased at an average price of Rs 34.43 apiece.

Flipkart partners with Meru to facilitate door-step delivery of essentials:

Flipkart has partnered with ride-hailing cab operator **Meru** to facilitate door-step delivery of essentials to the e-commerce firm's customers. The service will be available across **Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR** and **Hyderabad**.

PNB Housing Finance signs MoU with IIT Delhi:

PNB Housing Finance has signed a MoU with **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi**. The initiative will support critical R&D of a unique prototype material to be used in manufacturing sustainable (washable and reusable) **PPE** (Personal Protective Equipment) surgical gowns and masks.

Wipro signs MoU with Maharashtra govt to change Pune campus in 450-bed COVID-19 hospital:

To help **Maharashtra** citizens tackle Covid-19 cases, IT-giant **Wipro** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state's government. Wipro has decided to change its IT campuses in **Hinjewadi, Pune**, to a 450-bed intermediary care COVID-19 hospital.

Coir Board signed MoU with IIT-Madras for setting up Centre of Excellence for coir applications:

Coir Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian **Institute of Technology- Madras** (IIT-Madras) on **7 May**. The aim was to establish a **Centre of Excellence** (CoE) for the application of Coir exclusively or in combination with other **natural fibres**.

Tata Consumer Products ties up with Domino's Pizza, Zomato to deliver essential goods:

Tata Consumer Products (TCPL) has partnered with food delivery platforms like **Domino's Pizza** and **Zomato** to strengthen its direct distribution model and ensure steady supply of its essential products. They aim to safeguard people's health.

ICMR partners India Post for delivery of COVID-19 testing kits to labs:

India Post has entered into a tie-up with the **ICMR** for delivery of its COVID-19 testing kits to **200 additional** labs designated for coronavirus testing across the country. ICMR has set a target of carrying out around **1 lakh** tests across the country **per day**.

Volvo partners with Luminar for LiDAR tech; plans to sell self-driving cars by 2022:

Volvo company is partnering with tech firm **Luminar** to make use of their **LiDAR** (Light Detection and Ranging) & perception technology for the next generation of Volvo cars. Next-generation of cars will be built on the **SPA 2 modular** vehicle architecture that goes into production in **2022**.

Japan's Nippon Life, AXA eye strategic investment in IndusInd Bank:

Private lender **IndusInd Bank Ltd** is in discussions with at least three strategic investors, including Japan's **Nippon Life** and Europe's **AXA Group**, as the bank plans to raise more than **\$500 million** to shore up its balance sheet, said two people aware of the development.

Federal Bank and MoneyGram tie up for direct-to-bank account credit service:

MoneyGram Payment Systems has tied up with **Federal Bank** to offer a cost-effective **direct-to-bank** account credit option for customers. Through this partnership, customers can receive deposits directly in their bank accounts without leaving their homes.

NRAI partners with DotPe to build tech platform for online payments:

National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI), the apex body of the F&B industry, has partnered with fintech start-up **DotPe** to build its own tech platform that would enable them with online payments for **digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining.**

General Atlantic to invest Rs. 6, 598.38 cr. for 1.34% stake in Jio Platforms:

General Atlantic, a leading global growth equity firm, has agreed to invest **Rs. 6598.38 crores** in **Jio Platforms Ltd** for a 1.34% stake, valuing the company at Rs. 5.16 lakh crore. With this Jio Platforms raised Rs. 67194.75 crores from leading technology investors.

Flipkart partners with Bajaj Allianz to offer digital motor insurance to its customers:

Flipkart partnered with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company (BAGIC)** to

offer **digital motor insurance policy** to customers of e-commerce major. This enables consumers to purchase the motor-insurance policy using the **Flipkart mobile application.**

IBM ties up with Intellect Design Arena to launch cloud services for banks, financial institutions:

Banking and insurance products company **Intellect Design Arena Ltd** and **IBM** have collaborated to launch the **Intellect iTurmeric FinCloud** on IBM's public cloud.

Maruti Suzuki ties up with Cholamandalam Investment & Finance; launches 'Buy-Now-Pay-Later Offer':

Maruti Suzuki India partnered with **Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd** to provide customised auto retail financing solutions to retail buyers. The new solution '**Buy-Now-Pay-Later Offer**' is aimed to provide customers with easy financing options.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

IIT-Delhi develops web dashboard to predict coronavirus spread in country:

IIT Delhi developed a web-based dashboard for tracking & predicting the spread of COVID-19 in India. **PRACRITI** (Prediction & Assessment of Corona Infections & Transmission in India) dashboard will provide the *R₀* (*Number of people to whom virus spreads from a single person*) values of each district & state in India.

SCTIMST develops Chitra Magna, an innovative RNA extraction kit:

Chitra Magna, an innovative RNA extraction kit, has been developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology,

an Institution under the **Department of S&T**, as an innovative technology for isolating RNA from swabs for COVID 19 tests.

IIITM-K developed an AI-based search engine for COVID-19 research:

Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management - Kerala has developed an AI Semantic search engine to enable researchers to get deeper insights into scientific studies, especially when they need to find an early solution to the COVID-19.

IIT-Bhubaneswar develops multi-surface sanitizer to disinfect devices:

IIT-Bhubaneswar has designed multi-surface sanitizer using **UV light** for the disinfection of devices in the combat against COVID-19. When the infected object was placed into the chamber, it gets exposed to UV light & will be disinfected within **15 minutes**.

IIT Kanpur develops sensor-based covid-19 sanitisation box:

To help sanitisation of essential commodities used at home, the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur** (IIT-Kanpur) has developed a corona killer box. The box can sanitise all kinds of vegetables, fruits, sugar, milk, pulses, mobiles, and currency.

Central University of Punjab(CUPB) launches Covid-19 information portal:

Central University of Punjab, Bathinda has launched a "unique" COVID-19 information portal at CUPB City Campus, on which most of the "authentic information & sources are available for the references, research, & common understanding of the phenomenon".

Janaushadhi Sugam app to access generic medicine benefits 325000 users:

"**Janaushadhi Sugam**" a mobile application developed by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India(BPPI) under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India for the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**.

IIG develops new simulation code to study electric field structure in Earth's Magnetosphere":

Scientists at the **Indian Institute of Geomagnetism** have developed a generalized one-dimensional fluid simulation code capable of studying a wide spectrum of coherent electric field structures in near-earth plasma environment or earth's magnetosphere.

IIT Hyderabad to collaborate with Hong Kong firm to create venture ecosystem:

IIT-Hyderabad has planned to collaborate with a Hong Kong-based financial firm **New Frontier Capital Management**, to establish a global network for ventures as well as to create a venture ecosystem. Objective is to promote innovation, research & incubation. Firm has a worldwide presence including in **Tokyo** and **Singapore**.

Russia to launch its 1st satellite 'Arktika-M' to monitor Arctic climate & environment:

Russia will be launching its 1st **Arktika-M satellite (Remote-sensing & emergency communications satellite)** to monitor the Arctic climate & environment on 2020.

The second **Arktika-M** satellite is also under development and its launch is scheduled for **2023**. Satellite will be launched using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier.

BharatPe launches two apps to limit the need to touch handsets for checking transactions:

BharatPe announced 2 additional features on its app for the merchants- "**Paisa Bolega & BharatPe Balance**". With Paisa Bolega, shopkeepers can hear aloud instant confirmation of all payments received through their **BharatPe QR**, without touching the phone

DRDO lab develops automated UV systems to sanitise electronic gadgets, papers & currency notes:

Hyderabad based Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) lab has developed automated Ultraviolet systems, called **Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)** to sanitise electronic gadgets, papers and currency notes.

IIT-Delhi startup launches reusable antimicrobial mask NSafe:

With increasing demand for face masks to contain transmission of deadly COVID-19 virus, **IIT (Indian Institute of Technology)- Delhi** startup company named **Nanosafe** solutions has developed and launched an antimicrobial and washable face mask "**NSafe**" that can be reused upto 50 launderings

Vijay Rupani Launches India's First PPE Kit Seam Sealing Machine In Rajkot:

Macpower CNC Machines Ltd, a Rajkot (Gujarat) based manufacturer of CNC (Computerized Numerical Control), has made India's 1st indigenous hot air seam sealing machine used to manufacture **personal protective equipment (PPE)** kits.

The make in India machine, manufactured with the guidance of doctors at **Indian**

Medical Association (IMA), was launched by Gujarat chief minister **Vijay Rupani**.

China launches 2 satellites to test space-based communications technology:

China successfully launched two satellites to test the space-based **Internet of Things (IoT)** communications technology.

The satellites, Xingyun-2 01 and 02, were launched by a Kuaizhou-1A (KZ-1A) carrier rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite** Launch Centre in northwest China.

APPOINTMENTS and RESIGNATIONS:

RBI extends Madhavan Menon's term as part-time Chairman of CSB Bank:

CSB Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has extended the term of appointment of **Madhavan Menon** as the part-time Chairman of the Bank till July 21, 2020. Extension is in terms of Section 10B (1A) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

US President Donald Trump nominates Indian American as US envoy to OECD:

US President **Donald Trump** has nominated senior Indian American diplomat Manisha Singh as America's next envoy to the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development**. She is currently Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs.

Bureaucratic reshuffle in govt, Tarun Bajaj appointed DEA Secretary:

Rural Development Secretary **Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the Health and Family Welfare Department in the rank of secretary.

Justice Dipankar Datta sworn in as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court:

A senior judge of the **Calcutta High Court** (HC) **Justice Dipankar Datta** was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Bombay HC on 28 April. The oath of office was administered by Governor of Maharashtra **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** at Raj Bhavan.

Justice Dipankar Datta will replace Justice **Bhushan Pradyumna Dharmadhikari** whose term as Chief Justice ended on 27 April 2020.

Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar appointed PESB chief:

Former finance secretary **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the chairperson of the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by PM Modi has approved his appointment to the post for a period of **3 years**.

Suresh N. Patel takes oath as Vigilance Commissioner:

Suresh N. Patel took oath as Vigilance Commissioner, he was administered the oath of office by **Shri Sanjay Kothari**, Central Vigilance Commissioner. He was the Managing Director & CEO of **Andhra Bank** and was an Executive Director in Oriental Bank of Commerce.

PNB housing appoints Neeraj Vyas as interim MD & CEO as incumbent Sanjaya Gupta steps down:

Punjab National Bank (PNB) Housing Finance Limited appointed independent director **Neeraj Vyas** as the Interim Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) for the period of eight months effective from 28th April.

Neeraj Vyas is currently an independent director in the board of the company,

following the early retirement of PNB housing Finance managing Director **Sanjaya Gupta** whose tenure as MD and CEO.

Former Karnataka batsman J Arunkumar named as USA national team coach:

Former Karnataka cricketer **J. Arunkumar**, 45 years old, was appointed as the head coach of the **USA** (United States of America)men's national team. He was the successor of interim coach **James Pamment**.

Indian Oil names Shrikant Vaidya as new Chairman:

India's largest state-run oil refiner & fuel retailer- **Indian Oil** names **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya** as Chairman. Currently, he is the director of refineries in the company & will succeed **Sanjiv Singh**, who demits office on June 30. He is a Chemical Engineer.

T S Tirumurti appointed India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations:

T S Tirumurti an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1985 currently serving as the Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs was appointed as the permanent representative of India to the **United Nations** at New York, succeeding **Syed Akbaruddin** following his retirement

India appoints new Ambassadors to Qatar & Bahrain:

Deepak Mittal has been appointed India's next Ambassador to Qatar, while **Piyush Srivastava** goes to **Bahrain** in the same capacity, as per an official release of Ministry of External Affairs. The new appointees are of the 1998 batch of Indian Foreign Service.

Google ropes in former Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma for its payments business:

Google Pay, the digital payments arm of tech giant Google, has roped in former Axis Bank CEO **Shikha Sharma** as an advisor. Google offers UPI based payments in India in partnership with 4 major banks- **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and State Bank of India.**

Yes Bank appoints Neeraj Dhawan as chief risk officer with immediate effect:

Yes Bank has appointed **Neeraj Dhawan** as its chief risk officer with immediate effect for a period of **three years**. Prior to this, Dhawan was holding the position of chief risk officer for retail and business banking at Yes Bank.

Yes Bank CEO: **Prashant Kumar**

Professor Shobhana Narasimhan of JNCASR elected as International Member to American Academy of Arts and Science:

Professor Shobhana Narasimha head of the Computational Nanoscience group from the **Theoretical Science Unit (TSU), Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)**, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science

NTPC appointed Ramesh Babu as director:

State-owned power giant **NTPC** (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) appointed **Ramesh Babu V** as director (operations). He was the successor of **Prakash Tiwari** who retired on April 30, 2020.

RBL Bank appoints Deepak Kumar as Chief Risk Officer:

RBL Bank announced that it has appointed **Deepak Kumar** as the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the bank for a period of **two years** who will replace **Ramnath Krishnan**. Kumar has served as the Chief General Manager of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.

Professor Shobhana Narsimhan Elected To American Academy Of Arts And Sciences:

Professor **Shobhana Narasimhan** from the Theoretical Sciences Unit (TSU) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Science.

Sanjay Kumar Jha assumes charge as CMD, Midhani:

Sanjay Kumar Jha, Director (Production & Marketing) of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd (MIDHANI), assumed charge as its Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) in **Hyderabad**. Jha served in **Department of Atomic Energy** (DAE) for more than 27 years.

Max Bupa Health Insurance appoints Krishnan Ramachandran as MD & CEO:

Max Bupa Health Insurance has appointed **Krishnan Ramachandran** as MD & CEO. Krishnan has 23 years of experience across health insurance, healthcare & life sciences industry. Last he served as CEO of Apollo Munich Health Insurance. He succeeds **Ashish Mehrotra**.

National Fertilizer appoints new Non-Official Independent Director:

State-run **National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL)** announced the appointment of **Pandya Ashwinkumar Balvantray** as Non-Official Independent Director on the Board of the

Company. His appointment will be for three years.

Chairman & Managing Director of NFL is **Manoj Mishra**

Standard Chartered Bank appoints Kusal Roy as head of retail banking:

Standard Chartered Bank India has appointed **Kusal Roy** as its head of retail banking. Prior to joining Standard Chartered Bank, he was the managing director and chief executive at Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd.

Ajinkya Rahane appointed ELSA Corp India brand ambassador:

Indian Test team vice-captain **Ajinkya Rahane** has been named as the brand ambassador of ELSA Corp India, a global Edutech company.

He was appointed as ELSA Corp's brand ambassador for **India**, Middle East, **ANZ** and **SAARC**.

IES Officer Negi assumes charge as Director General of Labour Bureau:

D P S Negi, a 1985 batch IES (Indian Economic Services) officer has assumed charge as Director General (DG) of Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment by replacing **B N Nanda**. In addition, he also takes charge as Senior Labour & Employment Advisor of the ministry.

DEA Secretary Tarun Bajaj nominated to RBI Central Board:

Government has nominated **Tarun Bajaj**, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India. He replaces Atanu Chakraborty to the position in the RBI.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury reappointed as chairperson of Parliament's public Accounts Committee:

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress Leader of Lok Sabha was reappointed as Chairperson of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee(PAC) by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. PAC is the oldest parliamentary committee first constituted in 1921.

Mustafa al-Kadhimi sworn in as prime minister of Iraq:

Iraq's prime minister-designate **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** was sworn in as the country's new prime minister after weeks of political negotiations. **Al-Kadhimi**, 53, has headed the Iraqi Intelligence Service since June 2016.

UNEP extends Dia Mirza's term as Goodwill Ambassador till 2022:

United Nations Environment Programme extended environmentalist and actor-producer **Dia Mirza's** term as its National Goodwill Ambassador for another two years till the end of **2022**. She is also a United Nations Sustainability Development Goals Advocate.

Narinder Batra's Term as FIH President Extended to May 2021:

Narinder Batra will remain President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) until May 2021.

The **Executive Board** (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has decided to postpone the 47th FIH Congress, initially planned on 28 October-1 November 2020 in New Delhi, to **May 2021**.

Kumar Sangakkara set for 2nd term as MCC President:

Former Sri Lanka skipper **Kumar Sangakkara** is set to serve his second term

as the president of **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.

He became the first **non-British** President of the club when he assumed office on October 1 last year. **Sangakkara** is all set to enter an elite list of people who have served multiple terms.

Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi assumes charge as Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy:

Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi (IAS) assumed charge as new Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. He succeeded Shri **Anand Kumar** in the Ministry who earlier took charge Secretary, Ministry of Culture.

IAS officer Manoj Ahuja appointed new CBSE Chairperson:

IAS officer **Manoj Ahuja** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the **Central Board of Secondary Education** (CBSE). He will replace **Anita Karwal**.

V Vidyavathi appointed as chief of Archaeological Survey of India:

The **Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) got a new Director-General with the appointment of IAS officer **V. Vidyavathi**, according to Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. She will be serving in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Commonwealth Games gold-medallist boxer Akhil Kumar re-induced into NADA panel:

Former Commonwealth Games gold-winning boxer **Akhil Kumar** has been re-induced into the NADA's Disciplinary Panel.

The **Arjuna award-winning** Olympian is among the most accomplished names in Indian boxing and has also been the

government observer for the sport between **2017** and **2019**.

Zubair Iqbal appointed MD J-K Bank, Chibber to continue as chairman:

The **Jammu and Kashmir** administration approved the appointment of senior vice president of HDFC Bank **Zubair Iqbal** as its new managing director. **R K Chibber** will continue as the bank's chairman for the next three years. Iqbal will have a **three-year** tenure.

Dilip Oommen is new President of Indian Steel Association:

Dilip Oommen, CEO, Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India has taken over as President of the **Indian Steel Association (ISA)**. He is appointed to the position for the next 2 years. His appointment comes after the resignation of **T V Narendran**, MD of Tata Steel.

Moeketsi Majoro sworn in as Lesotho's new prime minister:

Moeketsi Majoro has been sworn in as **Lesotho's** prime minister following the resignation of his embattled predecessor, **Thomas Thabane**.

Govinda Rajulu Chintala appointed as chairman of NABARD:

The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet has appointed **Govinda Rajulu Chintala** as the Chairman of **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.

He is presently serving as the **Chief General Manager** at NABARD and will remain on the post till his superannuation in July 2022. Presently, **Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala** is serving as the Chairman of NABARD.

Shaji K V and **P.V.S Suryakumar** have been appointed as **Deputy Managing Directors** (DMD) of **NABARD**.

Rajesh Goel appointed as director general of NAREDCO:

Realtors body **National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)** has appointed **Rajesh Goel** as director general (DG) of the association.

World Bank appoints financial crises expert Carmen Reinhart as chief economist and Vice President:

The **World Bank** appointed financial crisis expert **Carmen Reinhart** as its new **vice president** and **chief economist**, leaning on the expertise of the former **International Monetary Fund** executive as the Covid-19 pandemic plunges the global economy into the deepest recession since the Great Depression.

Former IAS Officer B R Sharma appointed as Chairman of J&K PSC:

J&K Government has appointed **B R Sharma**, former IAS Officer, as Chairman Public Service Commission for the UT of J&K. Lieutenant Governor **G C Murmu** has appointed **B R Sharma** as PSC Chairman who shall hold the position of the Chairman, Public Service Commission till he attains the age of **sixty-two years**.

Sangita Dhingra Sehgal named president of Delhi State Consumer Commission:

Delhi High Court judge, Justice **Sangita Dhingra Sehgal** has tendered her resignation from the post following her appointment as President of the **Delhi State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission**. The retirement age of a high court judge is **62 years**.

TS Tirumurti, India's New Permanent Representative To UN Presents takes charge:

TS Tirumurti, India's new Permanent Representative to the **United Nations**, presented his credentials virtually as he assumed charge as the Ambassador amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Jahnabi Phookan appointed as National President of FICCI FLO:

Assam-based entrepreneur **Jahnabi Phookan** has been appointed as the National President of **FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)**, the women wing of the leading industry chamber of the country.

Indian economist Abhas Jha appointed as World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change in South Asia:

Abhas Jha has been appointed by the **World Bank** to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia, the global lender said. Jha's appointment comes at a time when **Cyclone Amphan** has badly hit **West Bengal, Odisha in India & Bangladesh**.

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS:

Joe Biden wins Ohio's Presidential Primary:

In United States, **Joe Biden** won **Ohio's Presidential Primary**, clinching a contest that was less about the Democratic nomination and more about how states can conduct elections in the era of the Corona virus.

Karnataka tops in total installed renewable capacity: CRISIL Research report:

According to a **CRISIL** Research report, **Karnataka** retained its 1st position in terms of total installed renewable capacity in FY20 followed by **Tamil Nadu(2nd) & Gujarat(3rd)**.

The top 3 states in overall solar energy capacity addition are- **Rajasthan**, **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka** & in wind energy- **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra**.

Manipuri doctor Thangjam Dhabali Singh conferred 'Order of Rising Sun' by Japan:
Thangjam Dhabali Singh, Manipuri allopathic doctor, was conferred with "**Order of Rising Sun- Gold and Silver Rays**" by the **Japan** government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between 2 countries.

Nikkei Asia Prize 2020 to IIT Madras prof for work on water filters:

Prof. T. Pradeep of IIT Madras has been honoured with the **Nikkei Asia Prizes (NAP) 2020** in the science and technology category.

NAP are awarded annually in three areas- **Economic and Business Innovation, Science and Technology and Culture and Community**.

Richard Hadlee Medal goes to Ross Taylor, Southee bags Test prize:

New Zealand Batsman **Ross Taylor** was honoured with **Sir Richard Hadlee** Medal for the third time for excelling across formats.

Tim Southee bagged the **top Test prize**.

Kim Cotton was named the **Umpire of the Year**.

Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2020: 'Nobel Prize of Forest Research':

Joseph J Landsberg, Richard H Waring & Nicholas C Coops share the 2020 MW Prize

for a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate. Satellite imagery offers the possibility to scale up the model to show how environmental conditions affect the forests.

Indian-origin girl Vaneeza names NASA's 1st Mars helicopter as 'Ingenuity':

A 17-year old Indian-origin girl **Vaneeza Rupani** has named the 1st helicopter to be built for Mars as '**Ingenuity**' after she submitted her essay in **NASA's** (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) 'Name the Rover' competition.

Padma Shri awardee Thalappil Pradeep named for 25th Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020 in S&T:

IIT-Madras Professor & Padma Shri awardee **Thalappil Pradeep** named for 25th Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020 in S&T.

The prize includes a cash component of **3 Million Yen** and an award certificate and is scheduled to be awarded in Tokyo, Japan later 2020.

Vladimir Putin awards commemorative World War II medal to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un:

Russian embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea announced that the Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has awarded North Korean Leader **Kim Jong-un** a commemorative war medal marking the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

Professor Saurabh Lodha received 2020 Young Career Award in Nano Science and Technology:

Professor **Saurabh Lodha** from Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay, received the Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology for the year 2020. The award is instituted by

the **Department of Science and Technology** (DST), Government of India.

Danseuse Leela Samson to head JCB Prize for Literature 2020 jury:

Noted Bharatanatyam dancer, former chairperson of Sangeet Natak Akademi and author **Leela Samson** will head the five-member jury for the **Rs. 25 lakh** JCB Prize for Literature 2020.

Sania Mirza Becomes First Indian to Win the Fed Cup Heart Award:

Sania Mirza played an integral role in India securing a first-ever place in the **Fed Cup** playoffs. She won the doubles match & helped secure a win over Indonesia. She also received **\$ 2, 000** which she donated to the relief fund.

Journalist Siddharth Varadarajan among recipients of Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award:

Indian journalist **Siddharth Varadarajan** was one of 17 recipients of the Freedom of Speech Award presented by German public news outlet Deutsche Welle, for showing "**outstanding commitment to human rights and freedom of expression in the media**". The announcement came on World Press Freedom Day.

Anunta won VMware 2020 Regional Partner of the Year Award:

Anunta received the VMware 2020 **Regional Partner of the Year Award** for the **Services Excellence category**.

Vice Admiral GM Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy 2020:

Lieutenant commander **Akshay Kumar** of Anti-Submarine Warfare School of **Southern Naval Command** (SNC) at Kochi was awarded the coveted Vice Admiral **GM**

Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Award for the year 2020. The trophy was instituted in the year 2013.

India's Chief Hydrographer Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar wins UK award:

Vice Admiral **Vinay Badhwar**, the **National Hydrographer** to the government of India, has been honoured with the **2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the wider Indian Ocean region.

Tom Hanks, 'Game of Thrones,' Cardi B, LeBron James Among Winners: Webby Awards:

Jimmy Fallon, Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Tom Hanks, Cardi B, LeBron James, Lil Nas X, Dolly Parton, Ronan Farrow, Game of Thrones and Celine Dion are among the winners of the 24th annual Webby Awards, which honor the best of the web.

United Nations: India's KHUDOL declared one of Top 10 Global Initiatives to fight COVID-19:

United Nations listed the **KHUDOL** initiative of **Manipur** as one of the top 10 global initiatives to fight against COVID-19.

KHUDOL is an initiative of a NGO called **Ya Alli**. Under the initiative, the NGO provides food, hygiene and health of LGBTQ community, daily wage workers, people with AIDS.

RANKING:

IIT Kharagpur ranked 57th in THE's 2nd edition of Impact Rankings 2020:

IIT Kharagpur has been ranked **57th** in the **Times Higher Education's (THE)** global list that ranks institutes of higher education in

terms of their social and political impact framed around the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals (SDG). The list includes 766 universities across 89 countries.

India is world's 3rd largest military spender; expense rose by 6.8% in 2019:
The **US, China and India** were the world's three biggest military spenders in 2019, followed by Russia and Saudi Arabia. The two Asian countries made it to the top three for the first time, the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.

Total global spending rose to almost **\$2 trillion** in 2019.

India ranks 53rd in budget transparency, accountability in IBP survey:

India has been placed at **53rd** spot among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency & accountability, according to the Open Budget Survey conducted by **International Budget Partnership**. India's Budget process bagged a transparency score of 49 out of 100.

Chhattisgarh tops among other states in providing employment under MGNREGS:
Chhattisgarh has topped the list of states in providing employment to over 18 lakhs unskilled labourers under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**. Around **77.85 lakh** people are engaged in work under the MGNREGS scheme.

Chhattisgarh provided employment to **18.51 lakh** workers.

India is placed 3rd among countries in scientific publication: NSTMIS Survey:

The **National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS)** survey on Research and Development

Statistics and Indicators 2019- says that India ranks 3rd globally in the scientific publication. USA and China occupied the first two ranks.

Bengaluru airport voted as best regional airport in India & Central Asia:

The **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in **India** and **Central Asia**. It was voted as the best Regional Airport for the third time in four years at the **2020 World Airport Awards**.

Singapore Changi Airport crowned the "World's Best Airport":

For the **eighth** consecutive year, **Singapore's Changi Airport** has been named the world's best at the awards run by research firm Skytrax. Asian airports dominated the top 10, with Japan's 4 of the country's airports nominated for the top award.

India Moves Up at 74th Rank in Global Energy Transition Index:

India has moved up two positions to rank **74th** on a global "**Energy Transition Index**" with improvements on all key parameters of economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability. **Sweden** has topped the Index for the **third consecutive year**.

Naomi Osaka becomes world's highest-paid female athlete:

Japanese tennis star **Naomi Osaka** has become the highest-paid **female athlete** in the world, topping American great **Serena Williams**. Osaka earned **\$37.4 million** in the last twelve months from prize money and endorsements, \$1.4 million more than Williams.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

Uma Balasubramaniam Newest Book on India's Unsung Hero: Sayajirao Gaekwad III: The Maharaja of Baroda

Uma Balasubramaniam's book titled "Sayajirao Gaekwad III: Maharaja of Baroda", a historic epic published by Rupa publication.

About how a Maratha farmer's 13-year-old boy becomes the **King of Baroda** and also how the fate twists for the favourite son of the British empire gets himself to the brink of being deposed by the British.

A book titled "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir" authored by John Bolton:

A book titled "**The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir**" authored by **John Bolton**. The date of the book release has been pushed back from May 12, 2020 to June 23, 2020, on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble bookseller company. The book was published by an American publishing company **Simon & Schuster**.

A new book "Shivaji in South Block: The Unwritten History of a Proud People":

A New book named "**Shivaji in South Block: The Unwritten History of a Proud People**" written by journalist **Girish Kuber** talks about Maharashtra's evolution from the past to the modern times and its contribution to the tapestry of the country's culture, politics, history and society.

Union Culture Minister released e-book 'Prof. B. B. Lal -India Rediscovered' to mark the centenary year of Prof B. B. Lal:
Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Culture Minister, released an e-book '**Prof. B. B. Lal- India Rediscovered**' in New Delhi, on the

occasion of centenary year (100th birthday) of the great archaeologist Professor Braj Basu Lal.

A book titled as Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil War Hero authored by Colonel VN Thapar and Neha Dwivedi:

The book titled as '**Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero**' authored by Vijyant's father Colonel **VN Thapar** and writer **Neha Dwivedi**, a martyr's daughter. Its e-book will be released on May 15. It is published by Penguin Random House

Vadhan's new book "Fear of God" deals with corruption vigilanism law:

The story of "**Fear of God**" weaves law, corruption, vigilantism and courtroom drama to follow the three central characters who are looking to achieve the same thing but through different means.

It is written by **Vadhan**, whose real name is **Bommadevara Sai Chandravadhan** and published by **TreeShade Books**

This is Vadhan's third novel after "Agniputra: When Agni First Spoke" and "Shatru".

Ruskin Bond's new book 'Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes' released on his 86th birthday:

The book is titled Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes authored by **Ruskin Bond**. He turned 86 and he celebrated it by releasing a new book which takes the audience through his adventures on boats, trains and planes.

In this book, Ruskin Bond narrates the most memorable travel adventures from his childhood. The illustrations are made by **Samrat Halder** and published by **Speaking Tiger's children's imprint Talking Cub**.

OBITUARY NEWS:

Senior Congress leader Badruddin Sheikh passes away following COVID19 infection:

Senior Congress leader and councillor in Amdavad Municipal Corporation **Badruddin Sheikh** passed away late last night following COVID19 infection. He had also served as State Congress spokesperson and Leader of opposition in AMC in past.

Former Governor, Veteran Congress Leader Devanand Konwar Passes Away in Guwahati:

Former Governor of Bihar and Tripura and veteran Congress leader **Devanand Konwar** died of old age ailments at his Guwahati residence. He was 86. He had also served as governor (additional charge) of West Bengal from December 2009 to January 2010.

Ex-NASA administrator James Beggs passes away:

Former NASA administrator **James M. Beggs**, passed away. He led the agency during the early years of the space shuttle program and resigned after the Challenger disaster killed seven astronauts in 1986.

Bollywood actor Irrfan Khan dies at 54:

Bollywood actor **Irrfan Khan** passed away at the age of **54 years**. He went on to deliver memorable performances in films such as The Life of Pi, Slumdog Millionaire, The Mighty Heart and Jurassic World. His last film was Angrezi Medium.

Veteran Bollywood actor Rishi Kapoor passes away at 67

Veteran Bollywood actor **Rishi Kapoor** passed away at 67. The actor, known for his work in films like Bobby and Chandni, was treated in New York for cancer and returned

to Mumbai last year. The actor's last Bollywood film was the 2018 film 102 Not Out.

Former Liverpool striker Michael Robinson passed away at 61:

The former Brighton & Liverpool striker **Michael Robinson**, who finished his career at **Osasuna**, has died aged 61. Robinson was part of the Liverpool squad who won a league, League Cup & European Cup treble in 1984. He won 24 Republic of Ireland caps.

Indian football legend and former captain Chuni Goswami dies aged 82:

Former India football captain **Chuni Goswami**, who led India to the 1962 Asian Games gold, passed away in Kolkata. Goswami played 50 matches for India as a footballer from 1956 to 1964. India finished runners-up in 1964 Asian Cup under his leadership.

Freedom fighter Padma Shri Gandhian Hema Bharali passed away at 101:

Freedom fighter and **Padma Shri Gandhian Hema Bharali** well known as Freedom Activist, social worker, Sarvodaya leader passed away on 29th April 2020, due to prolonged illness at her home in Guwahati, Assam at the age of 101. She was born in Assam on 19th February 1919.

Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi passed away due to COVID-19 disease:

Justice **Ajay Kumar Tripathi**, former Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh HC, died after suffering cardiac arrest at AIIMS in Delhi. He had also served as an Additional Advocate General in Bihar. Later, he was elevated as Additional Judge of the Patna High Court.

Noted playwright Bijay Mishra passed away at 83:

Noted playwright, dramatist, scriptwriter and film director **Bijay Mishra** of Odisha passed away at the age of 83 due to age-related ailments in Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**.

Kannada poet KS Nissar Ahmed passes away:

Renowned Kannada poet **KS Nissar Ahmed** passed away. Nisaar had won several awards including Rajyotsava Award in 1981, Padma Shri in 2008.

Former Union Minister Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away at 74:

Former Union Minister of State for Health **Dalit Ezhilmalai** was passed away at 74 in his residence in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** due to cardiac arrest he did not have any obvious illness.

Former Greek health minister, cardiologist Kremastinos passes away:

Greece's former health minister, cardiologist and university professor **Dimitris Kremastinos**, has passed away because of the new coronavirus. He was 78.

Kremastinos, who was currently serving as parliament vice-president and was a member of the center-left **KINAL party**.

Professional sumo wrestler Shobushi dies at 28 after contracting Covid-19:

Japan Sumo Association (JSA) confirmed the death of wrestler as **Shobushi**, whose real name was **Kiyotaka Suetake**. He is reported to have been the first sumo wrestler to die from the virus, and the first person in his 20s to die in Japan from Covid-19.

Former JDS MP Raja Rangappa Nayak passes away at 61:

Former JDS (Janata Dal [Secular]) MP (Member of Parliament), **Raja Rangappa Nayak**, passed away at the age of 61 in

Bengaluru, Karnataka. He had represented the Raichur constituency, Karnataka, & was elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1996.

PK actor Sai Gundewar passes away:

Bollywood actor **Sai Gundewar**, who has worked in a couple of movies including Aamir Khan-starrer PK, Saif Ali Khan's Bazaar and Rock On, passed away after a prolonged battle with brain cancer.

Veteran Bengali author, Sahitya Akademi winner Debesh Roy passes away at 84:

Veteran Bengali author **Debesh Roy**, who was conferred the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel '**Teesta Parer Brittanto**', died at a private hospital. He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Tista Parer Brittanto' in 1990.

Padma Bhushan Awardee and Bangladesh's National Professor, Anisuzzaman, Passes Away:

Padma Bhushan recipient and Bangladesh's National Professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away at the age of 83 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947.

Little Richard, rock'n'roll pioneer, passed away at 87:

Little Richard, architect of **rock 'n' roll**, has passed away at the age of 87 years in Tullahoma, Tennessee due to bone cancer, who was a Grammy Award **winner** and an inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.

Former Miss America, sportscasting pioneer Phyllis Ann George has passed away:

Phyllis George, a broadcast television pioneer who became the first female co-anchor of the football pregame show "**The NFL Today**," has died. She was 70. She had been crowned the 50th Miss America in 1971.

Former Tamil Nadu football player and coach R Shanmugam passes away:

Former Tamil Nadu football player and coach **R Shanmugam** passed away due to age-related illness. Shanmugam had also played for Mohun Bagan in 1968.

Eight-time Grand Slam winner Ashley Cooper dies at 83:

8-time Grand Slam-winning Australian tennis player **Ashley Cooper** has died. The Australian, Wimbledon and U.S. singles titleholder, was part of the golden era of Australian men's tennis in 1950s winning four Grand Slams singles titles and four in doubles.

Renowned vocalist Shyamala G Bhave passes away at 79:

Renowned vocalist **Shyamala G Bhave**, who had an equal command over **Hindustani** and **Carnatic** music, passed away. She was 79. Her mother Lakshmi Bhave was also a classical vocalist.

Former Uttar Pradesh minister Naipal Singh passes away:

Former **Uttar Pradesh** minister Naipal Singh passed away. Mr. Singh had served in the State cabinet headed by Kalyan Singh and Rajnath Singh. In 2014, he became a member of parliament from Rampur Lok Sabha seat.

Former Inter coach Gigi Simoni passes away at 81:

Former Inter head coach **Gigi Simoni**, who led a Ronaldo-inspired team to **UEFA Cup** glory in 1998, has passed away at the age of 81. Simoni had a well-travelled coaching

career and guided seven teams and promotions from Serie B to the Italian topflight.

SPORTS NEWS:

Former Pakistan skipper Sana Mir announces retirement from international cricket:

Former Pakistan women's skipper **Sana Mir** announced her retirement from international cricket, ending a 15 year long illustrious career. Mir featured in 226 international matches for Pakistan, including 137 as captain from 2009 to 2017.

Pakistan's Umar Akmal gets three-year ban for match-fixing approach:

Controversial Pakistani batsman **Umar Akmal** was banned from all forms of cricket for **3 years** after pleading guilty to failing to report **match-fixing** approaches. The batsman's ban is effective from February 20, when he was provisionally suspended by **Pakistan Cricket Board**.

AIBA moves 2021 world boxing championships to Belgrade:

The **2021 Men's World Boxing Championships** have been moved to Belgrade from New Delhi, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) said. AIBA said it had terminated India's contract after it did not pay an agreed host fee.

India among 5 teams seals direct qualification for Women's World Cup 2021:

The **International Cricket Council**(ICC) has announced that **India, New Zealand, Australia, England and South Africa** have sealed a direct berth for the quadrennial 50-

over **Women World Cup 2021** to be held in **New Zealand** and scheduled from February 6 to March 7 in 2021.

BWF postpones World Championship 2020 to November 2021:

Badminton World Federation (BWF) postponed Badminton World Championship **2020** to the November 29 to **December 5, 2021**, which is traditionally held in August and other Qualifiers for the Olympics are rescheduled. The tournament will take place at the **Caroline Marin Stadium, Huelva, Spain**.

CGF postpones 7th season of 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games to 2023:

Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has postponed the 7th season of Commonwealth Youth Games **2021**, scheduled to take place from August 1 – 7 2021 in Port of **Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**, to the year **2023** following a clash with Tokyo Olympic 2020 dates postponed by a year due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic.

FINA postpones 2021 Fukuoka world championships to May 2022:

The **2021** World Aquatics Championships in Japan will now be held in **2022**, the sport's governing body **FINA (International Swimming Federation)** said. It was initially scheduled for the summer of 2021 from July 16 to August 1 in the **Japanese city of Fukuoka**.

Discus thrower Sandeep Kumari banned for 4 years by WADA after testing positive for methenolone:

Discus thrower **Sandeep Kumari** has been slapped with a four-year ban by **WADA's** (World Anti-Doping Agency) Athletics

Integrity Unit for flunking a dope test, nearly two years after her sample was deemed clean by the NDTL (National Dope Testing Laboratory).

TIU bans Egyptian tennis player Youssef Hossam for life in match-fixing cases:

Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) has banned Egyptian tennis player **Youssef Hossam (21)** for life after being involved in a number of match-fixing and corruption cases.

SAI forms 6-member panel to prepare SOP for phased resumption of training:

Sports Authority of India (SAI) has formed a six-member committee to prepare a **Standard Operating Procedure** for a phased resumption of training across sporting disciplines at all the centres once the coronavirus-forced national lockdown is lifted.

Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik announces retirement:

Paralympics silver medallist **Deepa Malik** announced her retirement to hold her post as the President of the **Paralympic Committee of India** in accordance with the **National Sports Code**.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India to be held from Feb 17 to Mar 7 in 2021:

The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, which was originally scheduled to be held later this year in India, has been moved back to early **2021**. Five venues – **Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata and Navi Mumbai** – had already been finalised.

French cyclist Remy Di Gregorio banned by UCI for 4 years following 'super-EPO' positive test:

Remy Di Gregorio, a French road bicycle racer, has been banned for 4 years by the **International Cycling Union** (UCI) for

using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone **EPO** (Erythropoietin) during a long-distance trip from Paris to Nice during a doping test on March 8, 2018.

Anil Kumble-led ICC Committee calls for ban on saliva to shine ball:

Anil Kumble-led panel ICC Cricket Committee recommended banning the use of **saliva to shine** the ball among several other changes to ICC regulations to mitigate the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus.

The committee also recommended that two **non-neutral umpires** (both from the host nation) should be appointed for a short period of time.

NADA provisionally suspends Savita Kumari, Ankit Shishodia for violating anti-doping rules:

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) provisionally suspended powerlifters **Savita Kumari** and **Ankit Shisodia** for violating anti-doping rules. Athletes were given an opportunity to present themselves before the **Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP)** and explain their cases on the date and time fixed by the panel for a hearing.

Spanish Striker Aritz Aduriz Announces Retirement from Football:

Athletic Bilbao striker **Aritz Aduriz** announced retirement from football. He played for Spanish clubs Valladolid, Mallorca and Valencia, and is club's sixth-highest scorer with **172 goals**. He was a member of Spain's squad at the 2016 European Championship.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	DAYS	THEME
May 01	International Labour Day	-
May 02	International Astronomy Day	-
May 03	World Press Freedom Day	"Journalism without Fear or Favour".
May 04	International Fire-fighter's Day	-
May 05	World Asthma Day	"Enough Asthma Deaths".
May 05	International Day of the Midwife	"Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is now".
May 05	World Hand Hygiene Day	"SAVE LIVES: Clean your hands"
May 06	International No Diet Day	-
May 07	World Athletics Day	-
May 08	World Red Cross day	-
May 08	World Thalassemia Day	"The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients".
May 09	World Migratory Bird Day	"Birds Connect Our World."
May 10	International Mother's Day	-
May 11	National Technology Day	"Focusing on Rebooting the economy through Science and Technology".

May 12	International Nurses Day	"A Voice to Lead – Nursing the World to Health".
May 15	International Day of Families	"Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing + 25".
May 15	National Endangered Species Day	-
May 16	Armed Forces Day	-
May 16	National dengue day	-
May 16	International Day of Living Together in Peace	-
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	"Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".
May 17	World Hypertension Day	"Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer"
May 18	International Museum Day	"Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion".
May 20	World Bee Day	"Save the Bees".
May 20	World Metrology Day	"Measurements for Global Trade".
May 21	International Tea Day	-
May 21	National Anti-Terrorism Day	-
May 23	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	"End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!"
May 23	World Turtle Day	-
May 24	National Commonwealth Day	-
May 25	International Missing Children's Day	-
May 25	World Thyroid Day	
May 28	International Day of Action for Women's Health	"Each for Equal"
May 29	World Digestive Health Day	"Gut Microbiome: A Global Perspective"
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	"Women in Peacekeeping – A Key to Peace"
May 31	Anti-Tobacco Day or World No Tobacco Day	"Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use".

JUNE 2020

NATIONAL NEWS:

Power Finance Corporation signs MoU with NBPCL to fund hydro-electric projects in Madhya Pradesh:

Power Finance Corporation, under Ministry of Power entered into an agreement with **Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd.**, a company of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, to fund projects worth **Rs. 22, 000 crore** for **225 MW** hydro-electric projects & multipurpose projects.

Uttarakhand's Char Dham Project to get a boost with 450 m tunnel built beneath Chamba Town:

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has completed construction of a **440 m** long tunnel below the busy Chamba town on the **Rishikesh-Dharasu** road Highway (NH 94). Indian Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** lauded and congratulated the team for achieving this feat.

Karnataka government to launch a project to maintain health database of all citizens:

Karnataka government to soon launch project to maintain the health database of all its citizens undertaking a survey of all **6.5 Crore** people. A first of its kind initiative **State Health Register** will be robust and standardized health repository of all citizens.

Tamil Nadu signs MoUs worth over Rs 15, 000 crore to generate 47, 000 jobs

Tamil Nadu signed 17 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs **15, 128 crore** to generate **47, 150 jobs** in the state.

Daimler India, Salcomp and other

companies would invest over **Rs 15000 crore**. The Government also signed MoUs for renewable energy projects.

Nirmala Sitharaman launches free instant PAN card facility through Aadhaar:

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** formally launched the facility for instant allotment of **PAN card** using **Aadhaar-based e-KYC**. The facility is now available for all those **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** applicants who possess a valid **Aadhaar number** and have a mobile number registered in the **UIDAI** database.

Andhra Pradesh government launches web portal for educational institutes to upload details:

Andhra Pradesh has launched a web portal on **schools** and **colleges** will have to upload details regarding their infrastructure and other facilities. Student's parents may visit the institutes and complain if the facilities provided do not match the information provided.

Decided during the '**Our Governance, Your Suggestion**' session.

Himachal to launch portal for registration of returnees who lost jobs:

The cabinet headed by Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched of a portal for registration of people who returned to the state due to job-loss and are either in need of employment or upgrade of skills and decided to formulate a scheme for working capital requirements.

Uttar Pradesh government to develop 800 km roads as Herbal roads:

Uttar Pradesh government will develop **800 km** roads as Herbal roads in the state. These

herbal roads will have medicinal and herbal trees on both sides.

Deputy Chief Minister and state PWD minister of state **Keshav Prasad Maurya** stated that these herbal roads will have trees like like Peepal, Neem, Sehjan along with other herb varieties like brahmi, ashvagandha and jatrofa.

'Hunar Haat' to restart from Sept 2020 with theme "Local to Global":

Flagship programme of Ministry of Minority Affairs '**Hunar Haat**' will restart with the theme of "**Local to Global**" from September 2020.

It is a platform for artisans and **craftsmen** from various parts of the country to showcase their art and craft and provides employment and employment opportunities to more than **five lakh Indian artisans, craftsmen, culinary experts** and other people associated with them in the last five years.

ADB and India sign \$177 million loan to upgrade roads in Maharashtra:

Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a **\$177 million** loan to upgrade **450 kilometres** of state highways and major district roads in the state of Maharashtra. This could improve the connectivity between rural areas and urban centres.

Kargil's first Solar Lift Irrigation Plant inaugurated in Ladakh:

In **Ladakh**, Director of Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries Dr **Mohammad Raza** inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Plant of Kargil with **five KW Solar Plant** and **three HP Submersible Pump (Kargil Renewable Energy Agency-KREDA)** at Yak Breeding Farm, Bodh Kharboo keeping in view

the protocols of social distancing and Standard Operating Procedures.

Uttarakhand launches Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana for returnee migrants: Uttarakhand chief minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated the Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana. The scheme will offer credit facility through **nationalised banks, scheduled commercial banks and cooperative banks**.

Madhya Pradesh Government creates 'Rojgar Setu Yojana' to employ migrant workers:

State Government has created '**Rojgar Setu Yojana**' to employ **migrant workers**, who have come back to the State from other states amid coronavirus-induced lockdown, stated Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

Madhya Pradesh Government is preparing database under 'Swamitva' scheme:

Madhya Pradesh Government is preparing a database under the "**Swamitva scheme**" launched on a pilot basis by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 24th April. The scheme aims to provide land ownership rights to people in rural areas.

On the basis of the database prepared under this scheme, land rights **records** and **property registers** of rural settlements will also be prepared at the panchayat level.

Piyush Goyal attend Digital Summit on Exports organized by CII:

Minister for Commerce & Industry & Railways **Piyush Goyal** participated in the Digital Summit on Exports organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** which has completed **125 years**. EXIM Bank

of India was the Institutional Partner for the Summit.

NASSCOM is targeting for **\$500 billion** export in next **five years**.

Government approves Rs 445 cr for

Chhattisgarh under Jal Jeevan Mission:

Union Government has approved **Rs 445 crore** for the implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission** in **Chhattisgarh** during **2020-21**.

Chhattisgarh has planned to have 100 per cent **Functional Tap Water Connection (FHTC)** by **2023-24**. Out of 45 lakh households in the state, it has planned to provide tap connections to 20 lakh households.

Kerala to launch free internet project K-FON in December:

Kerala State government has announced the **Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON)** project will be commissioned by December 2020. The project aims to provide free internet access to the poor in the State. Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** informed the decision after a meeting with the heads of companies of the consortium.

Jitendra Singh launched e-booklet on DARPG achievements:

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr.Jitendra Singh** has launched the e-booklet on Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (**DARPG**) achievements for the period 30 May 2019 to 30 May 2020.

'One Sun One World One Grid': India initiates talks on West to SE Asia solar grid:

India has come up with a '**One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG)** initiative to set up a framework for facilitating global

cooperation in this regard aiming at building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources that can be seamlessly shared.

Public Sector Banks sanction collateral free loans worth 3, 200 crore rupees in a single day under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan:

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** informed that largely the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** located in over **three thousand** TIER-2 towns were covered on the first day of sanctions of the collateral free loans.

The amount **3, 200 crore** sanctioned will help the MSMEs to meet the expenses towards payment of salaries, rent and restocking of goods.

Centre launches PM SVANIDHI scheme for street vendors to get loans of up to Rs. 10, 000:

Ministry of **Housing & Urban Affairs** (MoHUA) has inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched "**PM SVANIDHI**" -**Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi** - a special micro-credit facility scheme for providing affordable loan to street vendors. It is aimed at enabling the street vendors to resume their livelihood.

The scheme targets to benefit over **50 lakh** street vendors.

Odisha, Sikkim, Mizoram join 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme: Ram Vilas Paswan:

Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram are the three more states that have been included under the "**One Nation One Ration Card**"

scheme. Consumer Affairs Minister announced the inclusion of these states in the scheme on Integrated Management of Public Distribution System. The facility is enabled in 17 States and UTs so far.

PM Modi announces "My Life My Yoga" Video Blogging contest in Man Ki Baat:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** called upon one and all to participate in the "**My Life – My Yoga**" (also called "**Jeevan Yoga**") Video Blogging Contest, a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**, during the course of his monthly Mann Ki Baat address to the nation.

The contest focuses on the transformative impact of Yoga on the lives of individuals, and comes as one of the activities related to the observation of the sixth **International Day of Yoga (IDY)** coming up on 21st June 2020. The contest has gone live on the social media handles of the **Ministry of AYUSH**.

Nitin Gadkari announces development of new Greenfield expressway to Amritsar:

The centre has announced the development of a new **Greenfield connectivity** to **Amritsar City** from Nakodar via Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib as part of **Delhi-Amritsar Expressway**. The road from Amritsar to Gurdaspur to be made signal free. First phase of project to have an investment of **Rs 25, 000 cr.**

Prime Minister Modi launches CHAMPIONS portal to empower MSMEs:

Prime Minister launched the tech platform "**Champions**" to help the smaller MSMEs by solving their grievances, encouraging and supporting them. 'Champions' stands for **Creation and Harmonious Application of**

Modern Processes for Increasing the **Output & National Strength.**

Government approves to rename Kolkata Port Trust as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** made the announcement of renaming Kolkata Port Trust as **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust** after Jan Sangh Founder while addressing the 150th-anniversary programme of **Kolkata Port Trust**.

Government launches SWADES to conduct skill mapping of citizens returning under Vande Bharat Mission:

The Union Government has launched a new initiative **SWADES**- Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support to conduct a skill mapping exercise of the returning citizens under the **Vande Bharat Mission**.

Telangana Chief Minister inaugurates Kondapochamma Reservoir in Siddipet:

Telangana CM K Chandrashekhar Rao inaugurated a pump house in **Siddipet** district to lift **Godavari water** to a reservoir which is at a height of 618 meters from the source—**Godavari river**. This is to facilitate areas which did not have irrigation facilities.

Centre launches TULIP portal to provide benefit to all stakeholders:

Human Resources Development Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** & Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched a joint initiative, **TULIP- 'The Urban Learning Internship Programme'** aimed at providing internships to engineering students in the country. It has been conceived under Budget's theme '**Aspirational India**'.

Chhattisgarh government launches 'Spandan Campaign' to check suicide and fratricide:

Chhattisgarh Police have launched a special campaign titled "**Spandan**" to check mental stress and depression among their personnel by conducting interactive programmes and arranging counseling sessions, **music** and **yoga therapies**.

The motive of the campaign is preventing the force from depression and **stress pushing** them to take extreme steps.

Nitin Gadkari announces development of new Greenfield expressway to Amritsar:

Centre announced the development of a new **Greenfield connectivity to Amritsar City** from **Nakodar** via Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib as part of **Delhi-Amritsar Expressway**.

Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs **Nitin Gadkari** stated, the road from **Amritsar to Gurdaspur** will also be fully developed and made completely signal free.

Prime Minister Addresses the virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020:

India pledged **\$15 million** to **Gavi**, the international vaccine alliance, with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** making the announcement during the virtual **Global Vaccine Summit** hosted by UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson**.

More than **50 countries** are including business leaders, UN agencies, civil society, ministers and Heads of State and participated in the summit.

PM Modi's first-ever virtual bilateral summit with Australian PM Scott Morrison:

Prime Minister **Modi** and his Australian counterpart PM **Scott Morrison** are taking part in the first-ever virtual bilateral summit. The event signifies "**The strengthening of ties with Australia and its upward trajectory**".

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Bhutan on cooperation in the areas of environment:

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** gave its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Royal Government of Bhutan** on Cooperation in the areas of the environment. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of signature and shall continue to remain in force for a period of **10 years**.

Prakash Javadekar launches urban forest scheme to develop 200 "Nagar Van" in 5 years:

Union Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister **Prakash Javadekar**, launched the "**Urban Forest programme**" on the occasion of **World Environment Day** and reiterated that India is able to preserve its biodiversity. Government announced implementation of the **Nagar van scheme** to develop **200 Urban Forests** across the country in next **5 years** with a renewed focus on people's participation & collaboration between Forest Department, Municipal bodies, NGOs, Corporates.

Nitin Gadkari launches campaign on 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways':

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSME, **Nitin Gadkari** launched the UNDP and MoRTH national awareness campaign on

'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways' through a video conference.

Uttar Pradesh introduces a MoU Monitoring Mechanism for efficient implementation of investment proposals:

Uttar Pradesh has introduced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **Monitoring Mechanism** in a move that aims at better implementation of investment proposals through handholding interested investors and better tracking of the MoUs signed.

J&K Lieutenant Governor launches 'Mera Vetan' app:

Lieutenant Governor **G.C. Murmu** launched JK **Employees Salary Tracker** Mobile App - "**Mera Vetan**". With this, employees especially posted in remote & rural areas, who do not have access to the DDOs will easily access their salary & other details anytime.

PETA hails India's first online waste exchange platform launched by Andhra Pradesh:

The Indian wing of the **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** has praised Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** for launching an **online waste exchange platform** which will help the authorities monitor the movement of hazardous waste real-time using the tools incorporated in the platform.

Plantation drive named "Thank Mom" started in Madhya Pradesh:

In **Madhya Pradesh**, a plantation drive named "Thank Mom" has been started on the premises of Social Justice and Disabled

Welfare Directorate on **World Environment Day (June 5)**.

As per the instruction from Commissioner **Renu Tiwari**, a variety of plants such as Neem, Guava, Mango, Moonlight, Parijat and Tulsi were planted with a plate in the name of each employee's mother.

"Bande Utkala Janani" gets state anthem status in Odisha:

Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Bikram Keshari Arukh** said that the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** accorded state anthem status to "**Bande Utkala Janani**".

This patriotic poem was written by **Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra** in 1912. It was the opening song of **Utkal Sammilani** during the fight for the formation of a separate province.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launches Raj Kaushal Portal:

Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** launched the Raj Kaushal portal and online shramik employment exchange, developed by the department of **Information and Technology (IT)** and **RSLDC**, to ensure giving jobs to the migrant workers who have returned from other states and those who have been rendered jobless.

Madhya Pradesh tops wheat procurement in country with 1.27 crore tones:

Madhya Pradesh has reached the first position in the country in the procurement of wheat on support price, chief minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

Wheat procurement in **Madhya Pradesh** has increased by **74 per cent** as compared last year. It is almost equal to the **33 per cent** of total wheat procured in the country.

World Bank lends Rs. 1, 950 crore loans to West Bengal Govt for tackling COVID situation:

West Bengal has given **Rs. 1, 950 Cr** loans to the West Bengal for **tackling COVID situation** & developmental work in the State. Out of it, **Rs. 1, 100 Cr** will be spent for creating Industrial infrastructures, remaining **Rs. 850 crores** are for the Social-Welfare schemes.

Uttar Pradesh govt amends 65 years old cow slaughter act of state:

Uttar Pradesh government has amended the **65 years old cow slaughter act of state** and made stringent provisions in a new ordinance to stop cow slaughter in the state. The State Cabinet has approved **Cow-Slaughter Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.**

Gairsain declared summer capital of Uttarakhand:

Gairsain in **Chamoli district** was declared as the summer capital of **Uttarakhand**. It is expected that the declaration of a summer capital in the region will expedite development of the hilly areas. **Dehradun** is the existing temporary capital of **Uttarakhand**.

Distinct colour band for number plate sticker for BS-6 four-wheel vehicles:

Ministry of **Road Transport and Highways** has issued an order mandating a strip of green colour of **1 cm width** on top of the existing sticker carrying details of registration for **BS-VI vehicles** of any fuel type that is for **petrol** or **CNG** which have a **light blue colour** sticker and a **diesel vehicle** which is of **Orange** colour.

Government Hikes Import Duty On Bamboo from 10 To 25 Percent:

Union Government has hiked Customs duty on **Bamboo imports** by **Agarbatti manufacturers** from **10 per cent to 25 per cent** with immediate effect. The decision has been taken to encourage use of domestic bamboo under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat scheme**.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister launches "Jagananna Chedodu" scheme, disburses Rs. 10, 000 to beneficiaries:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**, who has been implementing welfare schemes for the betterment of the poor, has embarked on another scheme named **Jagananna Chedodu scheme**.

A scheme to provide financial assistance to **barbers, dhobis (washermen) and tailors** in the state

FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 40th GST council meeting:

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the **40th GST council** meeting through video conferencing. Finance Minister said that no late fee will be charged from **small taxpayers** who have not filed their GST returns between July 2017 and January 2020.

Government approves revised estimate of Rs 124 crore for ship repair facilities in Andaman & Nicobar:

Due to increased ship movements, the ship repair facilities at **Port Blair** are being augmented by the shipping ministry and the existing dock length will be extended by **90 meters** under "**Make In India**" initiative.

Shipping ministry has approved a revised cost estimate of **Rs 123.95 crore**.

Indian Navy inaugurates Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle Complex at Visakhapatnam:

DSRV Complex is designed to accommodate the newly inducted **Submarine Rescue System** with state of the art facilities to store the DSRV assets in a **Rescue-Ready** state. The DSRV system can be rapidly mobilized by **air or road** to facilitate submarine rescue operations even at distant locations.

Railways Creates World Record; Successfully Runs First Double Stack Container Train in Electrified Territory:

Indian Railways created a world record by commissioning the first high rise **Over Head Equipment (OHE)** and successfully running double stack containers in electrified territory on the Western Railway from **Palanpur** and **Botad** stations in **Gujarat**.

Odisha becomes 1st state in India to receive ISO certification for tribal hostels:

Odisha became the first State in India to receive prestigious **ISO** (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 certification for its **44 tribal** hostels of **Keonjhar** (32 hostels) and **Sambalpur** (12 hostels) districts improving their overall infrastructure and standards under **Mission Suvidya**.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launches 'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' through video conference:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched "**Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana**" for 8-18 years old children, who are child labourers instead of being in school, through video conference.

Aim of the yojana- To educate orphans and **worker's children** or **child labourers** & ensure their healthy life.

NHAI becomes first construction sector organization to go 'Fully Digital':

National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has gone "**Fully Digital**", with the launch of cloud-based and **Artificial Intelligence**-powered Big Data Analytics platform - **Data Lake** and Project Management Software in view of the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

Maharashtra renames its environment ministry as 'Environment & Climate Change Ministry':

A week after being hit by **Cyclone Nisarga**, Maharashtra has renamed its **Environment Ministry** as **Environment and Climate Change Ministry**. The department which is handle by Shiv Sena MLA **Aaditya Thackeray**.

'STREE' Launched In Hyderabad To Support And Empower Women Against Domestic Violence:

Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) in association with Hyderabad City Police has launched a programme "**STREE**" to support women against domestic violence. The name reflects the vision - "**She Triumphs through Respect, Equality, and Empowerment**" (**STREE**).

Punjab CM launches 'Ghar Ghar Nigrani' app for COVID-19 house-to-house surveillance:

Punjab Chief Minister Captain **Amarinder Singh** launched a mobile-based app "**Ghar Ghar Nigrani**" to undertake house-to-house surveillance in the state to eliminate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maharashtra government signs Rs 16,000-crore investment pacts with 12 firms:

Maharashtra government has announced the signing of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with **12 domestic** and foreign companies for Rs **16,000 crore** investments in the **oil, chemicals, auto, electric mobility** and **logistics sectors**.

500-Year-Old Odisha Temple Submerged Under Mahanadi River Reappears:

A **500-year-old** ancient temple of **Lord Vishnu** that was submerged in **Odisha's Mahanadi river** sometime in **19th century** due to change of course of the river, has resurfaced after **15 years**.

An archaeological survey team from the Indian **National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage** that visited the village in Nayagarh district, said the top of the **Gopinath Dev temple** was visible due to the reduction in the water-level of the river.

First estimation exercise of Indian gaur in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu:

The first population estimation exercise of the **Indian gaur** carried out in the **Nilgiris Forest Division** in recent years. **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** for Nature India assisted the exercise and highlighted that there are estimated **2,000 Indian gaurs** across the division.

Uttar Pradesh govt decides to adopt scheme of Flatted Factory Model:

Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to adopt the scheme of **Flatted Factory Model** which will ensure easy availability of land for industries, and in turn, generate employment also. In a high level meeting, it was decided

by **Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA)**.

West Bengal Government launches "Karmo Bhumi" a job portal to help IT professionals:

West Bengal government has launched a job portal "**KarmoBhumi**" for IT professionals who have returned to the state amid the COVID-19 pandemic. **IT professionals** can use the portal 'Karmo Bhumi' to connect with companies based in the state. IT professionals now connect to IT companies of Bengal through **karmabhumi.nltr.org**.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurates three projects undertaken by PHED

Chief Minister of Manipur **N. Biren Singh** inaugurated three projects undertaken by State **Public Health Engineering Department** (PHED) through video conferencing from **Imphal**.

New Development Bank has sanctioned **Rs. 3000 crore** to provide potable water to every household of the State.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs launches "e-Office" application:

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman **M. Ajit Kumar** has launched the e-Office application in over 500 CGST and Customs offices pan India. Over **50,000** officers and staff will use this application, making **CBIC** one of the largest Government departments to automate its internal office procedures.

Sports Ministry to establish Khelo India Centres of Excellence:

Minister of Sports **Kiren Rijiju** has now decided to set up **Khelo India State Centers of Excellence (KISCE)** under **Khelo India**.

First phase of the scheme will see **eight state-owned** facilities being upgraded. The eight have been selected on the basis of facilities available in **priority sports**, infrastructure and past champions.

UP becomes top state in country to provide employment to workers under MGNREGA:

Uttar Pradesh has become the **top state** in the country to provide employment to the workers under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)**. Uttar Pradesh provided employment to more than **57 lakh workers** under **MGNREGA**.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Launches India's First Mobile Laboratory For Coronavirus Testing:

Union minister **Harsh Vardhan** launched a mobile lab for coronavirus testing which can be deployed in **rural areas** and help in promoting last-mile testing. The mobile lab, also called **I-Lab** or Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Lab can run 50 RT-PCR tests in a day. It can also conduct up to 200 ELISA tests in a day.

Union HRD Minister virtually launches YUKTI 2.0 platform for Higher Education Institutes:

Union Minister of Human Resource Development **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched the initiative "**YUKTI 2.0**" to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.

Rajasthan Government to Launch Indira Rasoi Yojna to ensure 'No One Sleeps Hungry':

Rajasthan Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** announced that his government will soon launch the "**Indira Rasoi Yojna**" for the poor to ensure that "**no one sleeps hungry**" in the state.

Under this scheme, pure and **nutritious food** on concessional rates will be provided to the needy twice a day, the chief minister said. He said the state government will spend **Rs 100 crore** every year on the **Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme)**.

Union Cabinet approves proposal to grant international airport status to UP's Kushinagar Airport:

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved declaration of **Kushinagar Airport** in **Uttar Pradesh** as an International Airport.

Government provides 2% interest subsidy to 'Shishu' borrowers under Mudra Yojana:

The government decided to provide **2 percent** interest subvention to borrowers under the '**Shishu**' category of the flagship **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** for a period of **12 months**.

Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates India's one of India's largest & first Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020:

Union State Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated one of India's **largest and first Virtual Healthcare and Hygiene EXPO 2020**. The Expo has been organised by **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-Ordinate Debt:

MSME, Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Sub-Ordinate Debt (**CGSSD**). Under the scheme, Promoters of the MSMEs will be given credit equal to **15 percent** of their stake or **75 lakh rupees** whichever is lower.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

India becomes world's second-largest manufacturer of PPE body coveralls in two months:

India has become the world's second largest manufacturer of **personal protective equipment (PPE)** body coveralls within a short time span of two months.

China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

World Economic Forum Davos summit to focus on 'The Great Reset' in 2021:

World Economic Forum (WEF) will adopt a new twin-summit format for its next annual Davos meeting in **January 2021** with a theme of '**The Great Reset**'.

On Menstrual Hygiene Day Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar joins UNICEF's "Red Dot Challenge":

On Menstrual Hygiene Day, **28th May 2020**, 23-year-old, former Miss World **Manushi Chhillar** collaborated in the global initiative of the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, the "**Red Dot Challenge**" to create awareness and to educate the girls about menstrual hygiene and construction of sanitation facilities and access to hygiene products.

India and Denmark signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the power sector:

The MoU signed between the **Ministry of Power** and the Ministry for Energy, Utilities and Climate, **Government of Denmark**, is to develop a strong, deep and long-term co-operation between two countries in the power sector on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

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

Apple has become the first US Company to cross **\$1.5 trillion**-mark in market cap as its valuation hit **\$1.53 trillion** at over **\$352** per share. While **Microsoft** briefly hit \$1.5 trillion m-cap, its valuation declined to **\$1.49 trillion**.

Exim Bank extends \$216 million credit line to Malawi government:

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a line of credit (LOC) worth **\$215.68 million** to the **Malawi** government for drinking water supply schemes and other development projects includes supply of **irrigation network, tobacco threshing plant, cotton processing facilities** and construction of a new water supply system from **Likhubula river** in Mulanje to Blantyre.

India Elected for 8th Term as Non-Permanent UNSC Member:

India formally elected as **Non-Permanent Member** of the powerful **UN Security Council** for a **two-year** term after winning 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. Along with **India, Ireland, Mexico, and Norway** also won the UN Security Council elections. **India** will be United Nations Security Council **President** for **August, 2021**

India pledges USD 10million to UN for Palestine refugees amid COVID-19 pandemic:

India has announced to contribute **10 million US dollar** to the **United Nation's (UN) Relief and Works Agency** for **Palestine Refugees** in the Near East (UNRWA) over the coming two years.

President of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic declares landslide win in controversial parliamentary vote:

Serbia's president declared a landslide victory for his right-wing party, in a controversial **parliamentary election** held amid concerns over the coronavirus pandemic and a boycott by much of the opposition. His party won 190 seats in the total of **250**.

36th ASEAN Summit to be held in Vietnam via video conference:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs has indicated that the **36th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN))** Summit will be the first ever to take place via teleconference, with **Vietnam** to host the remote gathering, set to focus on handling regional public health issues and funding to cope with COVID-19.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

LIC launches revamped PMVY for senior citizens:

Extension of the **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana** up to **31 st March 2023** by the government, LIC has launched a modified non-linked, non-participating, pension plan. The policy term is 10 years and the assured rate of interest is **7.4%**.

BSE launches eKYC services on StAR MF platform:

BSE StAR Mutual Fund has launched BSE **eKYC** services based on **Aadhaar** and **Video KYC**. Open for onboarding mutual fund investors initially, it will be opened to **stock brokers** and other approved intermediaries. It will soon issue APIs for stock brokers and other intermediaries to connect their **IT systems** to **BSE's eKYC system**.

NPCI launches AI virtual assistant PAi to create product awareness:

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), as an initiative to improve digital financial inclusion, launched an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** based chatbot, **PAi**, to create awareness around its products like FASTag, RuPay, UPI, AePS on a real-time basis. PAi is developed by **Bengaluru** based startup **CoRover Pvt Ltd**.

RBI slaps penalty on Bank Of India, Karnataka Bank & Saraswat Bank:

RBI imposed the penalty of **Rs. 5 cr** on **Bank of India**, **Rs. 30 lakh** on **Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd** and **Rs. 1.20 cr** on **Karnataka Bank**. The RBI has imposed the penalty on the ground of non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by RBI.

NABARD sanctions Rs 1, 050 crore credit support to West Bengal:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned credit of **Rs 1, 050 crore** in the current fiscal so far to West Bengal for benefit of farmers and poor people in rural areas.

The credit support under **Special Liquidity Facility (SLF)** will be extended to state cooperative banks, regional rural banks and **micro-finance institutions (MFIs)**.

Yes Bank partners with Chalo launch contactless card for bus passengers:

Yes Bank has partnered with **Chalo** to launch of a co-branded contactless travel card in Mangalore and Udupi, which would enable users to load money on the card to make '**tap to pay**' payments across buses.

RBI Sets up Payments Infrastructure Development Fund to Boost Digitisation:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said they are setting up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (**PIDF**) of **Rs 500 crore**. It will make an initial contribution of **Rs 250 crore** covering half the fund. The remaining will come from the card-issuing banks and card networks operating in the country.

SEBI rearranges its Commodity derivatives advisory committee:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) rearranged the Commodity derivatives advisory committee and appointed **Ashok Dalwani**, Retired IAS officer as the chairman and **Aliasgar S Mithwani**, Chief General Manager of SEBI as Secretary of the **17-member committee**.

NABARD provides Rs 270 crore to Assam Gramin Vikash Bank:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has made available a **Special Liquidity Facility (SLF)** of **Rs 270 crore** to Assam Gramin Vikash Bank for supporting the agricultural activities of the farmers.

NABARD has provided **Rs 25, 000 crore** nationwide for providing liquidity support to **Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)** during **2020-21**.

PhonePe launches Domestic Trip Insurance with ICICI Lombard as India starts opening-up:

PhonePe, India's leading digital payments platform announced the launch of a comprehensive, industry-first domestic multi-trip insurance cover in a strategic partnership with **ICICI Lombard**, India's largest non-life insurance company.

The cost of the insurance is **Rs 499/year**. It provides **365-day** stress-free travel experience, protection & covers all modes (**road, rail and air within the country**) of transport.

RBI proposes upper age limit of 70 years for bank CEOs and whole-time directors:

RBI has proposed an upper age limit of **70 years** for **CEOs** and **whole-time directors of banks** and a maximum term of **10 years** for those belonging to the promoter group, as part of the exercise to improve governance in the banking sector.

SBI relaunches online 'Insta Saving Bank Account' through YONO:

State Bank of India has re-launched "**SBI Insta Saving Bank Account**" an **Aadhaar-based** instant digital savings account for customers who would like to open an account online through bank's integrated banking and lifestyle platform – **YONO**. which will offer a **complete paperless** and instant digital savings account opening with just **PAN** and **Aadhaar number**.

ICICI Bank launches 'Insta Flexicash' paperless overdraft facility for salary accounts:

Private lender **ICICI Bank** has unveiled a paperless facility that will enable its salary

account customers to get approvals for **Overdraft (OD)** instantaneously.

Titled as '**Insta Flexicash**', the end-to-end **fully digital** service can be used on the lender's **internet banking** platform. The facility can get the approval immediately while customers can start using the okayed limit within **48 hours**.

PNB extends credit line of Rs 750 cr for Gorakhpur Link Expressway:

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has extended a credit line of **Rs 750 crore** for the **Gorakhpur Link Expressway**, estimated to cost **Rs 5, 876 crore**. The 91-km expressway will connect Gorakhpur district, the pocket borough of Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** with another expressway project, the 340-km **Purvanchal Expressway**.

Airtel Payments Bank launches Suraksha Salary account for MSMEs:

Airtel Payments Bank launched a new salary account for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** named **Suraksha Salary account**, it will enable MSMEs and other organizations to make cashless payments and provide a financial security blanket to their employees.

The account has **No Minimum** balance condition. It offers no charges on cash withdrawals of upto **Rs 50, 000** and deposits of upto **Rs 20, 000** in one month.

EPFO launches multi location claims settlement facility:

Retirement fund body **Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** on Monday said it has launched a multi-location claim settlement facility to expedite member claims

ICICI Home Finance launches affordable housing loan scheme "SARAL":

ICICI Home Finance has launched a special **Affordable Housing Loan** scheme, with special rates for women, lower and **middle-income groups**. Called **SARAL**, it aims to fund homes in urban and rural areas. **SARAL** offers affordable housing loans up to **Rs. 35 lakh**. The interest rate starts from 7.98% onwards.

RBI Proposes New Norms for Housing Finance Companies:

RBI proposed to double the minimum **Net Owned Fund (NOF)** requirement for housing finance companies to **Rs 20 crore**.

Classifying HFCs as **systemically important** (asset size of **Rs 500 crore** and above) and **non-systemically important** (asset size less than Rs 500 crore).

EXIM Bank provides USD 20 mn credit line to Nicaragua for rebuilding hospital:

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide a line of credit of **USD 20.10 million** (about Rs 153.27 crore) for reconstruction of hospital building in **Nicaragua**. Exim Bank has extended 4 (four) **Lines of Credit to Nicaragua**, on behalf of the Indian government.

Yes Bank partners Affordplan to launch co-branded cashless healthcare card:

Yes Bank has partnered with **fintech startup** Afford plan to launch a **co-branded** health card "**Swasth Card**" to address healthcare needs. The co-branded healthcare card will enable families plan and manage their finances for their healthcare needs.

Karnataka Bank launches new loan product 'KBL Micro Mitra' for small firms:

Private sector lender **Karnataka Bank** launched "**KBL Micro Mitra**" to offer financial assistance of up to **Rs 10 lakh** to **micro**

manufacturing & service enterprises either to meet their working capital needs for investment purposes.

RBI extends Rs 50, 000-crore special liquidity facility to Yes Bank for 3 more months:

Private sector lender **Yes Bank** still facing capital woes, the **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has agreed to extend **Rs 50, 000-crore Special Liquidity Facility** for the lender for another three months.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

Airtel Payments Bank & Mastercard Team Up to Provide Financial Solutions for Farmers, SMEs:

Airtel Payments Bank (APBL) has partnered with **Mastercard** to develop customized products catering to customers across the under banked spectrum including farmers, small and medium enterprises and retail customers.

Maruti Suzuki partners ICICI Bank to offer customized EMI financing schemes to customers:

Maruti Suzuki India joined hands with **ICICI Bank** to offer retail financing schemes to its customers. Accordingly, the bank is offering Flexi EMI scheme which enables customers to pay low starts from **Rs. 899** on loan of **Rs 1 lakh** for first 3 months.

NCLT approves IL&FS stake sale in GIFT City to Gujarat government:

The Principal Bench of **National Company Law Tribunal** (NCLT) has approved the stake sale of **IL&FS** in **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL)** to the Government of Gujarat.

Vakrangee ties up with LIC for micro insurance products:

Vakrangee Ltd has tied up with **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** to distribute micro **insurance products** in unserved and underserved areas through its centres across the country.

BEML-MELCO sign MoU for manufacturing of Railway propulsion:

The leading PSU of Government of India, **BEML Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Mitsubishi Electric Co. (MELCO)** to study and decide on the possibility of setting up a Joint Venture (JV) Company for manufacturing of certain propulsion systems and other railways electrical equipment in India.

DBS Bank partners with TCIL for real time payments to truck drivers:

DBS commitment to support lives and livelihoods, the bank has partnered with TCIL for empowering truck drivers by facilitating real-time payments through the **DBS RAPID** (Real Time APIs by DBS) solution, thereby enabling them to receive payments instantly.

South Africa and NASA collaborate to support human missions to Moon, Mars and beyond:

South African National Space Agency (**SANSA**) has partnered with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) to host a deep-space ground station, which will support human spaceflight missions to the **Moon, Mars** and beyond.

Facebook strikes global licensing deal with Indian music label Saregama:

Facebook has entered into a global deal with **Saregama** one of India's oldest and largest music labels, to license its music for video and

other social experiences across its eponymous service and **Instagram**. **Saregama claims to offer songs in over 25 languages.**

GAIL (India) and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) sign MoU for development of Trigeneration projects in India:

GAIL (India) and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in **New Delhi** for cooperation in development of **Trigeneration projects** in India. **50:50** joint venture between **GAIL & EESL** will be incorporated for undertaking Trigeneration projects.

Empays Payment Systems partners Mastercard to enable contact-free ATM cash withdrawals:

Empays Payment Systems India Pvt Ltd, which built and runs the IMT Payment System announced a partnership with **Mastercard** to enable **contact-free ATM cash** withdrawals in India.

EPaisa Joins Hand With First Alliance Bank Zambia Ltd To Promote MPOS Solution In Africa:

ePaisa, a point of sale (POS) solution provider in India's has entered into a partnership with **First Alliance Bank (Z) Ltd** in **Zambia**, Africa to provide **mobile point of sale (mPOS)** solution to the SME's and other businesses in the country.

IFFCO signs MoU with ICAR for joint research, testing, validation of products:

Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research** (ICAR) for

collaborative research, testing and validation of different products through ICAR institutes and **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** (KVKs).

Mother Dairy ties up with Zomato to home deliver fruit, vegetables in Delhi-NCR:

Safal the Fruits and vegetables arm of **Mother Dairy** has partnered with restaurant aggregator and food Delivery Company **Zomato** home deliver fruit and vegetables in select locations of the **National Capital Region (NCR)**.

Maruti Suzuki partners with Karur Vysya Bank for flexible financing schemes:

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has partnered with **Karur Vysya Bank** to offer simpler and **flexible financing schemes** for new customers. Karur Vysya Bank offers customers in-principle loan sanction in **15 minutes**.

Facebook acquires Sweden's Mapillary for unknown sum to take on Google Maps:

Facebook has acquired **Swedish** startup **Mapillary**, that is building a detailed, accurate, and up to date global street-level imagery platform, for an **undisclosed sum**.

Atal Innovation Mission partners with Coal India Ltd to boost its Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives:

Coal India Limited (CIL) has agreed to partner with **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog** to support proactively the flagship mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across the country. A **Statement of Intent (SoI)** of a strategic partnership between AIM and Coal India Limited was signed and exchanged in a **virtual e-summit**.

Hyundai Motor India ties up with HDFC Bank for vehicle finance:

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) has partnered with **HDFC Bank** to offer customized financing solutions for those buying cars through its online automotive retail platform '**Click to Buy**'.

Mastercard acquires Finicity to advance Open Banking strategy:

Mastercard has entered into an agreement to acquire **Finicity** for **\$825 million**, with existing shareholders given the potential to earn up to an additional \$160 million if performance targets are met.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

Switzerland launched the world's first app based on Google and Apple's contact-tracing tech:

Switzerland is the first country to launch a contact-tracing app "**SwissCovid**" using the specialized contact-tracing tech released by Google and Apple.

Google and **Apple** released their "**exposure notification**" API earlier this month, and said 22 health authorities around the world have asked permission to use it.

Ola Electric acquires Etergo, looks to launch electric scooters in India by 2021:

Ola Electric Mobility Pvt Ltd, electric vehicle arm of Ola acquired Amsterdam-based **Etergo BV**, manufacturer of electric scooters. With this acquisition, Ola Electric will enter the premium electric two-wheeler market and manufacture these scooters.

IIT Madras develops light-weight alloy to replace steel, aluminium in cars:

Researchers at the **IIT Madras**, along with the University of North Texas and US Army

Research Laboratory, have developed a **magnesium alloy** with significantly improved properties, that can replace **steel** and **aluminium** in automotive and aerospace components.

Facebook Launches New App Called 'CatchUp' to Facilitate Group Phone Chats:

Facebook has come up with another calling application called "**Catch-Up**". The idea behind the new app is to coordinate call timings with friends and family members. The new app is developed by the company's New Product Experimentation team.

Irrawaddy Dolphin population at Odisha's Chilika lake increased with the help of IIT Madras' dredging methodology:

A research project undertaken by the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras**, has helped triple the number of Irrawaddy dolphins in Odisha's **Chilika lake**, asia's largest natural water reservoir.

The project involved the excavation (loosening or dislodging) of unwanted substances from the foothills without damaging the lake's ecosystem, removing the loosened material to the **dredge vessel & transportation** of the material to the placement area.

Hyundai Introduces Upgraded End-to-End Online Platform 'Click to Buy' For Customers:

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) introduced its upgraded online end-to-end automotive retail platform "**Click to Buy**" with an investment of around \$ 1 million (around 7.5 crores) curated to provide future retail experience to customers in the wake pandemic.

DRDO develops device to keep PPE wearers comfortable:

Defence Research Development Organisation (**DRDO**) has developed a device **SUMERU-PACS** that helps wearers of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** comfortable without sweating.

The DRDO officials found out, on the basis of the feedback received from doctors and medical staff, that the PPE wearers feel uncomfortable after wearing PPE for more than **30 to 45 minutes** and start sweating which makes the situation worse.

23-yr-old Maharashtra boy makes world's first 'Internet-controlled' robot to help Covid-19 patients:

Designed and created by **Pratik Tirodkar**, founder of a start-up PNT Solutions, Dombivali, recently, the first '**Coro-bot**' independently dispenses food, water, beverages, medicines – and even some good advice – to Coronavirus patients without the needs for nurses, ward staff or other caregivers.

IIT Guwahati Student's Startup Flyzy Develops Mobile Application For Safe And Contactless Air Travel:

Students of **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati** have developed a mobile application, called '**Flyzy**', to provide a seamless air travelling experience to passengers during the pandemic. The application has been developed by **Deepak Meena, Hansraj Patel, and Arjit Singh**.

'Mirror Image' of the Earth and Sun discovered 3000 light-years away:

Astronomers may have discovered an Earth-like exoplanet orbiting a Sun-like star, a little over **3, 000 light-years** away. The planet

named 'Planet **KOI-456.04**', the unconfirmed exoplanet is thought to be similar to Earth for several reasons. It receives **93%** as much light as Earth gets from the Sun.

China's unmanned submersible 'Haidou-1' reaches world's deepest ocean point:

China's unmanned submersible '**Haidou-1**' has dived to a depth of **10, 907 meters** at the world's deepest ocean point. Haidou-1 sets a **new record** for the country during which **high-definition images** of the geological environment and samples from the **Deep Sea** were collected.

India becomes founding member of Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence:

India joined the league of leading economies including **USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France** & others to launch the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**. India will actively participate in the global development of Artificial Intelligence.

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology develops Ayurvedic face mask 'Pavitrapti':

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed biodegradable face mask based on **Nanofibres of Ayurvedic products** which acts a virus neutraliser and resist the bacteria and has named it "**Pavitrapti**".

Central Railway sets up Body Screening Facility 'FebriEye' In Mumbai's CSMT, LTT Stations:

Central Railway has set up a body screening facility called This is yet another effort towards passenger safety after **Automated**

Ticket Checking and Managing Access (ATMA) machine and Always Be Responsible, “**FebriEye thermal cameras**” have been set up at **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus** and **Lokmanya Tilak Terminus** in Mumbai, **Maharashtra**.

Indian Railways installs first 'Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access' machine under NFR scheme:

Indian Railway's Central Railway zone has first time installed a newly innovated **Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access machine** (ATMA) at **Nagpur railway station**.

The machine has been introduced at the station under **New, Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS)** policy to prevent Covid19 transmission to generate Non-Fare Revenue for the **Central Railway zone**.

Students in West Bengal Have Built 'Ayurvedic Sanitisation Tunnel' for Their School:

Students of a private school in **East Burdwan** district of **West Bengal** have built an **“Ayurvedic Sanitisation Tunnel”** to disinfect people entering the educational institute. **Twelve** people can be disinfected inside the tunnel at a time.

Mumbai gets 'Air-Venti' app for real-time information on ICU beds, ventilators:

In Maharashtra, the **Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai** (MCGM) has launched a mobile app "**Air-Venti**" to help residents in the city to know about the availability of the **ICU beds** and **Ventilators** in both government and private hospitals.

IIT-Madras and General Electric tie-up to build a next-gen combustor for small aircraft and helicopter engines:

IIT Madras and **General Electric India Technology Centre** (GEITC) are jointly developing a **3D printed combustor** aimed at reducing weight and improving fuel efficiency in small aircraft and helicopter engines.

Reliance Industries becomes India's first firm to hit Rs. 11 trillion market cap:

Reliance Industries Ltd became the first Indian company to reach a market capitalisation of **Rs. 11 trillion** as its shares doubled since mid-March. The stock rallied to hit a record high of Rs. 1, 738.95 on the BSE, up about 5%.

China successfully launches last satellite BeiDou Navigation Satellite System:

China successfully launched the last satellite of its **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS)**, touted to be a competitor to the **Global Positioning System (GPS)** of the US, taking another step to becoming a major space power.

The satellite, carried by a **Long March-3B** carrier rocket, is the 30th BDS-3 satellite and the 55th of the whole **BeiDou** satellite family.

IIT-Bombay develops chip Dhruva to be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations:

IIT-Bombay has developed a homegrown receiver chip "**Dhruva**" that can be used in smart phones and **navigation** devices to find locations and routes within the country.

Dhruva will receive signals from India's NAVIC group of navigation satellites as well as the **US Global Positioning System**-based

satellites to determine these accurately under all weather conditions.

APPOINTMENTS:

Periasamy Kumaran takes over as the High Commissioner of India to Singapore:

Periasamy Kumaran has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to The Republic of **Singapore**.

Brazil's Marcos Troyjo to succeed KV Kamath as NDB President:

Brazil's **Marcos Troyjo** will succeed India's **KV Kamath** as president of the New Development Bank (NDB). Elections for the post were held during a special meeting of the bank's **Board of Governors**.

India's **Anil Kishora** will be the bank's vice-president and chief risk officer.

Tsai Ing-wen begins second term as Taiwan's President:

Taiwan President **Tsai Ing-wen** took the oath for her second four-year term, buoyed by popularity as the country continues its successful response to the pandemic. She pledged to engage in dialogue with Beijing provided it respects Taiwan's sovereignty.

R Sreelekha to Become Kerala's First Woman DGP:

Kerala Police gets its first woman Director General, **R. Sreelekha** and will head **Kerala Fire and Rescue Services**. Presently an Additional Director General of Police, she heads the Jail Department. She became the first woman Superintendent of Police in 1991.

IRDAI member Nilesh Sathe appointed NHAI finance advisor:

Nilesh Sathe former IRDAI member and veteran Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has

joined **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** as Financial Advisor.

Banks Board Bureau selects SN Rajeswari as CMD of Oriental Insurance Company:

SN Rajeswari general manager of **New India Assurance(NIA)**, has been selected by the **Banks Board Bureau** (BBB), as the CMD of the Delhi based Oriental Insurance Company(OIC).

Power Finance Corporation board clears RS Dhillon's appointment as CMD:

State-run **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** under the Ministry of Power announced the appointment of **Ravinder Singh Dhillon**, currently its Director, as Chairman and Managing Director from June 1 following superannuation of Rajeev Sharma this month.

S Gopalakrishnan appointed as additional secretary in PMO:

S Gopalakrishnan a senior **Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer**, has been appointed as additional secretary in the **Prime Minister's Office**. Gopalakrishnan's appointment was cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. He is currently serving at the **Ministry of Electronics**.

Arun Singhal appointed as CEO Food Safety and Standards Authority of India: Cabinet approved the appointment of **Arun Singhal** as chief executive officer of the apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. He will succeed **GSG Ayyangar** who was briefly appointed as the CEO.

BBB recommends Ashwini Bhatia for post of SBI MD:

The **Banks Board Bureau** headed by **B P Sharma**. Recommended names of Ashwini Bhatia, M V Rao and P P Sengupta for the post of managing director of three state-owned lenders - State Bank of India, Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank, respectively.

Pradip Kumar Tripathi Assumes Charge as Secretary in Ministry of Steel:

Shri Pradip Kumar Tripathi has assumed charge as Secretary, **Ministry of Steel** and Government of India on 1 June 2020. He took over as Secretary upon the superannuation of present incumbent **Binoy Kumar**.

Mohandas Pai to chair IBBI advisory committee on service providers:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India reconstituted its advisory committee on service providers and is to be chaired by **T V Mohandas Pai**. The **12-member** panel would advise and provide professional support on regulation and development of the service providers dealt with by the IBBI.

Sibi George appointed India's next Ambassador to Kuwait:

Sibi George, an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1993 batch, has been appointed India's next Ambassador to **Kuwait**. He is at present India's Ambassador in **Switzerland**.

Harsha Bangari takes charges as Exim Bank Deputy Managing Director:

Harsha Bangari took charge as Deputy Managing Director at **Export-Import Bank of India** (EXIM Bank). Prior to this, **Bangari** was the Chief General Manager and Chief Financial Officer of the bank.

Gaitri Kumar Appointed India's Next High Commissioner to UK:

Seasoned diplomat **Gaitri Kumar** has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner

to the **United Kingdom** (UK). Ms Kumar succeeds **Ruchi Ghanashyam**. At present, Ms Kumar is serving as Indian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the **European Union (EU)**.

BAFTA Appoints Emmy-winning Krishnendu Majumdar as Chairperson:

The **British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)** appointed **Krishnendu Majumdar** as chairperson, making him the first person of colour assigned for the role in 73 years, and the youngest in 35 years. He succeeds **Pippa Harris**.

Uday Kotak appointed as new president of Confederation of Indian Industry:

Veteran banker **Uday Kotak**, managing director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited has assumed office as the president of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** for 2020-21.

Virendra Nath Datt becomes new CMD of National Fertilizers Limited:

National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) Marketing Director, Virendra Nath Datt has taken additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director of the Company. He will replace **Manoj Mishra**.

Sushil Kumar Singh appointed India's next High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea:

Sushil Kumar Singh has been appointed as the next Indian High Commissioner to **Papua New Guinea**. He is presently serving as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Raveesh Kumar becomes new Ambassador of India to Finland:

Raveesh Kumar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Finland**. He is

presently serving as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry. He is an IFS officer of 1995 batch. He will replace **Vani Rao** as the next Ambassador of India to Finland.

Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar joins Rohit, Hima as Adidas brand ambassador:

Former Miss World **Manushi Chhillar** joined the likes of star batsman **Rohit Sharma**, sprint sensation **Hima Das** and Bollywood actor **Ranveer Singh** as brand ambassador of footwear giant Adidas in its campaign to inspire more women to embrace fitness.

IIFL Finance signs Rohit Sharma as its first-ever brand ambassador:

Non-Banking finance company **IIFL Finance** has signed up India's superstar cricketer **Rohit Sharma** as its first-ever brand ambassador.

Sharad Mathur is the new MD and CEO of Universal Sompo General Insurance:

Universal Sompo, a joint venture between **Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Karnataka Bank, Dabur Investments Corporation & Sompo Japan Insurance** has appointed **Sharad Mathur** as Managing Director & CEO. Sharad was associated with SBI General Insurance.

Tamil Nadu: 13-year-old Madurai girl appointed Goodwill Ambassador of UNADAP:

Tamil Nadu, a thirteen-year old Madurai girl **Nethra** has been appointed the **Goodwill Ambassador** of the United Nations Association for Development and Peace, the **UNADAP**.

Lawyer Javed Iqbal Wani appointed J&K High Court Judge:

President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed senior Kashmiri lawyer **Javed Iqbal Wani** as a Judge of the **Jammu and Kashmir High Court**. He also served as additional advocate general of Jammu and Kashmir High Court for nearly 11 months in 2019.

Monika Kapil Mohta appointed India's next Ambassador to Switzerland:

Diplomat **Monika Kapil Mohta** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Switzerland**, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced. Presently, Mohta, an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1985 batch, is India's Ambassador to Sweden.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank appoints B K Manjunath as non-exec, independent director:

Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has appointed **B K Manjunath** as its non-executive and independent director. Manjunath is a member of the Institute of **Chartered Accountants of India** and practising as a chartered accountant.

Shambhu S. Kumaran has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Philippines:

Diplomat **Shambhu S Kumaran** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Philippines, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. **Kumaran** is presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of **Morocco**.

Actor Sonu Sood appointed as brand ambassador of Gargo International:

Gargo International, the delhi based lubricant company under the RG group appoints **Sonu Sood** as the brand ambassador in January 2020 & praised him now for his support works for the migrants

and went live with their TVC starring Sonu Sood.

RBI approves re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of HDFC Bank:

Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of **Kaizad Bharucha** as Executive Director of **HDFC Bank** for a period of **three years** with effect from June 13, 2020.

Recently the central bank had put on hold the appointments of **Shashidhar Jagdishan** as an additional director and **Bhavesh Zaveri** as a whole-time director.

Santosh Jha appointed as next Ambassador of India to Belgium:

Santosh Jha presently Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Uzbekistan**, appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of **Belgium**. The 1993-batch IFS officer will also be accredited as Ambassador of India to the **European Union**.

Attorney General K K Venugopa to get 1-year extension:

Attorney General **K K Venugopal** has agreed for extension of **one more year** as a top law officer of the country. Venugopal is a leading lawyer of the country was appointed as Attorney General and had succeeded **Mukul Rohatgi** on June 30, 2017.

Devendra Kumar Singh appointed as the new Director of SIDBI:

Ministry of Finance notified the appointment of **Devendra Kumar Singh**, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, as Central Government Nominee Director on the Board of Directors of **Small Industries Development Bank of India**

(SIDBI). He will be succeeding **Ram Mohan Mishra**.

Cricket Australia appoints Nick Hockley as the interim CEO:

Cricket Australia has a new man at the helm in **Nick Hockley** after former CEO **Kevin Roberts** resigned. Hockley, who is the Chief executive of the **T20 World cup**, will fill the position in an interim role. The decision was announced by Cricket Australia chairman, **Earl Eddings**

PayU India appoints Shantanu Preetam as Chief Technology Officer:

India's leading online payment solutions provider **PayU** announced the appointment of **Shantanu Preetam** to the India leadership team as Chief Technology Officer.

Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev resigns:

Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, **Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev** has resigned from the post. He resigned due to citing an ongoing criminal investigation into the assignment of national radio frequencies.

Evariste Ndayishimiye to be sworn in as Burundi's new president:

Evariste Ndayishimiye will be sworn in as **Burundi's** newly elected president after the sudden death of the incumbent, **Pierre Nkurunziza**. Ndayishimiye, 52, is a former army general and Hutu rebel like his predecessor.

Former RBI governor Urjit Patel appointed as chairman of NIPFP:

Former **Governor** of Reserve Bank of India **Urjit Patel** who resigned from his post in Dec 2018 has been appointed as the chairman of the New Delhi Based economic think tank **National Institute of Public Finance and**

Policy (NIPFP) for a period of **four years**.

He replaces **Dr Vijay Laxman Kelkar**.

Axis Bank's Pralay Mondal to join Catholic Syrian Bank:

Pralay Mondal, who recently resigned as executive director and head of retail banking at **Axis Bank**, is likely to soon join private sector lender **CSB Bank (Catholic Syrian Bank)** at a senior position.

JSW Cement unveils "Leader's Choice" campaign with Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri as brand ambassadors:

JSW Cement has brought on board former Indian cricket captain & current President of the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** **Sourav Ganguly** and Captain of India's National Football Team & Bengaluru FC, **Sunil Chhetri** as its brand ambassadors.

Nirakar Pradhan takes over as Professional Risk Managers International Association chief:

The Professional Risk Managers' International Association has appointed **Dr Nirakar Pradhan**, CFA, as the Chief Executive Officer of its new India office. Pradhan has led teams at State Bank of India.

RBI approves re-appointment of Prakash Chandra as non-exec Chairman of RBL Bank:

Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of **Prakash Chandra**, Independent Director, as **Non-Executive (Part-Time) Chairman** of Private sector lender RBL Bank till July 23, 2021.

Vijay Khanduja appointed India's next envoy to Zimbabwe:

Vijay Khanduja, presently Director in the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, has

been appointed as India's next Ambassador to **Zimbabwe**.

RBI re-nominates Natarajan Chandrasekaran as Director of its Central board:

"The Central Government has re-nominated **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** as a **part-time non-official Director** on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India, for a further period of **two years** beyond March 3, 2020, or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

Standard Chartered appoints Gaurav Maheshwari as CFO-India:

Standard Chartered Bank, India has appointed **Gaurav Maheshwari** as its new **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** effective June 22, 2020. Maheshwari has taken over from **Subhradeep Mohanty**, who was promoted as the CFO for the **Africa & Middle East (AME)** region.

Wasim Jaffer Appointed Head Coach Of Uttarakhand Cricket Team:

Former India opener and domestic stalwart **Wasim Jaffer** has been appointed head coach of the **Uttarakhand Cricket Team** for the upcoming domestic season.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Indian Army Major Suman Gawani First Indian Peacekeeper to Win UN Military Gender Award:

Woman peacekeeper and Indian Army officer, **Major Suman Gawani** is selected for the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. Recognized for her work her campaign against sexual violence, she is the first Indian Peacekeeper to win the award.

Indian American Scientist Rajiv Joshi Wins 'Inventor of The Year' Award In New York:

Prolific Indian American inventor **Rajiv Joshi**, with more than 250 patented inventions, has bagged the prestigious Inventor of the Year award for his pioneering work in advancing the electronic industry and improving Artificial Intelligence capabilities.

Anish Kapoor tops list of "Most Successful Indian Artists Alive Today 2020":

London-based **Anish Kapoor**, 66, has topped the **Hurun India Art List 2020** for the second year. New Delhi-based painter **Rameshwari Broota** 79, shot up 9 places to second place with sales of Rs 11.89 crores, followed by modernist painter Krishen Khanna, 95, in third place with Rs 6.87 crores.

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

India Skipper **Virat Kohli** is the only cricketer to feature in **Forbes'** list of the top **100 highest paid athletes** in the world for the year **2020**. Kohli is ranked at number **66** with estimated earnings of **\$26 million**.

Rohit Sharma nominated for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:

BCCI has nominated **Rohit Sharma** for the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**, India's highest sporting honour. The board has also nominated India fast bowler **Ishant Sharma**, opening batsman **Shikhar Dhawan** and India woman all-rounder **Deepti Sharma** for the Arjuna Award.

World silver-medallist **Amit Panghal** and the seasoned **Vikas Krishan** were nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award by the **Boxing Federation of India**.

BFI has nominated world bronze-winning trio of **Lovlina Borgohain** (69kg), **Simranjit Kaur** (64kg) and **Manish Kaushik** (63kg) for the **Arjuna awards**.

Indian writer Kritika Pandey wins regional award for Asia in 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize:

The **Commonwealth Short Story Prize** is awarded for the best unpublished short fiction. Commonwealth citizens aged 18 and above are eligible for it.

Kritika Pandey, a writer from Ranchi as the regional winner for Asia in the 2020 **Commonwealth Short Story Prize**.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw wins EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 Award:

Biocon Ltd announced that its Executive Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** has been named the **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2020** (WEOY).

Mazumdar-Shaw is the **First Woman** entrepreneur from India and the **third** Indian to win it. She is the second woman worldwide to hold this title following **Olivia Lum** of Hyflux Limited from Singapore in 2011.

Forbes highest-paid celebrities: Kylie Jenner tops, Akshay Kumar only Indian on the list:

Kylie Jenner and **Kanye West** topped the annual Forbes list of the highest paid celebrities, but sports stars, including Roger Federer and Lionel Messi, dominated the top 10.

Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** ranked **52nd** with an estimated earnings of USD 48.5 million(M) & is the only indian featured on the list.

Javed Akhtar becomes only Indian to win prestigious Richard Dawkins award:

Lyricist Javed Akhtar becomes only Indian to win prestigious **Richard Dawkins award**. He is an English ethologist, evolutionary biologist & author.

Cricketer Michael Clarke, Lyn Larsen receive Order of Australia honours:

Michael Clarke has been honored in the Queen's Birthday list for Australia with the former cricket captain recognized for both his sporting career and community work.

Larsen, the former **Australia Women allrounder**, was honoured "for significant service to cricket as a player, selector, manager and coach at the elite level".

Astronaut Kathy Sullivan Becomes First Woman to Reach deepest point of ocean: **Kathy Sullivan**, America's first female spacewalker, also became the first woman to reach the deepest known point of the ocean. Sullivan dove to the bottom of the **Challenger Deep** and safely returned in her submersible vessel.

Indian Entrepreneur Renjith Kumar honoured with 'NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal':

Renjith Kumar has bagged the **NASA's** highest form of recognition for a non-governmental individual '**NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal**' for his service through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence, and customer satisfaction.

Indian-American soil scientist Rattan Lal gets 2020 World Food Prize:

Eminent **Indian-American** soil scientist **Rattan Lal** has been named this year's recipient of the **World Food Prize** for developing and mainstreaming a **soil-centric approach** to increasing food production that

conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.

Shobha Sekhar conferred with "Medal of the Order of Australia":

Indian Musician & founder of **Kalakruthi** music organization in Australia, **Shobha Sekhar** will be conferred the "**Medal of the Order of Australia**". The Montreal-based artiste and lecturer **University of Melbourne**, figures in the Queen's Birthday **2020 Honours List**.

Former India football captain IM Vijayan recommended for Padma Shri by AIFF:

All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recommended legendary former skipper **Inivalappil Mani Vijayan** for **Padma Shri**, the country's **fourth highest civilian award**.

The 51-year-old former India striker, who scored **40 goals** in 79 matches for India since making his debut in early 90s, was bestowed the **Arjuna award in 2003**.

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

Harvard professor & Nobel-laureate Indian economist **Amartya Sen** has won the prestigious Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for his decades-long work on "**Questions of Global Justice**".

Nita Ambani recognised among world's top philanthropists in 2020 by leading US magazine Town & Country:

Reliance Foundation chairperson **Nita Ambani** has been recognized among the world's top **philanthropists** in 2020 by **Town & Country** magazine's top global philanthropists of 2020. She is the **only Indian** in the list.

Folk artist Gulabbai Sangamnerkar & Madhuvanti Dandekar to get Lifetime Achievement Award:

Maharashtra government announced the **Vithabai Narayangaokar** lifetime achievement award to folk artist **Gulabbai Sangamnerkar**.

Sangeetacharya **Annasaheb Kirloskar** award will be conferred upon veteran theatre actress-singer **Madhuvanti Dandekar**.

RANKINGS:

Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra top in FSSAI food safety index for 2019-20:

Gujarat have topped an index that ranked states ensuring food safety in 2019-20. The smaller states, **Goa** came first followed by Manipur and Meghalaya. Among Union Territories, **Chandigarh**, Delhi and Andaman Islands secured top ranks, **FSSAI**.

Mumbai most expensive Indian city for expats, 19th most expensive in Asia: Survey:

According to **Mercer's '2020 Cost of Living Survey**', Mumbai is the **60th** most expensive city for expatriates globally, while it ranks 19th in Asia. Mumbai is followed by **New Delhi** (101st globally) and **Chennai** (143rd globally), **Bengaluru** (171) & **Kolkata** (185) are the least expensive cities.

Switzerland safest country in the world on COVID-19 safety assessment; India ranks 56th:

India has been ranked **56th** out of 200 countries in a comprehensive report on safety and risk assessment of nations tackling Covid-19. **Switzerland** is the safest country in the world for Covid-19, followed by **Germany** and **Israel**. South Sudan is the

most dangerous was ranked at 200th position.

NIRF Ranking 2020 released, IIT Madras tops the overall list:

HRD minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** announces the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Rankings 2020.

The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** (Tamil Nadu) has topped the list of 'overall ranking' category with a score of 85.31 followed by **Indian Institute of Science**, Bengaluru and **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**.

QS World University Rankings 2021: 3 Indian Universities Reach Top 200 List:

QS World University Rankings is actually an annual publication of the university rankings from all over the world by the publisher **Quacquarelli Symonds**.

The Three institutes are IIT's where **IIT Bombay** is ranked at 172nd position; **IISc Bangalore** is at 185th position while **IIT Delhi** is at the 193rd position. Top 3 universities in the World ranking list is **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, **Stanford University**, **Harvard University**.

India ranked 43rd on IMD's World Competitiveness Index; Singapore on top:

India continues to remain ranked **43rd** on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by **Institute for Management Development (IMD)**. **Singapore** has retained its top position on the 63-nation list.

Denmark has moved up to the **2nd** position (from 8th last year), **Switzerland** has gained one place to rank **3rd** and **Venezuela** is at the bottom.

India ranked 6th as nuclear weapons increased since 2019:

According to "**SIPRI Yearbook 2020-Armaments, Disarmament and International Security**" of Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**SIPRI**). **USA** tops in the list followed by **Russia** and **UK** respectively. **India** Ranked **6th**.

India 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019: UNCTAD:

India became the world's **9th** largest recipient of the foreign direct investment in 2019 scoring deals worth **\$51 billion**, according to a report by the United Nations' trade body, the **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.

India ranks 3rd largest economy in Purchasing Power Parity: World Bank:

India has retained its position as the **3rd-largest** economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity, even as it is way behind the **US & China**. India accounts for **6.7%** (\$ 8, 051-b) out of the world's total of \$119, 547 billion of GDP in terms of **PPP (Purchasing Power Parity)**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

JK Rowling unveils 'The Ickabog', a new book for children:

JK Rowling announced a brand new children's book, which she is publishing in daily instalments on her website for free. The **Ickabog** is her 1st children's story not to be linked to **Harry Potter**. Chapters of The Ickabog are being published daily until 10 July.

Nobel winner Kazuo Ishiguro's new novel 'Klara and the Sun' out in March 2021:

Nobel Prize-winning author **Kazuo Ishiguro** will come out with his new novel "**Klara and the Sun**". It will be published by **Faber & Faber** in the United Kingdom, Alfred A. Knopf in the United States and Knopf in Canada on **March 2, 2021**.

Megha Majumdar's 'A Burning' is blazing up the bestseller list and emerging as the must-read novel of the summer:

A Book name titled "**A Burning**" Authored by **Megha Majumdar**. The **Penguin Hamish Hamilton** released the debut novel of Megha Majumdar. The 32-year-old New York's writer Megha Majumdar was born and raised in **Kolkata**.

Author Amish Tripathi launches new book 'Legend of Suheldev':

Amish Tripathi launched his new book - a story about the adventures of the warrior king Suheldev, titled, '**Legend of Suheldev: The King who Saved India**'. Book is set in 11th century India, when Mahmud of **Ghazni** destroyed the **Somnath temple**.

OBITUARY NEWS:

Former Tamil Nadu footballer Shanmugam passes away:

Former **Tamil Nadu** footballer and coach **R. Shanmugam** passed away aged 77. He attended the **FIFA Coca Cola** coaching course in 1978 & '91, and the Olympic solidarity course in 1996. He has coached ICF, Tamil Nadu and Indian Railways for the Santosh trophy.

Ajit Jogi, First Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dies At 74:

Ajit Jogi, the former Congress leader, who became the first Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh when the state was born in 2000, has passed away after being hospitalized for three weeks. He was a Veteran Indian Police Service and Indian Administrative Service.

Former Olympic sprint champion Bobby Morrow dies aged 84:

American sprinter **Bobby Morrow**, who won three gold medals at the **1956** Olympic Games in Melbourne, died on Saturday at the age of 84.

He was named Sports Illustrated's **"Sportsman of the Year"** in 1956 and set 11 ratified world records during his career.

Arjun Award winner and Archery coach

Jayantilal Nanoma passed away at 34:

A former international archer-turned-coach **Jayantilal Nanoma** died in a road mishap in **Rajasthan**. Nanoma has many gold and silver medals to his credit in national and international tournaments. Nanoma also won **Arjun Award, Maharana Pratap Award**, etc.,

BJP Tamil Nadu former president KN Lakshmanan passes away:

KN Lakshmanan was appointed the party's State president and held the post from 1984-89. He also held the post from 1996 to 2000. In 2001, he was elected to the State Assembly from the **Mylapore** constituency in **Chennai**.

Former Pakistani cricketer Riaz Sheikh dies at 51:

Former **Pakistan** first-class cricketer **Riaz Sheikh** became the second professional player in the country to die because of suspected coronavirus. A leg-spinner who

took 116 wickets in 43 first-class matches was at one time considered for national selection.

Filmmaker Basu Chatterjee passes away at 93:

Filmmaker-screenwriter **Basu Chatterjee**, best known for directing films like *Choti Si Baat*, *Rajnigandha*, *Baaton Baaton Mein*, *Ek Ruka Hua Faisla* and *Chameli Ki Shaadi* among more, passed away on Thursday in Mumbai, following age-related ailments.

Bollywood lyricist Anwar Sagar passes away:

Veteran lyricist **Anwar Sagar** passed away. He was 70. Among his notable hits is "Waada Raha Sanam" in Abbas-Mustan's 1992 release, "Khiladi", starring Akshay Kumar, and "Yeh dua hai mere rab se" in the 1992 release, "Sapne Saajan Ke".

Senior BJP leader Chandrakanta Goyal died in Mumbai:

Senior BJP leader **Chandrakanta Goyal**, mother of Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal**, died at her residence in Mumbai due to old age. She was 88. She represented the BJP from the Matunga Assembly constituency in Mumbai for three terms.

Kannada actor Chiranjeevi Sarja passes away at 39:

Kannada actor **Chiranjeevi Sarja** passed away at 39 due to a cardiac arrest at a private hospital in Bengaluru. He is the grandson of Kannada late actor Shakti Prasad & the nephew of multilingual actor Arjun Sarja.

Tamil Nadu lawmaker and DMK MLA J Anbazhagan dies due to Covid-19:

DMK MLA **J. Anbazhagan** from **Chepauk** became the first VIP victim of coronavirus from Tamil Nadu when he died at the age of 62. A three-time MLA, Anbazhagan was

elected to the assembly in 2001, 2011 and 2016.

Former Union Water Resources minister

Arjun Charan Sethi passed away at 79:

Former Union minister **Arjun Charan Sethi** passed away at the age of 79. An eight-time **Madhya Pradesh** from Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency, Sethi was the Union Water Resources Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government from 2000 to 2004.

Former TN footballer Balasamy passes away:

Balasamy former Vice President of Chennai Football Association and assistant secretary of Madras United Club passed away. Balasamy first played for Don Bosco Oratoryin the MFA league.

Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza dies of 'cardiac arrest' at 55:

Burundi's President **Pierre Nkurunziza**, aged 55, has died after suffering a cardiac arrest. After 15 years in power, Mr Nkurunziza was due to step down in August. In 2015, the announcement that he would run for a third term plunged the country into chaos.

Manchester United legend Tony Dunne dies aged 78:

Tony Dunne, who was part of the **Manchester United** side who won the European Cup in 1968, has died at the age of 78. **Red Devils** from Shelbourne in 1960 and went on to play in **535 games**, a number that sees him sit eighth on the club's all-time appearances list.

Senior SAIL director Atul Srivastava dies of cardiac arrest:

Senior Steel Authority of India Limited official, **Atul Srivastava**, has died of cardiac arrest

here last night, a company. Srivastava assumed charge as Director (Personnel) of SAIL on March 12, 2018.

Veteran Urdu poet Gulzar Dehlvi passes away at 93:

Veteran Urdu poet **Anand Mohan** Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehlvi passed away . He was 93. He was the freedom fighter and a premier 'inqlabi' poet.

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

India's oldest first-class cricketer **Vasant Raiji** passed away at his residence in Mumbai. The right-handed batsman played nine first-class matches for Mumbai and Baroda in the **1940s**, scoring 277 runs with 68 being his highest score in his decade-long career.

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput passes away at 34:

Noted Bollywood actor **Sushant Singh Rajput** committed suicide. The actor was 34 years old. Sushant made his film debut in the buddy drama **Kai Po Che!** in 2013, for which he received a nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Male Debut.

Former Bangladesh Minister Mohammad Nasim passes away at 72:

Former Bangladesh Minister and Awami League Presidium member **Mohammad Nasim** passed away in Dhaka.

Lyricist and painter Padmaja Radhakrishnan passes away:

Lyricist and painter **Padmaja Radhakrishnan** (68), wife of the late music director MG Radhakrishnan passed away. Besides penning lyrics for a 2013 Malayalam movie '**Mr Bean**', she had also written a number of songs which were composed by her husband.

1971 war hero and Maha Vir Chakra awardee Lt Gen Raj Mohan Vohra passed away at 88 due to COVID-19:

Lieutenant General (retd) **Raj Mohan Vohra** who was a 1971 war hero and a Maha Vir Chakra awardee, has died due to COVID-19. He was born in 1932 in Shimla.

Malayalam Director K R Sachidanandan Passes Away:

Film director, script writer & producer **K R Sachidanandan** popularly known as **Sachy**, died. He passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was on ventilator support. He gave a recent hit movie named Ayyappanum Koshiyum which starred **Prithviraj-Biju Menon**.

Veteran Journalist & Freedom Fighter Dinu Ranadive passed away at 95:

Veteran journalist and freedom fighter **Dinu Ranadive** passed away at 95 in his residency in **Dadar, Maharashtra** due to a short illness. He was born in 1925 in Dahanu tehsil of adjoining **Palghar district, Maharashtra**.

Iraqi football legend Ahmad Radhi passes away after battling COVID-19:

Iraqi football legend **Ahmed Radhi** has passed away after diagnosed with COVID-19. Radhi, a striker, led Iraq to victory in the Gulf Cups of 1984 and 1988, when he was voted **Asian footballer of the year**.

Legendary Indian left-arm spinner Rajinder Goel passes away at 77:

India's finest left-arm spinners, **Rajinder Goel** passed away aged 77 after battling long-term illness. In 2017, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India** (BCCI) honoured Rajinder Goel with the **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Former international kabaddi player Ilaiah passes away at 65:

M Ilaiah Yadav, a former international **kabaddi player** and captain of the state team, breathed his last after battling it hard. Ilaiah, who was undergoing treatment at the Yashoda Hospital in Malakpet for lung infection, was 65 years old.

Former India shooter Pournima Zanane passes away at 42:

Former Indian Air Rifle Shooter **Pournima Zanane**, an **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)**-licensed coach who suffered from cancer for the past 2 years passed away at the age of 42 in Pune, Maharashtra. She was born in Nanded, Maharashtra.

SPORTS NEWS:

Long-distance runner Kiranjeet Kaur banned for 4 years by World Athletics' anti-doping body:

Long – Distance runner **Kiranjeet Kaur**, who won the tata Steel Kolkata 25K among the Indians last year, has been handed a **four-year** ban by World Athletics' anti-doping body (WADA) for returning positive for a banned substance in a test conducted in Doha.

SAI to launch Khelo India e-Pathshala, an online coaching programme for grassroot level:

Sports Authority of India (SAI) is all set to launch **Khelo India e-Pathshala** in association with **National Sports Federations (NSF)** with an aim to provide first-ever national-level open online coaching and education programme for **grassroot-level** athletes.

India to host AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022:

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has granted All India Football Federation (AIFF) the rights to host the **AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022** final. India will host the premier tournament for the second time after staging it in **Kozhikode in 1980.**

World Archery Field Championships postponed to 2022:

2020 World Archery Field Championships in **Yankton, USA**, have been postponed until 2022 which was due to take place in September this year at the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Centre, the world's largest dedicated archery facility.

India's 800m runner Gomathi handed four-year ban for doping, to lose Asian Championships gold:

India's **Gomathi Marimuthu** will be stripped off her **2019 Asian Athletics Championships** gold medal after she was handed a four-year ban by the **Athletics Integrity Unit** for testing positive for a banned substance. She is from **Tamil Nadu.**

Former European High Jump Champion Alexander Shustov Cops Doping Ban:

Former European high jump champion **Alexander Shustov** has been banned for 4 years for doping in the latest case from previous years to hit the Russian team, the **Court of Arbitration for Sport** said. He won the gold medal at the European championships- 2010.

Former world champion boxer Oleksandr Gvozdyk retires:

33-year-old Ukrainian lightweight boxing champion **Oleksandr Gvozdyk** also known as "**The Nail**" announced his retirement. He

was born on 15th April 1987 in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Gvozdyk won the **WBC title** in December 2018 when he knocked out Adonis Stevenson, who had held the belt for **five years.**

Belgium on Top, India Remain at 108 in Latest FIFA Rankings:

India has maintained their **108th** spot in the latest **FIFA** world rankings revealed for the month of June. **Belgium** remains at the summit ahead of **France** and **Brazil**, who complete the podium, while **England** and **Uruguay** continue to fourth and fifth respectively.

Fourth edition of Asian Youth Para Games to be held in Bahrain in December 2021:

Asian Paralympics Committee (APC) announced that **Bahrain** will host the fourth edition of the Asian Youth Para Games from December 1 to 10 next year. An estimated **800 athletes** under 20 years of age are expected to compete in nine sports including **athletics, badminton, powerlifting, swimming and table tennis.**

Bayern Munich clinched their eighth straight Bundesliga title:

Bayern Munich secured its **eighth** successive **German Bundesliga** title with two games to spare after beating **Werder Bremen** 1-0 with a goal from **Robert Lewandowski.**

Napoli beat Juventus 4-2 on penalties to win sixth Italian Cup:

Napoli stunned **Juventus** 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw to claim the **Coppa Italia** and bring their fiery coach Gennaro Gattuso the first major trophy of his managerial career.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	IMPORTANT DAY	THEME
June 1	World Milk Day	"20th Anniversary of World Milk Day"
June 1	Global Day for Parents	"Appreciate all parents throughout the world"
June 3	World Bicycle Day	"The uniqueness, longevity, and versatility of Bicycles"
June 5	World Environment Day	"Celebrating biodiversity"
June 5	World Day Against Speciesism	-
June 6	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	-
June 7	World Food Safety Day	"Food safety, everyone's business"
June 8	World Ocean Day	"Innovation for a sustainable ocean"
June 8	World Brain Tumor Day	-
June 9	World Accreditation Day	"Accreditation: Improving food safety"
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	"COVID-19: Protect Children from Child Labour, now more than ever"
June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day	"Made to Shine"
June 14	World Blood Donor Day	Theme: "Safe blood saves lives" Slogan: 'Give blood & make the world a healthier place'
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	"Building Strong Supports for Elders"
June 15	World Wind Day	-
June 16	International Day of Family Remittances	"Remittances are a lifeline"
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought	"Food. Feed. Fibre"
June 18	International Picnic Day	-
June 18	Autistic Pride Day	-
June 19	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	-
June 19	World Sickle Cell Day	-
June 19	National Reading Day	
June 20	World Refugee Day	"Every Action Counts"
June 21	World Hydrography Day	"Hydrography – enabling autonomous technologies"
June 21	International Yoga Day	"Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home"
June 21	International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice	-
June 21	International Father's Day (Third Sunday Of June)	-

June 21	World Music Day	-
June 22	World Rainforest Day	-
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	-
June 23	International Olympic Day	-
June 23	International Widow's Day	"I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights"
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	"Better Knowledge for Better Care."
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	-
June 30	World Asteroid Day	-

JULY 2020

NATIONAL NEWS:

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates Devika and Puneja Bridges in Udhampur & Doda Districts:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated two important Bridges **Devika** and **Puneja** in **Udhampur and Doda districts** respectively in **Jammu and Kashmir** through virtual platform.

India becomes 1st country to develops vehicle-mounted ULV sprayer for locust control:

India had developed an indigenous vehicle-mounted **Ultra-Low Volume (ULV)** sprayer for locust control, and approvals for its commercial launch are underway.

Department of **Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare** (DAG&FW) has initiated to develop a vehicle mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control to reduce the limitations of importing equipment.

World's First Gold-backed Digital Gold Currency Launched in India:

US Gold Currency (USG) is world's first digital asset represented by American Eagle One Ounce Gold Coin minted by the **US Federal Agency MINT**. Customers can redeem US Gold tokens at any time in US Dollars or American Eagle one ounce gold coins worldwide

Andhra Pradesh launches YSR Kapu Nestham, to provide Rs 15, 000 for eligible women:

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched '**YSR Kapu Nestham**' at his camp office for the welfare of the women from **Kapu community**. Under the scheme, the government will provide **Rs 15, 000** per year for all the eligible women aged between **45 and 60** years for a period of five years.

Tripura government to launch "Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar" scheme:

Tripura government has announced an ambitious scheme "**Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar**". The scheme aims to

provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women in order to combat infant and maternal mortality and malnutrition. The scheme is expected to benefit **40, 000 women** in the state.

Maharashtra Announced "Maha Parwana" to Attract Fresh Industrial Investment:

The government of **Maharashtra** announced the "**Maha Parwana**" to attract fresh investment in industries, for project execution, this plan will offer incentives and a single window clearance system.

Union Minister Shripad Naik Inaugurates Defence Conclave 2020 Gujarat:

Union Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** inaugurated two-day Defence Conclave 2020 **Gujarat** via video conferencing and said that strong defence capabilities would help the nation safeguarding the prosperity "**Generated In The Last Few Decades**".

The conclave was jointly organized by **Confederation of Indian Industry(CII)**, Gujarat and **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers(SIDM)**.

Madhya Pradesh: Door-To-Door Survey Under "Kill Corona" Drive From July 1:

Madhya Pradesh government will launch a "**Kill Corona**" campaign from July 1 to control the spread of COVID-19 in the state. Under the campaign, door-to-door survey will be conducted and tests would also be done on citizens for other diseases.

Chhattisgarh launches Godhan Nyay Yojana and becomes first Indian state to buy cow dung from cattle owners:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** announced the launch of '**Godhan Nyay Yojana**' in the state on June 25, 2020. The

scheme aims to make **Animal Husbandry** commercially profitable, prevent open grazing by cattle and solve the problem of stray animals on roads and for environment conservation.

Madhya Pradesh launches 'Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya' campaign:

In order to maintain the academic regularity of students during the Corona crisis, the State Education Center has prepared a **Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya** means My Home-My school scheme, in which children will be taught at home in a school-like environment.

Beta version of Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi 'PM SVANidhi' portal launched:

Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Beta version of PM **Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi "PM SVANidhi"** Portal. Leveraging on the digital technology solutions, the portal provides for an integrated end to end IT interface to users for availing benefits under the scheme.

India's 'first' lichen park in Uttarakhand to conserve Jurassic era plant:

Uttarakhand Forest Department has developed India's "**First Lichen Park**" in Munsiyari in **Pithoragarh district** of the state. The state has over 600 species of lichens of which around 150 are found in **Munsiyari**. The park is spread across **1.5 acres** and its development began in 2019.

World Bank signs \$250mn loan agreement for 1st TN Housing Sector Strengthening Programme:

World Bank has signed agreements worth **\$250 million** to promote private sector role in developing affordable housing in **Tamil**

Nadu. There are two projects- **\$200 million** 1st Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Programme and **\$50 million** Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project.

Kiren Rijiju launches NADA app to help athletes stay updated about banned substances:

Sports minister **Kiren Rijiju** unveiled **National Anti-Doping Agency's** first mobile app to provide information about prohibited substances and their inadvertent use, calling the initiative an important step towards dope-free sports.

Union HRD Minister and Union Health Minister jointly launch the Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020:

Human Resources and Development Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** and Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** jointly launched the **Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020**. It is an online competition and anybody from anywhere in the country or world can participate.

Goa government allots land to MSME consortium to set up India's first Maritime Cluster:

Goa government allotted land to the consortium of **49 Goan MSME** units for setting up Goa Maritime Cluster to create facilities for **shipbuilding**. The project, which is **first Maritime Cluster of India**, is supported by shipping ministry, DG of Shipping, and MSMEs.

Festival of Ashadhi Ekadashi was celebrated in Maharashtra:

Ashadhi Ekadashi is one of the most significant festivals in **Maharashtra** which also marks the culmination of the **pilgrimage** undertaken by the Warkaris (devotees of Lord

Vitthal) from different parts of the state on their feet to travel hundreds of kilometres to reach temple town **Pandharpur** in **Solapur district**.

Private Train Operations Likely To Begin By April 2023:

Private train operations in the country will begin by **April 2023**, and the ticket fares in these trains will be competitive with airfares on similar routes.

The improvement in technology will also mean that the coaches that now require maintenance after running **4, 000 km**, will need maintenance after every **40, 000-km**, that is either **once or twice** a month.

Odisha Government Announces Balaram Scheme to Empower Over Seven Lakh Landless Farmers:

The **Odisha government** has launched a scheme 'Balaram' to provide agricultural credit of **Rs 1, 040 crore** to landless farmers, who are facing hardships due to the coronavirus outbreak,

The decision in this regard was taken at a high-level meeting presided over by chief secretary **A K Tripathy**. The scheme was designed in collaboration with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has launched **Dhanvantri Rath** to take Non-COVID healthcare services to peoples' doorsteps amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to ensure that non-COVID essential services related to diabetes, blood pressure, heart ailment, etc.

India's Vice President launches social media super app 'Elyments':

Indian Vice President Shri M Venkaiah

Naidu starts the first ever Indian Social Media Super App namely "**Elyments**". this app was created by over 1000 IT professionals jointly and it becomes first indigenous app.

The main purpose of this Elyments app was to keep the **user's privacy** in mind and considered as a primary concern.

PM Modi to unveil Asia's largest solar plant in Madhya Pradesh:

PM **Narendra Modi** will open Asia's largest **750MW Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant** in **Madhya Pradesh** via video conferencing. It is established in the Rewa district of **Vindhya region** of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the largest single-site solar plants in **Asia**. **Noor Complex** is World's largest concentrated solar power plant.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism board launches "Intzaar Aap Ka" campaign:

Madhya Pradesh Tourism board has launched a campaign "**Intzaar Aap Ka**". The campaign has been launched on social media platforms to attract tourists to the **tourist places** of the state.

Through the campaign "**Intzaar Aap Ka**", the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has been inviting tourists by describing about each tourist destination in an attractive way.

NHRC forms expert panel to study COVID impact on human rights:

National Human Rights Commission has constituted an **11-member** expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights and future response of the government.

The expert panel would be headed by **Dr K S Reddy**, president of Public Health Foundation of India.

Assam government to upgrade Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary to national park:

Assam government decided to upgrade **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary** into a **National Park**. The announcement comes just months after the **National Board of Wildlife's (NBWL)** conditional clearance to a coal mining project by **Coal India Limited (CIL)** in the **Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve**.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to 100 per cent households have LPG gas connections:

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country where **100 per cent** households have LPG connections said by Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur**.

Interacting with the beneficiaries of "**Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana**" through video conferencing, Thakur said cooking food on traditional "**chulha**" was not only cumbersome, but also had adverse effects on the health of the women.

West Bengal Govt launches 'Self Scan app' to scan documents:

West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has launched a new mobile application called "**SelfScan**". This New Application was developed by the state's information technology department, to scan documents after **camscan** Banned.

Yotta Infrastructure Inaugurates India's Largest Data Center Facility:

Maharashtra CM e-inaugurated Asia's largest certified tier IV data centre near Mumbai. The **Yotta NM1** data centre building, is the largest of its kind in India, as well as the second-largest in the world. The

private facility is owned by **Hiranandani Group.**

Tamil Nadu tops market borrowings among States so far, in 2020-21:

Tamil Nadu has raised **Rs. 30, 500** crores in the fiscal **2020-21** and topped market borrowings among States in India. Tamil Nadu has accounted for **17%** of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds, known as state development loans, according to data from **RBI**.

IRDAI Constitutes 9-member Working Group Headed by Suresh Mathur:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a **9-member** working group under the chairmanship of **Suresh Mathur**, Executive Director of Irdai to look into the possibility of setting up '**Pandemic Risk Pool**' to deal with the various risks arising out of a pandemic - like health emergencies & recommend the structure and operating model for the Pool within 8 weeks.

PM Modi inaugurates Asia's largest solar energy project in MP's Rewa:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** stated that solar energy is going to be a major source of energy needs not only today but in the **21st century** as well, because solar energy is Sure, Pure and Secure.

While inaugurating through video conference **Asia's largest solar energy** project in **Madhya Pradesh's Rewa**, the Prime Minister stated that **Rewa** has really created history. Rewa has been identified as Ma Narmada and a white tiger.

Himachal Pradesh's Nadaun police station among best in India:

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** congratulated the state police after the **Nadaun police station** was declared as one of the best in the country. Certificate of Excellence was provided to this Police Station by Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**.

Director General of Police **Sanjay Kundu** presented this Certificate of Excellence received by him from Union Home Minister to the Chief Minister in **Shimla**.

Maharashtra and SBI to set up stress fund for stuck slum rehabilitation projects:

Government of **Maharashtra** along with the **State Bank of India** is setting up a stress fund to restart stuck slum rehabilitation projects in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)** and other urban areas of the state.

"The government will infuse **Rs 700 crore to Rs 1, 000 crore** in this fund aimed at providing financial support to revive such projects.

Jharkhand govt signs MoU with HDFC Bank for digital payment solutions

Jharkhand government has signed a memorandum of understanding with private lender **HDFC Bank** to offer **digital payment solutions** to traffic violators. The bank will provide digital payment solutions to the transport department of Jharkhand.

Madhya Pradesh emerges on top in implementing PM Svanidhi scheme:

Madhya Pradesh has emerged on top in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors **Atma Nirbhar Nidhi-PM Swa Nidhi scheme**. The scheme is being implemented in the state to help the street vendors to continue their business.

Apart from urban **street vendors**, a scheme to provide interest free assistance of **Rs. 10,000** is being implemented also for the street vendors of **rural areas** in the state.

Madhya Pradesh government to run 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks:

Madhya Pradesh government to run **Roko -Toko** (stop and campaign) for those who do not wear masks as the use of masks is mandatory. Selected voluntary organizations to provide masks for people who didn't wear and will charge an amount of **Rs 20/mask**.

Madhya Pradesh government begins 'Mera Ghar Mera Vidyalaya' scheme to facilitate students:

Madhya Pradesh government has started **Mera Ghar Mera Vidyalaya Scheme**. Under the Mera Ghar-Mera Vidyalaya Scheme, children can now sit for classes in their homes.

The scheme aims to provide students with a school-like atmosphere at home. After the launch of the scheme, several teachers and staffers of the schools were seen **delivering books** and **study material** to the children.

Government aims to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025:

Union Health Ministry has pushed for an increased expenditure on public health. In a meeting with the **15th Finance Commission**, the Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan**, highlighted that the government aims at gradually increasing the public health expenditure to **2.5 per cent** of the nation's GDP by the year **2025**.

NABARD extends grant assistance of Rs 221.89 cr to support 298 watershed projects in Karnataka:

NABARD observing its **39th Foundation Day**, has extended grant assistance of **221.89 crore** rupees to support 298 watershed projects in over three lakh hectares benefitting 66, 500 families in **Karnataka**. The State has about **75 per cent** of rainfed area.

Tamil Nadu launches television-based learning programme for 10th standard students:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi Palaniswamy** launched a television-based learning programme for **10th standard** students. The **Kalvi channel** will air **two-and-a-half hours** of teaching programmes during weekdays. It is aimed to help students to continue their studies through an alternative method.

Poba Reserve Forest in Dhemaji to be Upgraded to Wildlife Sanctuary:

Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** announced that the Poba Reserve Forest in **Dhemaji district** in **Assam** would be upgraded to a **wildlife sanctuary**.

Poba Reserve Forest, declared in 1924 with an area of 10, 522 hectares, is home to large number of flora and fauna.

Indian Railways' 1st cable-stayed rail bridge, to connect Katra and Reasi in J&K:

Minister of Railways, **Piyush Goyal**, has announced that the India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "**Anji Khad Bridge**" being developed by **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited** (KRCL), a Government of India undertaking, is all set to

connect **Katra** and **Reasi** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.

The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link** (USBRL) project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.

Indian Railways on mission mode of becoming 'Green Railway' by 2030:

Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into **Green Railways** by **2030** and has taken a number of major initiatives towards mitigation of global warming and combating climate change.

Telangana Police Launch 'CybHER' Campaign To Tackle Cybercrime Against Women and Children:

Telangana Police launched a month-long virtual awareness campaign '**CybHER**' in the wake of cybercrime against the women and children in the state.

Swati Lakra, Additional DGP Incharge of Women Safety including '**SHE Teams**' and '**Bharosa**' for Telangana, "**Women Safety Wing**", Telangana Police has launched '**CybHER**' campaign today, to make cyberspace safe for women and children."

NABARD Approves Rs 795 Crore To Rebuild Infrastructure Damaged By Amphan In West Bengal:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned **Rs 795 crore** for reconstructing infrastructure damaged by **Cyclone Amphan** that ripped through **West Bengal** in May, an official from the agency.

The state government had sought **Rs 1, 028 crore** from NABARD for repairing impaired

embankments under **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)**.

NABARD launches development projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands worth Rs. 44 lakhs:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has launched development projects in **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** worth **Rs. 44 lakhs**.

These projects aim at strengthening the concept of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** through rural entrepreneurship. The projects by NABARD will include the formation and development of **Self-Help Groups** (SHG).

Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat Inaugurated 'Smriti Van' on Harela festival:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated '**Smriti Van**' at Asthal village of **Dehradun district** in memory of late Jeet Singh Negi, famous folk singer of the state on the occasion of **Harela festival**.

Prakash Javadekar hails KURMA mobile app towards conservation of Indian turtles:

Union Environment Minister **Prakash Javadekar** hailed the **KURMA** mobile application as a unique tool for tracking and reporting **Indian turtles**. It was launched on 23rd May this year on occasion of World Turtle Day. It aims to conserve turtles and tortoises. It was developed by **Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network**.

North East state capitals to be connected via rail network by 2023: Railway Board:

Railway Board Chairman **VK Yadav** said that all the capitals of North-Eastern states will be connected to the rail network by **2023**.

Capitals of Assam, Tripura & AP are already connected. In **Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland & Meghalaya** the work is in progress. **Katra-Banihal** rail link project is to be completed by **Dec 2022**.

HRD Minister to launch Manodarpan initiative to provide psychosocial support to students:

Union Human Resource Development Minister, **Ramesh Pokhriyal** will launch the **Manodarpan initiative** of the HRD Ministry. The initiative under **Atma- Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health & well-being.

Maharashtra becomes the first State to use drones to inspect power lines:

Maharashtra became the **first State** in the country to get the go-ahead to use **drones for aerial surveillance** and inspection of **extra-high voltage (EHV)** power transmission lines and towers. MHA and the Director-General of Civil Aviation have permitted this.

Odisha government to give monthly pension to transgenders:

Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has approved a proposal to cover the members of the community under the **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)** which aims at providing financial assistance to the destitute elderly, differently-abled persons and widows.

Around **5, 000 transgenders** will get a monthly pension in between **Rs 500** and **Rs 900** depending on their age, **Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD)**.

Statement of Intent signed for partnership with UNICEF India, YuWaah India, UN in India:

Youth Affairs Secretary Usha Sharma signed a Statement of Intent with UNICEF India, YuWaah India & UN in India to work together with young people for empowering them and to make them changemakers with access to aspirational socio-economic opportunities.

Yogi Adityanath launches employment scheme launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for Scheduled Castes:

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** launched '**Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana**' for an all round development of the **Scheduled Castes**.

He transferred a financial assistance of 17.42 crore online to 3, 484 people under the '**Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana**' and interacted with some beneficiaries from Rae Bareli, Gorakhpur, Basti, Meerut, Azamgarh and Moradabad districts.

Dr Harsh Vardhan launches PNB's nation-wide CSR campaign to fight against COVID-19:

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched **Punjab National Bank's (PNB)** campaign to distribute face masks and sanitizers to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in New Delhi. MD and CEO of PNB **SS Mallikarjuna Rao** and other senior officials of PNB were also present. PNB's **22 zonal offices** across the nation also participated through video conferencing.

Haryana CM Manohar Khattar launches portal for online appointments with CM:

Haryana CM **Manohar Khattar** launched **e-Sachivalaya** portal a digital platform facilitating people to take online appointments for virtual meetings with CM, Deputy CM, Ministers & Heads of Depts. **Haryana Udyam** Memorandum portal launched to facilitate MSMEs.

Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone Gets Green Nod:

Union Environment Ministry headed by **Prakash Javadekar** approved the **Zonal Master Plan (ZMP)** based on watershed approach for the **Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone** notification that stretches from **Gaumukh to Uttarkashi** covering an area of 4179.59 sq. km.

Indian Navy hold PASSEX with World's largest aircraft carrier USS Nimitz in Indian Ocean Region:

Indian naval ships conducted a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with the United States Navy's **USS Nimitz** carrier strike group near the **Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands** as it is transiting the Indian Ocean. It comes amidst high alert by the Navy in the IOR.

Employees' Welfare Scheme Launched In Arun Jaitley's Name In Rajya Sabha:

Rajya Sabha Secretariat launched "**Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C Employees**", an Employees Welfare Scheme in the name of former Union Minister of Finance, **Arun Jaitley**. The Scheme will be funded by the **pension** his family receives as he has been a member of the upper house.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to launch Vriksharopan Abhiyan:

Vriksharopan Abhiyan will be organized by **Ministry of Coal** during which large scale plantation would be carried out in mines,

colonies, offices & other suitable areas of Coal/Lignite PSUs & seedlings to be distributed in nearby areas to promote plantation.

Punjab government signs MoU with IIT Ropar for skill development:

Punjab government has signed a MoU with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar**, in the area of skill development. It provides for the IIT's technical education department to become an academic mentor for the state's engineering colleges.

India holds first-ever Ind-SAT exam under 'Study in India' programme:

Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) conducted the first-ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its '**Study in India**' programme. It was conducted in proctored Internet mode by **National Testing Agency** & designed to gauge the scholastic capability of students applying to study in India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

World Bank approves USD 500 Million to improve quality of education system in six Indian states:

World Bank said its Board of Executive Directors has approved **USD 500 million** (about Rs 3, 700 crore) loan to improve quality and governance of school education in **six Indian states**. The board approved a loan for **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)**. "Some **250 million** students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

IMF approves 356 million dollar to Myanmar as COVID-19 emergency funding:

IMF has been approved under the **Rapid Credit Facility** and **Rapid Financing Instrument** to meet the urgent balance of payment and fiscal needs of Myanmar. It will also support the government's plans to boost spending especially on health and social safety nets.

World Bank approves \$750 million fund to support COVID hit MSMEs in India:

World Bank announced a **\$750 million** MSME Emergency Response program to support increased flow of finance to MSMEs, severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. This will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs.

Vladimir Putin wins Russia vote that could let him rule until 2036:

President **Vladimir Putin** has won a resounding victory in his bid to stay in power until the middle of the next decade- **2036**, as Russians voted overwhelmingly to endorse the country's political status quo, according to preliminary results.

New Zealand cancels 2021 APEC summit, will lead it virtually:

New Zealand cancelled its plans to host **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** forum in **Auckland** on **2021** because of the coronavirus, opting instead to lead a virtual summit. 21 APEC members include US, China, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Indonesia, & Hong Kong.

Uganda becomes first African country to submit REDD+ results, paves way for payments:

Uganda has become the **first African country** to submit results for Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (**REDD+**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**).

REDD+ is a mechanism developed by the parties to the UNFCCC to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Germany to Become First Major Economy To Phase Out Coal And Nuclear Power:

Germany has decided to phase-out of coal as an energy source. Bills approved by both houses of parliament envision shutting down the last coal-fired power plant by **2038** & spend **40 billion euros** for transition. It also commits phase out nuclear power by **2022**.

Global Tourism Set To Lose \$1.2 Trillion Due To Coronavirus: UNCTAD:

The world's tourism sector could lose at least **1.2 trillion** dollars or **1.5 per cent** of the global **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** having been placed at a standstill for nearly four months due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report by **UNCTAD**.

The UN's trade and development body warned that the loss could rise to **2.2 trillion** dollars or **2.8 per cent** of the world's GDP if the break in international tourism lasts for eight months, in line with the expected decline in tourism as projected by the **UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**.

World Bank to provide 400 million dollars to enhance support for rejuvenating River Ganga:

World Bank has provided **\$ 400 mn** to enhance support for rejuvenating the Ganga. The Second **National Ganga River Basin** Project will help stem pollution in the river &

strengthen the management of the river basin which is home to more than **500 million** people.

Maldives and Sri Lanka eliminate measles & rubella ahead of 2023 target:

Sri Lanka & Maldives became the first two countries in the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region to **eliminate measles & rubella** ahead of **2023** target. Since 2017, nearly **500 million** children in the region have been vaccinated for the diseases.

Google announces \$10bn investment in 'digital India':

Google will invest **\$10bn** in India in the next **5 to 7 yrs.** The investment will be made through the Google for **India Digitization Fund** & for building products and services for India, help businesses go digital, and use technology "**For Social Good**".

India in partnership with Chile & UN's FAO Co-Hosted Event, "On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021:

India partnered with **Chile** & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) co-hosted the "**On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021**: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables", side event of **2020 High-level Political forum**.

Chile had championed to declare the year **2021** as an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables' by UN General Assembly in 2019.

India establishes air travel bubbles with US, France, Germany:

India has established individual bilateral **bubbles** with **France, Germany and the US** that will allow airlines of each country in the pact to operate flights. An **Air Bubble** with the UK to also soon to be permitted. **India – UAE bubble** was recently permitted.

India lifted record 273 million out of poverty in 10 years: UNDP report:

About **273 mn** Indians moved out of multidimensional poverty b/w 2005-6 and **2015-16**, as per **UNDP & OPHI** study. Multidimensional poverty encompasses the various deprivations experienced such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards etc.

World Trade Organisation General Council Grants Turkmenistan Observer Status:

Turkmenistan became the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body. Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** General Council, WTO's highest-level decision-making body.

Nicaragua becomes 87th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement:

Nicaragua has become the most recent country to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.

The agreement on behalf of the Central American country Nicaragua was signed by the Permanent Representative to the **United Nations Jaime Hermida Castillo** at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York on 22, July 2020.

ADB and GCF join hands towards 'green recovery' on the impacts of COVID-19 disease:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** agreed to partner toward the "**Green Recovery**". This is to help hands for the people who are facing the harsh economic impact due to COVID-19 pandemic.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

Yes Bank Patners with UDMA Technologies launches digital wallet "Yuva Pay":

Yes Bank announced the launch of "**Yuva Pay**" a digital wallet, in partnership with **UDMA Technologies** to enable contactless payments. where the data securely will be sent to the banks on a real time basis.

PhonePe partners with ICICI Bank on UPI Multi-Bank:

Flipkart-owned digital payments platform, **PhonePe** announced it has partnered with **ICICI Bank** on UPI multi-bank model, giving its users the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with ICICI Bank's "@ibl" handle and YES Bank's '@ybl' handle on the **PhonePe** app.

SBI sanctions Rs 20, 000 crore loans to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme:

SBI has sanctioned loans worth **Rs 20, 000 crore** to over 4, 00, 000 micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) accounts under the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**. It is part of the Rs 20 trillion package crafted to revive the economy

RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit to banks under MSF till Sept 30:

Reserve Bank of India has decided to extend the enhanced borrowing facility provided to the banks to meet their liquidity shortages till **September 30**. RBI, as a temporary measure, had increased the borrowing limit of scheduled banks under MSF from **2%** to **3%** of **NDTL**.

SBI working on setting up e-commerce portal "Bharat Craft" for MSMEs:

State Bank of India is working on setting up an e-commerce portal for advertising of merchandise manufactured by **Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** within the nation.

The portal referred to as **Bharat Craft** can be collectively run by the financial institution and the **federal government**.

HDFC Bank unveils 'e-Kisan Dhan' App for farmers in rural India:

Private lender **HDFC Bank** Ltd. launched its '**e-Kisan Dhan**' app for farmers across India in a bid to access a bouquet of agricultural and banking services on their mobile.

The app acts as a repository of knowledge and information for any individual engaged in agricultural activities and assist them in meeting the needs of the **rural ecosystem**.

Government launches Special Liquidity Scheme of Rs 30, 000 Cr to improve liquidity for NBFCs and HFCs:

Government launched the **Special Liquidity Scheme of Rs 30, 000 Cr** to improve the liquidity position for **Non-Banking Finance Companies- NBFCs** and Housing Finance Companies- HFCs.

The scheme was launched through a Special Purpose Vehicle set up by **SBICAP (SBI Capital Markets Limited)**.

ICICI Bank launches instant loan against mutual fund units:

ICICI Bank launched '**Insta Loans against Mutual Funds**', a facility in partnership with Computer Age Management Services(CAMS). The facility is an extension of the **Insta Loan Against Shares(LAS)**.

The facility enables the retail customers to avail loans upto Rs 1 crore instantly by pledging their holdings in both debt and equity **Mutual Funds(MFs)**.

ADB becomes observer of Network for Greening the Financial System:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined the **Central Banks** and supervisors **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** as an observer. "NGFS is a valuable network to share ADB's approaches and experience in addressing climate risk management in the financial sector," said ADB Chief Economist **Yasuyuki Sawada**.

HDFC Bank to offer ZipDrive Instant Auto Loans across 1, 000 cities in India:

HDFC Bank announced its plans to offer "**ZipDrive**" **Instant Auto Loans** to customers across 1, 000 cities across India. ZipDrive is HDFC Bank's instant auto loan disbursal product, exclusively for bank customers with a pre-approved offer.

IndiaFirst Life to Offer Exclusive COVID-19 and Hospital Cash Cover to Bank of Baroda Credit Cardholders:

IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), promoted by **Bank of Baroda** and **Union Bank of India**, has associated with BOB Financial Services Limited (BOB Financial), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, to offer a unique group insurance covering that provides

financial support upon **hospitalisation** or on COVID-19 diagnosis.

SBM Bank India partners with Mastercard to facilitate cross-border transactions, remittances:

Government of **Mauritius**-promoted **SBM Bank India** and global payments technology major **Mastercard** have joined hands to facilitate cross-border payments and remittances services, Using '**Master Send**' SBM India can make business to consumer transactions quickly

YES Bank launches 'Loan in Seconds' for instant loan disbursement:

YES Bank has launched a digital solution, "**Loan in Seconds**" for instant disbursement of retail loans. The account holders identified by the bank can avail this **quick loan disbursal facility without any document**.

Fino Payments Bank launches 'Bhavishya' savings account for minors:

Fino Payments Bank Limited announced the launch of a savings account scheme for minors aged between **10-18 years**. '**Bhavishya**', a subscription-based savings account, can be opened by paying a nominal amount. It is initially introduced in **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Madhya Pradesh**.

Karur Vysya Bank ties up with Star Health Insurance:

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has entered into an arrangement with **Star Health Insurance** to offer a wide range of health insurance options to its customers. The tie-up will help the bank provide **cost-effective insurance** products and quick settlement of claims.

Liberty General Insurance launches 'Liberty Assure', an industry 1st service:

Liberty General Insurance launches '**Liberty Assure**' an Industry first service. The auto insurance customers who avail this service, are not required to pay the '**Compulsory Deductible**' cost for every claim.

L&T Infra Finance gets USD 50 mn from AIIB for renewable energy funding:

Larsen & Toubro Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (LTIF), a wholly-owned subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd., received the first tranche of \$50 million of the total **\$100 million** ECB loan from **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.

Mastercard to invest Rs 250 crore to help Indian SMEs amid COVID-19 crisis:

Global leader in payment technology **Mastercard** announced an additional **Rs 250-crore** investment to help small businesses in the country, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is focused on helping the small businesses go **digital** and support **women entrepreneurs**.

Karur Vysya Bank partners with Tata Motors to offer car loans at attractive terms:

Karur Vysya Bank has entered into an arrangement with **Tata Motors** to fund buyers of **Tata passenger vehicles**. The Bank informed the exchanges that both existing and new customers will be eligible to avail loans from KVB.

BuyUcoin Becomes The First Indian Cryptocurrency Exchange To List XinFin Utility Token:

Singapore based Hybrid Blockchain firm **XinFin** has partnered with **BuyUcoin**, one of India's leading **crypto currency** exchanges,

to introduce its Native Token XDC to the Indian market.

XinFin chose **BuyUcoin** as their partner because of their vision and reliability, to expand its user-base in India. **XinFin** has committed itself to play a major role in the mass adoption of **blockchain technology** in the Indian economy.

Bank of Baroda rolls out 'Insta Click Savings Account':

The self-assisted online savings account can be activated in real-time and offers customers a wide range of digital channels. **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** stated it has launched '**Insta Click Savings Account**', a 100 percent **paperless digital** self-assisted online savings account.

LIC ties up with Union Bank of India for Corporate Agency:

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India and **Union Bank of India**, after its amalgamation with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank, have announced a Corporate Agency Tie-up by which LIC policies will be distributed through the bank.

FamPay launches India's first numberless card for teenagers:

A mobile bank for teenagers **FamPay** brings **cashless convenience** to millions of teens and their parents, has announced the launch of **India's first numberless card - FamCard**.

It claims FamCard is just like a debit card that **teenagers** can use to make payments independently, relieving parents of the trouble of giving them **physical cash** or their **debit/credit card**.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

NITI Aayog and ITF Launch Decarbonizing Transport Project in India:

NITI Aayog and the **International Transport Forum (ITF)** of OECD jointly launched the '**Decarbonizing Transport in Emerging Economies**' (DTEE) project in India.

ITF Secretary General **Young Tae Kim** and NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant** in the presence of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs(MoHUA) Secretary **D.S. Mishra**, as well as Ministry of Road Transport and HighwaysJoint Secretary **Priyank Bharti**.

CBSE partners with Facebook to launch free training program for teachers, students:

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has partnered with **Facebook** to launch a free and **comprehensive training program** for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase from August to November 2020 in **virtual mode**.

Google Cloud and Deutsche Bank Agree on Multi-Year Strategic Partnership:

Deutsche Bank agreed a strategic, multi-year partnership with **Google Cloud** to give it access to **cloud services** and **drive innovation** in tech-based financial products for clients. It focuses on redefining how the bank develops and offers its financial services.

NSDC and Microsoft join hands to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth:

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and **Microsoft** on Wednesday announced a strategic partnership aimed at providing digital skills to over **1 lakh youth**

in the country over the next **one year**. Microsoft will collaborate with NSDC's **eSkill India portal** to provide free access to learning resources.

EESL inks agreement with NOIDA to promote electric vehicles & install charging stations:

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed an agreement with the **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA)** to promote electric vehicles, install charging stations and related infrastructure. EESL is the world's largest energy service company.

T-Hub partners with MeitY and Digital India to lead program for hardware startups:

T-Hub has announced its partnership with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and Digital India to provide scale-up opportunities to the start-ups and make them ready in terms of product, investment and new market access.

ADB and IEA Renew Collaborative Agreement on Energy Sector Sustainability:

Asian Development Bank announced that it has renewed an MOU with the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** to scale up collaboration and advance progress on sustainability with an increased focus on energy sector resilience in Asia and the Pacific.

Visa Partners With Federal Bank For Rolling Out Visa Secure For E-Commerce:

Visa has announced its partnership with **Federal Bank** to roll out Visa Secure to the bank's cardholders. Visa Secure is a global authentication program that uses the latest

standards of the **EMV 3DS (3D Secure)** protocol.

UNICEF INDIA announced its partnership with FICCI for #Reimagine Campaign:

UNICEF INDIA announced its partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (**FICCI**), **Socio-Economic Development Foundation** (SEDF) to jointly develop UNICEF's **#Reimagine Campaign** to support the most vulnerable populations and children during the COVID-19 response and its after-math in India.

UNICEF India partners with SAP India to improve the employability of young people:

UNICEF India announced partnership with **SAP India** to provide career counseling to young people in India to improve their employability skills in a COVID & post COVID era.

UNICEF will collaborate with **YuWaah** (Generation Unlimited) under this initiative. The main Goal is to Impact **one million** young people by the end of **2022**.

L&T Tech Services to Acquire 100% Stake in Orchestra Tech for about Rs 187 Crore:

L&T Technology Services (LTTS), the engineering services arm of Larsen and Toubro Group, informed that it will acquire a **100 % stake** in Texas-based **Orchestra Technology**.

The acquisition is an all cash deal of **USD 25 million** (Rs 187 crores).

NSDC and Airtel Payments Bank join hands to skill rural youth for financial services sector jobs:

Airtel Payments Bank and the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** announced a partnership to skill the youth in **rural India** and enable them to find employment opportunities in the financial services sector.

The partnership will leverage NSDC's experience, training infrastructure and wide network with Airtel Payment Bank's industry insights, to design and conduct targeted **skill development programmes** for rural youth.

Amazon Pay joins hands with Acko to offer auto insurance:

Amazon Pay, the payments arm of e-commerce giant Amazon India, has partnered **Acko General Insurance Ltd** to offer insurance for two- as well as four-wheelers. Insurance claims will involve zero paperwork, 3-day assured claim servicing & one-hour pick-up.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

Russia plans to take first tourist on space walk in 2023:

Russia's **Energia space corporation** will take the first tourist on a space walk in **2023**, under the terms of a new contract with a **US partner**. Roscosmos and RSC Energia in collaboration with Space Adventures took 8 tourists to ISS between 2001 and 2009.

IISc team building indigenous ventilator prototype 'Project Praana' for COVID-19 patients:

Researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, has successfully completed the prototyping of an **Intensive Care Unit (ICU)** grade ventilator which is now in the process of being commercialised. Code-

named '**Project Praana**', the product is a technology

IIT Madras launches world's first online BSc degree in Programming and Data Science:

IIT Madras launched an online **BSc degree** course on Programming & Data Science which is the world's first such programme. The Programming and Data Science course was launched by HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** Data Science is one of the fastest-growing sectors.

Bharat Biotech Announces India's First COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate 'COVAXIN' With DCGI Approval For Human Clinical Trials:

Hyderabad-based **Bharat Biotech** announced that it has successfully developed **Covaxin**, India's first vaccine candidate for Covid-19, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and **National Institute of Virology (NIV)**.

SERB launches 'Accelerate Vigyan' Scheme To Strengthen Scientific Research Mechanism:

Science and Engineering Research Board has launched a new scheme called '**Accelerate Vigyan**' to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country.

AV has already called for applications under its '**ABHYAAS**' component for the Winter Season. **SERB** is also planning to launch an app for this in the coming 2 months.

AIIMS partners IIT-Delhi to launch app for patients needing plasma therapy:

AIIMS with the help of **IIT-Delhi** students have developed a mobile application named

"COPAL-19" to track real-time COVID-19 patients in the hospital, who can become potential plasma donors 28 days after recovery along with those who have been discharged.

IIT Gandhinagar develops AI based tool to detect Covid-19 from chest X-ray:

Researchers at the Indian **Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN)** have developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based deep learning tool for detection of Covid-19 from **Chest X-ray** images.

IIT Kanpur develops virtual classroom system 'Mobile Masterjee':

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur has developed an innovative virtual classroom aid titled '**Mobile Masterjee**'.

The classroom-to-home teaching setup is designed to record the lectures/instructions by the teachers while using smartphones. '**Mobile Masterjee**' can capture the videos in **horizontal (table)** and **vertical (blackboard)** positions.

India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Captured the Image of Mars Moon Phobos:

ISRO's Mars Orbiter Missions (**MOM**) has taken some images of Phobos, biggest and closest moon of Mars. Mars Orbiter Mission (**Mars Colour Camera**) took image from the distance of 7, 200 km from Mars and just 4, 200 km from Phobos.

IIT Roorkee researchers develops disinfection box "Unisaviour":

A disinfection box "**Unisaviour**" has been developed by the researchers at **IIT Roorkee**. The disinfection box "**Unisaviour**" can be used to sterilize personal belongings,

apparels, PPE, medical equipment among others form the COVID-19.

Indian Railways to transform itself as 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030:

The **Indian Railways** is taking decisive steps to transform itself as a '**Net Zero' Carbon Emission** Mass Transportation Network by **2030**. It is endeavoring to be self-reliant for its energy needs by utilising its vacant land for renewable energy projects.

DRDO to establish a research cell at IIT-H to meet the future defence technological requirements:

Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) will establish a research cell at **Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad**(IIT-H), '**DRDO – IIT-H Research Cell**' to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.

ISRO to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite onboard PSLV in August 2020:

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is all set to launch **Brazil's Amazonia-1** satellite in **August 2020** onboard The **Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV)**. Amazonia -1 is **Brazil's first satellite** for Earth observation – designed, assembled and tested in Brazil.

IIT Kanpur develops UV sanitizing device 'SHUDDH' to make your room COVID free:

Due to Covid Pandemic People are nowadays afraid of touching anything around, specifically in the areas where masses have to come. To solve this problem Imagineering Laboratory department of **IIT Kanpur** has

developed an **Ultraviolet (UV)** sanitizing product named "**SHUDH**".

Initial testing has proved that the device at its full operation can disinfect a 10x10 squared feet room in about **15 minutes**.

IIT Kanpur-incubated startups develop device to monitor water quality india:

IIT Kanpur Incubated Start-ups i.e **Earth-face Analytics Pvt Ltd** and **Kritsnam Technologies Pvt** Ltd have built up a gadget, for dissecting and observing water quality through simple to utilize **colorimetric test-strip**, in view of advanced **mobile phone innovation** that screens numerous significant water quality boundaries in less than **two minutes**.

India and Israel join hands to develop rapid testing for Covid-19 in under 30 seconds:

Israel and **India** will work together to develop a new generation set of Covid-19 tests that aim to bring the entire testing process down to a few seconds, be widely available, and ultimately help to open economies. Using **artificial intelligence** and **machine learning**, these breakthrough technologies will be tested in India, and if successful, be manufactured in India, and marketed jointly by Israel and India to the world.

APPOINTMENTS and RESIGNATIONS:

Priyanka Chopra, Anurag Kashyap named among ambassadors at TIFF 2020:

Actor **Priyanka Chopra** and filmmaker **Anurag Kashyap** are among the **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)** ambassadors for 2020.

TIFF is one of the largest publicly attended film festivals in the world and has gathered a reputation for generating "**Oscar buzz**" for its pick of films.

Lazarus Chakwera sworn in as Malawi president:

Malawi's opposition leader **Lazarus Chakwera** has won the country's rerun presidential vote. He defeated incumbent **Peter Mutharika** with **58.57%** of the vote. It is the 2nd African nation to annul a presidential election over irregularities after **Kenya** in 2017.

Micheál Martin elected as Ireland's new prime minister:

Fianna Fail leader **Micheál Martin** was elected as the new (Taoiseach) Prime Minister of **Ireland** and he will take over the office from **Leo Varadkar**.

Micheál Martin, will lead the government for the first **two and a half years** (until December 2022); the second half of the **5 year team** will be led by **Leo Varadkar**, Indian Origin Leader of Fine Gael.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel given additional charge of Madhya Pradesh:

President **Ram Nath Kovind** has assigned **Uttar Pradesh** Governor **Anandiben Patel** additional charge of **Madhya Pradesh** during the absence on leave of Governor Lalji Tandon.

KK Venugopal re-appointed as Attorney General of India for a year and Tushar Mehta re-named Solicitor General for three years:

Appointments Committee has approved the re-appointment of senior advocate **Tushar Mehta** as Solicitor General for a period of **3**

years. Senior advocate **K.K. Venugopal** has also been reappointed to the post of Attorney General for India for a period of **1 year**.

Nitin Menon becomes third Indian umpire to be inducted in ICC Elite Panel: India's **Nitin Menon** has been included in the International Cricket Council's **Elite Panel of Umpires** for the upcoming **2020-21** season, replacing England's Nigel Llong. He has officiated in three Tests, 24 ODIs and 16 T20Is. Srinivas Venkatraghavan & Sundaram Ravi were previous inductees.

Gudni Johannesson Re-elected as President of Iceland:

Gudni Th. Johannesson has been re-elected as the President of **Iceland**. He has won his second four-year term as the president of Iceland in the presidential elections held recently.

He won the presidential elections with **92%** of the popular vote which the second-largest win in Icelandic presidential elections against **Gudmundur Franklín Jónsson**.

Government extends Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai's term by another 2 years:

Government extends the term of **Rajkiran Rai G** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Union Bank of India(UBI)** by **2 years** till May 31, 2022. The 3 year term of Rajkiran Rai G as MD & CEO of UBI was to end on June 30, 2020. He took charge of UBI on July 1, 2017.

Ravinder Bhakar appointed as CEO of Central Board of Films Certification:

Mr Ravinder Bhakar assumes charge as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Central Board of Films Certification(CBFC)**. He is a Indian Railway Stores Service(IRSS) officer

from 1999 batch. He has taken place of **Anurag Srivastava**.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank appoints K Hariharan as Chief Financial Officer:

Lakshmi Vilas Bank said in the stock exchanges that the Audit Committee of the Board has appointed **Hariharan K** as **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. He has 29 years of experience in Banking and Finance Industry and before joining **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has served in various capacities with **State Bank of India, IDBI Bank and Karur Vysya Bank**.

V Suryanarayanan appointed as new MD of Chola MS General Insurance:

Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company has announced the appointment of **V Suryanarayanan** as its new managing director. Suryanarayanan succeeds **S S Gopalarathnam**, who retired on Tuesday after serving the company for over 41 years.

Nigar Johar Becomes Pakistan Army's First Female Lieutenant General:

Pakistan Army has appointed a **Nigar Johar** as lieutenant general for the first time. Major General Nigar Johar, who got the coveted post of a three-star general, has also been appointed as the **First Female Surgeon** general of the Pakistan Army.

NHAI chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu gets six months extension:

Senior bureaucrat **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** was given **six months extension**, till mid January next year, as the chairman of **National Highways Authority of India**, a Personnel Ministry order said. Sandhu, a 1988 batch IAS officer of Uttarakhand cadre, took charge of the post in October last year.

Jean Castex Appointed as New Prime Minister of France:

French President **Emmanuel Macron** named **Jean Castex**, who coordinated France's virus reopening strategy, as the country's new prime minister replacing **Edouard Philippe**. Castex, 55, is a career public servant who has worked with multiple governments.

UK India Business Council appoints Indian-origin Jayant Krishna as new CEO:

The **UK India Business Council** has announced that **Jayant Krishna** has accepted the invitation of the Board to become its new Group Chief Executive Officer. He will be 1st UKIBC Group CEO to be based in India, will be replacing **Richard Heald**.

Luxury Ride signs Sukhbir Singh as brand ambassador:

Luxury Ride, chain of used, multi-brand luxury car showrooms, signed singer **Sukhbir Singh** as brand ambassador. With this, he will be seen in a full-fledged marketing campaign across the upcoming brand and product communication initiatives by Luxury Ride.

M K Saggar to take over as ED in charge of RBI's monetary policy department:

M K Saggar will take over as the executive director (ED) in charge of **Reserve Bank of India's** monetary policy department, after the retirement of **Janak Raj**. He will also be included in the 6-member Monetary Policy Committee as an internal RBI member.

Priyanka Chopra Chosen Ambassador for Toronto International Film Festival:

Priyanka Chopra announced that she has been invited to be an ambassador to the 2020 **Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)**. PeeCee, who starred in the American

television show Quantico and Hollywood flicks like Baywatch and Isn't it Romantic.

Bollywood filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has also been chosen for TIFF 2020.

Gyanendro Ningombam replaces Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad as new Hockey India president:

Hockey India has appointed Manipur's **Gyanendro Ningombam** as its new officiating president after **Mohd Mushtaque** Ahmad stepped down from his post owing to his personal reasons and family commitments.

Andrzej Duda wins Polish presidential Election:

Andrzej Duda, Poland's conservative, populist incumbent, has narrowly won the **Presidential Election**. Duda who is backed by the ruling right-wing Law and Justice party (PiS), won 51.21 percent of the vote, liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, got 48.79%.

Vidhu P. Nair appointed India's next Ambassador to Turkmenistan:

Dr. Vidhu P. Nair has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to **Turkmenistan**. Dr Nair is presently Director in the **External Affairs Ministry**. **H H Kotalwar** has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to the **Czech Republic**.

BCCI appoints Hemang Amin as interim CEO:

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed IPL chief operating officer **Hemang Amin** as the interim chief executive officer (CEO). "Hemang Amin has been given the interim charge of CEO of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India), "

Last week, the apex body of cricket in India had accepted the resignation of its CEO, **Rahul Johri**.

Asian Development Bank appoints Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as new vice-president:

Election Commissioner **Ashok Lavasa**, who is known for his dissenting views in the poll panel, is all set to join **Asian Development Bank** at Manila in **Philippines**, as the multilateral financial agency has appointed him its vice-president to look after private sector operations and **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**.

He will succeed **Diwakar Gupta**, whose term will end on 31 August, 2020.

Former Australian cricketer Brett Lee named brand ambassador of SportsAdda:

SportsAdda has onboarded Australian cricket legend **Brett Lee** as its brand ambassador as he swaps the cricket field for the digital playground. He took over **700 wickets** during his international career and retired from international cricket in 2013.

Ashwini Kumar Tewari appointed as the new SBI Cards MD & CEO:

SBI cards and Payment Services has named **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** as its new Managing Director and chief executive officer. He was nominated by parent **State Bank of India** for the position and his appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2020. The new appointment will be valid for two years.

Gabon Appoints Ossouka Raponda As Its First Woman Prime Minister:

Former Defense Minister **Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda** has been promoted to **Prime Minister**, making her the **First**

Woman to hold the role in Gabon's history. She will succeeding **Julien Nkoghe Bekale**, On 16 July 2020. She is the **sixth** PrimeMinister under **Bongo's** Presidency since 2009.

RBI approves reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as Federal Bank MD & CEO:

Reserve Bank of India approved the reappointment of **Shyam Srinivasan** as the managing Director and Chief Executive officer of **Federal bank Limited** with effect from September 23, 2020 till September 22, 2021.

Prakash Chandra Kandpal appointed MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance:

Non-life insurer **SBI General Insurance** announced the appointment of **Prakash Chandra Kandpal** as its new managing director and chief executive officer, effective July 20. He has been with **SBI General Insurance** as the deputy CEO since June 2019

Karur Vysya Bank appoints Ramesh Babu Boddu as MD & CEO:

Karur Vysya Bank's (KVB) Board of Directors has co-opted Ramesh Babu Boddu as an Additional Director and appointed him Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for three years. He retired as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India in April 2020.

Sahil Seth appointed as honorary adviser to BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

Sahil Seth has been appointed an honorary adviser to the steering committee for the **BRICS Chamber of Commerce (CCI)** young leaders for the period of **2020-2023**. He is a deputy Commissioner of Mumbai

Customs. He is a 2011 batch **Indian Revenue Service Officer**.

Indian Overseas Bank appoints SBI's Partha Pratim Sengupta as MD and CEO:

Indian Overseas Bank has appointed State Bank of India's deputy managing director, **Partha Pratim Sengupta**, as its managing director and chief executive officer (CEO). Sengupta will be replacing **Karnam Sekar**, who retired on June 30.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

IIT-Ropar best in country, two Indian institutes in global top 100; THE Young University Ranking 2020

Times Higher Education (THE) has released the world's young university ranking for the relatively newer generation of universities, which are 50 years old or younger. **IIT-Ropar** best in India.

The 2020 ranking includes 414 universities, up from 351 in 2019. As many as two Indian universities made it into the top 100, while none could enter the '**50 under 50**' category.

Weightlifter Sanjita Chanu to Get Arjuna Award After Dope Charges Dropped:

Two-time Commonwealth Games gold medal winning weightlifter **K. Sanjita Chanu**, who was recently exonerated from doping charges, will get the Arjuna award for 2018, **Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)** Secretary **Sahdev Yadav**.

P. Harikrishna becomes the 1st Indian to join the USD 150, 000 Chessable Masters:

Indian Grandmaster **P Harikrishna** bowed out of contention for a quarterfinal spot in the **USD 150, 000** Chessable Masters online tournament, with a defeat at the hands of

Alexander Grischuk of Russia in the 10th and final round.

Former RBI governor Rangarajan gets lifetime achievement award on Statistics Day:

Former **Reserve Bank of India** governor **C Rangarajan** was conferred with the lifetime achievement award for his contribution to statistics on the occasion of **Statistics Day**. Chief statistician **Pravin Srivastava** stated the government will launch **e-Sigma** that will capture data using mobile devices.

Ravindra Jadeja rated India's most valuable Test player in 21st century by Wisden:

All-rounder **Ravindra Jadeja** has been named as **India's most valuable** Test player in the 21st century by the **Wisden magazine**.

With an MVP rating of **97.3**, the 31-year-old Jadeja was also rated as the **second-most valuable** Test player worldwide, behind **Sri Lanka** legend **Muttiah Muralitharan**.

India's AI enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk wins two global awards:

India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled **MyGov Corona Helpdesk** has bagged two awards at the **Global Leadership Summit** and Festival of AI and Emerging Technology, **CogX 2020**.

AI enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk bagged two awards under categories of **Best Innovation** for Covid-19 – Society and **People's Choice** Covid-19 Overall Winner.

Indian author Kritika Pandey declared overall winner of 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize:

Indian author **Kritika Pandey** was declared the overall winner of the 2020

Commonwealth Short Story Prize, for her story "**The Great Indian Tee and Snakes**". The Commonwealth Foundation announced Pandey's award in an online ceremony.

Mon District Administration received 3 SKOCH Awards in 65th SKOCH Summit: District Administration of **Mon, Nagaland** received **2020 SKOCH** awards under three categories viz SKOCH Crucible Award 2020, SKOCH order of Merit 2020, SKOCH Honourable mention 2020 in the 65th SKOCH summit from Chairman of SKOCH group **Sameer Kochar**.

13 Year Old Girl Freya Thakral From Delhi Receives Award in Memory of Princess Diana:

Freya Thakral, a student from The British School, New Delhi, has been bestowed with the **highest accolade a young person** can achieve for social action or **humanitarian efforts – The Diana Award**. She has been added to the roll of honours on Princess Diana's birthday – July 1, 2020.

Hockey stalwart Ashok Kumar to receive Mohun Bagan Lifetime Achievement Award:

Ashok Kumar, a key member of **India's 1975 World Cup** winning hockey team, will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the city's iconic club **Mohun Bagan** on the occasion of its foundation day. **Mohun Bagan Day** is celebrated every year on **July 29**. He is Son of hockey wizard **Dhyan Chand**.

Gurbux Singh, Palash Nandi to be honoured with Mohun Bagan Ratna:

Hockey legend **Gurbux Singh** and former first-class cricketer **Palash Nandi** will receive this year's **Mohun Bagan Ratna**. The club

has decided not to hold the customary '**Mohun Bagan Day**' function on **July 29**.

Marianna Vardinoyannis & Morissana Kouyaté win 2020 United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize:

Ms. Vardinoyannis is the founder and president of two foundations dedicated to children, in the fight against child cancer. **Morissanda Kouyate**, is a leading figure in efforts to end violence against women in Africa, including Female Genital Mutilation.

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg wins first Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity:

Young Swedish environmental activist **Greta Thunberg** was awarded the first **Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**. The award carries a €1, 000, 000 prize and the entire amount would be donated by Thunberg to project and organizations fighting for a sustainable world.

National Award for Excellence in Forestry awarded to Kannan C S Warrier:

Senior principal of **Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB)** scientist **Kannan C S Warrier** has received the National Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research in Forestry for the year 2019.

The award was conferred on him by the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

A book titled "The Future of Higher Education" released by M Venkaiah Naidu:

Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** virtually released a book, "**Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends**". The book

is authored by **CA V Pattabhi Ram**, a Public Speaker, author and Teacher. The Virtual event was hosted by **ICT Academy**.

Former RBI governor Urjit Patel pens book on dealing with NPA issue:

Titled '**Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver**', the book focuses on the non-performing assets issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years, its causes and Patel's efforts as the RBI Governor in dealing with it. It will be published by **HarperCollins**.

Maruti Suzuki chairman R C Bhargava pens book "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India":

Maruti Suzuki chairman **R C Bhargava** penned a book "**Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India**".

The book is published by **Harper Collins India**, Bhargava draws upon his experience of more than 60 years as a policymaker and industry leader to give practical suggestions.

A book on Dalai Lama's biography to release in 2020:

A book titled '**His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography**' will be released in 2020. The book is published by **Roli Books**. The book is authored by one of the Dalai Lama's closest aides and advisor of over 40 years, **Tenzin Geyche Tethong**. The biography is a memorable portrait of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso.

AP CM Pema Khandu releases book " The Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh":

The book titled '**The Tangams: An Ethnolinguistic Study Of The Critically Endangered Group of Arunachal Pradesh**'

was released by Arunachal Chief Minister **Pema Khandu**.

The book is based on the **Tangams**, a critically endangered speech community of Arunachal Pradesh domiciled at Kugging village, Upper Siang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.

A book titled 'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' on Udhamp Singh by Akademi awardee Baldev Singh Sadaknama:

Sahitya Akademi Award winner **Baldev Singh Sadaknama** has written another book shedding light on historic perspectives named **'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (Sun Never Dies)**. It is on the life of Udhamp Singh whose 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31.

A book titled "The Pandemic Century", by British Medical Historian Mark Honigsbaum:

"The Pandemic Century, A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19", by the british medical historian **Mark Honigsbaum** covers 10 outbreaks in the past 100 years, dating from the Spanish Flu (1918) to the present day Coronavirus (2019). The book is published by **Penguin Publishers**.

The Pandemic Century by Mark Honigsbaum:

"The Pandemic Century", the book by British medical historian **Mark Honigsbaum** combines science history, medical sociology and front-line reportage to tell the history of global contagion dating from the Spanish Flu (1918) to the present day coronavirus pandemic.

A book titled "The Endgame" authored by Hussain Zaidi:

A new novel The Endgame by **Hussain Zaidi**, a well known crime

writer has recently written a novel named **"The Endgame"**.It was published by the **HarperCollins India**.The book speaks about the politics, betrayal, and unimaginable terror.

RANKINGS:

India ranks 77th in terms of Money deposits in Swiss banks:

India has slipped three places to **77th** in terms of deposits of Indian citizens and companies in **Swiss banks**. This information has been found in the latest data from the **central bank of Switzerland**. Britain holds the first place in this list. Last year, India was ranked **74th** on this list.

Britain ranks first on the list. The **US** is followed by the second, **West Indies** third, **France** fourth and **Hong Kong** fifth. The top five countries account for more than 50 percent of the total money deposited in Swiss banks.

India stands third largest contributor to e-waste in 2019, China tops

A United Nations-led report found India is the **third-largest contributor** to e-waste in the world in 2019. As per the report titled '**Global E-waste Monitor 2020**', the world dumped 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste in 2019.

India with 3.2 million tonnes, was third. **China** topped the list followed by **USA**.

India Ranked 117th in SDG Index 2020, Sweden Tops:

As per SDG index 2020, India has got **117th** rank with a score of 61.92. it shows that India is facing a lot of major challenges in 10 of the 17 SDGs such as zero hunger, good health, gender inequality and so on.

However, **Sweden** country has got the first place in the indexing which scores 84.72. 166

UN Member States were included to study under SDG index 2020.

Indian direct selling industry ranked 15th after recording \$2.47 billion sales in 2019:

The Indian direct selling industry has reported a growth of 12.1% to **\$2.47 billion in 2019**, a World Federation of **Direct Selling Associations** report said. The ranking of the direct selling industry improved from 19th a year before to **15th**.

The **US** has topped the list, contributing **20%** of the global direct selling industry with sales of **\$35.21 billion**.

India's maternal mortality ratio dips to 113 in 2016-18, Assam has highest and Kerala lowest:

India's **maternal mortality ratio** (MMR) has dropped by **7.4 per cent** in 2016-18, but it is still almost double the Sustainable Development Goal target set by **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

At 215, **Assam** had the highest MMR in the country, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with MMR of 197 and 173, respectively.

Kerala reported the lowest MMR of 43, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu with MMR of 46 and 60, respectively.

India's MMR in 2016-18 has been **113**, which was 122 in 2015-17, according to the **Sample Registration System's (SRS)** estimate released by the Registrar General of India.

OBITUARY NEWS:

Legendary West Indies batsman Sir Everton Weekes dies aged 95:

Legendary West Indies batsman **Sir Everton Weekes** has died at the age of 95. He played

48 Tests across a 10-year career, scoring 4455 runs and 15 centuries.

Veteran journalist Bishnu Prasad Kumar passes away:

Veteran journalist **Bishnu Prasad Kumar**, who had covered the Bangladesh Liberation War and the turbulent Naxalite movement in the 70s, passed away.

Ennio Morricone: Oscar-winning Italian film composer died at 91:

Ennio Morricone, the Italian composer whose credits include the "**spaghetti**" Westerns that made Clint Eastwood a star, has died in Rome aged 91. He also wrote music for Once Upon a Time in America, The Untouchables and Cinema Paradiso. He was known as '**Maestro**' and won Oscars in **2007 & 2016**.

Broadway star Nick Cordero dies of COVID-19 complications:

Tony Award-nominated actor **Nick Cordero**, who specialized in playing tough guys on Broadway in such shows as Waitress, A Bronx Tale and Bullets Over Broadway, has died in Los Angeles after suffering severe medical complications after contracting the coronavirus. He was 41.

Ivory Coast's Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly dies:

Ivory Coast's prime minister and the governing party's candidate **Amadou Gon Coulibaly** for an October presidential election, died just days after returning from two months of medical treatment in France. He was considered as an **ex-rebel leader**.

Renowned cartoonist Avad Bin Hassan Jami passes away:

Renowned **Gujarati cartoonist**, **Avad Bin Hassan Jami** passed away. He was popularly

known as "**Jami**". His cartoons were published in Gujarati magazine "**Abhiyan**" for last over two decades. He had also worked in Gujarati newspaper Phhulchhab as a cartoonist. He was a drawing teacher at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jamnagar and became a full-time cartoonist after retirement.

Dutch Football Legend Wim Suurbier Passed Away at 75:

Netherlands and Ajax defender **Wim Suurbier**, a key member of the 1970s Dutch squad who played in two World Cup finals, died at the age of 75. He won three European championships with the legendary Ajax side of the same decade.

Actor-Singer Divya Chouksey Dies Due to Cancer at 28:

Actor and Singer **Divya Chouksey** passed away due to cancer. She did an acting course from London and went on to feature in a couple of films and serials. She also rose to fame as a singer. Divya had participated in the **Miss Universe India** pageant in the year **2011**.

Former Goa health minister Suresh Amonkar passed away at 68:

Former **Goa** health minister **Suresh Amonka** passed away at 68 due to COVID-19 infection, while undergoing treatment at ESI hospital in Margao. He was born on May 15, 1952 in Amona, Goa.

Maharashtra's first woman Election Commissioner Neela Satyanarayan passes away at 72:

Former IAS officer and **Maharashtra's** first woman Election Commissioner **Neela Satyanarayan** passed away. The 72-year-old breathed her last at Seven Hills Hospital

in **Mumbai**. She was diagnosed with COVID-19. She had penned several books.

Former Para-badminton player Ramesh Tikaram dies at 51:

Arjuna awardee, para athlete and para-badminton player, Ramesh Tikaram passed away at 51 due to coronavirus in a **Bengaluru** hospital. He organized the World Cup for Para badminton in Bengaluru in 2002. He was the **1st Indian Para Badminton** Arjuna Awardee.

Eminent mathematician C S Seshadri passes away:

Eminent Indian mathematician of the post-Independence era, **Professor C S Seshadri** has passed away. He was the founder and Director-Emeritus of the Chennai Mathematical Institute, an institute for the study of mathematics in India.

Madhya Pradesh Governor Lal Ji Tandon Died At 85:

Madhya Pradesh Governor **Lalji Tandon** passed away after a prolonged illness. Tandon served in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative council for two terms from 1978 to 1984 as an MLA in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for three terms and governor of **Bihar**.

SPORTS NEWS:

Australia and New Zealand Will Host FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup:

Australia and New Zealand will co-host the **Women's World Cup** in **2023**, with the following edition possibly set to take place just two years later. FIFA's decision means **South America** is still waiting to host its first Women's World Cup, a tournament that was first played in **1991**.

Liverpool Win English Premier League To End 30-Year Title Drought:

Liverpool were crowned Premier League champions without kicking a ball as **Chelsea's** 2-1 win over Manchester City ended the Reds' 30-year wait to win the English title.

Argentina Luka Romero of Mallorca becomes youngest La Liga player in history:

Luka Romero made **La Liga** history as he became the youngest player to play when he was substituted on for **Mallorca**.

Romero, born on 18 November 2004, was substitute on for **Mallorca** in their 2-0 defeat against Real Madrid. He became the youngest player ever at **15 years, 219 days** to play in La Liga.

Rahul Dravid beats Sachin Tendulkar to emerge as India's greatest Test batsman in Wisden poll:

Former Indian skipper **Rahul Dravid** has emerged as the country's greatest batsman in the longest format of the game after beating legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** in a poll conducted by **Wisden India** on social media recently.

Sumit Nagal Becomes First Indian Tennis Player To Win PSD Bank Nord Open In Germany:

India's leading singles player **Sumit Nagal** achieved a first of sorts as he became the first Indian to win an international tournament amid the COVID-19 era after he clinched the **Men's Singles Title** at the **PSD Bank Nord Open**, a locally organized clay court tournament in **Germany**.

He defeated German **Daniel Masur** in straight sets.

Africa Cup of Nations postponed from January next year to 2022:

Next January's **Africa Cup of Nations** finals in Cameroon have been postponed by one year and will now take place in 2022, decided by Confederation of African Football. And also,

- 2021 **Africa Cup** of Nations postponed to **2022**
- 2020 **CHAN** postponed to **2021**
- 2020 Africa **Women's Cup** of Nations **CANCELLED**

Sports News:

China's 2-time Olympic Champion and Badminton Legend Lin Dan Announces Retirement:

China's two-time Olympic champion **Lin Dan**, arguably the greatest badminton player of all time, took to social media to announce his retirement.

Lt Col Bharat Pannu Becomes First Indian To Secure Podium Position In International Ultracycling Race:

Lt Col Bharat Pannu, a serving **Indian Army Officer** has created history by successfully securing a podium place at the first edition of the **Virtual Race Across America (vRAAM) 2020**. He has become the **first Indian ever** to win a podium place at an international **ultra-cycling race**.

Jaipur to have the world's 3rd largest cricket stadium with capacity of 75000: Rajasthan Cricket Association;

World's **3rd** largest **cricket stadium** shall have modern grand pavilion stands, corporate boxes, plush sports field, modern club house and many other world class features for indoor games and sports training facilities, spread across over **100 acres of land**. It is

to come up in **Chonp village**, 25 km from **Jaipur**.

Lewis Hamilton wins Styrian Grand Prix in Spielberg, Austria:

Lewis Hamilton won the **Styrian Grand Prix** from pole position to clinch an 85th career win and move within six of Michael Schumacher's Formula One record. He finished a sizeable **13.7 seconds** ahead of Mercedes teammate **Valtteri Bottas**.

Former Australia and Crystal Palace captain Mile Jedinak announces retirement from football:

Former **Australia** captain and Crystal Palace stalwart **Mile Jedinak** announced his retirement and saying it was "**Time For A New Chapter**".

IOC Postpones Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games To 2026 Due To COVID-19 Pandemic:

Senegal and the **International Olympic Committee** (IOC) have mutually agreed to postpone the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) to 2026 due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Lewis Hamilton wins 8th Hungarian Grand Prix:

Lewis Hamilton claimed his second race victory of the **2020 season**, leading the Hungarian Grand Prix from start to finish taking control of the drivers' championship. The **six-time** world champion claimed pole in Saturday qualifying and had no trouble in converting that into a race victory, with Max Verstappen finishing second to prevent a second consecutive Mercedes one-two. Other Grand Prixs recently held and winners are
Austria: Valtteri Bottas, MERCEDES
Styria: Lewis Hamilton, MERCEDES
Hungary: Lewis Hamilton, MERCEDES

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	DAY	THEME
July 1	National Doctor's Day	"Lessen the Mortality of COVID-19"
July 2	World UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) Day	-
July 2	World Sports Journalists Day	-
July 3	International Plastic Bag Free Day	-
July 4	International Day of Cooperatives	"Cooperatives For Climate Action"
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	-
July 7	World Chocolate Day	-
July 11	World Population Day	"How to safeguard the health & rights of women & girls now"
July 12	National Simplicity Day	-
July 12	Malala Day	-

July 15	World Youth Skills Day	"Skills for a Resilient Youth"
July 17	World Day for International Justice	-
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day	-
July 20	World Chess Day	-
July 22	Pi Approximation Day	-
July 23	National Refreshment Day	-
July 23	National Broadcasting Day	-
July 24	National Thermal Engineer Day	-
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas (Kargil Victory Day)	-
July 26	National Parents Day	"Appreciate all parents throughout the world"
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	-
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	-
July 29	International Tiger Day	-

AUGUST 2020

NATIONAL NEWS:

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan attends Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Health Ministers' meeting:
Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan attended the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Health Ministers' meeting and highlighted India's efforts to combat the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Haryana to host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games in 2021:

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** and Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced Haryana as the host state for the fourth edition of **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)**, which is currently scheduled to take place after Tokyo Olympics. The Games will be held at **Panchkula** in Haryana.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar releases the Financial Management Index for Rural Development:

Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** released a "**Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes**" to rank the performance of the States. It would promote the spirit of competitive, cooperative federalism amongst States.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, launched a free website portal named 'Rozgaar Bazaar' for job seekers, employers:

Delhi chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched a free website **http://jobs.delhi.gov.in** named '**Rozgaar Bazaar 2020**' via video conference. The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.

Ministry of Earth Sciences announces the National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science:

Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced the National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science. The Ministry has awarded the Lifetime Excellence Award 2020 to **Professor Ashok Sahni** for his major contribution in the field of **Biostratigraphy, Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology.**

Cabinet Approves New National Education Policy, HRD Ministry Renamed As Education Ministry:

A panel led by former **Indian Space Research Organisation** chief **K Kasturirangan** had submitted the draft of the new NEP to Union Human Resource Development Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992.

First five Rafale jets land at Ambala air force station; India welcomes the 'Golden Arrows':

The first batch of **five Rafale jets** landed in **Ambala**. It was a historic moment as they were greeted with water cannon salute at **Ambala Air Forcebase**. Rafale jets were escorted by two **Sukhoi 30 MKI** supersonic fighters as they entered Indian airspace.

Chhattisgarh's Bijapur Tops Niti Aayog's Aspirational Districts Ranking for Feb-June 2020:

Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by government think-tank **Niti Aayog** for the February-June 2020 period.

Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and **Bahraich** (Uttar Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions respectively and **Nawada**

(Bihar) has been ranked fourth and **Moga** (Punjab) is at the fifth place.

NamamiGange project included in 'Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration':

NamamiGange project has been included in the prestigious '**Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration**'. National Mission for Clean Ganga, NMCG, **DG Rajiv Ranjan Mishra** instructed District Magistrates and other officials associated with the District Ganga Committees to submit their nominations for this year's prestigious award.

Agartala ranks no. 1 among 10 smart cities of Northeast India:

Tripura's capital city **Agartala** has been ranked first amongst the ten smart cities in the **North Eastern Region** after it scaled up from **76 to 54** in the national rankings of the 100 smart cities of India.

Telangana launches iMASQ mobile covid-19 testing centers:

Telangana government rolled out mobile covid-19 testing centers in containment zones and low-income group residential areas across the state. Buses are built with '**Intelligent Monitoring Analysis Services Quarantine**'(iMASQ) technology by Vera Smart Healthcare.

Piyush Goyal Inaugurates CII National Digital Conference on "Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat":

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the National Digital Conference on "**Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat**" organized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry** (CII) with the **Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal**

Trade (DPIIT) to improve the business environment of India.

Kerala plans to provide tap connections to all rural households by 2023:

Kerala government has planned to provide **tap connections** to every rural household by **2023**. Out of total 67.15 lakh rural households, the state is making efforts to achieve the target of 21.42 lakh FHTCs in **2020-21**.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge in Bihar:

Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and MSMEs **Shri Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the upstream carriageway of **Mahatma Gandhi bridge** over river Ganga through video conference in **Bihar**. This over 5.5 km four-lane bridge lies at NH-19 between **Patna** and **Hajipur**. It is being constructed at a cost of **Rs 1742 crore**.

Madhya Pradesh to begin 'Ek Mask-AnekZindagi' public awareness campaign:

A public awareness campaign called '**Ek Mask-AnekZindagi**' means one mask-many lives will be conducted till August 15 in many districts of **Madhya Pradesh**.

Northern Railway runs first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train:

Northern Railway ran first-ever **Vyapar Mala Express** train to help small traders in moving their cargo via Railways in a short time, cost-effective, convenient & environment-friendly mode of transportation. Railways earned more than **Rs. 94 Lakhs** from this. It will cover a distance of 2, 673 km from Punjab to Tripura.

Central Railway designs robot 'Rakshak' for health assistant:

Mumbai Division of **Central Railway (CR)** has designed a health assistant robot '**Rakshak**' who can remotely communicate between doctor and patient.

Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy launched cybercrime awareness programme 'E-Raksha Bandhan':

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy** launched a one-month long virtual cybercrime awareness programme '**E-Raksha Bandhan**' in **Amaravati**. The Aim of the Programme is to create awareness among women, youth and children on Cyber Crimes across the state.

Ministry of Tourism holds its 44th webinar on "Heritage Tourism in Gujarat" under Dekho Apna Desh series:

The state encompasses some sites of the ancient **Indus Valley Civilisation**, such as **Lothal, Dholavira** and **GolaDhoro**. Lothal is believed to be one of the world's first seaports. Gujarat's coastal cities, chiefly Bharuch and Khambhat, served as ports.

Union Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurates Mizoram's first golf resort:

Union Tourism Minister **Prahlad Singh Patel** virtually inaugurated Mizoram's first golf course and resort at Thenzawl in Serchhip district, about 90 km from **Aizawl**.

Defence Ministry signs MoU with IIT-Kanpur, DARPG for AI-based public grievance redressal:

Defence Ministry said it signed a tripartite MOU with the Indian **Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** and the **Department of Administrative Reforms**

and Public Grievances (DARPG) to develop artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques to conduct predictive analysis of public grievances.

Uttar Pradesh government to set up MSME industrial parks:

Uttar Pradesh government will set up industrial parks for **Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises** (MSME) in six of its most industrialized districts, including Varanasi and Kanpur, and has invited proposals from consultants for it.

The state government has also started work on a detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed **601km-long Ganga Expressway** between Meerut and Prayagraj.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju chairs 1st General Council meeting of Khelo India Scheme:

Kiren Rijiju urged the states to organize State-level **Khelo India Games** annually with an effort to identify a larger number of grassroots-level & spoke of the **5 zonal** talent scouting committees that are being planned for **East, West, North, South & North East India**.

Haryana Minister Anil Vij Launches "Works Management System" Web Portal to its ULBs:

Haryana's Urban local bodies and Home Minister **Anil Vij** launched the first of its kind "**Works Management System**" a web-based, paperless and centralized web portal for the management and monitoring of the development works in the **Urban Local Bodies(ULB)** in **Haryana**.

Indira Rasoi Yojana to start in Rajasthan from August 20:

Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** directed officials to start the **Indira Rasoi Yojana** in urban areas of Rajasthan from August 20. The scheme, named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The state government would spend Rs **100 crore** per year on it. The poor would get quality nutritious food for just **Rs 8**.

Uttarakhand to develop India's first snow leopard conservation centre in Uttarkashi district:

Uttarakhand is all set to develop **India's first Snow Leopard** Conservation Centre near **Bhaironghati bridge** in **Uttarkashi district**. Uttarakhand CM **Trivendra Singh Rawat**, along with state forest minister and officials had a meeting regarding the conservation centre.

According to the officials, the centre will be developed by the Uttarakhand forest department along with **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.

CDSL gets UIDAI nod for e-KYC Aadhaar authentication:

Central Depository Services Ltd has received clearance from **UIDAI** to carry out e-KYC authentication using Aadhaar & act as a local Authentication User Agency or e-KYC User Agency. Once registered as KUA, they can open accounts using **Aadhaar-based e-KYC**.

India's first 'Kisan Rail' flagged off from Devlali Railway Station of Maharashtra:

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** flagged off the country's first '**Kisan Rail**' train from **Deolali** in **Nashik** to **Danapurin Bihar**, through video-conferencing.

PM Modi inaugurates RashtriyaSwachhata Kendra in Delhi's Raj Ghat:

PM Modi inaugurated the **RashtriyaSwachhata Kendra**, an interactive experience centre on **Swachh Bharat Mission&"GandagiMukt Bharat"** (dirt-free India) campaign on the occasion of centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha, at Raj Ghat.

KVIC set to open first Silk Training cum Production Center in Arunachal Pradesh: Khadi and Village Industries Commission

(KVIC) is set to open the first-of-its-kind training-cum-production centre of **silk** in a far-flung tribal village of **Chullyu** in **Arunachal Pradesh** in the first week of September. It is a first of its kind in the state.

Delhi Airport Develops Online Portal 'Air Suvidha' For International Passengers:

Delhi International Airport Limited has developed an online portal '**Air Suvidha**' will allow international passengers to fill a mandatory **self-declaration form**. Eligible passengers can apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.

Railway Museum Inaugurated InHubballi, Karnataka:

Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal**& Coal Minister **Pralhad Joshi** dedicated **Railway Museum at Hubballi** in **North Karnataka**. This Rail Museum is first of its kind in North Karnataka and second in **South Western Railway** after historic Mysuru Rail Museum at Mysuru.

Meghalaya Cabinet approves 50 percent reservation for women in Village Employment Councils:

Meghalaya approved Policy on Reservation of seats for Women in **Village Employment Councils (VECs)**. It brought policy of reserving at least **50%** seats for women in grassroots VECs which are apolitical organizations formed for implementation of **MGNREGA** works.

PM Modi to launch submarine cable connectivity for Andaman & Nicobar:

Prime Minister **Modi** inaugurates the submarine **Optical Fibre Cable (OFC)** connecting between **Chennai and Port Blair**.

Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launches Mobile App and backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme:

Union Textile Minister **Smriti Irani** launched mobile app & backend website for **Handloom Mark Scheme (HLM)**. She also inaugurated the 'My Handloom' portal for individual weavers and organizations for applying for various benefits, handloom marketing assistance & awards.

Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur becomes country's first municipal corporation to provide forestland right certificates to people of urban area:

Chhattisgarh's **Jagdalpur** became the **First Municipal Corporation** in India where people of an **urban area** have been provided **forest land right certificates**. Jagdalpur is among the few municipal corporations, jurisdiction areas of which includes forestlands.

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel Launches Indira Van Mitan Yojana:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** announced about the launch of "**Indira Van Mitan Yojana**" on the eve of

International Day of World Indigenous People.

It is an initiative to support forest dwellers of Chhattisgarh and achieve self-reliance.

IIT Delhi and Bihar Pollution Control Board signs MoA for GIS based Air Quality Management:

IIT Delhi and Bihar Pollution Control Board(BPCB) have joined hands in introducing GIS(Geographical Information System) based platform aiming at the management of air quality across the state of Bihar.

Haryana CM launches anti-bullying campaign of Faridabad Police:

Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the **anti-bullying campaign** by unveiling Instagram, Facebook and Twitter page of **Faridabad Police** to flag the problem of bullying in home, neighbourhood, schools, colleges and workplace and implement targeted programs to counter the menace.

Finance Minister launches an Online Dashboard for the National Infrastructure Pipeline:

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Ms Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** Online Dashboard here today through video conferencing. It will be a one-stop solution for all stakeholders looking for information on infrastructure projects in India. It is being hosted on the **India Investment Grid**.

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar launches "SURAKHSYA" portal on Human Elephant Conflict on World Elephant Day:

Minister for Environment and Forest **Prakash Javadekar** released a document on Best Practices and launched a portal on Human-Elephant Conflict named SURAKHSYA for World Elephant Day 2020. The world Elephant Day is observed on 12th August every year.

Gujarat Government Launches New Scheme "Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana" to Compensate Farmers For Crop Loss:

Gujarat government launched a scheme '**Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana**' under which farmers facing crop losses due to drought, excess rain or rain to get compensation without the collection of any premium from them. It replaces **PM FasalBima Yojana**.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches ICAR's data recovery centre 'Krishi Megh':

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched **ICAR's** data recovery centre - **Krishi Megh**. It is aimed at protecting the data of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It has been set up at **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)** in Hyderabad.

Tribal Affairs Ministry develops nine 'Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums':

Tribal Affairs Ministry is developing "**Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums**" dedicated to the contributions of the tribal people in India to the freedom struggle. Out of the nine, two are under near completion. All museums set to come into existence by **2022**.

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launches Swachh Bharat Mission Academy:

Union Minister for Jal Shakti **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)** Academy, an **Interactive Voice Response (IVR)** based free mobile online training course with modules on the **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus** programme at an event in New Delhi.

Assam government to roll out Arunodoi scheme to provide financial assistance from October 2:

Assam government is all set to roll out **Arunodoi Scheme** from October 2, 2020, with an aim to provide financial assistance to around 17 lakh families in the state.

Goa signs MoU with NSDC for setting up World-Class Skill Development Institute:

Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** for setting up an institute to provide advanced skills training.

Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Mahendra Nath Pandey** and Goa Skill Development Minister **Vishwajit Rane** were present for the ceremony to sign the MoU, which was executed online.

Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur launches nutritional immunity boosting Him HaldiDudh:

Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched Nutritional Immunity Boosting '**Him HaldiDudh(Turmeric Latte)**' manufactured by MILKFED and also distributed incentive to the **Milk Producers** of Mandi, Shimla and Kullu district under the **National Programme for Diary Development** and also interacted with them through video conference from Shimla.

Rajasthan government and SIDBI to ink MoU for cluster-based development of MSMEs:

Rajasthan government and the **Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** will soon ink an agreement to create newer avenues and growth opportunities for **MSME** units in the State.

Corporate Affairs Minister Rajesh Verma Released Report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting:

An expert panel set up by the ministry of corporate affairs has proposed a new reporting framework called as "**Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)**" for businesses to report how sustainable and responsible they are in addition to being compliant with the law.

The panel led by **Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh**, a joint secretary in the ministry **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation:**

Defence Minister launched **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIOO)**. It puts in place dedicated structures for the end-users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.

Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy Launches Welfare Sheme 'YSR Cheyutha' for Poor Women:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the **YSR Cheyutha scheme** which gives financial assistance and livelihood to poor women of **SC, ST, OBC** and other minority communities in the age group

of 45 to 60 years. It aims to benefit **23 Lakh women.**

Delhi-Katra Express Road Corridor To Be Completed By 2023; Union Minister Jitendra Singh:

Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER) **Jitendra Singh** informed that work has started on the first-of-its-kind **Katra** (Jammu and Kashmir)-**Delhi** Express Road Corridor which will be ready by **2023**. The express Corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between Katra and Delhi to around **six and half hours**, the total outlay of the project is **Rs. 35, 000 crores**.

Sports Ministry to organize 'Fit India Freedom Run' from August 15:

Sports Ministry organizes the largest country-wide run, **Fit India Freedom Run from August 15 till 2nd of October**. The government has decided to encourage participants of the event to run at their own pace - anywhere and at any time of their convenience.

Supreme Court gives equal inheritance right to daughters from 1956:

Three judges Bench of **Supreme Court (SC)** headed by Justice **Arun Mishra** and comprised of Justices **S Abdul Nazeer** and **MukeshkumarRasikbhaiShah**, the daughters will have equal inheritance rights as of sons in the properties of fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers right from the codification of the law in **1956**.

Goa's 'Khaje', 'HarmalChilli' and 'Moira banana' get GI tag:

Goa's traditional festive sweet dish '**Khaje**', spicy **HarmalChilli** and **Myndoli Banana**

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

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

Telangana Government ties up with WEF for Artificial intelligence-led innovation in agriculture:

Telangana government launched the **Artificial intelligence for Agricultural Innovation (AI4AI)** programme, in collaboration with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, India (C4IR), and **World Economic Forum**. The government of **Telangana** has declared **2020** as the Year of AI to accelerate AI readiness

West Bengal Government Launches 'Karma SathiPrakalpa' scheme to Provide Soft Loans and Subsidies to Youth:

West Bengal chief minister **Mamata Banerjee** said that the state government will provide soft loans and subsidies to make the youth self-reliant.

It also launched '**MatirSmriti**' scheme to utilise **50, 000 acres** of barren land in 6 districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches SRIJAN portal for Indigenization in Defence Sector:

Defence Minister has launched a portal "**SRIJAN**" which is a one-stop-shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for indigenization. This is to help industry partners to play an active role towards self-reliance in **defence sector**.

Odisha retains top spot in effective implementation of AMRUT Scheme:

Odisha has retained the top rank in the country in the effective implementation of **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** scheme this year all-India ranking released by the Union Ministry of **Housing and Urban Affairs**. **Odisha** has topped the list by securing 85.67 per cent of marks. **Chandigarh** and **Telangana** have secured second and third positions with 75.08 and 74.04 per cent respectively.

National Health Authority board Approves to integrate central health schemes with Ayushman Bharat:

Governing board of **National Health Authority (NHA)** approved a proposal to integrate existing health schemes of Central Ministries and public sector undertakings with **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** chaired by Union health Minister **Harsha Vardhan**.

Two over bridges of Ahmedabad named after late Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj:

In Gujarat, two over bridges of **Ahmedabad** city have been named after late **Arun Jaitley** and **Sushma Swaraj**. The Railway over the bridge in Ranip area of the city will be known as **Atmanirbhar Gujarat Railway Flyover**. The newly built flyover at the Income Tax circle will be known as **Arun Jaitley flyover**, while another flyover at Anjali crossroad will be known as **Sushma Swaraj Bridge**.

Punjab CM launches 'Smart Connect Scheme' gives smartphones to students:

Punjab government took a major digital leap forward with the statewide launch of its **Rs 92**

crore' Punjab Smart Connect Scheme' by Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh**, who handed over smartphones to six Class XII students in a symbolic gesture.

Punjab achieved 1st rank in operationalisation of Health & Wellness Centers (HWCs):

Punjab has achieved **1st** rank in operationalisation of **Health & Wellness Centers (HWCs)** as per the latest ranking of states released by the Government of India. This scheme was launched in the state in the year 2019.

India aims to have zero road fatalities by 2030:

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Jairam Gadkari** while addressing the **Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce** and **Womennovator** on Trade Investment and collaborations in Road infrastructure has underlined India's initiatives to achieve **Zero Road Fatalities by 2030**.

President approves 84 gallantry awards for Defence personnel:

President **Ram Nath Kovind** has approved **84 gallantry** awards for Defence personnel, including **nine Shaurya Chakra**. The Kirti Chakra has been posthumously awarded to **Abdul Rashid Kalas**, Head Constable, Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The awards include **Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakras, Bar to Sena Medals, Sena Medals, Nao Sena Medals & Vayu Sena Medals**.

Indian Railways constructing world's tallest pier bridge across river Ijai in Manipur:

North East Frontier Railway zone has constructed the **world's tallest pier bridge** in the North-Eastern state of **Manipur** to provide connectivity. It is constructed across **River Ijai**. Its tallest pier height will be of **141 meters**. The total length of the bridge will be **703 meters**.

Nagaland CM launches e-commerce platform 'Yellowchain':

Nagaland Chief Minister **Neiphiu Rio** launched an e-commerce platform '**Yellowchain**' during the State level celebration of India's Independence Day at Secretariat Plaza, Kohima.

European Union launches Project Nirmanshree to empower 3000 women-led households in Odisha and Maharashtra:

With an aim to enhance women's entrepreneurial skills in **low-cost** and green housing related services, and to strengthen the delivery of such services through government and private sector in India, Habitat for Humanity India launched **Project Nirmanshree**, funded by the **European Union**.

Government aims to create five crore jobs in MSME sector: Nitin Gadkari:

Speaking at **SWAVALAMBAN** E-Summit 2020 organized by "**Lets Endorse Development**" NGO in Delhi, MSME Minister said that government will increase MSME exports to **60%** from **48%**& create 5 crore jobs in next **5 years**. According to him 11 crore jobs were created so far.

Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa vows to build a 'Kalyana Rajya':

Karnataka Chief Minister **B S Yediyurappa** has vowed to build a '**Kalyana Rajya**' a Welfare state with the avowed principle of 'development' as the only mantra.Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa informed that the government has come to the rescue of farmers in distress by buying **Rs 3, 175 crore** worth of farm products such as green gram, tur dal, groundnut, chickpea and copra under the minimum support price programme from **5.82 lakh farmers**.

PM Modi to inaugurate First World Solar Technology Summit to be held on Sept 8:

The First World Solar Technology Summit will be organized by **International Solar Alliance** on 8th of September virtually. Nobel Laureate **Dr M. Stanley Whittingham** will present the Key-note Address during the inaugural ceremony.

Andhra Pradesh teams up with NPCI and Canara Bank for digital payments in Rural Areas:

Andhra Pradesh government has announced teaming up with the **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)** and **Canara Bank** to empower over 15, 000 village and ward secretariats with **digital payments** in the **rural areas**.

Chhattisgarh CM announces fund for contribution towards Ram Van Gaman project:

Chhattisgarh will create a dedicated fund for contributions from people towards the development of the state government's ambitious '**Ram Van Gaman Tourist Circuit**' project.Nine sites have been selected in the first phase of the project

Chhattisgarh Government Launched 'PadhaiTuhar Para' scheme for school students:

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** announced the launch of a special scheme "**PadhaiTuhar Para**" under which **school students** will be able to learn in their respective localities in view of the suspension of classes due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya':

Tribal Affairs Minister **Arjun Munda** launched e-portal on tribal health & nutrition, "**Swasthya**". It provides all health-related information of the tribal population on a single platform.

The ministry partnered with **Facebook** for **Going Online As Leaders (GOAL)** programme. An e-newsletter on health and nutrition "**ALEKH**" was also launched.

Gwalior-Chambal Expressway to be named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

Gwalior to **Chambal** Expressway is to be named as **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal**. The announcement was made by **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** while paying tribute to the former Prime Minister on his second death anniversary.

Indian Railways Deploys Ninja Drones For Better Security And Surveillance Of Railway Assets:

Indian Railways has started deploying drones for better security and surveillance of its assets including station premises, track sections, yards and workshops.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches farm-to-fork service portal VedKrishi.com:

Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), **Nitin Gadkari** has launched an online farm-to-fork service platform called **VedKrishi.com**. The platform will connect farmers to the consumers.

Uttar Pradesh's Manduadil railway station to be renamed as Banaras:

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved the renaming of **Manduadil Railway Station** in **Uttar Pradesh** as '**Banaras**'. In 2019, Former Union Minister ManojSinha had written to UP Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** requesting the change in name of the Manduadil Railway Station.

'DhanwantariRath' to bring ayurveda at doorsteps of Delhi Police families:

A MoU was signed between the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** and the **Delhi Police** for extending **Ayurvedic Mode** of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of the force. Supported by the **AYUSH ministry**, these services will be provided by AIIA through a mobile unit named '**DhanwantariRath**' and Police Wellness Centres.

Madhya Pradesh government to provide poor people Rs. one per kg wheat, rice, salt from Sept 1:

Madhya Pradesh CM announced **Rs 1 per kg** wheat, rice & salt for as many as **37 lakh** such poor people across the state not covered under the national food security scheme. Apart from this 5 kg per person free ration to be provided to poor families by November.

Uttar Pradesh govt introduces new electronics manufacturing policy:

Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has unveiled a new electronics manufacturing policy to become a global electronics hub and attract international investors looking to shift their base to India. PM's vision of achieving **ZERO imports of electronics goods**.

The policy aims at inviting investments of **Rs 40, 000 crore** in five years and creating four lakh direct jobs.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participates in 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:

The two day conference was organized virtually for the first time due to COVID-19. The event was organized by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, Geneva, jointly with the Parliament of **Austria** and with the support of the **United Nations (UN)**.

The theme of the conference was **"Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet"**.

Jharkhand government launches new state emblem:

Jharkhand unveiled a **new logo** which is circular in size with the **Emblem** of India representing cooperative federalism placed at the centre. Logo is encircled with **green colour**, which depicts the greenery of the state and symbolizes happiness and prosperity.

Madhya Pradesh emerges as leading state in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme:

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the leading state in the implementation of

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma-Nirbhar Scheme-PM Swa-Nidhi. PM Swa-Nidhi is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities.

Tribal Affairs Minister launches "Trifood Project" in Raigad, Jagdalpur:

The tertiary processing centres of "**Trifood Project**" of **TRIFED**, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been virtually launched by the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda. The Trifood project has been launched in **Raigad, Maharashtra** and **Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh**. This project is expected to help in encouraging the tribal entrepreneurship.

Andhra Pradesh inks pact with Reliance, Allana group for empowering women:

Andhra Pradesh government has signed MoUs with **Reliance Retail, Jio** and **Allana group** to collaborate in the **YSR Cheyutha**, a scheme for empowering women.

Uttar Pradesh Govt Inks Deal with Israel for Bundelkhand water crisis solution:

Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has signed a '**Plan Of Cooperation**' with the Government of **Israel** for the management of water resources in **Bundelkhand** region of the state, which faces potable water shortage in summers.

National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020:

National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020 released by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) & National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR)** predicts **13.9 lakh**

cases of cancer in India in 2020 and is likely to rise to **15.7 lakh by 2025**

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

According to the Ministry of Finance businesses with an annual turnover of up to **Rs 40 Lakh** are **GST exempt**. Initially, this limit was Rs 20 Lakh. Additionally, those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and **pay only 1% tax**.

Central Government constitutes National Council for Transgender Persons:

Under section 16 of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019, National Council for Transgender Persons is constituted. Social Justice and Empowerment Minister to be the ex-officio Chairperson & Minister of State to be ex-officio ViceChairperson.

India's Longest River Ropeway Over Brahmaputra Opens In Guwahati:

India's **longest river** ropeway connecting north and south banks of **Brahmaputra river** was inaugurated in **Guwahati**. The 2-km long ropeway built at a cost of **Rs 56 crore** is for the first time ropeway towers were made deep inside the bed of India's major river.

Delhi government launches campaign for registration of construction workers:

Delhi government launched **Niraman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan**, under which a mega registration campaign will be held for construction workers from **August 24 to September 11**.

Kerala's first-ever Dragonfly Festival to be held soon:

WWF-India State unit joined hands with **Society for Odonate Studies (SOS)** and

Thumbipuranam for the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, christened Thumbi Mahotsavam2020. Dragonfly backyard watch is announced to enhance the participation of people. **Pantalu** is the MASCOT of the festival.

3 dayNuakhai festival celebrated in western parts of Odisha:

Nuakhai is a festival observed in **Odisha** to celebrate the reaping of new crops. Nuakhai is celebrated in **western Odisha** and some parts of Chhattisgarh as a **harvest festival**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

India announces 400-million-dollar currency swap for Sri Lanka:

Reserve Bank of India has signed necessary documents for extending a **400-million-dollar** currency swap facility with the **Central Bank of Sri Lanka**. This currency swap arrangement will remain available till November 2022.

India and EU renew Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation till 2025:

India and **European Union** have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years till **2025**. The Agreement was initially signed on 23rd November in 2001 and renewed two times in 2007 and 2015.

Reliance Industries overtakes Exxon to become world's No. 2 energy company:

Reliance Industries Ltd controlled by Asia's richest man, toppled **ExxonMobil Corp.** to become the world's largest energy company. Ambani's dealmaking has lured investments from Google to Facebook Inc. into his digital platform in recent months.

India extends medical assistance worth about USD 1 million to North Korea:

India has extended medical assistance worth about **USD 1 million** to **North Korea** in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ministry of External Affairs stated.

FM Sitharaman attends 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB:

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** through a video conference in New Delhi.

Theme: "AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade".

India hands over 10 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh:

India provided **10 railway** locomotives to **Bangladesh** as grant assistance, with the leadership of the two sides committing themselves to more connectivity and infrastructure initiatives to boost trade and create new supply chains.

India to set up Solar Power Plant in Sri Lanka:

India plans to build a solar power park in **Sri Lanka** as part of a strategy to project its presence in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** amid **Chinese** attempts to lure nations into its '**Belt and Road**' initiative aware of the development.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Zimbabwe in the field of traditional system of medicine and Homoeopathy:

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has given ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding signed between the **Republic of India** and

the **Republic of Zimbabwe** on cooperation in the field of traditional system of **Medicine** and **Homoeopathy**.

ADB sanctions \$3 million to India to fight against Covid-19:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced that it approved **\$3 million** to **Indian** government to combat Covid-19. The fund has been granted out of its **Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF)** which will provide helping hands to the government's emergency.

India, Mauritius PMs To Inaugurate New Supreme Court Building in Port Louis, Mauritius:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his **Mauritian** counterpart **Pravind Jugnauth** will jointly inaugurate Mauritius' **new Supreme Court building** which has been constructed with Indian assistance.

SABIC chemical plant to become first of its kind to operate on 100% renewable power:

Polycarbonate facility of **SABIC** in **Spain**, is set to become the **World's first large scale industry** to completely run on renewable power on signing a major agreement with **Iberdrola**, an electricity utility company to secure power from solar power projects.

Prakash Javadekar participates in 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting:

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Prakash Javadekar** participated in the **6th BRICS Environment Ministers** Meeting under the presidency of **Russia** along with the Environment minister of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa over a virtual platform from **New Delhi**. India will assume the BRICS Presidency in **2021**.

UAE launches Arab world's first nuclear power plant:

United Arab Emirates (UAE) had successfully opened a nuclear power plant, becoming the **first Arab country** to produce nuclear energy. The **\$22.4 billion** (€19 billion) Barakah plant on the Gulf coast west of Abu Dhabi is being developed by a consortium led by the **Korea Electric Power Corporation**.

Bangladesh Receives \$202 million from World Bank to Increase Food Security:

World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved **\$202 million** in additional financing for the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project to increase the storage capacity of **Bangladesh's** national strategic grain reserves by 535, 500 tons for 4.5 million households.

ADB signs Dollar 200 million financing deal with Reliance for power plant in Bangladesh:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a **\$200 million** financing deal with **Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited** (RBLPL) to build and operate a **718-megawatt** combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh. It is to ease ongoing energy shortages.

UK to issue coin in honour of Mahatma Gandhi to mark 150th birth anniversary:

Chancellor of the Exchequer **Rishi Sunak's** office confirmed that **Mahatma Gandhi's** image on a coin is being considered as part of efforts to celebrate achievements of non-white individuals such as Indian-origin British spy Noor Inayat Khan and Jamaican British nurse Mary Seacole.

India contributes over \$15 mn to India-UN Development Partnership Fund:

India has contributed **USD 15.46 million** to the **India-UN Development Partnership Fund**, underscoring the country's commitment to supporting developing nations in its developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Exim Bank extends \$250 million line of credit to Mozambique:

Export-Import Bank of India has extended a **\$250-million** (about Rs. 1, 870 crore) line of credit to **Mozambique** for improving power supply quality in the country. Exim Bank till date has extended 14 LOCs to Mozambique, taking their total value to **\$772.44 million**

India extends assistance of USD 1 million to Antigua and Barbuda to combat COVID-19 pandemic:

Indian government has extended an assistance of **USD 1 million** to Antigua and Barbuda to combat the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic**. The provided assistance is aimed at improving health capacities and infrastructure in the Caribbean country.

India and Nigeria sign MoU on space cooperation:

Government of **India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Space Cooperation** with the Federal government of **Republic of Nigeria** at the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology headquarters in **Abuja, Nigeria**.

ADB approves \$1 billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System construction:

Phillipines-based **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved **\$1 billion** loan for

construction of the modern, high-speed **Delhi-Meerut** Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India.

The **82-kilometre** Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut **RRTS** will be implemented in phases between the cities. It will be implemented in four tranches between **August 2020** and **May 2025**.

India Post Issued Stamps on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India:

India Post has released a set of **five commemorative postage stamps** and a miniature sheet on **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** in India on 15th August 2020 on the occasion of 74th Independence Day. This is the third part of the series.

The stamps depicts following five cultural sites of India-Historic City of **Ahmedabad**, Churches and Convents of **Goa**, Group of Monuments at **Pattadakal**, **Khajuraho** Group of Monuments, **Qutub Minar**.

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

Apple Inc. has become the first publicly traded **U.S. Company** to reach a market capitalization of **over \$2 trillion**, after its share price climbed above \$467.77 on 19 August 2020. Apple is also the world's only second company to hit \$2 trillion in market cap.

41 lakh young Indians lost jobs due to COVID-19 crisis: ILO-ADB Report

As many as **41 lakh youth** in the country lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic while construction and farm sector workers account for the majority of job losses, according to a joint report by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

India, Israel sign cultural agreement to further boost people-to-people ties:

Israel's Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi and India's Ambassador to **Israel, Sanjeev Singla** signed the agreement. Programme of cooperation between the 2 countries for the years 2020-23 is based on the cultural agreement signed between them on 18 May 1993.

AIIB and India sign agreement of USD 500 million for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III:

Maharashtra government and **Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation** has signed a loan agreement of **USD 500 million** dollars with the **Asian Infrastructure Investment bank (AIIB)** for **Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III**.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

RBI estimates gross NPA of banks may rise to 12.5% by March 2021:

Reserve Bank of India released the **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** that "reflects the collective assessment of the sub-committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on risks to financial stability".

Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of the country's scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from **8.5 percent** in **March 2020** to **12.5 percent** by **2021**.

SBI Funds Management gets RBI nod to buy up to 10 pc in CSB Bank:

Reserve Bank of India has given approval to **SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd** to acquire shares up to **10 per cent** of the paid-up capital of **CSB Bank** through various schemes of the SBI Mutual Fund. SBI Mutual Fund

currently holds 4.734 per cent in the paid-up capital.

Bank of Maharashtra joins hands with Uniken for Omni-channel security:

One of the leading cyber security companies in India - **Uniken** has been chosen by the state-owned **Bank of Maharashtra** for its innovative and unique REL-ID technology to secure not just their internet banking channels but also mobile, card, call centres, ATM etc. using REL-ID's **Omni-channel** verification mechanism.

Banks sanctions about Rs 90, 000 crore concessional credit to 1.1 crore Kisan Credit Card holders:

Banks have sanctioned **Rs 89, 810 crore** to about 1.1 crore **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** holders to help farmers meet finances for kharif sowing and allied activities. This marks an increase of Rs 26, 940 crore over Rs 62, 870 crore sanctioned.

Tata AIA Life Insurance launches "Express Claims" Service That Promises Payouts In 4 Hours:

Private sector **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has announced a new facility that promises to process life insurance claim pay-outs within four hours of registering them. "Tata AIA Life's **Express Claims** within four hours is the fastest claims pay-out by any life insurer in the country".

Bharti AXA Insurance launches 'BohotZaroori Hai' campaign for crop insurance:

Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between **Bharti Enterprises**, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, has launched its crop insurance campaign -

'BohotZaroori Hai' - for farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka to encourage them about their crop protection and financial security.

SBI Card and IRCTC launch co-branded contactless credit card on RuPay platform:

SBI Card and **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)** launched the IRCTC SBI Card on **RuPay platform**. The card is equipped with **Near Field Communication (NFC)** technology. Customers can simply tap their cards at a secure reader for convenient, secure and faster transactions.

SBI providing USD 16 million liquidity support for local businesses in Maldives:

State Bank of India (SBI) is providing liquidity support of **USD 16.20 million** for local businesses and deferred loan repayment for over 200 retail accounts, the Indian High Commission in the **Maldives**.

Axis Bank launches AI-powered conversational voice BOT for IVR:

Private sector lender **Axis Bank** unveiled as **Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA'**, which is an artificial intelligence-powered conversational voice BOT.

Sundaram Mutual Fund launches 'Any-day SIP':

Sundaram Mutual has given investors the freedom to select a date on which their **systematic investment plan (SIP)** needs to be deducted from bank account rather than choosing from the six different dates usually fixed by the fund houses.

SIDBI and TransUnion CIBIL launch knowledge platform MSMESaksham:

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with **TransUnion CIBIL** has launched **MSMEsaksham**, to support the revival of India's economy and strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). It is a comprehensive financial education and knowledge platform for MSMEs.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Launches 'Kona KonaUmeed' a Two-Month Campaign with Offers and Discounts:

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a special two-month campaign, '**Kona KonaUmeed**' with offers and discounts across its suite of products to make banking and shopping more rewarding for the customers so as to boost consumer demand and lift people's enthusiasm during this pandemic situation.

Craft Silicon and PayU announce strategic tie-up to advance digital loan repayment:

A global financial software solution provider **Craft Silicon** has entered into a strategic partnership with **PayU**, India's online payment solutions provider to innovate and accelerate the digital loan repayment solutions for small finance banks, micro-lending institutions and **Non Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**.

MobiKwik launches personal UPI payment link mpay.me:

Digital wallet company, **MobiKwik** has launched "**mpay.me**" UPI link service that allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app. This single link created using mpay.me can be shared anywhere to **send and receive money** and will work seamlessly on mobile as well as desktop.

Bandhan Bank holding firm sells 20.95% stake to meet RBI norms:

Bandhan Bank has met the promoter holding norms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after its holding company **Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd (BFHL)** sold **20.95%** stake in the bank to at least seven investors. GIC is an existing shareholder of Bandhan Bank.

Bank of Baroda Credit Card offers EMIs on PoS Terminals in partnership with Innoviti:

Bank of Baroda Credit Card customers get another unique offering in terms of convenient and affordable **EMI** options, as BOB Financial Solutions Limited ties up with **Innoviti Payment Solutions**. Bank of Baroda credit cardholders pan India can receive the service from over **70, 000 Innoviti** POS terminals across more than 1,000 cities.

Listed entities get 3 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding:

Government has notified changes in the **Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957**, providing more time to listed entities to meet criteria of minimum public shareholding of **25 per cent**.

"In the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, in rule 19A, in sub-rule (1), in the proviso, for the words '**Two Years**' the words '**Three Years**' shall be substituted".

Canara Bank ties up with three insurers to provide Corona Kavach policies:

Canara Bank said it has tied-up with three insurance companies to sell short-term **Corona Kavach** policy to cover COVID-19 related health expenses.

The bank has tied up with **New India Assurance Company Ltd, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd** and **HDFC ERGO Health Insurance** as part of social commitment to indemnify the unprecedented expenses of common man.

National Bank of Bahrain Selects Infosys Finacle to Digitally Transform its Transaction Banking Business:

National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) the Kingdom's leading provider of retail and commercial banking services, and Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Infosys** announced the bank's decision to adopt the **Finacle Cash Management Suite** to digitally transform its transaction banking business.

NPCI launches omni-channel loyalty platform 'nth Rewards':

National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its own business intelligence and analytics enabled omni-channel multi-branded loyalty platform, '**nth Rewards**'.

The loyalty rewards platform allows users to earn '**nth**' points through various bank transactions and redeem them faster on various exciting products, e-vouchers, donations, hotel and flight bookings.

South India Bank gets RBI nod for setting up non-financial subsidiary:

Private sector lender **South Indian Bank (SIB)** said the RBI has given an in-principle approval for setting up a **wholly owned non-financial subsidiary**.

Paytm launches 'India's first Pocket Android PoS device for easy and contactless payments:

Paytm launched an Android-based **pocket-sized** point of sale (POS) device named '**Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS**' that is enabled with integrated billing software, camera for QR scanning and supports 4G SIM cards Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity. It is available for an introductory monthly rental of **Rs. 499**.

BSE join hands with bullion trade associations to deepen commodity derivatives market:

Leading Stock Exchange **BSE** signed an MoU with **Akola Sarafa Association** and Akola SarafaVaSuvarnakar**Yuva Sangh**, two bullion trade associations for deepening commodity derivatives market. They represent members engaged in retail sale and trade of bullion.

RBI announces 'positive pay' feature to enhance safety of cheque payments:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce a mechanism of '**Positive Pay**' for all cheques of value **Rs 50, 000** and above. The limit of Rs 50, 000 will cover approximately **20 per cent** of transactions by volume and **80 per cent** by value.

RBI to implement system-based asset classification in urban co-operative banks:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to implement system-based asset classification in **urban co-operative banks (UCBs)**, prescribing a timeline based on their asset size.

UCBs having total assets of **Rs. 2, 000 crore** or above as on March 31, 2020, have to implement system-based asset classification with effect from June 30, 2021.

Federal Bank and Fiserv partner to launch their First Independent Credit Card 'Federal Bank Credit Card':

Federal Bank, private sector bank in India, has teamed-up with **Fiserv, Inc.**, global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions, in a bid to support the launch of the "**Federal Bank credit card**". This initiative is also taken to enable the digitization of the bank's end-to-end card issuance and processing cycle.

HDFC Bank launches Shaurya KGC card for armed forces:

HDFC Bank has launched the "**Shaurya KGC card**" for the armed forces. The product is based on **KISAN CREDIT CARD** guidelines by the government and will provide armed forces personnel with finance for agricultural requirements like production of the crop, etc.,

RBI Board approves transfer of Rs 57, 128 crore as surplus to government:

RBI Board approved the transfer of **Rs 57, 128 crore** as surplus to the government for the accounting year 2019-20 while maintaining the Contingency Risk Buffer at **5.5%**. This was decided at the 584th meeting of the Central Board of RBI chaired by the Governor.

SBI introduces Kisan Credit Card review feature on YONO Krishi:

SBI added a new feature called **Kisan Credit Card** Review on **YONO Krishi** to make the lives of farmer customers easier by offering them technology-backed solutions. With this, farmers need not visit a bank branch to apply for a revision in their KCC limit.

Punjab National Bank launches "Digital Apnayen"campaign to promote digital banking:

State-owned Punjab National Bank launched "**Digital Apnayen**" campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.

Under the campaign 'DIGITAL APNAYEN', the bank will contribute **Rs 5** towards the **PM CARES Fund** on behalf of each customer conducting the first financial transaction to activate their **RuPay Debit card** either on **point of sale (PoS)** or e-commerce platform.

Multi Commodity Exchange of India to launch India's first bullion index, Bulldex:

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) will launch India's first bullion index named Bulldex. The Bulldex will have a market lot size of **50** and **gold** and **silver** will be underlying. It will be a cash-settled futures contract.

RBI unveils framework for umbrella entity to manage payment systems:

RBI unveiled the framework to set up a **Pan-India Umbrella Entity** with a **Minimum capital of Rs 500 crore**, which will set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the retail payment space & invited applications from eligible companies by Feb 26, 2021.

Minimum net-worth of **Rs 300 crore** to be maintained at all time. The umbrella entity shall be a Company authorized by **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) under **Section 4 of the PSS Act, 2007**.

RBL Bank partners with Accenture for Digital Transformation Journey:

Mumbai based **RBL Bank** has signed on information technology (IT) services and consultancy firm **Accenture** for its digital

transformation initiatives. Accenture will help RBL bank to upgrade its IT systems to improve operational efficiency.

Government modifies partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0, extends it by three months:

Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS)

2.0 was launched by Central Government.Purpose of Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0 to provide Portfolio Guarantee for purchase of **Bonds** or **Commercial Papers** (CPs) with a rating of AA and below issued by NBFCs/HFCs/ MFIs by **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**.

At the portfolio level, AA and AA- investment sub-portfolio under the Scheme should not exceed **50%** (instead of **25%** stipulated earlier) of the total portfolio of Bonds/ CPs purchased by PSBs under the Scheme.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank launches "LVB DigiGo" instant account opening facility:

Lakshmi Vilas Bank launched "**LVB DigiGo**" a digital initiative to enable opening of savings account instantly to help people to avail the most required banking services through website. It can be converted to a fully-featured account, upon visiting a branch.

Fino Payments Bank launches Aadhaar authentication based digital savings account "Jan BachatKhata":

Fino Payments Bank has launched **Jan BachatKhata (JBK)**an Aadhaar authentication based digital savings account that it said would bring neo-banking experience to consumers.

Tata Capital launches 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' on WhatsApp:

Tata Capital, the financial services arm of the Tata Group announced the launch of its

new service called '**Swift Insta Personal Loans**' (**SIPL**) on **WhatsApp**.The chatbot was recently launched on WhatsApp as a service platform to facilitate customer requests including queries on EMI details or updating customer records.

YES Bank launches unique facility 'Loan against Securities':

'**Loan against Securities**' is an unique digital solution launched by the YES Bank under its loan in seconds platform. "**Loan against Securities**" will enable customers to avail loan facility against the securities that they hold. The customers are required only to pledge the securities and not selling them.

Edelweiss Tokio Life partners with Element AI for AI transformation journey:

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited has partnered with **Element AI**, a global developer of **AI** (Artificial Intelligence)-powered solutions and products, to develop, design and implement a strategic AI roadmap for the new age insurer and prioritise their investments into AI.

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

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched its wholly-owned subsidiary firm named NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).**Ritesh Shukla** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIPL.

RBI Releases National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025:

National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE: 2013-2018) the revised NSFE (2020-2025) has been prepared and the document

for the same was released by **Mahesh Kumar Jain**, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 20, 2020.

The document recommends adoption of a '5 C' approach viz. **Content, Capacity, Community, Communication and Collaboration.**

HSBC India Becomes 1st Foreign Bank in India to launch a 'Green Deposit Programme' for Corporate Clients to Finance Green Initiatives:

HSBC has announced the launch of its **Green Deposit programme** in India for its corporate clients. The first-of-its-kind product for the Indian market, the Green Deposit will enable the bank's clients to support greener more sustainable projects.

Digit Insurance Launches SME Buddy to Simplify Insurance for SMEs and Startups on World Entrepreneurs' Day:

On world's entrepreneur day, technology-driven general insurance company **Digit Insurance** has launched an exclusive do-it-yourself (DIY) advisory tool for **Small And Medium Enterprises** (SMEs) and **startups**, **SME Buddy**. Digit recently won '**Insurance Start-up of the Year-India**' Awards by **Insurance Asia**.

Religare Health Insurance to be renamed as Care Health Insurance:

Religare Health Insurance is an Indian health insurance firm established by Religare enterprise limited, **Union Bank of India** and **Corporation Bank**. The company is headquartered in **Gurgaon, Haryana**.

SBI General Insurance launches 'Shagun - Gift insurance' policy:

SBI General Insurance, one of the leading general insurance companies in India, today

announced the launch of first-of-its-kind offering, '**Shagun – Gift an Insurance**', a unique gift of Personal Accident policy.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and SBI General Insurance Co Ltd Signed MoU to Sell General Insurance Products:

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) and **SBI General Insurance Co Ltd** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in **Dharwad, Karnataka** to sell general insurance products through the branches of KVGB.

ICICI Lombard and Bharti AXA ink agreement to combine their non-life insurance business:

ICICI Lombard and **Bharti AXA** is to combine their non-life insurance business portfolio. The proposed transaction will make it as third largest among non-life insurers, take it total Rs 164.47 billion annual premium with a combined market share **8.7%**.

ESIC extends unemployment benefit scheme 'Atal BimitVyakti Kalyan Yojna' up to June 30, 2021:

Atal BimitVyakti Kalyan Yojana is being implemented by **Employee State Insurance Corporation**, approved under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. The scheme provides **25%** of average per day earning in the previous four contribution periods.

SBI Partners with AddaCorner to Launch 'Online Home Carnival':

State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with India's First Real-Time Group Negotiation E-Platform, **AddaCorner** to launch '**Online Home Carnival**', which will help in boosting the Real Estate market in Bangalore. Along with the launch of 'Online Home Carnival', AddaCorner was also launched.

NABARD launches credit guarantee programme for NBFC-MFIs:

NABARD introduced dedicated debt & credit guarantee product to ensure flow of credit.

Product Structured Finance&Partial Guarantee Programme to **NBFC-MFIs** provides partial guarantee on pooled loans extended to small & mid-sized micro finance institutions.

Paytm Payments Bank enables banking services through Aadhaar cards:

Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) enabled banking services through **Aadhaar** by integrating with AePS. Customers can access to basic banking services such as cash withdrawal, balance enquiry, etc., via business correspondent of any banking & financial institution.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

TRIFED Signs MoU With IIT Delhi Under Govt's Flagship 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan':

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**) under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** entered into a partnership with IIT Delhi under the HRD Ministry's flagship '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**' (**UBA**) to increase livelihood opportunities and income generation for tribal communities.

PFC Signs Agreement With IIT-Kanpur For Smart Grid Technology:

A Government-owned NBFC **Power Finance Corporation** (PFC) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with **Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur** (IIT-K) for training, research, and entrepreneurship development in smart grid technology. Under the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of **Rs.2.38 crore** under

its **Corporate Social Responsibility** (CSR) to IIT-Kanpur.

Gujarat and UK India Business Council signs MoU to strengthen state's industrial growth:

United Kingdom India Business Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb), Industries and Mines Department**, Government of **Gujarat**. It will help to boost business and industrial development in the state of Gujarat.

Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST', in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhani Foundation:

NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission** (AIM), has launched **AIM iCREST** – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a **Robust Ecosystem** focused on creating high performing Start-ups. This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India.

Praj Signed MoU with ARAI to jointly develop application technology for green fuels:

Reliance Power and JERA sign loan deed for full financing of gas-fired thermal power project in Bangladesh:

Reliance Power has now signed a loan agreement for full financing totaling **\$642 million** with a group of banks that includes the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**. The project company agreed an EPC contract with Samsung C&T in July 2020.

Flipkart signs MoU with UP government's one District, One Product scheme:

E-commerce marketplace **Flipkart** has signed an MoU with the **One District One Product (ODOP)** scheme of the **Uttar Pradesh** government to bring artisans, weavers and craftsmen into mainstream business under the initiative named '**Flipkart Samparth**'.

CSIR and FSSAI signs MoU for collaborative research on food and nutrition:

An agreement was signed between **CSIR** and **FSSAI** for collaborative research & information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition. The collaboration between the two institutions of India is to contribute fulfilling the vision of **New Food System 2050**.

Atal Innovation Mission partners India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre:

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog & Business Sweden on behalf of India Sweden **Healthcare Innovation Centre** are collaborating to promote the disruptive potential of Indian entrepreneurs. It aims to boost the vibrant start-up ecosystems across India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

India's first NABL-accredited honey testing lab inaugurated:

Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated India's first **National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Lab (NABL)** honey testing lab set up by **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** at **Anand, Gujarat**. The new lab will test honey as per the norms specified by the food safety regulator **FSSAI**.

Indian Railways constructing world's first electrified tunnel to run double-stack containers:

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) has conducted a tunnel-breaking ceremony was held on the completion of caving work for the **one-kilometre** long tunnel of **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)** through Aravalli mountain range, near Sohna in Haryana. The tunnel connects **Mewat & Gurugram** district of Haryana.

IMD launches weather app for real-time updates and warnings across India:

Earth Sciences Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** announced a weather app that aims to provide weather forecasts and warnings in India.

"**Mausam**" (weather) developed by **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** launched as part of the 14th Foundation Day celebrations of Union Ministry of Earth Sciences on Android and iOS. It will give real-time updates and warnings across 450 cities across the country

DRDO launches 'Dare to Dream 2.0' contest to promote innovators on 5th death anniversary of Kalam:

DRDO launched a contest to promote innovators in the fields of defence and emerging technologies in India to mark the fifth death anniversary of former President **A P J Abdul Kalam**.

Defence Ministry said the winners of "**Dare to Dream 2.0**" contest would be decided after due evaluation by an expert committee.

Guwahati gets "BANDICOOT" the first manhole cleaning robot in Northeast:

Guwahati Development Department Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya inaugurated city's **first manhole** cleaning robot to ensure minimal human involvement to clean the sewers. Guwahati is the first city in the entire Northeast region to get a manhole cleaning robot. Named '**BANDICOOT**', the automatic sewer cleaning device has been procured by the **Guwahati Municipal**.

Iran Launched the Underground Ballistic Missiles During 'Great Prophet 14' Military Exercise:

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a paramilitary force, launched the underground ballistic missiles from the depths of the Earth in a completely camouflaged way during the last day of '**Great Prophet 14'** (code name- "**Payambar e Azam 14**") military exercise near Gulf waters.

Russia launches world's first registered COVID-19 vaccine 'Sputnik V':

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced approval of a coronavirus vaccine for use, claiming it as a world first. Developed by the Moscow-based **Gamaleya Institute**, it has been named "**Sputnik-V**" a reference to the world's first satellite by Soviet Union.

Hyderabad Based Startup Skyroot Aerospace Becomes First Private Company To Test Upper Stage Rocket Engine:

Hyderabad-based startup **Skyroot Aerospace** successfully tested an **Upper-Stage Rocket Engine** becoming the first Indian private company to build a homegrown rocket engine. The 3-D printed rocket engine has been named **Raman**.

Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Sarthak' launched: An offshore patrol vessel for **Indian Coast Guard** was launched and rechristened as '**Sarthak**'. It is the 4th in the series of five OPVs deployed by the Coast Guard to enhance maritime security. The launching ceremony was held at **Goa Shipyard**.

ISRO and IISc Bengaluru develop sustainable process to make "Space Bricks" on Lunar Surface:

Indian Space Research Organisation and the Indian Institute of Science in **Bengaluru** has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface. The process enables making load bearing bricks by using **lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans**.

ISRO shares image of moon crater captured by Chandrayaan-2, names it 'Vikram Sarabhai':

Indian Space Research Organisation announced that Chandrayaan-2 captured images of the Moon & named one of the craters after **Vikram Sarabhai**. Sarabhai Crater is around 250 to 300 kilometres east of the crater where the Apollo 17 and Luna 21 Missions landed.

DRDO Successfully Test Fires First Pinaka Rockets Produced by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL):

Indian Army successfully test-fired the first ever privately manufactured Pinaka rockets recently from the firing range in **Pokharan**, which achieved the desired results by accurately hitting targets.

The rockets have been manufactured by **Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)** and are the first ammunition of its kind made by the private sector in India.

DRDO lab develops 'NOTESCLEAN' sanitization device:

Hyderabad based, **DRDO** lab has developed '**NOTESCLEAN**' sanitization device, where one has to place the loose currency notes at the input slot of the device. It picks the notes one by one and makes them pass through a series of **UVC lamps** for complete disinfection.

Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary Commissions Indian Coast Guard Ship C-449:

Indian Coast Guard Ship C-449 was commissioned in **Chennai** by Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary **K. Shanmugam**. The ship is the Forty Ninth Interceptor Boat of the series, which are indigenously built and designed by M/s Larsen and Toubro Ltd, Hazira (Surat).

APPOINTMENTS and RESIGNATIONS:

Air Marshal VR Chaudhary appointed new chief of Western Air Command:

Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhary has been named as the new head of **Western Air Command of Indian Air Force**, which looks after the country's defence in North India, including Ladakh region. He will take over from **Air Marshal B Suresh**.

Tunisia Appoints Interior Minister Hichem Mechichi As The New Prime Minister:

Tunisia's Interior Minister **Hichem Mechichi** has been appointed to form the next government, the president's office said, amid political tensions among major parties in the North African country. The 46-year-old lawyer succeeds **Elyes Fakhfakh**, who resigned as prime minister earlier this month.

Croatian parliament approves new government led by incumbent Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic:

Croatian parliament approved the new government led by Prime Minister **Andrej Plenkovic** whose Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) party won the most parliamentary seats in the general election held on July 5, 2020.

Andrej Plenkovic was the prime minister of the previous government that was also led by his HDZ.

Indian-origin Politician Pritam Singh Becomes First Leader of Opposition in Parliament:

Indian-origin politician **Pritam Singh** was designated as the Leader of the Opposition in **Singapore**, the first such appointment in the history of the city-state. Mr Singh who is also a lawyer is the Secretary-General of Workers' Party.

Paytm Money appoints Varun Sridhar as CEO and Amit Kapoor as VP and CFO:

Paytm Money announced the appointment of **Varun Sridhar**, as the new Chief Executive Officer of **Paytm Money**. He will lead the launch & development of the equity brokerage other than growing the already successful mutual funds, NPS and Gold services.

JinLiqun re-elected Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank President:

Board of governors of **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, elected **JinLiqun** for a second term as President. His second five-year term will begin on **January 16, 2021**.

Liqun was re-elected as President during the 2020 AIIB Annual Meeting. The board of governors also approved the United Arab

Emirates to host the **2021** AIIB Annual Meeting, which will take place October 27-28, 2021, in **Dubai**.

S N Rajeswari appointed CMD of Oriental Insurance:

S N Rajeswari has been appointed the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of **Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL)**, according to a Personnel Ministry order. She is currently General Manager of New India Assurance Company Limited.

Ivory Coast defence minister Hamed Bakayoko Appointed as new prime minister:

Republic of **Ivory Coast** President **Alassane Ouattara** has appointed Defence Minister **Hamed Bakayoko** as Prime Minister(PM) after acting as an interim PM since the sudden death of **Amadou Gon Coulibaly**. Hamed Bakayoko will also hold his position as **Defence Minister**.

Great Eastern Shipping appoints former RBI Governor Urjit Patel as additional director:

Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd has appointed former RBI Governor **Urjit Patel** as an additional and independent director for a term of five years. Patel served as the 24th governor of the **Reserve Bank of India** from September 2016 to December 2018.

Mohamed Irfaan Ali elected as President of Guyana:

Former Guyanese housing minister **Mohamed Irfaan Ali** has been named as the President of the **Guyana**. He is a member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP). He succeeds **David Arthur Granger**.

Sashidhar Jagdishan to succeed Aditya Puri as HDFC Bank CEO:

Sashidhar Jagdishan will be the new CEO of **HDFC Bank** to replace the private lender's long-serving leader **Aditya Puri**. Jagdishan was one of three candidates shortlisted for approval by the **Reserve Bank of India**.

IFSCA Set Up Expert Committee headed by Pradip Shah to Suggest Ways to Develop of International Retail Businesses:

The committee will recommend a roadmap for the future growth of international retail business in **IFSC**. The committee, headed by **Indasia Fund Advisors** Pvt Ltd Chairman **Pradip Shah**, may invite industry experts as special invitees on need basis.

Former Union Minister Manoj Sinha Appointed New J&K Lieutenant Governor After G C Murmu Resigns:

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor **Girish Chandra Murmu** has resigned from his post and will now be replaced by former minister of state for Railways **Manoj Sinha**. **GC Murmu** was the first Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi Gets 18 Month Extension till February 2022:

Chairman of **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) **Ajay Tyagi** has been granted an extension for next **18 months**. Earlier, in February this year, he was given six months extension.

Capital India Finance limited appoints former NABARD chairman Harsh Bhanwala as Executive Chairman:

NBFC, **Capital India** Finance has appointed **Dr Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**, former NABARD chairman as Executive Chairman of the Board. Formerly he was the MD of Delhi

State Cooperative Bank from 1999-2005 and as chairman and at NABARD.

Educationist Pradeep Kumar Joshi appointed UPSC Chairman:

Educationist **Pradeep Kumar Joshi** was appointed the chairman of the **Union Public Service Commission** (UPSC), which conducts the civil services examination to select the country's bureaucrats and diplomats. He served as Director of the **National Institute of Educational Planning** and Administration.

Former J&K lieutenant governor G C Murmu appointed new CAG:

Former **Jammu and Kashmir** lieutenant governor **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been appointed the new **Comptroller and Auditor General** (CAG) of India. He succeeds **Rajiv Mehrishi** who completes his term on August 8, 2020 as he attains the age of 65.

PNB Housing Finance appoints Former SBI Card Head Hardayal Prasad as New MD and CEO:

PNB Housing Finance announced that **Hardayal Prasad**, the former SBI Card head who left the card issuer company last month, has been appointed as its new MD and CEO. Prasad will take over from **Neeraj Vyas**, the current interim CEO of PNB housing finance on 10th August 2020.

Government Forms Panel Under RoDTEP Scheme for Exporters to be Headed by G K Pillai:

Government of India has set up a **three-member committee** for determination of ceiling rates under **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme**.

Belarusian President Lukashenko wins sixth term:

Belarusian President **Alexander Lukashenko** won his sixth term with 80.23 per cent of the vote. Lukashenko garnered 80.23 per cent of the vote, while opposition candidate **Svetlana Tikhanovskaya** his main rival, won nearly 9.9 per cent.

Walter Martos sworn in as new Prime Minister of Peru:

President of **Peru Martin Vizcarra** appointed **Walter Roger Martos Ruiz**, the former defence minister and retired army general, as the country's new Prime Minister. He succeeds Pedro **Álvaro Cateriano Bellido**.

Mohamed Ould Bilal Appointed as Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Mauritania:

Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new **Prime Minister of Mauritania**. The appointment was made by the Mauritanian President **Mohamed OuldGhazouani**.

Public Enterprises Selection Board selects Soma Mondal as the next chairman of SAIL:

Soma Mondal has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board as the next chairman of public sector steel major **Steel Authority of India Limited**. Apart from being the first woman chairperson of SAIL, she will also be the **first woman** to head a major steel company in the world.

Startup eBikeGO ropes in cricketer Harbhajan Singh as brand ambassador:

Electric mobility startup **eBikeGO** has roped in Indian cricketer **Harbhajan Singh** as its brand ambassador. It is aiming to build mass appeal, positive voice and widespread adoption for electric mobility thereby looking

to capture **10%** of electric two wheeler market share by **2022**.

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi assumes charge as Director-General Naval Operations:

Vice Admiral **Dinesh K Tripathi**, an alumnus of **National Defence Academy Khadakwasla**, has assumed charge as **Director General Naval Operations (DGNO)**. He has commanded **INS Vinash**, **INS Kirch** and **INS Trishul** and he has also been awarded the **Thimmaiya Medal**.

Former RBI deputy governor S S Mundra appointed as non-executive chairman of India bulls Housing:

India bulls Housing Finance Ltd stated that former deputy RBI governor **Subhash Sheoratan Mundra** has been appointed as non-executive chairman of the company with immediate effect. Mundra had joined the board of **Indiabulls Housing Finance** in 2018 as an independent director. He succeeds **Sameer Gehlaut**.

Diplomat Vikram Kumar Doraiswami appointed India's next envoy to Bangladesh:

Indian Foreign Service officer **Vikram Kumar Doraiswami** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of **India to Bangladesh**, according to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Singer Shahzan Mujeeb Signed As First Ever National Brand Ambassador Of Aligarh Municipal Corporation:

Aligarh Municipal Corporation (AMC) has recently roped in Indian Idol Season 11 Finalist and **Oscar Nominated** Playback Singer **Shahzan Mujeeb** as its First-Ever National Brand Ambassador for **Swachh**

Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level.

IPS officer Rakesh Asthana takes charge as the 27th Director-General of Border Security Force:

Rakesh Asthana is appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force, **BSF**. He is presently working as the Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, BCAS. He will continue to hold the additional charge of DG, **Narcotics Control Bureau**.

Central bank of India appoints Ashwini Kumar Shukla as Chief Risk Officer:

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

Satya Pal Malik appointed as Meghalaya Governor:

Satya Pal Malik has been transferred as the **Governor of Meghalaya**, replacing **Tathagata Roy** who completed his five-year tenure on the post in the northeastern state, from Goa. **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** who is a Governor of Maharashtra state has been provided additional charge of **Goa**.

Ashok Lavasa resigns as Election Commissioner to join ADB as Vice-President:

Ashok Lavasa who was expected to take over the poll body from **Sunil Arora** next year resigned and would be soon joining the Philippines based **Asian Development Bank** as its **Vice-President**. He has worked as Secretary in the Union Finance Ministry.

Luis Rodolfo Abinader sworn in as President of Dominican Republic:

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

Keith Rowley Becomes Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago for a 2nd Consecutive Term:

Keith Christopher Rowley sworn in as Prime Minister of the **Republic of Trinidad and Tobago** for a **2nd** consecutive 5 year term at the President's House, following victory in general elections held recently.

Ashwani Bhatia appointed as managing director of State Bank of India:

Ashwani Bhatia has been appointed as the managing director up to the date of his superannuation that is May 31, 2022, the order stated. Bhatia will be appointed in place of **P K Gupta** who superannuated on March 31.

Bhatia is currently working as the managing director and chief executive officer at **SBI Mutual Fund**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Jamie Vardy wins Premier League's 'Golden Boot':

Leicester City's **Jamie Vardy** won the Premier League's Golden Boot after most number of goals in the 2019-20 seasons. At 33, Vardy is the oldest player to win the **Golden Boot award** and the first from Leicester City. Vardy finished the season with **23 goals**.

Indian Origin Author Avni Doshi's 'Burnt Sugar' on 2020 Booker Prize:

Dubai-based Indian-origin author **Avni Doshi** is among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious **2020 Booker Prize** for her debut novel "**Burnt Sugar**", alongside double Booker winner Hilary Mantel for **The Mirror and The Light**.

A version of the same novel has been published in India under the title "**Girl in White Cotton**".

India's First Solar-Powered Ferry Aditya Wins Global Honour:

Aditya, India's first solar-powered ferry that commenced operations in **2017** in Kerala's **Vembanad** backwaters, has won the prestigious **Gustave Trouve Award** for Excellence in **Electric Boats and Boating**.

The ferry was adjudged the **world's best electric boat** in the category of ferries designed for paid passenger service.

Virender Sehwag and Sardar Singh in 12-member selection panel for National Sports Awards:

Former India cricketer **Virender Sehwag** and hockey stalwart **Sardar Singh** were included in a **12-member committee** constituted by the sports ministry to select this year's National Sports Awards winners.

Dalmia Bharat Group wins FICCI CSR Award for Environment Sustainability:

Dalmia Bharat Group has won an award for Environment Sustainability at **18th FICCI CSR award** ceremony, organized by **FICCI**. The award recognizes efforts of companies in integrating and internalizing Corporate Social Responsibility.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs received SKOCH Gold Award for Empowerment of Tribals through IT-enabled Scholarship Schemes:

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) was awarded the SKOCH Gold Award for its **"Empowerment of Tribals through IT-enabled Scholarship Schemes"**. It is the project of the Scholarship Division of the Ministry. MoTA chose to participate in Digital India & E-Governance-2020 Competition.

The theme of the 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was **"INDIA RESPONDS TO COVID THROUGH DIGITAL GOVERNANCE."**

UNESCO Recognizes two Odisha villages Venkatraipur & Noliasahi as 'Tsunami Ready':

Odisha has become the first state in the country to get two of its coastal villages **"Venkatraipur and Noliasahi"** recognised as **"Tsunami Ready"** from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) after taking into accounts their overall preparedness to face the calamity.

Rockefeller Foundation picks Naandi Foundation for Food Vision 2050 prize:

Rockefeller Foundation has selected **Naandi Foundation**, Hyderabad-based non-profit, as one of the '**Top 10 Visionaries**' in the world for the Food **Vision 2050 Prize**, announced in New York. The recognition fetches Naandi a prize money of \$200, 000.

Pune's Defence Institute of Advanced Technology wins first prize; Smart India Hackathon 2020:

Pune-based **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT)** has won the first prize in the **Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020**, a national-level digital product building competition.

The Defence Ministry said DIAT's team of six members provided a solution titled "**DRISHTI**" to recognise face, expression and gesture using **artificial intelligence (AI)**.

Mumbai becomes the first city to have female icons on traffic signals:

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) installed **traffic signals** that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from default representation of men. **Mumbai** has become the **first city** in India to do so.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins Juventus MVP of the Year award for record 37 goals in single season:

Cristiano Ronaldo was named as **Juventus' Most Valuable Player of the Year** for the championship that lasted for almost 11 months. He ended the 2019-20 season with **37 goals**, broke the record for scoring most goals in a single season across competitions.

Akshay Kumar only Bollywood star on Forbes list of highest-paid actors:

Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** has yet again made it to the Forbes list of highest-paid male actors, scoring the **6th** spot, slipping two places since 2019. With estimated net worth of **\$48.5 million**, this is Kumar's fifth consecutive year of being featured on the list. Wrestler-turned-actor **Dwayne Johnson** tops the list for the second year in a row with the estimated net worth of **87.5 million**. Deadpool star **Ryan Reynolds**, with a net worth of \$71.5 million. Third, fourth and fifth spots have gone to actors **Mark Wahlberg** (\$58 million), **Ben Affleck** (\$55 million) and **Vin Diesel** (\$54 million), respectively.

Vertex Global Services CEO Gagan Arora wins "CEO of the Year" Award by 'Indian Achievers' 2020:

Gagan Arora was recently named as "**CEO of the Year – 2020**" by **Indian Achievers Forum India**. He is the CEO & Strategic Growth Leader of Vertex Global Services.

Swachh Survekshan 2020: Indore cleanest city for the fourth time:

Indore emerged as the cleanest Indian city **fourth time** in a row in the **Swachh Survekshan 2020** conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The second and the third position was taken by **Surat** and **Navi Mumbai**, respectively. **Varanasi** was adjudged the best '**Ganga Town**' in the survey.

Rohit Sharma, MariappanThangavelu, VineshPhogat, Rani Rampal&Manika Batra: to be honoured with Khel Ratna Award:

Rohit Sharma, Manika Batra, VineshPhogat, MariyappanThangavelu, Rani Rampal will be awarded **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award**. Rohit Sharma is among five recipients who will be awarded India's highest sporting honour — the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for 2020.

Another 29 were selected for the **Arjuna award** by the sports ministry's selection committee.

Jacques Kallis, Zaheer Abbas & Lisa Sthalekar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame:

Jacques Kallis is one of **South Africa's** highest run-getter in Tests & ODIs. He is also a great all-rounder. **Lisa Sthalekar** is a former **Australian** cricketer and became a World Cup winner in 2005 and 2013. **Zaheer**

Abbas is the only Asian batsman to hit 100 first-class centuries.

NLCIL bags "Swachhta Hi Seva award" for transforming Neyveli Township: Government of India **Navratna, NLC India Limited** (NLCIL) has bagged the award for making an extremely valuable contribution in the implementation of the "**Swachhta Hi Seva Programme**".

Rakesh Kumar, CMD of NLCIL hailing the efforts of NLCIL in transforming the entire Neyveli into a plastic-free, clean and green campus, and announcing the "**Swachhta Hi Seva 2019**" Award.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar unveils new book on India's 'struggle gaining influence in foreign policy':

"The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" a book authored by External Affairs Minister **Dr. S Jaishankar**, argues about the standards of India in the global order.

The book was published under the **Harper Collins India publications**. The book centers about the three burdens that India's foreign policy carries.

RBI deputy governor Viral V. Acharya authored a new book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India":

The book titled "**Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India**" authored by former Reserve Bank of India(RBI) deputy governor **Viral V. Acharya**. The book portrays his quest to restore financial stability in India and offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement. The book is

published by **SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd.**

Oscar Winner Matthew Mcconaughey to Publish His First Book named 'Greenlights':

'Greenlights' the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor **Matthew McConaughey** published by **Crown Publishing Group** is set to be released on 20th October 2020. The book was described as "not a traditional memoir but a playbook" based on the adventures and life experiences of McConaughey.

Biography of India's youngest Basketball captain "Vishesh: Code To Win" set to release:

A new book on the inspirational story of **Vishesh Bhriguvanshi**, India's **youngest basketball** team captain, will hit stands on August 29, the National Sports Day, announced publishing house Blue rose. It is written by sportswoman-turned-author **Nirupama Yadav**.

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

The **Tibetan spiritual leaderDalai Lama** will release a new book on climate change with German environmental journalist Franz Alt in. The book has been titled "**Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World**".

Penguin announces Sudha Murthy's next book 'Grandparents' Bag of Stories' on her 70th birthday:

The new book titled '**Grandparents' Bag of Stories**' aims at entertaining children featuring 20 stories. **Penguin Random House** announced a new children's book by

author and philanthropist **Sudha Murthy** to mark her 70th birthday.

A Book Titled 'One Arranged Murder' Authored by Chetan Bhagat to be released:

A Book Titled '**One Arranged Murder**' authored by **Chetan Bhagat** will be released worldwide on September 28, 2020. The fiction book portrays a murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage. The book will be published by **Westland Publications Ltd**. It is the author's **9th** novel and **11th** book overall.

Book titled "Who painted my lust red?" authored by SreeIyer launched:

A book titled "**Who painted my lust red?**" that has been authored by SreeIyer has been launched. This is the second book in this series of **SreeIyer's** Money Trilogy series. The first book was "**Who painted my money white?**".

Garuda Prakashan to publish book on "Delhi riots: The Untold Story" authored by Monika Arora

Garuda Prakashan will publish "**Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story**", a day after Bloomsbury India announced withdrawing the upcoming book following outrage over a virtual pre-publication launch event featuring BJP leader **Kapil Mishra**.

RANKINGS:

India Ranks 3rd among top 10 countries gaining forest area in the world: FAO:

India has been ranked **third** among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade (2010-2020) as per the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment

(FRA) released by the United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.

Top 5 countries which recorded the maximum average annual net gains in forest area during 2010-2020 are **China, Australia, India, Chile and Vietnam**.

Hyderabad Ranked 16th in World's most Surveilled Cities 2020 & Taiyuan, China tops:

Hyderabad with over three lakh surveillance cameras has been ranked **16th** among the top 20 most surveilled cities in the world, according to an annual report published by the UK-based **Comparitech**, a firm that reviews technology services like VPN, anti-virus and apps. The List was topped by **Taiyuan, China**.

Chennai(21st rank) and **Delhi** (33rd rank) made into the top 50 list. Delhi ranked 2nd & **Tokyo** tops in the **20 most populated cities** in the world.

IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020 for second straight year:

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the '**Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements, ' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India. IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IISc Bengaluru and IIT Kharagpur are the among the top five centrally funded institutions in the list respectively.**

India ranks 1st in number of organic farmers and 9th in terms of area under organic farming; Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW):

India ranks **first** in number of **organic farmers** and **ninth** in terms of **area under**

organic farming, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

"**Sikkim** became the first State in the world to become fully organic and other States including **Tripura** and **Uttarakhand** have set similar targets.

OBITUARY NEWS:

Noted dancer-choreographer Amala Shankar passes away:

Amala Shankar, the renowned dancer died in Kolkata at the age of 101. She was awarded **Banga Vibhushan** by the **West Bengal** government in 2011 for her contributions in the field of art. Not only dance, she was a painter and writer as well.

Olivia de Havilland, Golden Age of Hollywood star, dies at 104:

Olivia de Havilland, a two-time Oscar winner and for decades the last surviving star of "**Gone With the Wind**" has died at the age of 104. Olivia Mary de Havilland was born July 1, 1916, in Tokyo to British parents.

Padma Shri awardee Sonam Tshering Lepcha dies at 92:

Folk Musician, composer, Lyricist and Padmashree awardee **Sonam Tshering Lepcha** passed away at the age 92, at Kalimpong, West Bengal due to old age ailments. He was born on 3rd January, 1928 at Bong Busty, Kalimpong, **West Bengal**.

Malayalam Actor Anil Murali passed away at 51:

Veteran Malayalam actor **Anil Murali** has acted in more than 200 movies in Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu, passed away at the age of **51** at the hospital in Kochi, Kerala where he was admitted due to liver ailments

on 22nd July 2020. He hails from **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet minister Kamal Rani Varun passes away:

UP's Cabinet minister for Technical Education **Kamal Rani Varun** succumbed to COVID-19. Currently, Kamal Rani was MLA from Ghatampur in Kanpur. In the past, she was also a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha twice.

Sahitya Akademi Awardee Sa. Kandasamy passed away at 81:

Famous writer and documentary Filmmaker **Sa. Kandasamy** passed away at the age 81, in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** due to heart ailments. He was born in 1940, Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil Nadu. He won the **Sahitya Akademi** award for his Novel 'Visaranai Commission.'

Rajya Sabha member Amar Singh passes away at 64:

Rajya Sabha MP and former **Samajwadi** Party leader **Amar Singh** passed away. Singh's political career was known for his contacts across sectors, his managerial skills and fund-raising capabilities. He was once called 'Corporate Thakur' by a rival leader.

Theatre maestro Ebrahim Alkazi passes away:

Considered the father of modern Indian theatre **Ebrahim Alkazi** the first Director of **National School of Drama (NSD)** passed away. He was 94. Also an art connoisseur, collector and gallery owner, he founded Art Heritage Gallery in **New Delhi**.

Nobel Peace Prize Winner John Hume Passed Away at 83:

Nobel Peace Prizewinner(1998) and prominent Northern Ireland politician **John**

Hume passed away at 83 in a Londonderry nursing home due to a long period of illness. He was born on January 8, 1937 in Derry Northern Ireland (a part of the United Kingdom- UK).

Co-creator of computer mouse William English passes away aged 91:

William English, the engineer behind the **modern computer mouse** first demonstrated in 1968, has died at 91. He built the first mouse in 1963, with the help of the sketches made by Doug Engelbart while they were working on early computing.

Padma Shri awardee author Giriraj Kishore passes away at 82:

Veteran writer and academician **Giriraj Kishore** passed away at his residence here following a prolonged illness. He was 82-years-old. A Padma Shri awardee, Giriraj had written '**PahlaGirmitiya**'.

Former MP Nandi Yellaiah passes away:

Veteran Congress leader **Nandi Yellaiah** was elected to Lok Sabha six times & Rajya Sabha twice died. He began his political career as a corporator of **Hyderabad Municipal Corporation**. He was a close associate of former Chief Minister Marri Channa Reddy.

Computer scientist and Digital imaging inventor Russell Kirsch dead at 91:

Russell Kirsch research from the 50's underlies the entire field of digital imaging, died. His famous accomplishment is the **first scanned digital image** – decades before the first digital camera. Kirsch continued to work on early AI until retirement.

SPORTS NEWS:

Hamilton wins British GP to close in on Schumacher's record:

Lewis Hamilton held on to win the **British Grand Prix** despite a puncture on the last lap to clinch an 87th career win and move within four of Michael Schumacher's Formula One record. Hamilton set a track record & secured a record-extending 91st career pole.

India withdraws from Women's World Team Squash Championship 2020:

Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has withdrawn from the **Women's World Team Squash Championship 2020**, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of athletes, which is scheduled in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** from December 15 to 20, 2020.

India retains T20 World Cup in 2021; Australia to host in 2022:

India has retained the rights to host the **2021** men's T20 World Cup while **Australia** will host the **2022** edition. ICC also postponed the **2021 women's ODI** World Cup which was scheduled in **New Zealand**. 2021 event will be hosted in India between October-November.

Punjab Cricket Association names Mullanpur stadium after Patiala's last ruler Maharaja Yadavindra Singh:

Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) has decided to name its **Mullanpur International Cricket Stadium** after the last ruler of **Patiala**, late **Maharaja Yadavindra Singh**, who had played a test match for India in 1934. He is the father of Punjab **CM Amarinder Singh**.

ICC Include Indian Umpire KN Anantha padmanabhan In Panel Of International Umpires:

Indian umpire **Nitin Menon** was promoted by the ICC to the elite panel of umpires, his fellow compatriot **KN Anantha padmanabhan** has been included in the panel of international umpires of the ICC.

Max Verstappen Wins F1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020:

Max Emilian Verstappen from Netherland had won F1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix at the Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, United Kingdom and became the first **non-Mercedes driver** to win a race in the 2020.

Mercedes Lewis Hamilton won F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2020:

Mercedes-Great Britain's Formula One Racer **Lewis Hamilton** has received the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix 2020. the race was held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, **Spain**. this was his **4th**win during this season and he achieved 88th win.

Dream11 is new IPL 2020 title sponsor with winning bid of Rs 222 crore:

Dream11 have made a **three-year** winning bid to bag the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** title rights. The fantasy sports platform - a start-up pioneered by two Indian entrepreneurs have made a bid for three years, subject to Vivo's return next year.

INOX Group to sponsor Indian team for Tokyo Olympics: IOA

INOX group will be the official sponsor of the Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics, the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**. The **Tokyo Olympics** was rescheduled to next year due to the COVID-

19 pandemic. It will be held from July 23 to August 8 in 2021.

Ronnie O'Sullivan wins sixth World Snooker Championship after defeating Kyren Wilson":

English Professional Snooker Player **Ronnie O'Sullivan** won the **World Snooker Championship** for the **6th** time by winning the 2020 World Snooker Championship at **Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England**. He defeated England's **Kyren Wilson**(18-8) in the final of the **Betfred World Snooker Championship**.

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

Sophia Popov became the **first female golfer** from **Germany** to capture a major title

when she won the Women's British Open by two strokes. **Ranked No. 304**, Popov had never won a senior professional event. This was just Popov's fourth appearance at a major.

Australian all-rounder Cameron White announces retirement from all professional cricket:

Australian all-rounder **Cameron White** has announced his retirement from all forms of professional cricket. The 37 year-old Australian player will however, continue to play at the Premier Cricket level as the captain of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	IMPORTANT DAY	THEME
August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	-
August (1-7)	World Breastfeeding Week	"Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet"
August 3	World Sanskrit Day	-
August 6	Hiroshima Day	-
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples/ World Tribal Day	"COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience"
August 9	Quit India Movement Day	-
August 10	World Lion Day	-
August 10	World Biofuel Day	"Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat"
August 12	International Youth Day	"Youth Engagement for Global Action"
August 12	World Elephant Day	-
August 13	International Lefthanders Days	-
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	-
August (13-20)	Organ Donation Week	-

August 15	Indian Independence Day	-
August 16	Bennington Battle Day	
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	#RealLifeHeroes.
August 19	World Photography Day	-
August 20	World Mosquito Day	-
August 20	AkshayUrjaDiwas (Renewable Energy Day)	-
August 21	World Senior Citizen Day	-
August 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	-
August 21	World Entrepreneurs Day	-
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	-
August 23	European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism/ Black Ribbon Day	-
August 26	Women's Equality Day	-
August 29	National Sports Day	-
August 30	Small Industry Day	-
August 31	Hari Merdeka (Malaysia National Day)	-

SEPTEMBER 2020

NATIONAL NEWS:

Gujarat tops Niti Aayog's first ever Export Preparedness Index 2020, followed by Maharashtra and TN:

Gujarat has topped the **Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2020** followed by **Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu** in the second and third place respectively, according to the government think tank's report.

Niti Aayog in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness** released the first Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020.

Tamil Nadu women top the list of MUDRA loan scheme beneficiaries:

Women of **Tamil Nadu** have topped the list of women borrowers under the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** since its inception. **Tamil Nadu** followed by **West**

Bengal and **Karnataka** are at 2nd and 3rd place.

Andhra Pradesh sets up entity to finance social economic development projects:

Andhra Pradesh government established the **Andhra Pradesh State Development Corporation (APSDC)**, a new avenue to borrow more money and channelize donations from different sources. The new entity will be a 100 percent state-owned **Public Limited Company**.

Defence minister launches app for online training of National Cadet Corps cadets

The mobile app, called "**DGNCC**", aims at providing NCC cadets all training materials, including syllabus, training videos, and frequently asked questions, on one platform. The NCC imparts values of unity, discipline, service to the nation.

Union Minister of State Som Parkash addresses 5th virtual BRICS Industry Minister's Meeting:

The Industry Ministers of **BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries held a meeting through video mode on 24 August 2020 to discuss ways to boost cooperation in areas including **5G** and **Artificial Intelligence**.

From India, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, **Shri Som Parkash**, participated in the 5th edition of the Industry Ministers' meeting.

Ministry of Social Justice launches Mental Health Rehabilitation helpline 'KIRAN':

Department of Empowerment of **Persons with Disabilities** (DEPwD) under the Ministry of **Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched a **24x7 Mental Health Rehabilitation** helpline number under the name '**Kiran**' to assist people to cope with mental health issues, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

First marine ambulance boat 'PRATHEEKSHA' commissioned in Kerala:

Kerala Chief Minister **Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the first ever marine ambulance named '**PRATHEEKSHA**'. Pratheeksha is first in the series of 3 fully equipped marine ambulance boat built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)**, for the Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala.

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Completed Six Years of Successful Implementation:

6th anniversary of **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY)** was observed which was launched. On this occasion, Union Minister for

Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** reiterated the importance of this biggest financial inclusion initiative in the world.

The Slogan of PMJDY: "**Mera Khata - Bhagya Vidhaata.**"

First newspaper for kids 'The Young Minds' launched in Assam:

Two **Guwahati**-based women entrepreneurs have launched a newspaper specifically designed for kids, to promote creative thinking among children and inculcate in them the habit to read and write. It is the brainchild of **Neelam Sethia** and **Neha Bajaj**. The Young Minds, will cater to kids of **4-14** years of age.

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

Assam Cabinet has approved the **Assam Skill Development University** Bill which allows for setting up a state-of-the-art skill University at **Mangaldoi** in **Darrang district** of Assam. The University at Mangaldoi will be the Centre of Excellence and first ever Skill University in north eastern states of the country.

Union Education Minister addresses inaugural session of World Urdu Conference organized by NCPUL:

Education Minister made an important announcement and said that **Urdu writers** and **literators** will be honoured with awards and honours in the name of important personalities of Urdu like **Amir Khusrow, Mirza Ghalib, Agha Hashar, Ram Babu Saxena, etc.** It was organized by **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)**.

51st International Film Festival India to be held in Goa from Nov 20:

51st IFFI will be held in **Goa**, from November 20th to 28th. This film festival being a **hybrid film festival** due to Covid 19, would screen films on official digital platform along with the theatrical screenings. The festival is an annual event since 1975.

Indian Railways has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients:

Indian Railways has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named '**MEDBOT**' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients. It is providing service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways.

Kerala to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre:

Kerala will set up India's first **International Women's Trade Centre (IWTC)**, in consonance with the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. **Andhra Pradesh Government** to launch two schemes for pregnant women on September 1:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** will launch two new schemes for **pregnant women**. The schemes, "**YSR Sampoorna Poshana**" and "**YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus**" to be launched on September 1, 2020 aim at providing nutritious food for pregnant women and lactating mothers along with children.

Karnataka CM flags off RO-RO train service between Bengaluru and Solapur:

Karnataka Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa** flagged off Roll-On/Roll-Off (RO-RO) train

between **Bengaluru (Nelamangala)** to **Solapur (Maharashtra)** through video conferencing. CM Yediyurappa flagged off the RO-RO train from Nelamangala station on the outskirts of Bengaluru at 9.15 am.

Odisha CM launched "Ama Sahar" and "Swachha Sahar Odisha" Mobile app on Local Self Government Day:

Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched two citizen-centric mobile phone applications- **AMA SAHAR** and **SWACHHA SAHAR ODISHA** at the Lok Seva Bhawan here on the occasion of Local Self Government Day.

Uttar Pradesh government decides to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district:

Uttar Pradesh government decided to set up exclusive **Anti-Electricity Theft** police stations in every district of state to address the problem of frequent cases of power theft. One police station dedicated to deal with the issue of power theft to be opened.

Union Cabinet approves 'Mission Karmayogi' for Civil Servants:

Union Cabinet has approved "**Mission Karmayogi**" for **civil servants** across the country to help them meet the challenges in the society. A council headed by PM having CMs as members will approve the civil services capacity **building plans under the scheme**.

Madhya Pradesh government launches 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign:

Madhya Pradesh government has launched a 15-day campaign named '**Gandagi Bharat Chhodo**'. Under the campaign awareness programmes were organized in seven thousand **178 settlements**. About 35 lakh

people from **378 urban** bodies in Madhya Pradesh took part in the campaign.

Lakshadweep and Ladakh joined One Nation-One Ration Card scheme:

Two more UTs **Ladakh** and **Lakshadweep** have decided to join the '**One Nation-One Ration Card**' scheme. now, **26 States /UTs** have joined this scheme and this Yojana will give benefits to almost 70 crore citizens.

Sadananda Gowda launches 8 Nutraceutical-immunity boosting products under PMBJP for sale through Janaushadhi Kendras:

Government is also providing one-time grant of **Rs 2.00 lakh** for store set-up to persons belonging to **SC, ST, women & divyang** category and to any applicant opening store in **North-Eastern States**, aspirational districts & **Himalayan states** under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Priyojana (**PMBJP**).

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**.

Punjab Govt launches 'I Rakhwali' app to make citizens 'Greenery Saviours':

Punjab State Forest Department launched '**I Rakhwali**' application to help netizens to become '**Greenery Saviours**'. Launching the application, Punjab Forest Minister **Sadhu Singh Dharamsot** said that the application has been developed to ensure greenery and to protect the environment in Punjab, and its main aim is to inspire people to **plant more trees**.

Festival Pang Lhabsol Celebrated In Sikkim:

Pang Lhabsol is one of the most historically significant festivals celebrated in **Sikkim**. Pang Lhabsol is a unique festival of Sikkim and commemorates the consecration of Mount Khangchendzonga as the guardian deity of Sikkim.

Tripura receives first ever inland shipping cargo from Bangladesh:

The **Daukandi** (Bangladesh) – **Sonamura** (Tripura) **Inland Waterway** Protocol route was operationalised marking a milestone in **India-Bangladesh relations**.

Andhra Pradesh tops Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states 2019:

Andhra Pradesh has topped the 4th edition of the **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)** ranking of states for 2018-19. It is also known as **The Ease of Doing Business rankings**. The ranking was announced by **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs.

Uttar Pradesh is ranked second and **Telangana** is ranked third in the ranking. 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.

Andhra Pradesh to float India's largest solar tender for 10 GW capacities:

Andhra Pradesh government to float India's largest solar tender for setting up **10 GW capacity**. AP has around 7.7 GW of solar and wind projects & has India's **second-largest** installed capacity of clean energy. **AP Green Energy Corporation Ltd (APGECL)** to be the nodal agency. This mega solar bid aims to entail a Rs. 35, 000 crore investment.

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)**' which aims to provide self-employment to around **2 lakh youths** of the state.

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.

J-K LG Launches SPARROW System For J-K Administrative Service Officers:

Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** launched **Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW)** system for Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers, at Raj Bhavan.

Karnataka approves Rs. 600-cr watershed project 'REWARD' with World Bank assistance:

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.

State of Young Child in India Report released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu:

Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu & Mizoram are among the top 5 States for well-

being of children according to a report by NGO **Mobile Creches**. The index was constructed for 2 time periods - 2005–2006 and 2015–2016. India spent **Rs. 1, 723 per child** in 2018–2019.

Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu selected as fully Digital Economy district:

Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, which houses a large number of small and medium enterprises, especially in the firecrackers and allied sectors, has been selected by the Central Government as the **state's first Fully Digital Economy district**.

These include widespread use of **ATM debit cards**, increased usage of **internet banking**, widespread use of **QR codes etc.**

Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission signs MoU with Northeast Small Finance Bank:

Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB)** on Saturday to work in cohesion in support of Bank Linkage of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Producer Groups/ Enterprises under ASRLM.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Relaunches '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' Anti-dengue Campaign:

Delhi's Chief Minister **Arwind Kejriwal** will kicked-off the second edition of the 10-week long anti-dengue campaign. The aim of this campaign is to create awareness on prevention of vector-borne diseases like dengue among the people of Delhi, said the officials. Last year, the '**10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute**' campaign received support from

many celebrities as well as government officials.

Gujarat will be first to implement National Education Policy 2020:

Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** said his government aims to become the first to implement the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and will soon form a task force to create a road map for the same. It comprises of 15 politicians, administrative officials and academicians. It is to study NEP-2020 and take implementation measures.

Tamil Nadu CM releases state's Electronic Hardware Manufacturing Policy-2020

Tamil Nadu government announced a new **electronics & hardware** manufacturing policy to increase the State's electronics industry output to **\$100 billion by 2025**. It hopes to contribute **25 per cent** of India's total electronic exports to the world by 2025. It undertakes skill training for more than 1Lakh people by 2024.

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched '24x7 toll-free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline 'KIRAN':

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** virtually launched the **24x7** Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline "**KIRAN**" (1800-500-0019). The aim is to provide relief and support to persons with Mental Illness.

Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates 22 bamboo clusters in nine states:

Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated **22 bamboo** clusters in nine states by virtual mode. Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees so that anyone can

undertake cultivation and business in bamboo.

Haryana CM Launches 1st of its Kind Educational Chatbot "Apka Mitra" & Online Admission Platform for UG courses:

Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** virtually launched an online platform for admission to undergraduate courses in government-aided and self-financed colleges. **Fruits & vegetables in J&K covered under 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme:**

Centre has brought majority of fruits and vegetables grown in Jammu under a fresh initiative of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**. All the fruits and vegetables in J&K will be covered under the '**Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme**. **Kerala tops literacy rate chart with 96.2%; Andhra Pradesh worst performer at 66.4%: Report by NSO:**

Kerala has once again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2 per cent literacy while **Andhra Pradesh** featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 per cent, showed a report based on **National Statistical Office (NSO)** survey.

Second Kisan train to transport Agri products from Andhra Pradesh to New Delhi, linking farmers directly to markets:

India's **second** and **South India's first** Kisan Train was flagged off to provide a seamless supply of perishable produce. The first Kisan Rail flagged off between **Maharashtra** and **Bihar**. It aims to help in doubling farmers' income by **2022**.

PM Modi digitally launches Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and e-Gopala App:

PM **Matsya Sampada Yojana** is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in India with an estimated investment of **Rs 20, 050 crores** for its implementation from FY20-FY25. **E-Gopala** is a breed improvement marketplace.

Karnataka CM Launches India's First Integrated Air Ambulance Service with ICATT:

Karnataka CM **B.S. Yediyurappa** unveiled India's first integrated air ambulance service jointly launched by the **International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT)** and the **Kyathi** in the city. The ambulance is equipped with state-of-the-art German Isolation Pod.

Education Ministry to organise 2 -day conclave on School Education in 21st Century under Shikshak Parv:

Shikshak Parv is celebrated from 8th September- 25th September, to felicitate the Teachers and to take **New Education Policy 2020** which was approved and forward. Education Ministry is to organize a two-day conclave on School Education in 21st Century.

Mumbai International airport put in place QR code-enabled check-in mechanism:

Mumbai International airport has put in place a **QR code-enabled contactless check**-in mechanism for the passengers. Mumbai International Airport Limited stated that the **touch less technology** solution is a vital step in reducing passenger contact with **kiosk surfaces** and is in full compliance with the civil aviation ministry's passenger processing guidelines.

Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi Palaniswami launched portal for Eye Donation:

Chief Minister **Edappadi K Palaniswami** launched the website **hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor** designed by the **National Health Mission** Tamil Nadu to help donors. He has pledged to donate his eyes during National Eye Donation Fortnight in **Tamil Nadu**.

India Post launches Five Star Villages Scheme to ensure 100% rural coverage of postal schemes:

Department of Posts has launched a scheme called **Five Star Villages**, to ensure universal coverage of **flagship postal schemes** in rural areas of the country. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in **interior villages**.

Madhya Pradesh reintroduces Deendayal Rasoi Scheme for meals at Rs 10:

Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Scheme to provide meals at a subsidized rate to underprivileged people was re-introduced in **Madhya Pradesh**. Now the rate per thali has been increased to **Rs 10** from **Rs 5**, said an officer from the urban development and housing department.

Five Petroleum and Gas sector PSUs to join International Solar Alliance:

Five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry will be joining **International Solar Alliance** (ISA)'s Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners and will be contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund, said Ministry of **Petroleum & Natural Gas**.

Hubballi railway station to be renamed after Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji:

Hubballi railway station headquarters of **South Western Railway** is being changed for the second time in last 5 years. It was changed in 2015 from Hubli to Hubballi. It is being renamed after **Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji** who was a Hindu Guru and Philosopher.

India's 'largest piggery mission' launched in Meghalaya:

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**.

Odisha Government Launches "GARIMA" Welfare Scheme for Sanitation Workers:

Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched "**GARIMA**" a new Scheme to ensure Safety and Dignity of Core Sanitation Workers of the State. Under this scheme, about **20, 000 core** sanitation workers and their families covering one lakh population are likely to be benefitted.

Maharashtra CM announces 'My Family-My Responsibility' campaign to fight Covid-19:

Maharashtra chief minister **Uddhav Thackeray** announced the launch of '**My family-My responsibility**' from September 15 to fight the pandemic.

Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Top List; India Happiness Report 2020:

India Happiness Report 2020 has been released and it covers all States and Union Territories in India. The survey was conducted and covered 16, 950 people between **March 2020 and July 2020**. **Maharashtra, Delhi** and **Haryana** have shown the worst possible impact of COVID-19 on happiness.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport opens India's First and Exclusive Private Jet Terminal:

Delhi international airport has opened an exclusive terminal for **private airplanes**. This is India's first terminal for private jets to cater to the high and mighty rich population.

Gujarat government launches Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY) to Give Interest Free Loans To Women's Groups:

Chief Minister of Gujarat **Vijay Rupani** has launched a scheme named **Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY)** that will provide **interest-free** loans to **women's groups** in the state.

Government forms Expert Committee Headed by Rajesh Pant to probe reports of snooping by Chinese firm:

Government of India formed an Expert Committee led by **National Cyber Security Coordinator** (NCSC) **Rajesh Pant**, India's Chief Coordinator on Cyber Security to examine the reports of digital surveillance on Prominent Indian Nationals including President, Army Chief by Chinese firm **Shenzhen Zhenhua Data Information Technology** Company Ltd.

Maharashtra government approves accidental insurance scheme named after Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray:

Maharashtra has launched a new accidental insurance scheme in the state that will provide free treatment up to **Rs 30, 000** to any person injured in a road accident. Around **74 types of treatment** that are needed in case of road accidents have been included in the scheme.

Eight Indian Beaches recommended for "Blue Flag" International Eco-Label:

Blue Flag certification is a globally recognized **eco-label** accorded by international agency '**Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark**' based on 33 stringent criteria in 4 major heads. International Coastal Clean-Up Day is observed on **19th September**.

Tamil Nadu becomes first state in India to launch ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies:

Tamilnadu has become the first State in the country to launch Safe and **Ethical Artificial Intelligence** (AI), **Blockchain** and **Cybersecurity** policies. The policies were unveiled by Chief Minister **Edapaddi K Palaniswami** during the valedictory session of the 19th edition of Connect 2020.

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

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

Indian Cricketer Suresh Raina to set up cricket academy in Jammu and Kashmir: Former India cricketer **Suresh Raina** would set up a cricket academy in **Jammu and Kashmir** to train **aspiring cricketers**, particularly youngsters from remote areas of the union territory.

Lt Governor **Manoj Sinha** agreed to set up **five schools** in **Kashmir** division and an equal number in Jammu division to train aspiring cricketers.

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches "Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni" to improve rural connectivity: Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the "**Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni**" and distributed vehicles under the scheme to beneficiaries at a programme held at Assam Administrative Staff College by **transport department**.

Union Minister S Jaishankar attends Special Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of CICA:

Union Minister of External Affairs **S Jaishankar** participated in the Special Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the '**Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia**' (**CICA**). CICA is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in **Asia**.

Union HRD Minister Harsh Vardhan chairs 'Aarogya Manthan' 2.0:

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired '**Aarogya Manthan**' 2.0 celebrating its 2nd Anniversary of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** (AB-PMJAY). He also presented awards to the winners of the AB-PMJAY Start-up Grand

Challenge to support the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana.

West Bengal Transport Corporation Introduces India's First 'Tram' Library in Kolkata:

West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) introduced a tram library in the city's iconic College street area. **Tram Library** is a special tram with books & magazines that can be read while travelling. In addition to books, **free Wifi** will be provided to passengers to read online.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Germany to issue 'Green Bonds' worth up to \$13B:

German government plans to generate up to **11 billion euros** for clean transportation and renewable energy projects this year by issuing so-called "**Green Bond**". Each green bond will mirror a regular debt issuance by the German government, known as **"bunds"**.

India and Nepal to expand energy cooperation, explore new pipeline:

India and **Nepal** are exploring to see if state-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** could look at another petroleum pipeline that runs into the northern and eastern parts of India. Nepal is aiming to meet its rising fuel demands by extending cooperation.

World Health Organization declares Africa free of polio:

World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world. This was announced by WHO Regional Director of Africa, **Dr Matshidiso Moeti**.

14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) held with focus on maritime security cooperation:

The 14th **India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue** (DPD) was held virtually to further boost the **defence** and **security** partnership between the two countries, with a special focus on the maritime sphere.

India withdraws from multilateral military exercise Kavkaz 2020 in Russia:

India has announced that it is withdrawing from multilateral Military Exercise **Kavkaz 2020** to be held in **Russia**. In view of Pandemic & consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics, India has decided not to send a contingent.

'Agriota' e-market platform launched to bridge the gap between Indian farmers and UAE food industry:

The **UAE** has launched **Agriota** (developed with India's CropData Technology) a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation's food industry. It was launched by the **Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC)**.

First "historic" direct flight between Israel and UAE lands in Abu Dhabi:

A chartered El Al airliner carrying **Israeli** and **American** diplomats landed in the **United Arab Emirates**, completing a symbolic first direct flight from **Tel Aviv** to **Abu Dhabi**.

Indian Navy to hold mega exercise with Russia near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

India and **Russia** will hold bilateral naval exercise **INDRA 2020** in **Andaman Sea**, close to strategic **Strait of Malacca**, while

the Indian Navy is on high operational alert due to the standoff with **China** in **Ladakh**. 3 Russian Naval ships will take part in this.

India to host summit of SCO council of heads of government:

India will host a summit of the council of heads of government of the **SCO** on November 30 with a focus on contributing to the trade and economic agenda of the influential grouping said by **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

China boasts world's largest navy:

US Department of defence has released its '**2020 China Military Power Report**' showing that the **People's Republic of China** has the **largest navy** in the world, surpassing the US Navy. China was on course to expand its fleet to 360 vessels by the end of **2020**.

India-Russia finalise AK-47 203 rifles manufacturing deal, will boost Make in India:

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** ongoing visit, **India** and **Russia** have finalised a major deal for manufacturing **AK-47 203** rifles in India, Russia.

Donald Trump announces Wilmington as first World War II Heritage City:

US President Donald Trump announced **Wilmington** in southern US state **North Carolina** as the first World War II **Heritage City** at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of **World War II**.

First World Solar Technology Summit of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held Virtually:

Prime Minister of India **Shri Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the first edition of the **World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS)**

of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** with focus on new Technologies and Innovations in the field of Solar.

The **World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS)** was organized by ISA and **FICCI**. India is to achieve its ambitious target of having 100 GW of solar energy by **2022**.

U.S. spacecraft named after late Indian-American astronaut Kalpana Chawla:

Northrop Grumman's commercial cargo spacecraft, NG-14 Cygnus bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut **Kalpana Chawla**, the first India-born woman to enter space, for her key contributions to human spaceflight.

Apple's first 'floating' store to be launched in Singapore:

Technology giant **Apple Inc.** has announced that it is going to open it's first ever "**Floating**" store, in Singapore. 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.

India and Angola hold 1st joint commission meet, agree to diversify trade ties:

India and **Angola** held the first Joint Commission Meeting during which the two sides agreed to diversify their trade relationship and discussed cooperation in **health, pharmaceuticals, defense, agriculture, food processing, digitization and telecom**.

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 nation would install a special prosecutor for rape as well as set up a national sex offender registry.

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 **Payoneer**.

Mexico issues world's first sovereign bond linked to UN sustainable goals:

Mexico has become the **first country** in the world to issue a **Sovereign Bond** linked to the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. It has raised **EUR 750 million** (\$890 million) by such bonds.

India Extends \$250 Million in Financial Support To Maldives To Overcome Impact Of Covid-19:

India has provided financial assistance of **250mn dollars** as budgetary support to the **Maldives**. The assistance is being routed through SBI, Male for which sovereign guarantee has been provided by Government of India. Soft loan has a tenor of **10 years** & minimal interest rate.

First-ever Direct Cargo ferry service "MCP Linz" unveiled between India and Maldives:

India and the **Maldives** have launched the first ever **Direct Cargo Ferry** Service to boost trade between the two countries. The cargo ferry service will connect the Indian ports of **Tuticorin** and **Cochin ports** with Kulhudhufushi and **Male ports** in the **Maldives**.

India and Nepal begin joint security patrol along border in Kapilvastu, Nepal: Security personnel of **India** and **Nepal** have started joint security patrol of the border between the two countries in Nepal's **Kapilvastu district** to check illegal **Cross-Border Activities** and control the spread of corona virus. The **Krishnanagar Municipality** of the Kapilvastu district is a major point of transit along the Nepal-India Border.

India and United Kingdom sign MoU on Water Partnership via video conferencing:

India and the **United Kingdom** held a virtual **Water Partnership** meeting to discuss ways to work together on issues pertaining to water conservation and building better water infrastructure.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

ICICI Bank becomes first bank in India to use satellite data to assess credit worthiness of farmers:

Private lender **ICICI Bank** has become the first ever bank in India to make use of satellite data, imagery from **Earth observation satellites**, to assess credit worthiness of farmers.

Axis Bank introduced 'Liberty Savings Account' for the Indian Youth:

Axis Bank has introduced '**Liberty Savings Account**' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians. It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of up to **Rs 20, 000** per year.

HDFC Bank partners with Adobe to enhance digital customer experiences:

HDFC Bank announced a strategic partnership with **Adobe** to enhance the digital experience journey of its customers. Powered by Adobe Experience Cloud solutions, this partnership will enable HDFC Bank to deliver personalised **digital experiences** to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere.

HSBC India Launched Omni Collect, a One Stop Solution for multiple payment options:

HSBC India has launched **Omni Collect**, a one-stop solution in India. It supports businesses to offer **multiple payment** options on a single platform. It is designed for businesses to easily collect payments through various digital methods, thereby allowing them to easily adapt to the changes in consumer spending.

RBI Annual Report 2019-20: Economy to Grow, Inflation to Ease:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Annual Report for **2019-20**. It is Report of the Central Board of Directors on the working of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the year ended June 30, 2020 submitted to the Central Government in terms of **Section 53(2)** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus **4.5%** for **2020-21**. It will be (-) **3.7%** in the single hit scenario and (-) **7.3%** in the double hit scenario in FY 20-21.

RBI announces special OMO worth of Rs 20, 000 crore in 2 tranches:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a simultaneous purchase and sale of **Government Securities (G-Secs)** under **Open Market Operations (OMO)** for an aggregate amount of **Rs 20, 000 crore** in

two equal tranches of Rs 10, 000 crore on August 27, 2020 and September 03, 2020 on account of current and evolving liquidity and market conditions.

SBI integrates YONO Krishi with Government's Online Seed Portal ICAR IIHR:

YONO (You Only Need One) Krishi platform has integrated with government's online seed portal **Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) & Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR)** to serve the agricultural needs of the farmers, right from sowing till harvesting.

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance launches 'Smart Assist', a real-time assistance service:

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading Indian private life insurers launched a first-of-its-kind revolutionary technology service in the insurance industry '**Smart Assist**'. The service will enable buyers to connect with the Company, through a secure screen sharing feature, to avail real-time assistance on completion of their buy journey, anywhere.

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance & Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank Entered into a Strategic Partnership to Offer Life Insurance:

Tie up with the bank will provide an opportunity & onus to create awareness in the rural market about the need of having life insurance, health insurance and pension plans. The distribution tie up is for **selling Life insurance, health and pension products**.

State Bank of India gets global recognition for HR initiative 'Nayi Disha':

State Bank of India to receive Brandon **Human Capital Management (HCM)** Excellence Award (also known as the Academy Awards of Learning & Development)2020 a global recognition for its HR initiative, "**Nayi Disha**". SBI has won the award in The HCM Spring Program under '**Excellence in Learning and Development**' in 3 categories.

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.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance introduces AI-powered voice chatbot "LiGo" on Google Assistant:

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched an AI-powered voice chatbot, "**LiGo**" on Google Assistant as part of its customer service initiative. This new option will enable the policyholders to have their queries addressed by simple voice commands.

ICICI Bank launches 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition:

ICICI Bank has launched a virtual property exhibition under the name '**Home Utsav**'. The exhibition will digitally showcase real estate projects by renowned developers, across India. The exhibition can be accessed by both **customers** and **non-customers** of ICICI Bank.

LazyPay introduces LazyUPI digital credit cards in India:

Indian online instant credit app **LazyPay** has launched a digital credit card to offer easy access to credit across online and offline platforms. **LazyUPI** will help to provide easy

access to credit across online and offline platforms. **LazyUPI** is **1st digital credit card** that is combined with **UPI**.

Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank ceased to be a banking company: RBI

Reserve Bank of India has issued a notification to all banks stating that "**Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited**" has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. "**Westpac Banking Corporation**" also ceases to be a banking company as announced by **RBI**.

RBL Bank launches cardless cash withdrawal facility through ATMs via MoBank app:

RBL Bank has partnered with **Empays Payment Systems** to launch a **cardless cash** withdrawal facility from ATMs by leveraging the **Instant Money Transfer (IMT)** system.

RBI constituted KV Kamath committee names 26 sectors for restructuring:

RBI released the report a **five-member** committee that the central bank formed under the chairmanship of former **ICICI Bank** CEO **KV Kamath** for recommending parameters for loan restructuring.

Bank of India launches 'Signature Visa Debit Card' for High Net Worth Individuals:

Bank of India (BoI) launched "**Signature Visa Debit Card**" for the affluent/high net worth individuals maintaining an average quarterly balance of **Rs 10 lakhs** and above. BoI virtually inaugurated new buildings of **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)** at **Barabanki**,

Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and **Giridih** (Jharkhand).

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

US-based Fitch Ratings **Global Economic Outlook (GEO)** 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**.

India GDP to contract 11.8 growth to rebound to 9.9 in FY22; India Ratings Domestic rating agency **India Ratings and Research** revised downward the country's FY21 GDP growth forecast to **(-) 11.8 per cent**, lowest in Indian history, from an earlier estimate of **(-) 5.3 per cent**. 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.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Launches Doorstep Banking Services For Public Sector Banks and EASE 2.0 Index results:

Public sector banks will now provide **Doorstep Banking Service** that will bring convenience of banking services to the customers at their homes through the universal touch points of the call centre, web portal or mobile app.

SBI to launch loan product 'SAFAL' for organic cotton growers:

SBI managing director **C S Setty** has announced that **State Bank of India** will launch a loan product, **SAFAL**, for 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.

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%**.

ICICI Bank launches iStartup 2.0, dedicated offering for start-ups:

ICICI Bank has launched **iStartup 2.0**, for start-ups with improved features. Under this, ICICI customers to get a current account in three variants that will offer **additional services, salary accounts for employees, dedicated relationship manager**, etc., **CRISIL projects India's GDP for FY21 at -9%; For FY22 at 10%:**

CRISIL has projected India's GDP rate for **2020-21 (FY21)** at **-9%** 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.

Capital India Finance gets forex business licence from RBI:

Capital India Finance Ltd (CIFL) received Authorised Dealer Category II licence from RBI for conducting forex business, the first listed NBFC in India to receive a licence. It is now authorised to build and do forex business under the brand name **RapiMoney**.

RIL becomes first Indian company to cross \$200 billion in market valuation:

The market valuation of **Reliance Industries (RIL)** hit another milestone by becoming the **first Indian firm** to cross **\$ 200 billion**. Apple Inc is the world's most-valued company

with a market value of \$2 trillion followed by **Saudi Aramco** at \$1.9 trillion.

Union Cabinet gives approval to increase FDI limit from 49% to 74%:

The new policy raising the cap of foreign direct investment through automatic approval in the defence sector from **49 per cent** to **74 per cent** now has a '**National Security**' clause as a condition.

Moody's forecasts India's GDP at -11.5% for FY21 and 10.6% for FY22:

Ratings agency **Moody's** has projected the GDP growth rate for India to contract **11.5 percent** in the fiscal 2020-21 (FY21) due to the coronavirus pandemic. For **2021-22 (FY22)**, Moody's projected the economy of India to grow at **10.6 percent**.

PNB launches festival offer 'Festival Bonanza Offer' waives processing charges on some loans:

State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched '**Festival Bonanza Offer**' for its customers to give a push to subdued loan demand due to the COVID-19 crisis.

CARE Ratings projects India's GDP to contract between 8 and 8.2% in FY21:

Domestic rating agency **CARE Ratings** said the country's economy is likely to see a sharper contraction of **8-8.2 per cent** in the current financial year **2020-21 (FY21)** compared to a decline of 6.4 per cent it had projected earlier. The forecast for GVA growth in FY21 is **-7.7%**.

ICICI Lombard announces bancassurance tie-up with Yes Bank:

India's leading private sector non-life insurance company **ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited** has entered into a Bancassurance tie-up with **Yes Bank**.

The partnership will provide the Bank's diverse customer base access to the **insurer's portfolio** and make insurance more accessible to its customers across India.

S&P Global Ratings Projects India's GDP at -9% in FY21 & 6% in FY22:

S&P Global Ratings has projected the GDP of India to contract by **9%** in the fiscal year **2020-21** (FY21), as against its previous estimate of a 5% contraction, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the **FY-22** (2021-22), S&P expects GDP growth of **6%**. For the **FY-23** (2022-23), GDP is projected at **6.2%**.

SBI General Insurance signs corporate agency agreement with YES BANK to make non-life insurance solutions accessible to customers:

SBI General Insurance Company and **Yes Bank** signed a **Corporate Agency Agreement** for the distribution of **retail products** of SBI General Insurance Company for its corporate and retail customers. The products of SBI General Insurance Company will be offered to **YES BANK's customers** across **28 states** and **8 Union Territories**.

Indian economy to shrink by 9% in FY21; Asian Development Bank:

According to ADB's **Asian Development Outlook** (ADO) 2020 Update, India's economy is expected to contract by **9%** this year worse than the **4%** contraction it had forecast three months ago. However, it expects India to bounce back with **8%** growth **FY22**.

OECD projects India's GDP at -10.2% in FY21 & 10.7% in FY22, Global GDP at -4.5% in 2020:

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. India's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at **10.7 %** For **FY22** (2021-22),

India's GDP to contract by 8.6% in FY21; UBS Securities:

Swiss brokerage **UBS Securities** said it forecasts a GDP contraction of **8.6 per cent** (Earlier it was -5.8%) in **FY21** as against its earlier prediction of 5.8 per cent, citing factors including the "modest" government response to the crisis for its estimate. UBS Securities projects India's GDP to grow by **10%** for **FY22**.

State Bank of India Extends OTP-Based ATM Withdrawal Facility:

To safeguard customers from frauds and to minimize unauthorised transactions **OTP-based withdrawals** of **Rs 10, 000** and above will be available **24x7** at SBI's ATMs with effect from September 18. SBI which introduced this for **12 hours on Jan 1** is extended now.

SBI Partners with Titan to launch India's first contactless payment watch "Titan Pay":

State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sector lender, and **Titan Company** have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called "**Titan Pay**". With this SBI account holders can tap their Titan Pay watch on **contactless payment POS machine** without swiping or inserting **SBI bank card**.

SBM Bank India Partners with Mastercard to Debut 'Premium' Debit Card:

Mumbai-based lender **SBM Bank India** and **Mastercard** have introduced a **Premium Debit Card** for high-net-worth customers. The SBM World Debit Card will club niche banking solutions and carefully curated **lifestyle privileges** including some of the finest shopping and dining opportunities.

ICICI Home Finance launched "Apna Ghar Dreamz" Home Loan Scheme:

ICICI Home Finance launched "**Apna Ghar Dreamz**", its new home loan scheme for skilled laborers like electricians, mechanics, painters, grocery store owners etc in the informal sector of Delhi. The credit amount of this loan ranges from **Rs 2 lakh to 50 lakhs**.

KVGB launches special gold loan scheme "Vikas Laghu Suvarna" for pandemic:

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a special gold loan scheme "**Vikas Laghu Suvarna**" with a reduced interest rate of **7.25%**. The rate has been reduced considering the pandemic and also to provide easy and affordable credit to customers at a cheaper cost.

HDFC Bank ranked as India's most valued brand for 5th year in a row; BrandZ report:

HDFC Bank was ranked as India's top brand for the **seventh consecutive** year in a row in the 2020 **BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands** rankings. 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.

SBI starts “Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani” (Women Self-Reliance programme) in Assam:

State Bank of India has launched a programme named **“Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani”** (meaning-Women Self-Reliance programme) in order to accelerate **Self Help Group** (SHG) finance in the Bank.

SBI Life Insurance and YES Bank sign bancassurance Agreement:

State Bank of India (SBI) Life Insurance signed a bancassurance agreement with **YES Bank** to provide a range of insurance solutions to the customers of YES Bank across the nation. YES Bank aims to provide **financial security** to its customers and reduce the protection gap in india.

SBI Card collaborates with Google to enable cardholders to make payments “Tap-to-pay” through Google Pay:

SBI Credit Cards to make card payments using the **Google Pay app** on their Android smartphones, SBI Card (legally- SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited) has collaborated with Google. It will enable users to safely transact with their cards and use **Tap-to-pay** feature on **Near-Field Communication** (NFC)-enabled **Point Of Sale** (POS) terminals and online merchants.

Kazakhstan Financial Regulator Cancels Licence of PNB Subsidiary:

State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** stated the financial regulator of **Kazakhstan** has revoked licence of its associate for failure to meet prudential standards and other mandatory norms. PNB holds **41.64 per cent** in **JSC Tengri Bank**, the bank stated in a

regulatory filing. JSC Tengri Bank has **nine** branches in Kazakhstan.

HDFC Life enters into partnership with YES Bank to sell insurance policies:

HDFC Life and **YES Bank** Limited entered into a **Corporate Agency** (CA) arrangement. It 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.**

India’s GDP is forecast to contract 5.9% in 2020 and recover to 3.9% in 2021; UNCTAD:

BOB Financial Solutions Limited partners Signzy to unveil its ‘Video KYC’:

BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL) has selected **RegTech firm Signzy**, to digitize its customer verification through **‘Video KYC’**. It will enable BFSL a quick, **zero-contact & paperless KYC** that omits the requisite for physical submission of documents.

Bajaj Finserv Launched “Bajaj Finserv Health Ltd (BFHL)”, Health Tech Solutions Business:

Pune based **Bajaj Finserv** has recently announced the launch of its fully owned subsidiary **Bajaj Finserv Health Limited** (BFHL), a health-tech solutions business, aimed at improving the health outcomes of Indian consumers through smarter, connected and holistic care plans.

IDFC First Bank to launch contactless debit card payment facility “SafePay”:

IDFC First Bank will launch a contactless debit card-based payment facility, **“SafePay”**. It will allow transactions up to **Rs 20,000 per day**. Per transaction limit will be **Rs 2000** under this payment facility of

SafePay. It will allow payments by simply waving one's smartphone against a **Near Field Communication** (NFC)-enabled PoS terminal.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

ISRO Signs MoU with VSSUT to Set up First of Its Kind Innovation cum Incubation Centre to Promote Space Research:

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology** (VSSUT), **Burla, Odisha**, a technical institute, to set up the first of its kind innovation cum incubation centre, **VSSUT Space Innovation Centre(VSSIC)** in India to promote space research.

Ericsson and UNICEF in partnership to map school Internet connectivity in 35 countries:

Swedish telecom company Ericsson and the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** announced a global partnership Wednesday to help map school Internet connectivity in 35 countries by the end of **2023**.

Mapping the Internet connectivity landscape for schools and their surrounding communities is a critical first step toward providing every child with access to digital learning opportunities, said UNICEF in a press release.

Innoviti partners with Visa to develop installments platform for face-to-face transactions:

Innoviti had entered a partnership with **Visa**, the leader in payments technology to develop a platform that will enable issuers to

extend credit to their cardholders at **Face-To-Face** point-of-sale (In India).

It provides shoppers the ability to choose how they pay during the purchase with the introduction of a suite of platform capabilities leveraging **Innoviti's uniPAY** Next platform and Visa's APIs.

Vedanta ties up with SBI for long-term syndicated loan of Rs 10, 000 crore:

Vedanta tied up with **State Bank of India** for long-term syndicated loan facility worth **Rs 10, 000 crore**. A syndicated loan is offered by a group of lenders who work together to provide credit to a large borrower. SBI has committed **Rs 5000 crores** as a lender.

Tata Power and Tata Motors collaborate to set up India's largest solar carport:

The **solar carport** set up by signing **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** will have a capacity of **6.2 MWp** and is expected to help the automaker cut down 1.6 lakh ton of carbon emissions in its lifetime. It is expected to generate **96 lakh units** per year.

Atal Innovation Mission partners with Freshworks to empower AIM start-ups:

To provide robust support to innovators and entrepreneurs, **Atal Innovation Mission** of **NITI Aayog** has partnered with Freshworks to increase the efficacy of the institutions and start-ups in the **AIM portfolio** and foster innovation among innovators.

NSDC and LinkedIn Partner to Accelerate Digital Skills Training for Youth:

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and **LinkedIn** announced a partnership to provide access to free learning resources for **digital skills** that are in demand. According to LinkedIn data, Indian

professionals with digital skills were **20 per cent** more in demand than professionals without digital skills in 2020.

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.

Microsoft and Nasscom FutureSkills launch AI classroom series to prepare India's AI workforce by 2021:

Microsoft joined hands with **Nasscom FutureSkills** to launch a nation-wide initiative that aims to skill 10 lakh students in **Artificial Intelligence** by **2021**. Partnership is an ext. of Microsoft's global skilling initiative to help 25 mn people to acquire **new digital skills**.

WhatsApp partners with Common Services Center to deliver Digital Literacy Services via Chatbot:

WhatsApp announced that it has partnered with **Common Services Centers (CSC)**. With this partnership, the **Facebook**-owned platform launched a **chatbot** that will enable citizens to receive digital literacy services and resources. It also aims to "**bridge the digital divide and spur rural entrepreneurship**".

Volvo Car India Partnered with HDFC Bank to Launch Volvo Car Financial Services:

Volvo Car India has introduced **Volvo Car Financial Services** in collaboration with **HDFC Bank** to enable buyers to receive easy

finance for a Volvo car of their choice. Loans can be availed for **upto 7 years**. There is also an option to finance insurance, extended warranty, service package and accessories.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

IIT Madras and Stuttgart University develop method to dispose pharma waste:

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras along with German researchers have developed '**Co-Composting**' methods that can be used to safely dispose of toxic **pharmaceutical wastewater** and sludge. Their method converts the waste into compost of high quality and within **just 20 days**.

Researchers from Andhra University find rare fish 'Mahseer' in Sileru river:

A team of researchers from the **Department of Zoology, Andhra University** has spotted a species of rare fish called **Mahseer** (scientific name Tor) on 24 August 2020, from the upper part of **Sileru river**, in Andhra Pradesh.

CISF launches 'Pension Corner' app for its retired personnel:

With the help of this new digital initiative, pensioners will get connected to the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** units spread across the country, and receive invitations, over SMS, on important occasions in the nearest unit.

IIT Guwahati collaborates with university in Czech Republic for data protection project:

A team of researchers from **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**, in collaboration with scientists from the University of

Pardubice, Czech Republic, is working towards developing indigenous algorithms that can protect the Nation's digital data from cyber-attacks by advanced computers.

DRDO successfully flight tests Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV):

A product of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, the vehicle supposedly utilizes air-breathing scramjet technology to propel it to **hypersonic speeds**. The cruise vehicle attained **6 times** the speed of sound. India has now joined a group of nations including the US, Russia & China that have demonstrated hypersonic technology.

IIT Guwahati in Collaboration with Workspace Metal Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Develops a First-of-its-kind Self-Check Kiosk:

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati in collaboration with **Workspace Metal Solutions Pvt. Ltd.**, Udaipur, has developed a first-of-its-kind self-check kiosk. The small structure helps by streamlining the flow of people through the kiosk.

Byju's launches 'Education for All' to empower 5 mn children by 2025:

Bengaluru based edtech company **Byju's** has launched a social initiative '**Education for All**'. Objective: To empower **5 million** children from underserved communities by **2025**.

Drug Controller Approves Commercial Launch of Low Cost Covid Test "Feluda":

Drugs Controller General of India has approved the commercial launch of "**Feluda**", the Tata **CRISPR** (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic

Repeats) COVID-19 test, the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

IIIT-Bhubaneswar Students Make Ventilation Device "Swasner" To Ease Mild Breathing Issues Among COVID-19 Patients:

IIIT Bhubaneswar students developed a new low-cost device to aid COVID-19 patients. They have designed a hyperbaric chamber, first of its kind ventilation device to **ease breathing**. Device '**Swasner**' to let patients breathe more conveniently.

'Kritagya' Hackathon Launched by National Agricultural Higher Education Project of ICAR:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the **National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)** has launched a hackathon named "**KRITAGYA**". The aim is to promote potential technology solutions to enhance farm mechanization with special emphasis on women-friendly equipment.

IIT Madras develops AI model to process text in 11 Indian languages:

The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** faculty and **AI4Bharat** have developed **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** models and datasets to process texts in **11 Indian languages**.

Indigenously Developed Prithvi-II Missile Successfully Test Fired from Chandipur, Odisha:

India conducted a successful night testfire of its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface **Prithvi-II** missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a base in **Odisha**.

The state-of-the-art missile was testfired from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at **Chandipur** near here in darkness and the trial was successful in meeting all the parameters

APPOINTMENTS and RESIGNATIONS:

DRDO chief G Satheesh Reddy gets two-year extension till August 2022:

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of renowned scientist **G Satheesh Reddy** as the Chairman of **Defence Research and Development Organisation** (DRDO), and as the Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development for a period of two years. He was appointed as the chief in August 2018 for two years.

Vinay Tonse appointed as MD and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund:

Vinay Tonse has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of **SBI Mutual Fund (MF)**. He has replaced **Ashwani Bhatia**, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of **State Bank of India**.

Banks Board Bureau recommends Dinesh Khara as next SBI chairman:

Banks Board Bureau recommended **Dinesh Kumar Khara** for the post of chairman of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. The board further said that **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** will be in the reserve list for vacancy. Dinesh Kumar Khara and Challa Sreenivasulu Setty are both managing directors of SBI.

Japan's longest-serving PM and a champion of economic reforms Shinzo Abe resigns for health reasons:

Japanese **PM Shinzo Abe** has announced his resignation for health reasons. The 65-year-old has suffered for many years from ulcerative colitis. Last year, he became **Japan's longest serving prime minister**. His current period in office began in 2012. His aggressive economic policy is known as "Abenomics".

Mustapha Adib set to be become Lebanon's new Prime Minister:

Lebanon's Ambassador to Germany, **Mustapha Adib** is set to become the country's next **Prime Minister**. Adib was named by four former Lebanon Prime Ministers as their choice for the post. His designation will come on the eve of French President **Emmanuel Macron's** second trip to Lebanon in under a month.

Tamil Nadu Appoints India's First-ever Woman Ambulance Driver:

M Veeralakshmi was appointed driver of one of the newly launched '108' ambulances in Tamil Nadu. **Tamil Nadu** has appointed India's first-ever woman ambulance driver under a new initiative by **CM Palani swami**.

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**.

Central Board of Direct Taxes Chairman Pramod Chandra Mody Gets 6-Month Extension:

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved extension in the re-appointment of **Pramod Chandra Mody** as Chairman, **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** for a period of **six months**. The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have a maximum of six members. It frames policy for the Income-Tax Department.

Usha Padhee becomes 1st woman DG of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security:

Joint secretary in the Ministry of **Civil Aviation**, **Usha Padhee** has been given additional charge as Director-General of the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**. She succeeds **Rakesh Asthana** (IPS) who was appointed as the Director-General of **Border Security Force (BSF)**.

Bureaucrat Kshatrapati Shivaji appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation:

Government of India appointed **Kshatrapati Shivaji**, a 1986-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer as the secretary in the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. Secretary at this ministry is by design, known as the chief statistician of India.

Murali Ramakrishnan appointed as MD and CEO of South Indian Bank:

Murali Ramakrishnan will take over as the new **Managing Director & CEO** of Kerala-based **South India Bank**. He retired from **ICICI Bank** as Senior General Manager at Strategic Project Group. He will succeed incumbent **VG Mathew**.

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**.

Dwayne Bravo becomes first cricket ambassador for "SBOTOP" sportsbook brand:

West Indies cricketer **Dwayne Bravo** has been chosen as an ambassador for "**SBOTOP**" sportsbook brand. due to this, he becomes the first cricketer. Isle of Man betting group **Celton Manx** has made an announcement for his appointment for its flagship **sportsbook**.

Bajaj Allianz Life ropes in Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador:

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited has appointed bollywood actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its brand ambassador. As the brand ambassador of the life insurer, actor will be promoting the products as well as the digital services of the Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited.

Maruti Suzuki India MD & CEO Kenichi Ayukawa appointed as SIAM President:

Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) elected Maruti Suzuki India Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer **Kenichi Ayukawa** as its new President.

SEBI's Manoj Kumar joins GIFT City's regulatory body:

Manoj Kumar, Chief General Manager at **SEBI**, has moved to **Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City**. He has joined as an Executive Director (ED) with the International Finance Services Centres

Authority (IFSCA), which regulates GIFT City institutions and exchange trading.

Raj Srivastava appointed as India's Ambassador to Republic of Croatia:

Raj Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Croatia**. He is an IFS officer of 1997 batch and is presently serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Tokyo.

R Masakui Appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Jamaica:

Diplomat **R Masakui** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to **Jamaica**. Masakui is presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe. He has also served as Director in the **Ministry of External Affairs**.

Anil Jain becomes new President of All India Tennis Association:

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**.

World's 2nd largest miner's CEO Jean Sébastien Jacques quits after destruction of 46, 000-yr-old caves:

Jean Sébastien Jacques, CEO of world's 2nd largest mining firm **Rio Tinto**, has resigned after criticism over the decision to legally blow up two **46, 000-year-old** Aboriginal rock shelters in **Australia**. It enabled Rio to access **\$135 mn** of high-grade iron ore.

UNICEF India and Indian youth icon Ayushmann Khurrana join hands to advocate for Child Rights:

UNICEF India announced popular Indian film actor and thought-leader, **Ayushmann Khurrana**, as its celebrity advocate for promoting rights **#ForEveryChild**. Ayushmann Khurrana will support UNICEF towards its work around ending violence against children.

Haryana IAS officer Rajesh Khullar appointed executive director of World Bank:

Principal Secretary to Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** and Senior Haryana IAS officer **Rajesh Khullar** has been appointed executive director of the **World Bank** in Washington DC for three years. As executive director, Khullar will represent India, **Bangladesh, Bhutan** and **Sri Lanka** in the **World Bank**.

Sameer Kumar Khare appointed Executive Director at Asian Development Bank:

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Sameer Kumar Khare** as new **Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, Manila.

Harivansh Narayan Singh re-elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:

NDA candidate **Harivansh Narayan Singh** has been re-elected as the **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha**. This would be Harivansh's second innings as the Deputy Chairman of the Upper House.

Paytm First Games announces Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador:

India's homegrown digital financial service platform **Paytm** announced that its subsidiary **Paytm First Games (PFG)** has roped in global sporting legend **Sachin**

Tendulkar as the brand ambassador. The firm in partnership with Tendulkar will increase its reach in **smaller cities** and **towns**.

Virat Kohli roped in as Brand Ambassador by EdTech major Great Learning:

One of India's leading **Edtech companies** for professional and higher education, **Great Learning** announced the appointment of **Virat Kohli**, as its brand ambassador. The captain of the **Indian cricket team** and the world's **No.1 batsman**.

Asian Development Bank appoints Takeo Konishi as Country Director for India:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed **Takeo Konishi** as its new **Country Director for India**. Konishi will replace **Kenichi Yokoyama** who has taken over as Director-General of ADB's South Asia Department. India is the fourth-largest shareholder of ADB and has been its largest borrower since 2010.

Indian Cricketer Suresh Raina appointed as brand ambassador of online poker platform 9stacks:

Online poker platform **9stacks** has signed **Suresh Raina** as its brand ambassador. A left-handed batsman and a spin bowler, Raina will anchor the brand and help in creating a higher brand recall amongst the key target audience.

Bandhan Bank appoints Kumar Ashish to head Emerging Entrepreneurs Business vertical:

Kumar Ashish has been appointed as the head of **Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)**. He is a former executive of ICICI Bank. Bandhan Bank has launched a new

vertical named "**Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)**" to focus on small businesses.

ICICI Bank to seek approval to appoint Sandeep Batra as whole-time director:

ICICI Bank will resume seeking approval from **RBI** for the appointment of **Sandeep Batra** as a whole-time director (designated as Executive Director) of the Bank.

Simanchala Dash Appointed As Advisor To IMF Executive Director:

Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint **Simanchala Dash** as an advisor to Executive Director, **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, in **Washington**. He has been appointed for a period of **three years**.

Former PM HD Deve Gowda Takes Oath as Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka:

Former **Prime Minister** of India, **Shri H D Deve Gowda** took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha from **Karnataka**. The 87-year-old President of the Janata Dal (Secular) party was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2020.

Retired IAS Officer Raghvendra Singh Appointed India's Culture Secretary:

Raghvendra Singh was appointed as the **Culture Secretary** in place of **Anand Kumar**, who has shifted as the secretary of the National Commission for Backward Classes. Singh, at present, is the CEO, Development of Museums & Cultural Spaces.

Rajesh Verma gets One-year extension as head of Company Law Committee:

Ministry of **Corporate Affairs** has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year until **September 2021**. Corporate affairs secretary **Rajesh Verma** is the present chairperson of the committee.

Mohamed Hussein Roble appointed as Somalia Prime Minister:

Somali President **Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaji** has appointed the replacement of former Prime Minister **Hassan Ali Khaire** who was impeached by parliament. The president appointed **Mohamed Hussein Roble**, a humanitarian, as the country's new prime minister.

Former Rebel Leader Ishmael Toroama elected as president of Bougainville:

President **John Momis** elected Former rebel military commander **Ishmael Toroama** as president of **Bougainville**, an autonomous region of **Papua New Guinea**.

Belarus president Aleksandr Lukashenko sworn in for a sixth term:

President **Alexander Lukashenko** of **Belarus** was sworn his **sixth** term in office at an inaugural ceremony that was not announced in advance amid weeks of huge protests of the authoritarian leader's reelection.

Bollywood actor Sonu Sood appointed as Brand Ambassador of Acer India:

Acer India appointed actor **Sonu Sood** as its brand ambassador. As the brand ambassador of Acer India, Sonu Sood will support the range of innovative products of Acer over the social media and campaign on the commitment of Acer in **improving the lives** of the people through technology.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Delhi University student Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash wins 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title at age 21:

Neelakanta Bhanu Prakash, a 21-year-old boy of **Hyderabad** has won the title '**World's**

Fastest Human Calculator' after winning first-ever gold for India in **Mental Calculation World Championship** at **Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO)**. The championship was held in London.

He has created a new All Time Record and has beaten the records of Math Maestros like **Shakuntala Devi** and **Scott Flansburg**. India's **Aryan Shukla** finished **fourth** with a score of 96.

Noor Inayat Khan Becomes First Indian-Origin Woman to Be Honoured with Blue Plaque:

Noor Inayat Khan was an undercover radio operator in Nazi-captured France in 1943 working for Britain's **Special Operations Executive (SOE)**. The memorial plaque will be installed at her family home in central London, 4 Taviton Street at Bloomsbury where she lived.

Panjab University wins prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for 2nd consecutive year:

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

Para swimmer Satyendra Singh 1st Divyang sportsperson of country to get prestigious Adventure Award:

Satyendra Singh Lohia of **Madhya Pradesh** is the 1st **Divyang** Indian sportsperson of the country, to be awarded with Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award. He is also the 1st **Asian Divyang** swimmer to cross

the 42-km Catalina Channel in US in just **11 hours 34 mins.**

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

Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) has been ranked 16th in the **Rabobank's Global** Top 20 Dairy Companies list. Amul has achieved an annual turnover of \$5.5 billion. **Switzerland's Nestle** topped the list with a turnover of US \$22.1 billion.

Hyderabad International Airport wins CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award: The GMR led **Hyderabad International Airport** was awarded at the 21st **National Awards for Excellence in Energy management** organized by **CII** and **GBC** during the 19th edition of Energy Efficiency Summit, Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency.

Air Force Sports Control Board Conferred with 'Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020':

Air Force Sports Control Board, apex body for planning and conduct of sports activities, was conferred with '**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020**' for outstanding contribution in helping sportsperson to excel & implement robust sports welfare measures.

Deep Grace and Jayanti Behera get Biju Patnaik awards on National Sports Day: Indian women's hockey team defender **Deep Grace Ekka** and para-athlete **Jayanti Behera** received the Biju Patnaik sports award for outstanding performance from Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** through video conference on the occasion of the National Sports Day.

Isha Ambani Piramal and Akash Ambani in Fortune global 40-under-40 technology list:

Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** is the most successful businessman in the country. With a net worth of \$80.5 billion, Ambani is currently the 8th richest person in the world and the only Indian in the top 10.

USA President Donald Trump named for 2021 Nobel Peace Prize:

USA President Donald Trump has been named for **Nobel Peace Prize 2021**. he played an important role as broker peace between nations **Israel** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.

DBS Rated as World's Best Bank; Reported by New York-based financial publication:

Southeast Asia's biggest lender **DBS** has been recognized as the world's best bank by New York-based financial publication Global Finance. DBS latest global best bank accolade comes from the New York-based financial publication Global Finance, which named DBS **Best Bank in the World** for the **second time** in **three years** in its **World's Best Global Banks 2020 Awards**.

Indian filmmaker Chaitanya Tamhane's film "The Disciple" wins Best Screenplay award; Venice Film Festival 2020:

Mumbai-based filmmaker **Chaitanya Tamhane's** Marathi language feature film "**The Disciple**" has bagged the prestigious award for Best Screenplay at the 77th annual **Venice International Film Festival 2020**.

Lionel Messi Remains Ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo as World's Richest Footballer:

According to a list compiled by **Forbes**, **Messi's** total earnings this year are **126 million** dollars. **Cristiano Ronaldo** comes in second although earnings of **117 million dollars** will soften the blow for the Juventus forward. **Neymar** comes in third on the Forbes list (96 million dollars) with his Paris St Germain team mate, 21-year-old **Kylian Mbappe**, up in fourth spot (42 million dollars).

Fiumicino International Airport in Rome becomes World's First Airport to earn "COVID-19 5-star airport rating" from Skytrax:

Fiumicino International Airport (FCO) in **Rome, Italy** has become the first airport in the world to be certified with "**COVID-19 5-star airport rating**" from Skytrax, a U.K.-based airport and airline review firm.

Indian Teenager Udit Singhal, named in UN's 2020 list of Young Leaders for Sustainable Goals:

An 18-year-old Indian boy **Udit Singhal** has been included by the United Nations (UN) in the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Udit is the founder of **Glass2Sand**, a zero-waste ecosystem that addresses the growing menace of glass waste in **Delhi**.

PM Narendra Modi awarded Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for medical education:

Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** won the **Medical Education Prize of Ig Nobel Prize 2020** at the 30th First Nobel Prize Ceremony over virtual platform.

Prime Minister Modi named in Time Magazines 100 Most Influential People 2020 List:

Time Magazine has released the **TIME 100 Most Influential People** List 2020. Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi** is the only politician on the list. He has been named in this for the **fourth time** since coming in power in **2014**.

Lieutenant Shivangi Singh set to become India's first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale:

Flight Lieutenant **Shivangi Singh** is set to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the **Rafale combat aircraft**. Shivangi Singh, who hails from **Uttar Pradesh's** Varanasi, was commissioned into the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the year 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

Karan Johar writes his first children's book "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv": Bollywood Filmmaker **Karan Johar** authored a children's picture book titled "**The Big Thoughts of Little Luv**" inspired by his Twins Yash and Roohi. The book will be published by **Juggernaut Books**.

Author Radha Nair on her book 'Breaking The Cocoon @ 40':

Radha Nair's '**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.

A Promised Land": First Volume of Former US President Barack Obama's Memoir:

The first volume of former President **Barack Obama's** memoir is coming out November 17, two weeks after Election Day. It's called "**A Promised Land**" and will cover his swift and historic rise to the White House and his

first term in office. It will have published by **Penguin Random House**.

RANKINGS:

India ranks 48th in Global Innovation Index; Switzerland Tops:

India has joined the group of top 50 countries in the **Global Innovation Index** for the first time, moving up four places to the 48th rank and keeping the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia.

Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking, and the top 10 positions are dominated by high-income countries, **WIPO**.

IISc Bangalore among top 350; THE World University Ranking 2021:

India records its highest ever number of universities to qualify for the **Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking** (WUR) 2021. A total of **63 universities** from India qualified for the ranking, however, none could make it to the **top 300**.

India ranked 105th in Global Economic Freedom Index 2020; Topped by Hong Kong:

India has been ranked **105th** in the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 released by the **Fraser Institute, Canada**. **HongKong** has topped the ranking followed by **Singapore** at the **second** spot.

India ranked 116 in the World Bank's Human Capital Index: Singapore Tops; World Bank released the report titled "The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19".

India has been ranked **116** in the list of **174 countries**. Last year, India was ranked 115

in the list of 157 countries. The country of **Singapore** topped the score with 0.88 followed by **Hong Kong** at 0.81 and Japan at 0.80.

Hyderabad Placed 85th Position in IMD's Global Smart City Index 2020; Singapore Tops:

Institute for Management Development in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design, has released the **2020 Smart City Index**. The index has been topped by **Singapore** followed by **Helsinki** and **Zurich** as top three smart cities.

Hyderabad was placed at the **85th** position (down from 67 in 2019), New **Delhi** at **86th** rank (down from 68 in 2019), **Mumbai** was at **93rd** place (in 2019 it was at 78) and **Bengaluru** at **95th** (79 in 2019).

OBITUARY NEWS:

Former Republic of Congo president Pascal Lissouba dies at 88:

Former President of the **Republic of Congo**, **Pascal Lissouba** passed away. He became the minister of agriculture in 1960 after Congo became an independent country. He served as the president from 1992 to 1997. He served as the Prime minister under the Presidency of Alphonse Massamba Debat.

'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman passes away at 43:

Chadwick Boseman, who played Black icons Jackie Robinson and James Brown before finding fame as Black Panther in the Marvel cinematic universe, died of cancer.

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

Joe Ruby who helped invigorate children's television as the **co-creator of Scooby-Doo**,

the long-running animated franchise about a group of teenage private eyes and their chicken-hearted, snack-guzzling Great Dane, died. He was 87.

Former President Pranab Mukherjee passes away at 84:

Former President of India **Pranab Mukherjee** passed away. The Coalition Years, Turbulent Years, The Dramatic Decade are some of the books written by him. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the **Bharat Ratna** by President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. He was the **13th** President of India. He was from Congress.

Former England cricket allrounder David Capel dies at 57:

David Capel, the former **cricket allrounder** who played 15 Tests and 23 one-day internationals for **England** from 1987-1990, has died after a long illness. He has represented England between **1987 and 1990**. In the first-class career, he played 270 matches for Northants between 1981 and 1998.

Former Mumbai cricketer Sachin Deshmukh passes away at 52:

Former Mumbai cricketer **Sachin Deshmukh**, who played **Cooch Behar Trophy** and **Ranji trophy**, has passed away, after he developed coronavirus complications. The 52-year-old player was referred to as '**Mini Gavaskar**' in local cricket.

Nepal Mountaineer Ang Rita Sherpa, first Person to climb Mount Everest 10 times, passes away at 72:

Nepal-based **Ang Rita Sherpa**, the first man to climb Mount Everest 10 times, has passed away suffering brain and liver ailments for a long time. He was 72. He was therefore also

known as the "**Snow Leopard**" for his climbing skills.

Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner Passed Away at 91:

Canada's 17th Prime Minister **John Turner** has died at the age of 91. He served as the Prime Minister for just **79 days** in 1984, the **2nd shortest term** in the office recorded in the history of Canada.

Former Rajasthan minister Zakia Inam Passed away at 71:

Former Minister of **Rajasthan Zakia Inam** from the Congress Party and **three times MLA** from Tonk constituency has passed away due to coronavirus infection. She was the only woman candidate who became MLA three-time in **Rajasthan**.

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 coronavirus disease. He was a **four-time** Lok Sabha MP from **Karnataka's Belagavi constituency**. He was elected in 2004, 2014 and 2019. He is the first member of the Union Cabinet to die due to coronavirus.

Renowned Nuclear Scientist Dr. Sekhar Basu passes away at 68:

Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission **Dr. Sekhar Basu** succumbed to COVID-19. Dr. Basu was the brain behind the designing, construction, and operation of nuclear recycle plants at **Tarapur** and **Kalpakkam**.

SPORTS NEWS:

James Anderson Becomes First Fast Bowler to Take 600 Test Wickets:

England's **James Anderson** became the first fast bowler to take **600 Test wickets**. He is fourth on the all-time list of Test wicket-takers, behind spinners **Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne** and **Anil Kumble**. Glenn **McGrath** took 563 Test wickets.

Dwayne Bravo becomes first bowler to scalp 500 wickets in T20 cricket:

West Indies all-rounder **Dwayne Bravo** became the first bowler to reach the mark of **500 wickets** in T20 cricket. The pacer achieved the feat in the ongoing **Caribbean Premier League (CPL)** match between Trinbago Knight Riders and **St Lucia Zouks**.

India and Russia declared joint winners of the Chess Olympiad:

India team at the **FIDE Online Olympiad** created history by winning its **first ever gold**. However, in another first, this was shared with **Russia**, following an internet failure that affected two games.

Lewis Hamilton wins Belgian Grand Prix to secure 89th victory of career:

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** dominated the **Belgian Grand Prix** to take his fifth victory in seven races this year and the **89th** of his career.

Hamilton headed team-mate **Valtteri Bottas** to a Mercedes one-two, from Red Bull's Max Verstappen. He is **two victories away** from **Michael Schumacher's** all-time record and sets to equal his seven titles.

Arsenal beat Liverpool on penalties to win 2020 FA Community Shield:

Arsenal beat Premier League champions **Liverpool** by 5–4 on penalties to claim the **2020 FA Community Shield** after a 1–1 draw. The annual football match was played between the winners of the previous season's Premier League, Liverpool, and the previous season's FA Cup, Arsenal at the **Wembley Stadium in London**.

Sumit Nagal is first Indian in seven years to win main draw match at a Grand Slam:

Sumit Nagal became the first Indian to win a round at a Grand Slam in 7 years when he downed **Bradley Klahn** in his US Open first round, setting up a contest against **Dominic Thiem**. **Somdev Devavarman** was the last Indian to win a main draw match at a major.

Cycling Federation of India is set to Host the First Ever Cycling Summit in 2021:

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. This one-day summit is designed to promote the culture of cycling and exchange knowledge with budding and professional cyclists.

Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan clinches victory at prestigious World Open online chess tournament:

Indian Grandmaster **Paneerselvam Iniyan** won the **48th** edition of the prestigious Annual **World Open online chess tournament** held recently. The Tamil Nadu player scored 7.5 points from nine games with six victories and three draws to finish on top.

Pierre Gasly wins Italian Grand Prix, Lewis Hamilton finished seventh after a time penalty:

France's **Pierre Gasly** won an astonishing **Italian Grand Prix** thriller for Italy-based

AlphaTauri. McLaren's Spaniard Carlos Sainz finished a close second. The victory was a first in F1 for Gasly, the first for a French driver since Olivier Panis in 1996.

Mercedes Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020:

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Tuscan Grand Prix 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.

Cristiano Ronaldo becomes first European men's footballer to score 100 international goals:

Cristiano Ronaldo became the **first European** to score **100 international goals**. He became the **second male footballer** after **Ali Daei**, to score **100** international goals after scoring against Sweden in Tuesday's UEFA Nations League match. Ali Daei scored **109 times** for **Iran**.

International Tennis Federation Renames Fed Cup as Billie Jean King Cup: **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.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	DAY	THEME
September 1	World Letter Writing Day	-
September (1-7)	National Nutrition Week	-
September 2	World Coconut Day	"Invest in Coconut to save the world"
September 5	National Teachers' Day	International Day of Charity
September 7	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	"Clean Air for All"
September 8	International Literacy Day	"Literacy teaching & learning in Covid-19 crisis and beyond"
September 8	World Physical Therapy Day	"Rehabilitation After Severe Respiratory Illness"
September 9	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	"Protect Education, Save a Generation"
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	"Working Together to Prevent Suicide"
September 12	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	"Pathways toward the SDGs through South-South solidarity beyond COVID-19"
September 12	World First Aid Day	"First Aid Saves Lives"
September 14	Hindi Diwas Day	-
September 15	International Day of Democracy	-
September 15	National Engineer's Day	-
September 15	World Lymphoma Awareness Day	-

September 16	International Day for the preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day)-	"Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection"
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	"Safe health workers, Safe patients"
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	-
September 18	World Bamboo Day	"BAMBOO NOW"
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day	"Solve Water"
September 19	International Coastal Clean Up Day 2020	"Achieving a trash-free Coastline"
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	"Let's talk about dementia"
September 21	International Day of Peace	"Shaping Peace Together"
September (21-27)	International Week of the Deaf or Deaf Awareness Week	-
September 22	World Rose Day	"Changing the Way We Look at Cancer"
September 22	World Rhino Day	"Five Rhino Species Forever"
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	"Sign Languages Are for Everyone"
September 24	World Maritime Day (Fourth Saturday of September)	"Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet"
September 25	World Pharmacist Day	"Transforming global health"
September 26	World Contraception Day	-
September 27	World Tourism Day	"Tourism and Rural Development"
September 27	World Rivers Day (Fourth Sunday of September)	-
September 28	World Rabies Day	"End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate"
September 29	World Heart Day	-
September 30	International Translation Day	-

OCTOBER 2020

NATIONAL NEWS:

Assam government to provide loan to entrepreneurs for venturing in tourism sector under 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme':

Assam government announced '**Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme'**, under which loan, amounting from **Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 20 lakhs** would be given to interested local youths to take up new initiatives so that the tourism sector gets a fresh lease of life. The advances will be provided for a period of **5 years**.

India's one of the first medical devices park to come up in Kerala:

Central government approved the setting up four medical device parks in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala** on the lines of "**Make in India**" initiative and to provide world-class products at affordable prices for treatment.

ADB approves USD 570 million loans for urban projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh:

The Manila-headquartered **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved two loans totalling **USD 570 million** (about Rs 4,200 crore) for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

'Cable Stayed Bridge' constructed across Durgam Cheruvu Lake inaugurated in Hyderabad:

Minister of State for Home **G. Kishan Reddy** inaugurated the new '**Cable Stayed Bridge**' constructed across **Durgam Cheruvu Lake** along with four-lane elevated corridor associated with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** connecting it with **Jubilee Hills** in **Hyderabad**.

West Bengal Government And UK India Business Council Sign MoU To Strengthen The State's Industrial Development:

UK India Business Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation** (WBIDC), the premier nodal agency of West Bengal's Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department focused on accelerating industrial development in **west Bengal**.

Prime Minister Modi to inaugurate 6 mega projects in Uttarakhand under "Namami Gange Mission":

Prime Minister **Modi** will inaugurate 6 mega projects in **Uttarakhand** under **Namami Gange Mission** through video conference Projects include construction of 68MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), upgradation of the existing 27 MLD at Jagjeetpur & construction of 18 MLD STP at Sarai.

Andhra Government Launches YSR Jala Kala Scheme To Facilitate Irrigation to Farmers:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the '**YSR Jala Kala**' scheme under which bore wells will be drilled to benefit small and medium farmers who have no open source of water for irrigation. The scheme is estimated to bring in **five lakh acres** under cultivation through groundwater irrigation.

Gujarat government signs MoU with Denmark in water sector:

Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board has signed the MoU with '**Danish Water Forum**' through an online interactive platform. This will help in technology **exchange, training, capacity building, knowledge exchange, cooperation in water supply, wastewater treatment**-reuse and water management between the two organizations.

Telangana government to Launch 'Dharani' Portal for Online Land Registration on Dussehra:

Telangana Chief Minister **K. Chandrasekhar Rao** announced that the '**Dharani**' portal for online registration of **land properties** in the state will be launched on **Dussehra**.

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal presents Anundoram Borooah Award 2020 to meritorious students:

Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** presented "**Anundoram Borooah Award 2020**" to students who secured **75 per cent** or above in HSLC examination 2020 at a programme held at **Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra**.

Uttar Pradesh government bags 8 awards for implementation of "Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan":

Uttar Pradesh government has bagged Eight Awards in **Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA)** launched by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** under the Union Ministry of **Jal Shakti**.

Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh join "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme:

Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh have been integrated with the existing national portability cluster of **26 States/UTs** under the **One Nation One Ration Card**, said Union Ministry of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

Government to set up panel headed by Ajay Kumar Bhalla to screen Chinese Foreign Investments:

Government is setting up a panel that will be responsible for examining Chinese foreign investment proposals. The panel is headed by the home secretary, **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** and secretary of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** as a member. The panel will reportedly examine proposals from the point of view of ownership, approving only the "**Non-Controversial**" ones.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates "VAIBHAV" 2020 Summit:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)** Summit, organised for the overseas and resident **Indian Researchers and Academicians**. It has been organised to celebrate Science and Innovation from India and the World.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Inaugurates Kerala's First Mega Food Park:

Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated Kerala's first mega food park that will help generate **5,000** direct and indirect employments.

Government launches 'Sunidhi' project to digitise CMPFO services:

Government announced the launch of an ambitious information technology project '**Sunidhi**' to digitise all provident fund and pension related activities of the **Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO)**.

CMPFO is a statutory body under the **coal ministry**, administers different schemes of **Provident Fund, Pension and Deposit** linked insurance for coal mine workers.

Jal Shakti Minister launches 100-day campaign to provide potable piped water in Schools and Anganwadi Centres:

Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched a **100-day** campaign to provide potable piped water supply in **Schools** and **Anganwadi Centres**. This mission was envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29th of last month, while releasing the '**Margdarshika**' for **Gram Panchayats** and **Paani Samitis** for implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

Telangana government undertakes door to door survey to update non-agricultural property details through NAP app:

Telangana government has deployed teams of municipal staff to visit every single household to gather the property details through **NAP(Non Agricultural Property)** app to update them on the **Dharani portal**.

The government has decided to issue **Non-Agricultural Property Record (NAGPR)** to the owners as a comprehensive ownership document.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates nation world's longest high altitude Atal Tunnel connecting Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Atal Tunnel** under the **Rohtang Pass** that connects **Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley** in **Himachal Pradesh**. The **9.02-kilometer-long** path that goes under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range at an altitude of **3,000 metres** is the world's longest high-altitude road tunnel. It is a horseshoe-shaped, single tube double lane tunnel.

Indian Railways unveils new Tejas Express locomotives, capable to run at 160 kmph:

Indian Railways' electric locomotive manufacturing unit **Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW)** has turned out first batch of **Tejas Express** locomotives amid COVID-19 scare. These locos are made for "**Push-Pull**" operations. CLW is one of the largest Electric Locomotive manufacturers in the world.

Union Minister Arjun Munda to launch largest market of tribal products 'Tribes India E-Marketplace':

Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) will be launched on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2020) in the presence of **Renuka Singh**, Minister of State, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and **Deepak Khandekar**, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

West Bengal government launches "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme for road repair:

West Bengal government has launched the "**Pathashree Abhijan**" scheme. It is a road repair scheme, where more than **7,000** stretches of roads comprising **12,000 kilometers** across the state will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time-bound manner.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar Launched One Stop Digital Platform 'Gram Darshan':

Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** digitally launched '**Gram Darshan**', which will allow accessibility to data of development projects of 6,197 gram panchayats of the state. Deputy Chief Minister **Dushyant Chautala** was also present on this occasion.

Railway Minister virtually inaugurates Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East West Metro corridor:

Railway Minister virtually inaugurated **Phoolbagan Station** of **Kolkata's East-West Metro corridor**, & flagged off 1st train from there to **Salt Lake Sector-V**. Entire stretch of corridor, connecting Sector-V & Howrah Maidan, is likely to be completed by **2021**.

Arvind Kejriwal launches mega anti-pollution campaign "Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh":

Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign named "**Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh**" in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the campaign, separate plans have been prepared for each of the **13 pollution hotspots** in the city.

Puducherry airport becomes Airports Authority of India's first 100% solar-powered airport:

Puducherry airport has become the **Airports Authority of India's (AAI)** first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of **500KWP** ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of **Rs 2.8 crore**. Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.

West Bengal Government sign MoU with IIM Calcutta to Set up Technology Development Centre:

West Bengal Government has signed an agreement with **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta**-run Entrepreneur and Innovation Park to set up a **Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC)**. The TDAC will build technologies which will address need-based, location specific problems.

Gujarat government announces "Digital Seva Setu" Programme for rural areas:

Gujarat government has announced "**Digital Seva Setu**" Programme for rural areas in which citizens will be able to get benefit from public welfare services at **Panchayat level**. It has been initiated under the **Bharat Net Project** an initiative to connect the **Village Panchayats** through fibre network.

Goa government Launches Online E-Learning Platform "DISHTAVO":

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched **DISHTAVO (Digital Integrated System for Holistic Teaching and Virtual Orientations)** an online e-learning platform that is accessible to all. Goa is the **first state** in the country to take the **entire academic**

syllabus of higher education to an online platform and first state to offer **online training for teachers**.

Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Renaming of Naugarh Railway Station to Siddharthnagar Virtually:

Union Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** virtually inaugurates the renaming of **Naugarh railway station** to **Siddharthnagar railway station** situated at Siddharthnagar district in **Uttar Pradesh**.

NABARD to provide India's first two Organic Spices Seed parks in Gujarat:

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will provide "**Grant Assistance**" to two first-of-its-kind **Organic Spices Seed Park Cumin** seeds in **Patan** and **Fennel** seeds in **Banaskantha** districts of **Gujarat**. The parks will encourage capacity building and help farmers in adoption of best practices in the production of cumin & fennel seeds.

Assam government launches "Kisan Rath" mobile app to promote buyer seller network:

Assam government has launched a mobile app "**Kisan Rath**" App connects more than **10,000 farmers, 50 farmer-producer organizations** and **1,000 verified agricultural traders** on its interface. The app has been customized by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** Assam to suit the requirements of the state. It is available in 3 languages- **Assamese, Hindi and English**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Launches Indian Bank's Business Mentoring Programme 'MSME Prerana' for MSMEs:

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched '**MSME Prerana**', an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs by state-run **Indian Bank**. The programme to be made available in **local languages**, is aimed at empowering entrepreneurs through **skill development** and capacity **building workshops**.

Meghalaya to partner with Israel in establishing "Centre of Excellence" for high value vegetables:

Meghalaya government has entered into a partnership with **Israel** to establish a one of a kind **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** on high-value vegetables in the state to improve and promote the **livelihoods of farmers**. CoE is important for tapping the diverse biodiversity and available resources in the state in terms of its soil and **agro-climatic condition**.

Uttar Pradesh government signs agreement with Zurich Airport for development of Jewar Airport:

Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) and **Zurich Airport International AG** signed a key agreement to allow the Swiss developer to begin work at the site of the upcoming **Jewar airport**.

Assam launches "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" scheme to empower economically challenged women:

Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched "**Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom**" scheme to **empower economically disadvantaged women**. The scheme aims to create more than **3.72 lakh** sustainable individuals and over **800 communities**. Further, the scheme will also benefit around 4 lakh families in the first phase of **MGNREGA** with the convergence of

schemes of various state government departments and missions.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches 'Jaganna Vidya Kanuka' scheme for students in government schools:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched '**Jaganna Vidya Kanuka**' scheme for students studying in **Government Schools**. The Scheme would help in **improving Government schools' quality** and **enrolments** and would aid in providing kits to Govt school students who are enrolled in class **1 to 10 standards**.

Goa becomes first 'Har Ghar Jal' state by providing tap water connections in rural areas:

Goa has become the first '**Har Ghar Jal**' state in the country by providing **100% tap water connections** in rural areas covering **2.30 lakh households**, the Jal Shakti Ministry Stated. The Government's **Jal Jeevan Mission aims** to provide piped water to all rural households by **2024**.

Jammu and Kashmir Police organises 'Jashn-E-Dal' festival to boost tourism:

Jammu and Kashmir Police have organised a three-day water sports festival '**Jashn-E-Dal**' with an aim to **boost water sports activities** and promote tourism in the valley. The festival was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police under **civic action programme** in collaboration with water sports association after **three years**.

Uttarakhand government Launches 'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana' to generate self-employment for youth and migrants:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched "**Mukhya Mantri**

Saur Swarojgar Yojana". The Yojana aims at creating **self-employment** for nearly **10,000 youths** in the state. **Co-operative banks** will grant loans at interest rate of **8% p.a. for 15 years** to set up the solar plants on **private land** or on land taken on lease.

PM Modi launches physical distribution of property cards under SVAMITVA scheme:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the physical distribution of property cards under **SVAMITVA** scheme. It is a central sector scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj will make rural India "**Self-Reliant**". The beneficiaries now will have a right, **a legal document** of owning their **houses**. The country has taken another major step towards an **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**, as this scheme helps in making rural India self-reliant.

PM Narendra Modi releases commemorative coin of Rs 100 in honour of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a commemorative **coin of Rs 100** in **Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia's** honour. The PM recalled the legacy of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia on her birth centenary.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launches a Water Testing Lab On Wheels:

Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal** launched a **Mobile Water Testing Laboratory Van** equipped with a multi-parameter system containing analysers, sensors, probes, and instruments based on **Colorimetric, Electrochemistry**. This initiative has been launched under the **Jal Jeevan Mission** for providing tap water connection to **every rural household**.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to launch Mission Shakti for women in Navratri:

Uttar Pradesh government will dedicate the upcoming **Navratri festival** to **women's safety, dignity and empowerment** by launching '**Mission Shakti**'. The initiative will begin in '**Shardiya Navratri**' and will continue for the next **six months** till the '**Chaitra Navratri**' in April.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches "Sujal Mission" to Provide Quality Drinking Water in Urban Areas:

Odisha Chief minister **Naveen Patnaik** virtually launched the "**Drink from the tap Mission Sujal**", an initiative under the **5T model** of governance, that aimed to ensure **24x7** safe and **Quality Drinking Water** to the people in urban areas.

Odisha government signs agreement with Rugby India to sponsor national team for 3 years:

Odisha government signed an agreement with **Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU)** to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till **2023** and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players. The agreement was signed at the **Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Arvind Kejriwal Launches 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign to reduce air pollution in Delhi:

Delhi chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched '**Red Light On, Gaadi Off**' a new **anti-pollution campaign** under people will be encouraged to switch engines of their **vehicles off** while waiting at traffic signals. It can reduce **PM10 emissions** by **1.5 tonnes**

a year and **PM2.5 emissions** by **0.4 tonnes a year.**

"SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for Women Inaugurated in Ramban District of Jammu and Kashmir:

Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated "SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for women in Ramban district. It aims to facilitate access to integrated range of services including **medical aid, police assistance, legal aid, psycho-social counselling** and temporary support services to women affected by violence to women affected by **violence**.

Pinarayi Vijayan launches Kerala's first water taxi service in Alappuzha:

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the first water taxi service of the State Water Transport Department (SWTD) in Alappuzha. A **catamaran diesel-powered craft** will be used for the water taxi service.

Union Education Minister virtually launches 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness Education campaign:

Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually launched the 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign on the 89th birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

MSME Ministry integrates AI and ML on its Single Window portal 'Champions':

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) powered tools on its single window system '**Champions**' in a bid to take a

proactive stance on matters related to the MSMEs. This AI transformation has been enabled by **Intel** over a period of **five months**.

PM Narendra Modi releases Rs 75 coin to mark 75th year of Food and Agriculture Organisation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of **Rs 75** denomination to mark the **75th anniversary** of the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the **United Nations**.

Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation 17 recently **developed biofortified** varieties of **eight crops**. FAO was founded on 16 October 1945.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Virtually Attends 102nd Meeting of the World Bank Development Committee Plenary:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated in **102nd** meeting of the **World Bank Development Committee Plenary** through video conference. Government has committed **\$2.03 billion** for the strengthening of health infrastructure in the wake of #COVID19 pandemic.

#Unite2FightCorona #StaySafe"

Jammu & Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha launches 'My Town My Pride' Campaign to provide doorstep governance in urban areas:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has announced an initiative called '**My Town My Pride**' to provide governance at the doorstep in urban areas. This programme is in line with the "**Back to Village programme**" launched for rural population.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari initiates Asia's Longest Bi-directional Road Tunnel ZojiLa Tunnel works:

Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched the first blasting for construction related work at the **14.15 km Zojila tunnel**, one of the **longest in Asia** that will provide all-year connectivity between **Srinagar valley and Leh.**

Assam Celebrates "Kati Bihu" Festival:

Kati Bihu festival is held at this time of the year since the granaries of the farmers usually remain empty and therefore it is known as **Kongali (poor) Bihu**. On the occasion of **Kati Bihu, women**, both in **Urban and Rural Areas**, try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by **lighting earthen lamps.**

Telangana government signs MoU with BSE, GlobalLinker to help MSMEs in raising equity funds:

Telangana government along with **GlobalLinker** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** to help **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in raising equity funds.

India takes up first ever cultivation of Heeng in Himachal Pradesh:

CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur has started cultivating **heeng** for the first time in the state as well as in the country. The first seedling of the spice was planted at a farmer's field in **Kwaring village of Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh**. India imports about **1200 tonnes** of raw asafoetida annually.

ADB and India sign \$177 million loan for road projects in Maharashtra:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and **India** signed a **\$177 million** loan to upgrade **450 km** of state highways and major district roads in the state of **Maharashtra**. State government Maharashtra will contribute **\$78.99 million** equivalent toward the **\$255.99 million** total cost of the project.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Electricity Consumer Service Portal 'Mo Bidyut' portal and app:

Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched an electricity consumer service portal "**Mo Bidyut**" and its mobile app to **provide efficient, time-bound and transparent online service** to the people of the State.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel Launches "Safe City Project" a women's safety campaign in Lucknow:

Uttar Pradesh Governor **Anandiben Patel** inaugurated the '**Safe City Project**' in Lucknow. Central has approved a total cost of Rs 194 crore. Under this **180-day-long campaign**, the **women police** personnel will work towards strengthening security of women in public places and inculcate a feeling of pride and **safety among women in the city.**

Railway Protection Force (RPF) launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative on AP Express:

Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam, started implementing '**Meri Saheli**' initiative in **AP Express** (Visakhapatnam to **New Delhi**) in order to provide proactive **security to women passengers**. The main motto of '**Meri Saheli**' is to **provide safety and security to women** passengers travelling in trains throughout their journey.

West Bengal Government Launches Campaign to Curb Elephant Deaths Due to Electrocution:

West Bengal government launched a campaign in areas adjoining **elephant habitats** in the northern part of the state. This campaign has been launched to prevent **electrocution deaths of elephants**. The campaign will focus on areas adjoining **Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara** and **Gorumara national parks**.

Surat's BRTS becomes Longest BRTS Network in country with a coverage of 108 kms:

Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** inaugurated the newly expanded **Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS)** route from **Kumbhariya to Kadodara, Surat** virtually from **Gandhinagar**. With the opening of this **BRTS corridor**, Surat became the only city in the country to have Longest BRTS network with **108 kms**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

3-day naval exercise held between India and Japan in Arabian Sea:

4th edition of **India** and **Japan** Maritime bilateral exercise "**JIMEX**" is conducted biennially between the **Indian Navy** and **Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)** is being held in the **North Arabian Sea** in a 'Non-Contact At-Sea-Only Format'.

Passage Exercise (PASSEX) Between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in East Indian Ocean Region:

Indian Navy is scheduled to undertake a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** in the East Indian Ocean Region. The exercise would involve

participation of **HMAS Hobart** from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships **Sahyadri** and **Karmuk**.

World Bank Approves \$200 mn loan for Bangladesh to ensure safe water in rural areas:

World Bank has approved **\$200 million** to help **Bangladesh** improve access to safe water and sanitation services in rural areas. The Bangladesh Rural **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** for Human Capital Development Project will help about 600,000 people avail safe and clean water through large and small piped water schemes in **rural areas**.

India and Australia Strengthens their Partnership on Skilling Agenda:

Union **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and the High Commission of **Australia** conducted meeting for Cooperation in **Vocational Education and Training**. The aim is to support Vocational Education and Training (VET) in India and Australia.

Foreign ministers of India, Japan, US and Australia attend QUAD meeting in Tokyo:

Foreign ministers of all four **Quad countries** – the **United States, Japan, India and Australia** in **Tokyo, Japan** to hold bilateral discussions over "**Free and Open Indo-Pacific**" (**FOIP**) initiative amid coronavirus pandemic.

Foreign ministers of all four Quad countries are were Secretary of State **12th Virtual BRICS Summit to be held on 17 November 2020:**

India's First Business-To-Business (B2B) Crypto Exchange 'DigitX' Launched:

DigitX is India's first **Business-to-Business (B2B) Crypto trading** exchange has commenced its trading operations. In a highly potential yet challenging market, DigitX aims to deliver **transparency** and **security** with its Platform armed with features to bring about a much-needed trust and confidence for the investors and **traders of Crypto**.

Chqbook launches India's first 'Financial Control Center' on mobile to empower 60 million small business owners:

Chqbook is India's first **Neobank** for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships announced the launch of its new mobile platform '**Financial Control Center**'. With this launch, Chqbook brings world-class financial services to a massive underserved segment.

India to surpass Japan to become the third largest economy by 2050:

Indian economy is set to become the **third largest** in the world behind **China** and the **US** by **2050** and retain the same position in **2100**, a study published in the **medical journal Lancet** found by translating working age population of countries into scenarios for total GDP.

Argentina Becomes First Country to Approve Genetically Modified Wheat:

Argentina became the first country in the world to approve the use of drought-resistant **Genetically Modified (GMO) Wheat**, prompting fierce criticism by the country's massive export agriculture industry.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Virtually Host SCO Meeting of Law and Justice Ministers:

Union Minister of Law and Justice **Ravi Shankar Prasad** will host the seventh meeting of Ministers of Justice of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. **India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** will participate in the meeting.

16-year-old Aava Murto assumes Finland's PM post for a day Under 'Girls Takeover' Programme:

A 16-year-old girl ceremoniously assumed the post of Finnish prime minister for one day for the "**Girls Takeover**" program — part of the United Nations **International Day of the Girl** to raise more awareness of gender equality.

18-year-old Indian girl Chaitanya Venkateswaran becomes British High Commissioner for a day:

Delhi girl **Chaitanya Venkateswaran** became the **British high commissioner** to **India** for a day. The 18-year-old won the '**High Commissioner for the Day**' contest organised by the mission in the run-up to the International Day of the Girl Child (October 11).

Exim Bank provides USD 310 million line of credit to Zimbabwe for thermal and river projects:

Exim Bank has provided **USD 42.5 million** (about Rs 310 crore) **line of credit (LOC)** to **Zimbabwe** for upgradation of a thermal power plant and river project. Under the LOCs, the terminal utilization period is **60 months** after the scheduled completion date of the project.

Exim Bank extends USD 400 million soft loan to Maldives for financing connectivity project:

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on behalf of the Government of **India** has extended a **USD 400 million** (about Rs 2,932 crore) soft loan to **Maldives** through the Exim Bank to finance a connectivity project in the nation of islands.

World Economic Forum shifts annual meeting 2021 from Davos to Lucerne:

World Economic Forum (WEF) will hold its Annual Meeting **2021** in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**, from May 18 to 21, as against the traditional venue of ski resort town **Davos** in **January 2021**. The theme "**The Great Reset**", it will be held both in physical and digital modes.

India and France re-elected as President and Co-President of International Solar Alliance:

India and **France** were re-elected as the **President** and **Co-President** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly, informed the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.

India provides USD 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestinian refugees:

India contributed **USD one million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)** in the **Near East** to support **Palestinian refugees** who have been facing extreme challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a move hailed by the UN body as "**Timely Help**".

India designated as Vice-Chair of OECD Working Group on Good Laboratory Practice (GLP):

India has been designated the **Vice-Chair** of **Good Laboratory Practice**, GLP Working Group of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, recognising the contribution of the Indian GLP programme.

Indian and Sri Lankan navies to conduct maritime exercise SLINEX-20:

The **8th** edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise **SLINEX-20** between the **Indian Navy** and **Sri Lanka Navy** is scheduled off **Trincomalee in Sri Lanka**. It aims to enhance inter-operability & improve mutual understanding for multi-faceted maritime operations.

Singapore Becomes First Country to Use Facial Recognition to Pay Taxes:

Singapore became the **World's First Country** to attach **Facial verification** in the National Identification Database. This technology is being rolled out to the city-state's **SingPass digital identity scheme**, offering access to no less than **400 online services**, including **tax declarations** and **public housing applications**. Facial recognition is also increasingly being used to access other online services

Israeli Embassy to Have 'Water Attache' in India from January:

Israel Embassy will have a separate '**Water Attache**' from **January 2021** to help share their country's best practices and technologies for advancements in India's **water management** and **agriculture sectors** stated by **Israeli Ambassador** to India **Ron Malka**.

6th India International Science Festival to be held in Virtual format from December 2020:

The 6th edition of **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020** will be held from **22nd to 25th December, 2020**. The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** announced this at a review meeting in **New Delhi**.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

Fino Payments Bank with Fintech Partners Introduced NFC-based Contactless Payments Solution for Mass Transport:

Fino Payments Bank along with **fintech partners** has introduced **NFC-based contactless payments** solution for mass transit systems, especially state bus **Transport Services** in India. It was developed by **Fino Payments Bank** in partnership with **fintech firms** like City Cash.

RBI approves 3-member committee of directors Headed by Meeta Makhan to manage Lakshmi Vilas Bank:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a **three-member committee** of directors to run the day-to-day functioning of **cash strapped** Lakshmi Vilas Bank. RBI approved 3 independent directors namely, **Meeta Makhan**, Chairperson of the CoD, **Shakti Sinha**, Member and **Satish Kumar Kalra**, Member. Meeta Makhan is the head of this Committee of Directors (CoD).

RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit for banks under MSF till March 31, 2021:

RBI had increased the borrowing limit for scheduled banks under the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** scheme from **2 per cent** to **3 per cent** of their **Net Demand and**

Time Liabilities (NDTL) with effect from March 27, 2020.

RBI to launch "Positive Pay System" for Cheque Truncation System from January, 2021:

Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will launch "**Positive Pay System**" for **Cheque Truncation System** from 01st January, 2021. The "Positive Pay System" will be developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and make it available to participant banks.

India's GDP to contract 11% in FY21: ICRA

Rating Agency **ICRA** has revised its FY21 forecast for the contraction in India's GDP downwards to **11 per cent** from its earlier projection of **9.5 per cent** due to fresh Covid-19 infections remaining elevated at the end of Q2 (July-September) FY21.

HDFC Bank launches India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App:

HDFC Bank launched a **Warehouse Commodity Finance** App. This will enable customers in drawing down and managing the loan against pledge of commodities online without physical intervention or multiple visits to a Bank branch.

IDBI Bank becomes first bank to enable document embedding feature on SFMS:

IDBI Bank has become the first lender to enable document embedding feature on a **Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS)** managed by **Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)**. This new feature of "**Document Embedding**" provides banks with the functionality of transmitting a "**PDF**" document up to **1MB size** along with the

Letter of Credit (LC) / Bank Guarantee
(BG) messages.

RBI Sets Centre's Ways and Means advances limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for second half of FY 2020-21:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set the **Ways and Means Advances (WMAs)** limit at **Rs 1.25 lakh crore** for the central government for the second half of the fiscal year. WMAs are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in **Receipts and Payments**.

Indian Bank launched Green-Tech Initiative "IB-eNote":

Indian Bank has launched a green initiative named "**IB-eNote**" to enable a total **Paperless Working Environment**. This tool enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally.

RBI excludes six public sector banks from Second Schedule of RBI Act:

Reserve Bank of India has excluded **six public sector banks** from the Second Schedule of the **RBI Act** following their merger with other banks. The six banks are **Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank**.

State Bank of India joins hands with HUL to offer digital payment solutions to retailers and distributors:

State Bank of India (SBI) and **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), under which the bank will provide its **digital payment and financing solutions** to the **FMCG** company's retailers and distributors. It also aims to make availing of credit easy for

channel partners, provides **UPI** based payment solutions & **PoS** terminals to retailers & distributors.

Government keeps interest rates unchanged on PPF, NSC and other small savings schemes for Third quarter:

Government kept the interest rates on **Small Savings Schemes**, including PPF and NSC, unchanged for **third quarter** (October-December) amid moderating bank deposit rates. **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** and **National Savings Certificate (NSC)** will continue to carry an annual interest rate of **7.1 per cent** and **6.8 per cent**, respectively. Five-year **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)** has been retained at **7.4 per cent**. The interest on the senior citizen scheme is paid quarterly. Interest rate on **Savings Deposits** has been retained at **4 per cent** annually.

The girl child savings scheme **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)** will offer **7.6 per cent** rate during the third quarter of the current fiscal. The annual interest rate on **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** has been retained at **6.9 per cent**.

Indian Bank launches Rupay Kisan credit card scheme for Tamil Nadu fishermen:

Indian Bank has launched **Rupay Kisan credit card** scheme for **Tamil Nadu fishermen**, where working capital loan up to **Rs 2 lakh** can be availed at **7% interest** under **MUDRA Scheme**. Interest subvention of **3%** would be provided for **Repayment of Loan** within a year. The fishermen can submit their loan applications through the **Department of Fisheries**.

Punjab National Bank launches financial inclusion initiative "Gram Sampark Abhiyan":

State-owned **Punjab National Bank** launched a financial inclusion and literacy initiative '**Gram Sampark Abhiyan**' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. **SEBI Introduces 'Very High Risk Category' in Mutual Fund Schemes:**

Axis Bank and Vistara strengthen partnership to launch a co-branded forex card:

India's third largest private sector bank **Axis Bank** strengthens partnership with **Vistara** to launch a co-branded forex card – '**Axis Bank Club Vistara Forex Card**'. This is also the first-ever collaboration by a bank and an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card.

Indian Bank launches its first Customer Acquisition and Processing Centre in Chennai:

Chennai-headquartered public sector lender **Indian Bank** opened its first centralised **Customer Acquisition & Processing Centre (CAPC)** in Chennai. **Tamil Nadu** and **Puducherry** branches will be brought under CAPC before December 2020 and other branches across the country will be brought under the CAPCs in a phased manner.

ICICI becomes the first Bank to offer debit card to customers availing Loan Against Securities (LAS):

ICICI Bank partnership with **Visa** to introduced a **Debit Card** facility for customers availing the **Loan Against Securities (LAS)** from the Bank. The card is available on the Visa platform. The card offers

a maximum daily transaction limit of **Rs. 3 lakhs** each for **POS** and **online transactions**.

BFSL partners with ICSI to launch co-branded credit card for Company Secretaries:

BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bank of Baroda** (BoB) partners with **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** to launch an exclusive co-branded credit card for **Company Secretaries (CS)**.

The **BoB-ICSI Diamond credit card** will bring exclusive benefits and conveniences to Company Secretaries, who are influencers and opinion leaders in their own right, and are contributing in building a **modern** and **Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) India**.

RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rate unchanged at 4%; GDP to contract by 9.5% in current FY21:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep key lending rate **unchanged** in its October policy review meeting. The **six-member** monetary policy committee (MPC), headed by RBI governor **Shaktikanta Das**, kept **Repo Rate** untouched at **4 per cent**; and **Reverse Repo** rate at **3.35 per cent** while maintaining accommodative stance. Shaktikanta also stated that real GDP expected to contract by **9.5 per cent** in the current fiscal (**2020-21**). RBI will extend the scheme for **co-lending** to all **NBFC, HFC**.

RBI extends interest subvention scheme for MSMEs till 31st March 2021:

Reserve Bank of India stated that the two per cent interest subvention scheme for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES)** on loans offered by co-operative

banks has been extended till **31st of March 2021.**

World Bank expects India's GDP to contract by 9.6% For FY21:

World Bank expects **India's GDP** is expected to contract by **9.6 percent** this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the country's economic situation is much worse than ever seen before.

HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals join hands to provide access to quality healthcare and easy finance at scale:

HDFC Bank and **Apollo Hospitals** have joined hands to launch **The Healthy Life Programme**, a holistic healthcare solution which makes healthy life accessible and affordable on Apollo's digital platform, **Apollo 24/7**. The programme is created exclusively for **HDFC customers** who will get round the clock access to emergency Apollo Doctor at No Cost on Apollo 24/7 along with a **plethora of benefits** such as **choice of payment options** and ease of finance for treatments at Apollo Hospitals.

RTGS payment system will be available 24x7 from December 2020:

Reserve Bank of India Governor **Shaktikanta Das** announced that **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** payment system will be available round the clock from **December 2020** to make online fund transfer smooth. As of now, RTGS is not a **24x7 system**. The RTGS service window for customer transactions is available to banks from **7am to 6pm** on a working day, for settlement at the RBI end.

LIC Housing launches '**Project RED**' to improve efficiencies:

LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) launched "**Project RED**" (**Reimagining Excellence through Digital transformation**) to improve efficiencies at every level of the organisation. **Project RED** aims to create value across the **entire spectrum of stakeholders** that includes employees, shareholders, business associates, existing and potential customers of **LICHFL**, as per the housing finance company's statement.

RBI to move Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) to manage Forex and Gold Reserves:

RBI has decided to move towards the **Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA)**. This decision has been taken by the Reserve Bank of India for managing the country's **Foreign Exchange** and **Gold Reserves**. The Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) application will help improve the **functioning** of the RBI.

International Monetary Fund projects India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020:

International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected **India's gross domestic product (GDP)** to plunge in **FY21** by **10.3%**, from its earlier prediction of **4.5% drop**, reflecting a severe-than-anticipated contraction in economic activities in the **first quarter** as a result of the nationwide lockdown as well as the rapidly spreading pandemic.

IMF estimates the GDP of India to grow at **8.8 per cent** in **2021-22**, as compared to **6 per cent** predicted earlier.

RBI Increases Banks Aggregate Exposure Limit for Small Businesses to Rs 7.5 crore:

Reserve Bank (RBI) has raised the banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to **Rs 50 crore** to **Rs 7.5 crore**. Earlier this limit was **Rs 5 crore**.

Axis Bank collaborates with Google Pay and Visa to launch a new ACE Credit card: **Axis Bank** launches **ACE Credit Card** in India in collaboration with **Google Pay** and **Visa**. The card meant to help with **digital payments**. From application to issuance, with the entire user journey for the credit card application will be done digitally.

Indian Bank inks MoU with SIDBI and Housing Ministry for street vendors:

Indian Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** for payment of subsidy to street vendors under **SVANidhi Scheme**. Government introduced the **Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi Scheme)** to provide loans to vendors and hawkers, among others.

IRDAI to offer a standard term life policy, 'Saral Jeevan Bima' from January 2021: **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India** (IRDAI) has come out with a standard, individual term life insurance product called "**Saral Jeevan Bima**". This will be mandatorily offered by all life insurance companies from **January 1, 2021**, onwards. Insurers have to file the product with the regulator latest by **December 1**.

Jana Small Finance Bank Becomes First SFB to Go Live Under Sponsor Bank Program:

Jana Small Finance Bank has joined hands with **Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited** under the Bank Sponsorship Program. Jana Bank becomes the first **Small Finance Bank** to go live under this Program.

Bank of Baroda inks pact with Mahindra & Mahindra for tractor finance:

State-owned **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has entered into a pact with **Mahindra and Mahindra** for tractor finance business. The lender, through its over **5,000 rural and semi-urban branch network**, will provide **Tractor Loan Facility** to customers of Mahindra and Mahindra.

Indian Bank partners with IIT Madras to launch credit scheme "IND Spring Board" for start-ups:

Indian Bank has collaborated with **IIT Madras** Incubation cell to launch '**IND Spring Board**', an initiative for funding start-ups. The Bank will extend loans of up to **Rs 50 crore** to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

Power Finance Corporation signs MoU with Ministry of Power detailing targets for FY 2020-21:

Power Finance Corporation Ltd has signed a performance-based MoU with the **Ministry of Power** detailing various targets to be achieved by PFC during **FY 2020-21**. The MoU was signed by Power Secretary **Sanjiv Nandan Sahai** and CMD of PFC **R.S. Dhillon**.

Bombay Stock Exchange joins hands with Yes Bank to Empower SMEs:

Leading stock exchange **BSE** (Bombay Stock Exchange) has signed a pact with private sector lender **Yes Bank** to empower the **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** listed on the platform. The pact aims at empowering the SME segment through awareness and **knowledge-sharing programmes**.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corp Ltd inks MoUs with corporate companies to develop metro stations:

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has signed MoUs with the corporate companies to develop upcoming metro stations under their **CSR funds**. The proposed metro line between **Electronic city** and **Bangalore International airport** will now get CSR funds for the development and maintenance of metro stations.

Amazon Pay join hands with Uber to push digital payment service system in India:

Amazon Pay and **Uber technology** announced a partnership that will integrate the **digital payment platform** as a payment option on the ride hailing service app. This partnership with Uber will allow customers to complete their transaction in a **contactless manner**, especially during the pandemic.

Mastercard partners with Indian start-up Signzy for global rollout of Video KYC:

Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has partnered with **Signzy**, a RegTech startup based in India, for global rollout of Signzy's video-based **KYC (Know Your Customer)** solution for its banking customers.

EarlySalary Launches "Salary Card" a Zero-Touch Digital card Powered by RuPay:

India's largest consumer lending platform **EarlySalary** launches '**Salary Card**' a **zero-touch digital card** that provides instant access for salaried professionals, enabling them to make instant purchases across thousands of merchants across India.

Gujarat government partnered with Hindustan Zinc to set up world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada:

Vedanta Group firm **Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL)** has signed a pact with **Gujarat government** to set up a **greenfield zinc smelter** in the state. The project will entail an investment of up to **Rs 10,000 crore**.

Flipkart-owned PhonePe Partners with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to Launch Car and Bike Insurance Products:

Flipkart-owned **PhonePe** launched **Car and Bike Insurance** products on its platform in association with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.

With this launch, over **230 million** registered **PhonePe** users to insure their vehicles **under 2 minutes**, without the need for any documents to be uploaded before the purchase, and also view their **policy documents instantly** on the app.

Tata Motors partners with HDFC to provide financing offers for passenger vehicles:

Tata Motors has partnered with **HDFC Bank** for financing of its **passenger vehicles**. Through the partnership Tata has introduced two new schemes '**Gradual Step Up Scheme**' and '**TML Flexi Drive Scheme**' with an eye on making its products more

accessible and driving up sales in the festive season.

Bank of Baroda Partners with Toyota Kirloskar Motor for easy auto finance:

State-owned **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** announced a tie up with **Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM)** to enable finance options for the **automaker's customers and dealers**. BoB will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by **TKM**.

RBL Bank Join Hands with Zenpay to Digitalize Salary Accounts for SMEs and MSMEs:

Zenpay Solutions is one of the fastest growing **Fintech company** in the **digital banking industry** announced partnership with **RBL bank** and **YAP** to drive financial inclusion to issue **salary cards** to its customers across India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

IIT Madras Developed an Indigenous Microprocessor "MOUSHIK" For IoT Devices:

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have developed an indigenously Microprocessor '**MOUSHIK**' can cater to the rapidly-growing **IoT devices**, an integral part of **Smart Cities** of a **Digital India**. The processor can be used in smart cards, **Electronic Voting Machines** (EVMs) and office management systems.

South Eastern Railway launches 'Operation My Saheli' to enhance security of women passengers:

South Eastern Railway has launched a project "**Operation My Saheli**" (**friend**) to boost the **security of women passengers** from the originating point to the destination.

it has been introduced in **three trains** **Howrah-Yeshvantpur Duronto** Special, **Howrah- Ahmedabad** Special and **Howrah-Mumbai** Special.

India successfully test fires over 400 km strike range "BrahMos" supersonic cruise missile in Odisha:

India successfully test fired a new version of the **surface to surface** supersonic cruise missile "**BrahMos**" having a range of around **400 km** from an integrated test range at **Balasore** in **Odisha**.

ISRO to carry first ever French payload abroad Venus mission scheduled for 2025:

ISRO is scheduled to launch its **Venus mission** in **2025** and **French space agency CNES (National Centre for Space Studies)** will participate in it. The **VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker)** instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency **Roscosmos** and the **LATMOS atmospheres**, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)** has been selected by the **ISRO**.

Indian Coast Guard Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua' commissioned in Kolkata:

Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) **ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua'** of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** Limited. The commissioning was done through video conferencing by **Jiwesh Nandan**, additional secretary, Ministry of Defence and was attended by Indian Coast

Guard and GRSE including its chairman and managing director Rear Admiral **V K Saxena (retd)**.

India successfully test fires new version of nuclear capable "Shaurya Missile":

India successfully test-fired a new version of Nuclear Capable "**Shaurya missile**" offs the coast of **Odisha**. The **Nuclear Capable missile** can strike targets at around **800 kms**. It would be **lighter** and **easier** to operate in comparison with the existing missile.

DRDO successfully flight tests 'Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo' (SMART) Off Odisha Coast:

India successfully flight tested the **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** from Wheeler Island off the coast of **Odisha**. SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** operations far beyond **torpedo range**. Earlier, this month DRDO had successfully tested Laser-Guided **Anti-Tank Guided Missile**.

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode to launch e-learning hub for villagers:

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode will launch an **e-learning hub** and library as a pilot project for villagers in **Mavoor**. Mavoor village is one of the five villages that has been adopted by the institute under **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)**.

IIT Kharagpur Launches Telemedicine Technology iMedX for Homecare:

IIT Kharagpur researchers have launched a telemedicine system '**iMediX**' to help patients receive assistance from **doctors** without

having to go to hospitals or clinics. The system has been **conceptualized** and **designed** by researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of **Computer Science and Engineering**.

Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' launched to enhance coastal security:

The **seventh** offshore patrol vessel of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, '**Vigraha**' was formally unveiled at **Kattupalli**, Chennai. The vessel was designed and built exclusively for the Coast Guard by **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** Shipbuilding as a part of the '**Make in India**' initiative.

IIT Delhi-incubated Startup Launches Antimicrobial Water Storage Containers 'AqCure':

IIT Delhi-incubated startup **Nanosafe Solutions** has developed a range of **antimicrobial mixing traditional science** with nanotechnology i.e. antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal water storage containers and launched it as "**AqCure**", which is based on the inherent antimicrobial properties of **copper**.

IIT Kharagpur Develops Robotic Solution for Plant Disease Identification and Pesticide Use:

IIT Kharagpur has designed robotic system capable of identifying plant diseases through camera-captured image **analysis & spraying pesticide**. It is a **tracked mobile manipulator** aims to achieve conflicting objectives of **increased productivity, improved quality**.

India successfully test-fires DRDO's 'Rudram-1' Anti-Radiation Missile from a Sukhoi-30:

India successfully test fired its first tactical anti-radiation missile "**Rudram 1**". The supersonic-capable missile can be launched at speeds ranging from **0.6 mach to 2 mach**, i.e., twice the speed of sound. IT can be launched from a height of **500m to 15 km**. Rudram-1 is **India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation launches Nirbhay Cruise Missile into Sea:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched **800-km** range **Nirbhay** cruise missile from **Odisha's** test facility but aborted eight minutes later. Nirbhay is a subsonic missile, which can fly at a speed of **0.7 Mach**, with capabilities to stay under enemy radar to avoid detection.

Rare day-flying moth "Achelura Bifasciata" sighted in Uttarakhand after over 125 years:

A rare day-flying moth "**Achelura bifasciata**" was spotted in **Uttarakhand's Garhwal Himalayas**. There are old records of the insect to have been spotted in Nainital by GF Hampson, a Britisher, who had compiled a book on moths in 1893. The experts also spotted a rare butterfly called "**Tawny Rajah**".

IIT Madras researchers develop sustainable antimicrobial food wrapper:

IIT Madras claims to have developed a **Sustainable Antimicrobial Wrapping Material** that can prevent packaged food contamination by **bacteria** and is **biodegradable**. The wrapper's anti-bacterial compound has been approved by authorities and doesn't cause **any toxicity**.

India Meteorological Department Launches Impact-Based Cyclone Warning System:

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a dynamic, impact-based cyclone warning system aimed at **minimising economic losses and damage** to property from cyclones that hit the country's coasts every year. The system will help minimise economic losses and damages due to property in the intense weather system.

India to deliver kilo-class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar for training purpose:

India will deliver **INS Sindhuvir** to **Myanmar** as part of **defence cooperation**. This will be 1st submarine of Myanmar Navy. It is in accordance with India's vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** and in line with build capacities and self-reliance in neighbouring countries.

Japan Coast Guard Tests Unmanned Aircraft "SeaGuardian":

Japan Coast Guard began test flights of an **unmanned aerial vehicle "SeaGuardian"** to learn whether it can be utilised to carry out the coast guard's key duties, including search and rescue and maritime surveillance. SeaGuardian will be based at the **Maritime Self-Defence Force's base** in Aomori Prefecture, **northern Japan**.

India Conducts Successful Night Trial of Nuclear-Capable Prithvi-2 Missile from Odisha Coast:

India successfully conducted the night trial of its nuclear-capable **Prithvi-2 missile** as part of a user trial by the **Army** from Integrated

Test Range (ITR) at **Chandipur near Balasore**, off **Odisha coast**.

The state-of-the-art missile is **India's first indigenous Surface-To-Surface strategic missile**, developed by **DRDO** under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. The **9-metre tall liquid-propelled Prithvi-2** has a range of **250 km** and can carry a **1 tonne warhead**.

India successfully test-fires SANT missile with 'Lock-on After Launch' & 'Lock-on Before Launch' capabilities:

India test-fired the **Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT)** missile off the coast of **Odisha**.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing the missile for the **Indian Air Force** and it will have both "**Lock-on After Launch**" and "**Lock-on Before Launch**" capabilities.

The missile hit the target with **Pin-Point Accuracy** and also performed "**Extremely Complex**" manoeuvres.

IIT Kharagpur's Covid-19 Test Kit 'COVIRAP' Gets ICMR Certification to Cost Less Than Rs 500:

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has validated the efficacy of '**COVIRAP**', a diagnostic machine developed by **IIT Kharagpur** researchers to **detect coronavirus** within **one hour**. With ICMR's approval, several business houses have approached the institute for technology licensing.

Nokia Selected by NASA to Build 4G LTE Mobile Network on the Moon:

Nokia has been selected by **NASA** to build the **first cellular network on the moon**. US space agency plans for a future where

humans return there and establish lunar settlements.

Indian Navy's indigenously built ASW stealth corvette INS Kavaratti commissioned:

Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane commissioned the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette **INS Kavaratti** into the **Indian Navy** at the **Naval Dockyard**. INS Kavaratti is the last of the four indigenously-built **ASW stealth corvettes** under **Project 28 (Kamorta class)** and has been designed by the Directorate of **Naval Design**, the Indian Navy's in-house wing.

APPOINTMENTS and RESIGNATIONS:

Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh appointed as brand ambassador of Aakash Educational Services:

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), which provides comprehensive test preparatory services, has announced the appointment of cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** as its brand ambassador. He will lead the "**Success is waiting**", a multi-channel campaign of **Aakash Digital**.

Former India cricketer Neetu David appointed as the head of BCCI's All-India Women's Selection Committee:

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the appointment of former India Women's cricketer **Neetu David** as the head of the new **All-India Women's Selection Committee**. The women's selection committee will comprise of 5 members.

Reserve Bank ropes in Amitabh Bachchan for customer awareness campaign:

RBI has roped in Bollywood megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** for the **client consciousness** marketing campaign to forestall gullible account holders from being duped by **fraudsters**. As a part of the general public consciousness initiative of RBI, the regulator retains informing about **do's and don'ts** that should be adopted by clients to transact safely and securely.

Kerala startup Entri signs up Robin Uthappa as brand ambassador:

A local language learning app **Entri** has signed up Rajasthan Royals cricketer **Robin Uthappa** as its brand ambassador and has also partnered with Hotstar torun ad campaigns in five different languages throughout the IPL 2020.

Mali's Former Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane appointed as new Prime Minister:

Mali's transitional president has appointed former minister of foreign affairs, Moctar Ouane, as the **West African nation's** prime minister days after being sworn into office. He served as foreign minister between 2004 and 2011 during **Amadou Toumani Toure's** presidency.

Senior bureaucrat PD Vaghela appointed new TRAI chairman:

Government has appointed **PD Vaghela**, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals, as the new **TRAI chairman** for a period of three years or until he attains the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier. Vaghela is an IAS officer of 1986 batch from **Gujarat cadre**.

RBI appoints D K Kashyap Additional Director on Dhanlaxmi Bank board:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **D K Kashyap** from its Bengaluru Regional Office as Additional Director on the board of

Dhanlaxmi Bank for 2 years. In February 2020, **G Jagan Mohan**, General Manager, RBI, Bengaluru Regional Office, was appointed as Additional Director on the board of the bank for a period of **two years**.

Bandhan Bank appointed Former Bajaj Capital CEO Rahul Parikh as digital head:

Bandhan Bank has appointed former Bajaj Capital chief executive **Rahul Parikh** as the **Bank's Digital Head** as the bank broadens its digital presence to improve customer services. Parikh will be responsible for the digital banking business and for building a strong digital backbone to support the **bank's growth**.

ITBP chief S S Deswal takes additional charge of National Security Guard Director General:

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, according to a government order. Anup Kumar Singh, a 1985-batch **Indian Police Service** officer of the Gujarat cadre, was appointed the NSG Director General in October 2019.

KVIC appoints Fashion Design Council Chairman Sunil Sethi as advisor:

Khadi and Village Industries Commission have appointed **Sunil Sethi** as its Advisor. Sunil Sethi is the Chairman of the Fashion Design Council of India. He has been appointed for a period of **one year**. He will succeed fashion designer **Ritu Beri**.

S Aparna IAS takes charge as new Union Pharma Secretary:

S Aparna IAS (Gujarat 1988), has assumed charge as **Secretary** in the **Department of**

Pharmaceuticals Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. Ms Aparna has replaced **Dr PD Vaghela** who superannuated on 30 September 2020.

IAS officer Apurva Chandra takes charge as Secretary at Ministry of Labour and Employment:

Apurva Chandra (IAS) has assumed charge as new **Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment**. Chandra is a 1988 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer of **Maharashtra cadre**. Prior to this, he was serving as Special Director General, **Defence Acquisition** and **Ministry of Defence**.

IFS Officer Devyani Khobragade Appointed India's Next Ambassador to Cambodia:

Indian Foreign Service officer **Devyani Uttam Khobragade** has been appointed as India's next ambassador to **Cambodia**. Khobragade, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a **joint secretary** in the ministry at its headquarters in Delhi. Khobragade has served in Indian missions in **Berlin, Islamabad, Rome, and New York**.

Election Commission appoints Madhu Mahajan and B. R Balakrishnan as Special Expenditure Observers:

Election Commission has appointed two former Indian Revenue Service officers **Madhu Mahajan and B. R Balakrishnan** as special expenditure observers for the **Bihar Assembly polls** to oversee efforts by the enforcement machinery to check attempts to induce voters with **cash, liquor and freebies**.

They will ensure stringent and effective enforcement action based on **Intelligence**

Inputs and **Complaints** received through **C-VIGIL**. They will supervise and monitor the work being done by the **electoral machinery**.

Government extends appointment of Madhabi Puri Buch as a Whole Time Member of SEBI:

Government has extended the appointment of **Madhabi Puri Buch** as a **whole time member (WTM)** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** by a period of **one year**. Puri Buch, the **only female board member** at SEBI, oversees portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes and investment management. An alumna of **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad**.

Arvind Hali appointed as new MD and CEO of Motilal Oswal Home Finance:

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) has appointed **Arvind Hali** as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of its housing finance company **Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL)**. It has also appointed Amar Bahl as the Deputy Managing Director & COO of the company.

Government appoints Ashima Goyal, Jayanth Varma and Shashanka Bhide as Monetary Policy Committee members:

Government has appointed three external members **Ashima Goyal**, member of Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister, **Shashanka Bhide**, senior advisor at **National Council for Applied Economic Research** and **Jayanth Varma** who is a professor in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad to the central bank's panel that decides interest rates.

Sports tech start-up HUDLE ropes in Ajinkya Rahane as brand ambassador and advisor:

Delhi based sports tech & events startup **HUDLE** has announced the appointment of current Indian Test cricket vice-captain **Ajinkya Rahane** as brand **ambassador & advisor**. Rahane will also be able to guide the team with strategic inputs through his wealth of experience in **professional sport**.

M Rajeshwar Rao appointed as RBI Deputy Governor:

Government of India has appointed **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** executive director **M Rajeshwar Rao** as the **Deputy Governor** of the central bank. The position had been lying vacant for more than six months after **N.S. Vishwanathan** retired on March 31.

J Venkatramu appointed as MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank:

J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** for a period of **three years**. He is presently working as the chief digital officer in **Equitas Small Finance Bank**. India Post Payments Bank was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in 2018 under **Section 22 (1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Government appoints Dinesh Kumar Khara as SBI chairman for 3 years:

Government appoints **Dinesh Kumar Khara** as chairman of **State Bank of India (SBI)** for a period of **three years** with effect from the date of his taking over charge of the post on or after October 7, 2020 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Khara will replace SBI Chairman **Rajnish Kumar**, whose three-year term comes to an

end on October 7. Khara was appointed as managing director of SBI in **August 2016** for a three-year term.

Nilesh Shah re-elected as chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India:

Nilesh Shah has been re-elected as the Chairman of **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**, at the recently concluded Board Meeting of AMFI. He was the **AMFI chairman** in **2019-20**. Shah would also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI **Financial Literacy Committee**.

RBI extends CMD R. K. Chhibber's tenure by further six months at Jammu & Kashmir Bank:

RBI has extended term of **R. K. Chhibber**, Chairman and MD of Bank by a further period of 6 months w.e.f. 10th Oct 2020 or till appointment of MD & CEO, whichever is earlier. In June 2019, RBI had appointed Chhibber as interim CMD on removal of **Parvez Ahmed**.

CWG medallist shuttler Chetan Anand named brand ambassador of homegrown brand 'Transform':

Commonwealth Games medallist shuttler **Chetan Anand**, a former world no.10 and the men's singles **bronze medal winner** at the 2006 Melbourne CWG, was roped in as the face of the homegrown equipment brand '**Transform**' along with his academy in Hyderabad. He was honoured with the **Arjuna Award** in **2006**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal gets additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs:

Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has been assigned the **additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public**

Distribution on 9th October 2020 in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister **Ram Vilas Paswan**. Goyal is currently serving as the Union **Minister of Railways** and **Minister of Commerce and Industry**.

BharatPe Launches Brand Campaign with Record 11 Cricket Stars as Brand Ambassadors:

BharatPe has announced the launch of its high impact TV campaign starring '**Team BharatPe**' with **11 Cricket stars** as its brand ambassadors. Campaign communicates the message '**Hum Hai Team BharatPe – Jo Desh Ke Har Dukandaar Ke Saath Hai Khade**'.

Suresh Sethi appointed as MD and CEO of NSDL e-Governance Infra Ltd:

Former founder **CEO** and **MD** of **India Post Payments** Bank **Suresh Sethi** is appointed as MD & CEO designate of **NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd**. Suresh Sethi will succeed **Gagan Rai**. Prior to India Post Payments Bank, he was associated with **Citigroup, Yes Bank, Vodafone M-Pesa** (across India, Kenya, UK, Argentina and USA).

East Bengal appoint Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler as head coach:

Former **England** and **Liverpool** legend **Robbie Fowler** has been appointed the head coach of **East Bengal** for the **next two years**. He has been the **third-highest goal scorer** for the Reds where he played till **2001** before switching allegiance to arch-rivals **Leeds United** and then **Manchester City**.

Karnataka Bank appoints former RBI Executive Director Uma Shankar as additional director:

Private Sector lender **Karnataka Bank Limited** has appointed **Mrs. Uma Shankar** as Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) and the appointment will be effective from **November 1, 2020**. She is a former **Executive Director** of **Reserve Bank of India**.

Government extends the tenure of NTPC, CMD Gurdeep Singh till July 2025:

Government of India has extended the tenure of **Shri Gurdeep Singh, Chief Managing Director** (CMD) of **NTPC** till **July 2025**. The extension will be effective from **Feb 4, 2021**. Gurdeep Singh completed mechanical engineer from **NIT Kurukshetra** and has undergone Management Education Program from **IIM Ahmedabad (India)**.

Vishal Sharma appointed as India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO:

Shri Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as the next **Permanent Representative of India** to the Permanent Delegation of India to **UNESCO**, Paris. Sharma has succeeded **Jawed Ashraf**. He will be 3rd political appointee among **Indian ambassadors** around the world.

International Weightlifting Federation appoint Michael Irani as interim president:

International Weightlifting Federation announced the appointment of **Michael Irani** as its **interim president**. Irani is chair of the IWF Medical Committee and a former chair of the IWF Anti-Doping Commission. Britain's Michael Irani taking over from **Thailand's Intarat Yodbangtoey**.

Jacinda Ardern wins second term as New Zealand's Prime Minister:

Jacinda Ardern has won a **second consecutive three-years** term in office after her rival conceded in **New Zealand's** general election. Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won **49.2%** of the total 83.7% votes counted in the **120-member parliament**.

Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai is new chairman of Indian Banks Association:

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Union Bank of India's MD and CEO **Rajkiran Rai G** has been elected as the association's chairman for the term 2020-21. Rai succeeds **Rajnish Kumar** as the IBA Chairman after Kumar recently retired as SBI Chief.

State Bank of India's Chairman **Dinesh Kumar Khara** has been elected as the **Deputy Chairman** of the association.

RBI appoints Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC new MD and CEO:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as Managing Director and CEO of **HDFC Bank**. The appointment is for a period of **3 years** beginning **October 27, 2020** and is subject to the approval of the Bank's board and shareholders.

F1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton appointed as global Brand ambassador for LG SIGNATURE:

LG Electronics (LG) announced that **Six-Time** Formula One World Champion **Lewis Hamilton** has been signed to be the global ambassador for its **LG SIGNATURE**. Hamilton will initially star in a new campaign to communicate the brand's philosophy, "**Art Inspires Technology, Technology Completes Art.**"

Government extends Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla's tenure till August 22, 2021:

Government approved extension in service of home secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** in the same post beyond the date of his superannuation on **November 30, 2020** until **August 22, 2021**. He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of **Assam-Meghalaya cadre**, was appointed as **Home Secretary** in August 2019.

IRDAI Sets Up Panel to Examine Need for Standard Cyber Insurance Product headed by P Umesh:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up **9-member** panel headed by **P Umesh** to explore possibility of a basic standard product structure to **provide insurance cover** for individuals and establishments to manage **cyber risks**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sanju Yadav Receive AIFF Player of the Year Awards: Indian football team goalkeeper **Gurpreet Singh Sandhu** and midfielder of the women's national team **Sanju Yadav** have been awarded the **AIFF (All India Football Federation)** Wen's Footballer of the Year and Women's Footballer of the Year Award respectively for 2019-20 season. **Sandhu** became the **second goalkeeper** after **Subrata Paul** to be receiving the prestigious award.

Usha Mangeshkar Gets Lata Mangeshkar Award for 2020-21 by Maharashtra Government:

Maharashtra announced the **Gan Samragni Lata Mangeshkar award** for the year **2020-21** to veteran female playback singer **Usha Mangeshkar**. Award is given by cultural dept of the state government She has sung songs in **Marathi, Hindi** & several Indian language films.

'Messiah of Migrants' Sonu Sood honoured with Special Humanitarian Action Award by UNDP:

Bollywood actor **Sonu Sood** has been conferred the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** during a virtual ceremony. He has been dubbed a "**Messiah Of Migrants**" for his philanthropic work during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

HDFC Bank's Ravi Santhanam in Forbes list of world's most influential CMOs:

CMO of **HDFC Bank Ravi Santhanam** has been recognized in the Forbes list of '**The World's Most Influential CMOs**'. Ranked at No. 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of **Apple, BMW, etc.**

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce presents lifetime achievement award to Ratan Tata:

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon **Ratan Tata** as part of its recent global leadership awards.

Nobel Prize in Medicine Awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton & Charles M. Rice for Discovery of Hepatitis C Virus:

The Nobel Prize in **Physiology or Medicine** has jointly been awarded to **Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton** and **Charles M. Rice** for the discovery of "**Hepatitis C virus**". They made decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major **Global Health Problem** that causes **cirrhosis** and **liver cancer** in people around the world.

Two female Scientists Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 for Genome Editing Discovery:

Nobel Prize in Chemistry was jointly awarded to **Emmanuelle Charpentier** and **Jennifer A Doudna** for their 2012 work on **CRISPR-CAS9**, a method to edit DNA. **Jennifer A. Doudna** is a Professor at the **University of California**, Berkeley, USA and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute. **Emmanuelle Charpentier** is a Director of the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens, Berlin, Germany.

Andrea Ghez, Roger Penrose and Reinhard Genzel Won Nobel Prize 2020 in Physics for their Discoveries about Black Holes:

Andrea Ghez, Roger Penrose and Reinhard Genzel have been awarded the 2020 **Nobel Prize in Physics** for their pioneering work on space involving the **Black Holes** and the **Milky Way's darkest secret**. **Roger Penrose (United Kingdom)** won half of prize for discovery that **Black Hole Formation** is robust prediction of general theory of relativity, **Reinhard Genzel (German)** and **Andrea Ghez (America)** received second half of prize for discovery of supermassive compact object at **Center of Our Galaxy**.

American poet Louise Gluck awarded 2020 Nobel Literature prize:

Louise Gluck has won **2020 Nobel Prize** in **Literature** for her "**Unmistakable Poetic Voice**" that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal. **Prof at Yale University, Glück** made her debut in 1968 with her collection titled '**Firstborn**'.

They include "**The Wild Iris,**" for which she won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993, and "**Faithful and Virtuous Night,**" about mortality and grief, from 2014. She was named the United States' poet laureate in 2003.

World Food Programme awarded 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for 'combating hunger':

Nobel Committee has awarded **2020 Nobel Peace Prize** to **World Food Programme** for its efforts to combat hunger, contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas & for efforts to prevent use of hunger as weapon of war & conflict.

Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson Wins Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their work on auction theory:

U.S. economists **Paul Milgrom** and **Robert Wilson** won the Nobel **Economics Prize** for work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as **radio frequencies**. The winners were announced in **Stockholm** by **Goran Hansson**, secretary-general of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Prince William and Sir David Attenborough Launched "Earthshot Prize" to Support Climate Change:

Prince William has joined with renowned British broadcaster and Naturalist **David**

Attenborough to launch a new environmental award, "**Earthshot Prize**", which has grand ambitions to incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years. The prize comprises **5 prizes of 1 million pounds** each.

India becomes first nation to be awarded Blue Flag certification for 8 beaches in a single attempt:

India received the prestigious '**Blue Flag**' certification for all its **eight beaches** that it recommended. India is now in the league of **50 'BLUE FLAG'** countries.

Eight of India's beaches including **Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat)**, **Ghogla (Diu)**, **Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka)**, **Kappad (Kerala)**, **Rushikonda (AP)**, **Golden Beach (Odisha)** and **Radhanagar (A&N Islands)** got the eco-label of Blue Flag in a row.

TCS surpasses Accenture to Become Most Valuable IT services Firm Globally:

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the most-valuable information technology (IT) company globally, surpassing rival Accenture for the first time. At the last closing price of **Rs 2,825**, **TCS** was valued at \$144.73 billion (Rs 10.6 trillion). **Accenture** is currently valued at \$142.4 billion, while **IBM's** market cap is \$110.5 billion.

Bank of Ghana Named Central Bank of the Year 2020:

Bank of Ghana has been recognised by the **Central Banking Awards** as the **Central Bank of the Year 2020** following measures it pursued in a bid to ensure a strong financial sector via a raft of reforms implemented over the past two years. Bank of Ghana takes over

from the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** which was last year's overall winner. And also, Governor of the **Bank of England Mark Carney** has won the Governor of the year at the **Central bank of the year award 2020.**

Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha wins lifetime achievement award in US:

Indian-origin philanthropist **Harish Kotecha** has been awarded the prestigious **Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of **children and youth experiencing homelessness.**

Seema Gupta wins 2020 STEVIE Awards for Women in Business:

Power Grid Corporation Director **Seema Gupta** has been named winner of **GOLD Stevie Award in Lifetime Achievement-Business category** in 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. Stevie Awards have been hailed as the world's premier business awards.

Aishwarya Sridhar becomes first Indian woman to win at Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards:

Aishwarya Sridhar's photo titled '**Lights of Passion**' has won the '**Highly Commended**' award at the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020.** She became the **first Indian Woman** to win this award. The announcement was made in **56th year** of the prestigious award at the **Natural History Museum in London.** She won among **50,000 entries** from over **80 countries** across the world.

14-year-old Indian American Anika Chebrolu wins America's Young Scientist Challenge:

A 14-year-old **Indian-American** teen **Anika Chebrolu** from **Texas** has been awarded the **2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge**, regarded as the **US** premier **middle school science competition**, and a **\$25,000 prize** for her research that could provide a potential therapy to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Uttar Pradesh emerged as top destination in 2019 attracting over 53 crore tourists:

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the **top destination** for attracting the highest number of **Domestic Tourists in 2019.** The Indian Tourism Statistics has announced that as many as **53.6 crore** domestic tourists visited **Uttar Pradesh (23.1%)** in 2019. **Tamil Nadu (21.3%)** came second followed by **Andhra Pradesh (10.2%).**

Rakayet Ul Karim Rakim of Bangladesh wins the Greenstorm International Nature Photography Contest:

Rakayet Ul Karim Rakim native of **Chittagong, Bangladesh**, has won the 12th edition of the **Greenstorm International Nature Photography Contest** conducted in association with **UNEP** in connection with the **World Environment Day.**

Managing Director of TRIFED Pravir Krishna bags CEO of the year and visionary leadership award:

Pravir Krishna (IAS) Managing Director of **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has been awarded **CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership Award** in

National Awards for **Excellence in PSU** for Investment in **Start-UPS**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

Manish Sisodia Launches Book "Bapu - The Unforgettable" On Gandhi Jayanti:
 Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi **Manish Sisodia** launched a coffee-table book "**Bapu - The unforgettable**" on the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**. The book can certainly make us think, give us ideas, give us a glimpse of his philosophy. There are several untouched aspects of history in this book, a lot of **photographs, epigraphs** and several other details about **Delhi** which we usually do not get to see.

'Baahubali' author Anand Neelakantan pens debut kids' book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids":

"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. Puffin has published "**The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids**", which has full-colour illustrations accompanying the narrative.

PM Narendra Modi releases a Book titled 'Deh Vechava Karani' autobiography of Balasaheb Vikhe Patil:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released the autobiography of late multiple terms Lok Sabha MP **Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil**. The autobiography is titled '**Deh Vechava Karani**' means dedicating **one's life for a noble cause**.

A New Book Titled "The Battle of Belonging" authored by Shashi Tharoor:

Author and **MP Shashi Tharoor** is set to release his book titled "**The Battle of Belonging**". It is published by **Aleph Book Company**. The book appears to be an extension of his book "**Why I Am a Hindu**". He is the longest-serving member of the Lok Sabha from **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** since 2009.

Autobiography of Finance Commissioner N K Singh "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside":

Veteran Economist and bureaucrat **N K (Nand Kishore) Singh** released his autobiography titled "**Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside**". The book portrays the life of NK Singh who played an active role in the **development of the Indian economy**. He is currently serving as the **Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission**. The book is published by **Rupa Publications India**.

RANKINGS:

India ranked 89th among 181 countries in World Risk Report 2020; Vanuatu Tops:

According to the **World Risk Index (WRI) 2020**, India has been ranked at the **89th** spot among 181 Countries. India was '**poorly prepared**' to deal with '**climate reality**', due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters. It is calculated by the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)**.

India Ranks 129 in Oxfam's CRI Index 2020; Norway Topped:

India has been ranked **129** among **158** countries in **Commitment to Reducing**

Inequality (CRI) Index 2020. The **3rd edition** of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19. The index was topped by **Norway** followed by **Denmark** and **Germany** **2nd** and **3rd** Place respectively. South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at **158th** position.

India ranks 58th in Global Passport Index report by Arton Capital's Passport Index; New Zealand Topped:

India has been ranked **58th** in the list of **World's Most Powerful Passports** by **Arton Capital's Passport Index**. **New Zealand** was the strongest passport in the world followed by **Japan, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland, South Korea and Australia**. The **US** passport ranked **21**.

India ranks 94 among 107 Countries in Global Hunger Index 2020:

India has been ranked at **94** among **107 countries** in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020** report released. With a score of 27.2, India has been placed in the "**Serious**" category in the GHI scale.

India 4th most powerful country in Asia Power Index 2020; US Topped:

India has been ranked at **4th position** (39.7 out of 100) in **Asia Power Index 2020**, released by the Sydney-based **Lowy Institute**.

The **United States** has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It is followed by **China (76.1)** and **Japan (41)** at **second** and **third spot** respectively.

India Ranked World No. 2 in Migrations to OECD nations; China Topped:

India has acquired the second rank in terms of number of **migrants** going to the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. The data was released by the **OECD** in its 2020 edition of the annual **International Migration Outlook report**, which analyses the recent developments in migration movements and policies in its countries. This is the **44th edition** of the annual report. **China** top the list, while **Romania** stood at **3rd place**.

OBITUARY NEWS:

Legendary singer SP Balasubramanyam passes away at 74:

Legendary singer **SP Balasubramanyam** has passed away. He is known to have recorded over **40,000 songs** in 16 Indian languages including **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi, and Malayalam** and holds the Guinness World Record for recording the highest number of songs by a singer.

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh Passes Away at 82:

Former Union Minister **Jaswant Singh** has passed away after a prolonged illness. He had served as the **external affairs minister, defense minister and finance minister** of India, during the then Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet**.

Padma Bhushan awardee and Economist Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away at 74:

Renowned **economist** and **Padma Bhushan awardee Isher Judge Ahluwalia** passed away. She had served on several national and international committees and boards over her

career, including as chairperson of the board of trustees of **IFPRI** and **ICRIER**.

Veteran Lyricist Abhilash passes away at 74:

Veteran songwriter **Abhilash**, who penned down the song '**Itni shakti hame dena daata**' from the 1986 film '**Ankush**' passed away at 74 due to stomach illness. He had ghazals and stories published under this name before starting his career in the music industry.

Noted writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Dr GS Amur passes away at 95:

Veteran critic and versatile writer **Dr G S Amur** died due to age-related ailments. The literateur, known for his proficiency in both **Kannada** and **English**, was a recipient of several prestigious honours, including the **Sahitya Akademi Award**, **Rajyotsava Award** and **Bharatiya Bhasha Award**.

Assam's only woman CM Syeda Anwara Taimur passes away at 84:

Syeda Anwara Taimur, the only woman to have become the Chief Minister of **Assam** till now, passed away in **Australia**. Taimur had been the Chief Minister of Assam from **December 6, 1980 to June 30, 1981**. She was nominated to the **Rajya Sabha** from Congress in 1988.

Veteran social activist and scholar Pushpa Bhave passed away at 81:

Veteran social activist, scholar, rationalist, and a stalwart of Marathi literature and theatre **Pushpa Bhave** passed away. She had taken part in the **Samyukta Maharashtra** movement and the **Goa liberation** movement.

Bollywood Actress Mishti Mukherjee passes away at 27:

Bollywood actress **Mishti Mukherjee**, who has featured in many Hindi, Bengali and Telugu films, and music videos has passed away due to kidney failure. He was only **27** years old.

Afghanistan cricketer Najeeb Tarakai Passed away at 29:

Afghanistan's top-order batsman **Najeeb Tarakai** has died from injuries sustained in a road accident. Tarakai played **12 Twenty20** Internationals (T20Is) for Afghanistan, after making his international debut in the **2014 T20 World Cup**. He played his only one-day international against **Ireland** in **2017**.

Mexican Scientist and Nobel winner Mario Molina Passed away at 77:

Mario Molina, only Mexican scientist to be honored with **Nobel Prize in chemistry, 1995** passed away. He won prize along with **F.S. Rowland** of US & **P. Crutzen** of the Netherlands for their research into climate change.

Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar passes away:

Veteran Marathi actor **Avinash Kharshikar** died. He was a well-known for his comic acting in the **Marathi industry** and he worked with other well-known names in the Marathi industry like Ashok Saraf and the late Laxmikanth Berde.

Renowned Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana passes away at 76:

Renowned **Indian-origin South African** human rights lawyer **Priscilla Jana** who represented many anti-apartheid political leaders, including **Nelson Mandela**, has passed away. He had played a significant role against **apartheid**, was the Deputy

Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

Former New Zealand all-rounder John R Reid passes away at 92:

John Richard Reid, former New Zealand great and their **oldest surviving Test player**, has died at the age of **92 in Auckland**. he scored **3428 runs in 58 Test matches** with an **average of 33.28**, hitting 22 half-centuries and six centuries in a career that spanned over 16 years. His maiden Test century, a **knock of 135**, came against South Africa in Cape Town in 1954.

Padma Shri awardee and renowned Kuchipudi dancer Shobha Naidu passes away at 64:

Padma Shri awardee and renowned **Kuchipudi** dancer **Shobha Naidu** passes away due to prolonged illness. She extensively toured the US, UK, Dubai, Turley, Hongkong, Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba to give stage performances of Kuchipudi dance. She won **Padma Shri in 2001** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1991**.

India's First Oscar winning costume designer Bhanu Athaiya passes away at 91:

Bhanu Athaiya, the costume designer who became the **first Indian to win an Oscar**, for Richard Attenborough's "**Gandhi**" (**1982**), died at her home in Mumbai after a prolonged illness. She also designed costumes for over **100 Bollywood movies**.

Veteran cricket journalist and commentator Kishore Bhimani passes away at 80:

Veteran cricket journalist and commentator **Kishore Bhimani** passed away on at the age of 80. He was considered

an **encyclopaedia** of the game, is best remembered for being on air during the tied Test of 1986 between **India and Australia** in Chepauk. He had received a **lifetime achievement award** for his decades long contribution in the fields of media and commentary in **2013**.

Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passes away at 94:

Padma Shri awardee **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri** is also known for his **critical essays, short stories** and other **literary works**. His works have been translated into **multiple languages**. He is a recipient of **Jnanpith Award (2019)**, India's highest literary honour and **Padma Shri (2017)**.

Veteran Bengali Vocal Artiste Pradip Ghosh passes away at 78:

Noted Bengali elocutionist **Pradip Ghosh** has passed away at his residence in **Kolkata**. He tested coronavirus positive, in a swab test which was taken after his death. Ghosh was a **prominent recitor** and renowned **vocal artist**, who was well-known for his inimitable style of recitation.

First Woman Officer of Indian Air Force Vijayalakshmi Ramanan Passes Away at 96:

First woman officer of **Indian Air Force**, Wing Commander (retd) **Dr Vijayalakshmi Ramanan** passed away at 96. Also a renowned **gynaecologist**, Dr Vijayalakshmi Ramanan had served in the **Army Medical Corps** in 1955. She was awarded the **Vishisht Seva** Medal in 1977.

Renowned economist Dr Jayanta Madhab passes away

Renowned economist from **Assam**, Dr **Jayanta Madhab** passed away. He worked as financial adviser to **Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corporation** and has served as director at the ADB. He was the founder chairman of **North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.**

SPORTS NEWS:

Valtteri Bottas wins Russian GP after Lewis Hamilton is handed 10-second penalty:

Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) won his second Formula One race of the 2020 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 two separate five-second penalties.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins 10-meter air rifle gold at 5th International Online Shooting Championship:

India's 16-year-old **Visnu Shivaraj Pandian** has won the **10m air rifle** event at the fifth edition of the **International Online Shooting Championship**. Visnu win the title by a clear margin of two points.

Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win his 13th French Open Men's Singles title and claims his 20th Grand Slam title: **Rafael Nadal's 100th** match win at the **French Open** earned him his **20th Grand Slam** title and rival **Roger Federer** for the men's singles record. To add even more of a shine to the achievement, the victory was perhaps one of Nadal's best efforts 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 drubbing of Novak Djokovic played under the brand-new roof on **Court Philippe Chatrier**.

Indian teenager Nihal Sarin Wins Junior Speed Chess Championship:

Indian teenager created history by winning the **Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship**, defeating Russia's **Alexey Sarana** 18-7 in the final. He also qualified for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final.

Lewis Hamilton equals Michael Schumacher's 91 race wins at Eifel F1 Grand Prix:

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the **2020 Eifel Grand Prix**, held at the Nürburgring in **Nürburg, Germany**. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by **Daniel Ricciardo** (Renault, Australia) at third position. This is Hamilton's **7th win** of the season and 91st career race victory, which was till now achieved only by **Michael Schumacher**.

Nozomi Okuhara clinches Women's Singles title at Denmark Open:

Former World Champion **Nozomi Okuhara** clinched the **Denmark Open title** beating **three-time** world champion **Carolina Marin** in women's singles. The Japanese star took 56 minutes to get the better of the Olympic gold medallist Spaniard in two games 21-19, 21-17, at Odense.

In the **Men's Singles Final**, world number seven **Anders Antonsen** of Denmark defeated his compatriot **Rasmus Gemke** by 18-21, 21-19, 21-12.

Indian Shooters Elavenil and Shah Mane wins' gold, silver in Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship:

World number one Indian **Elavenil Valarivan** won a gold medal and **Shahu Tushar Mane** bagged a silver in the **Sheikh Russel**

International Air Rifle Championship, held virtually. The championship was organised by **Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF).**

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	DAY	THEME
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	-
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	"Leave No One Behind"
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	"Shaping Peace Together"
October 2	World Day for Farmed Animals	-
October (2-8)	Wildlife Week	"RoaR (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships"
October (4-10)	World Space Week	"Satellites Improve Life"
October 5	World Teachers' Day	"Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future"
October 5	World Habitat Day	"Housing For All — A Better Urban Future"
October 7	World Cotton Day	"Cotton: The Fibre that Moves Me"
October 8	Air Force Day	-
October 8	World Sight Day	"Hope In Sight"
October 9	World Post Day	"We Have Always Delivered"
October 9	World Egg Day(second Friday of October)	"Eat Your Egg Today And Every Day"
October 10	World Mental Health Day	"Mental Health for All: Greater Investment – Greater"
October 10	World Migratory Bird Day	"Birds Connect Our World"
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	"My Voice, Our Equal Future"
October 12	World Arthritis Day	"Time2Work"
October 13	International Day for Disaster Reduction	"Disaster Risk Governance"
October 14	World Standards Day	"Protecting the planet with standards"

October 14	International E-Waste Day	-
October 15	World Students Day	"Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace"
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	"Rural women and girls building resilience"
October 15	Global Handwashing Day	"Hand Hygiene for All"
October 16	World Food Day	"Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our actions are our future"
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	"Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all"
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	"THAT'S OSTEOPOROSIS"
October 20	World Statistics Day	"Connecting the world with data we can trust"
October 20	International Chefs Day	'Healthy Food for the Future!'
October 21	Police Commemoration Day	-
October 21	World Iodine Deficiency Day	-
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	"Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back"
October 23	International Snow Leopard Day	-
October 24	United Nations Day	"The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism"
October 24	World Development Information Day	-
October 30	World Thrift Day	-
October 31	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day	-