



# Current Affairs MONTHLY November 2020



By CivilsTap Himachal

For HPAS & Other  
Competitive Exam  
in Himachal Pradesh



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## National news

### 1.1 Cabinet approves Rs 1810 crore Investment Proposal of 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project

- Recently, **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the investment of **Rs.1810.56 crore** for **210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project**.
- **Set up on River** – Satluj
- **Place** – Shimla & Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh
- **Implemented by** – Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVNL)

### 1.2 Ministry of I&B constitutes committee to review Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India

- Recently, **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has constituted a committee to review **“Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India.”**
- **Chaired by** - Shri Shashi S. Vempati

#### Relevance

- The guidelines were notified by the Ministry in 2014.

### 1.3 NTPC Mauda becomes first power plant of NTPC in Maharashtra to send a massive amount of dry fly ash through rail

- Recently, **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Mauda** has become the first power plant of NTPC in the state of Maharashtra to send a massive amount of dry fly ash through rail.
- It has transported 3,186 Metric tonnes (MT) of dry fly ash to Rajshree Cement (a unit of Ultratech Cement) Kalburgi in the state of Karnataka.

### 1.4 India's first solar-powered miniature train at Veli

- Recently, **India's first solar energy-driven miniature railway** has been commissioned at Veli in Kerala.
- It has been commissioned as a part of a string of projects to elevate the tourist village to world-class standards.

### 1.5 Vice President launches 'International Satavadhanam' event

- Recently, **Vice President** has launched **'International Satavadhanam'** event.
- **Organized by** - Dr. Medasani Mohan under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.

#### About International Satavadhanam

- It is a unique literary festival.
- It includes literary performance like solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems etc.

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### **1.6 Union Education Minister announces setting up of Centre of Excellence for Indian Knowledge System at IIT Kharagpur**

- Recently, **Union Minister of Education** has announced the **Centre of Excellence for Indian Knowledge System** to be set up at IIT Kharagpur.
- He has also inaugurated the **international webinar** titled **“Bharata Tirtha.”**
- **Organized by** – IIT Kharagpur

### **1.7 MoRTH issues notification making FASTags mandatory from 1st January 2021**

- Recently, **Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has issued a notification making **FASTag mandatory** to be available by 1st of January 2021.
- It would be **mandatory in old vehicles** also i.e. **M and N category of motor vehicles (four wheelers)** sold before **1st December, 2017.**
- It has been notified through amendments in **CMVR, 1989.**

### **1.8 Minister for Science and Technology inaugurate the circular dome with 360° video-immersive experience at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat**

- Recently, **Union Minister for Science & Technology, and Minister of State for Culture** has inaugurated the **360° video-immersive experience in circular dome and Digital Exhibits on Mahatma Gandhi** installed at **Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, in New Delhi.**
- It has been launched as a part of two-year long commemoration of the **150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**

### **1.9 Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister addresses the first Jai Krishna Memorial Lecture organized by IIT Roorkee**

- Recently, **Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri PK Mishra** has addressed the first **Jai Krishna memorial lecture.**
- **Organised by** - IIT Roorkee.
- **Focus** – COVID-19 and the Future of Disaster Risk Management in India.

### **1.10 IIT-M develops online game to create awareness about Covid-19**

- Recently, **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** have developed a digital game **“IITM Covid Game.”**
- It has been developed to create awareness among the general public, particularly children, on the importance of following **COVID-19 protocols.**

### **1.11 Assam CM lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation**

- Recently, **Assam Chief Minister** has laid the **foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation.**
- **Place** – Khetri (near Guwahati)
- It is expected to provide exposure to latest Israeli technologies to state’s farmers and helping them maximize their production and income.

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### 1.12 India, GCC Troika hold annual Political Dialogue

- Recently, **India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika** have held their annual **Political Dialogue in virtual mode**.
- Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- The GCC has welcomed India's inclusion in the UNSC as a non-permanent member from January 2021.

### 1.13 First India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave takes place

- Recently, **first India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave has taken place**.
- **Jointly hosted by** – Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry
- **Focus** - On clean technologies and renewable energies, Artificial Intelligence, supply chain logistics and block chain led transformation.

#### About Nordic Baltic

- It includes countries like Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Iceland, Norway, Lithuania and Sweden.

### 1.14 UN adopts resolutions sponsored by India

- Recently, **The United Nations General Assembly has adopted two resolutions sponsored by India**.
- **Titled as** – 'Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons' and 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' under the 'Nuclear weapons'.

#### About Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

- It has been tabled by India since 1982.
- **Aim** – To provide a universal and legally binding agreement that would generate the necessary global political will for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

### 1.15 Rupsi airport ready for commercial flight operations under Udan scheme

- Recently, **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has announced that **Rupsi airport is ready for commercial flight operations under Udan scheme**.
- **Located in** – Assam.
- It will provide direct connectivity to cities like Guwahati in Assam and Kolkata in West Bengal.

### 1.16 Kerala opens new Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence for flowers and vegetables

- Recently, **the new Indo-Dutch centre of excellence (CoE) for flowers and vegetables has been inaugurated in Kerala's Wayanad area**.
- It will put together exercises like the precision cultivation of flowers and vegetables, as well as the production and dissemination of good quality planting materials to farmers.

### 1.17 MEA welcomes Juba Peace Agreement

- Recently, **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has welcomed signing of the **Juba peace agreement**.

#### About Juba Peace Agreement

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- It has been signed between Sudan's transitional government and several rebel groups.
- **Aim** – To resolve years of war in which hundreds of thousands of people died and millions displaced in different regions across Sudan.

### 1.18 Shipping Ministry to be renamed as Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

- Recently, **Prime Minister has informed that Ministry of Shipping has been renamed as Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.**
- He has also **inaugurated Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira** and flagged off the Ro-Pax ferry service between Hazira and Ghogha in Gujarat.

### 1.19 Uttarakhand CM launches free Wi-Fi service for govt colleges, universities

- Recently, **Uttarakhand Chief Minister has launched free Wi-Fi service for govt colleges, universities.**
- It has become the **first state in India to provide free internet to all government colleges and universities.**

### 1.20 Uttarakhand celebrates Statehood Day

- Recently, **Uttarakhand has celebrated its statehood day.**
- It has been celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### 1.21 Gujarat govt plans to build world's largest toy museum

- Recently, **The Gujarat government has planned to build the largest toy museum in the world.**
- It would be **set up in Gandhinagar's Gift City.**
- **Nodal Agency** – Children's University in Gandhinagar

### 1.22 Indian Railways engages RailTel to implement an HMIS across its health facilities

- Recently, **Indian Railways has engaged RailTel to implement Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) across its health facilities.**
- **Objective** - To bring hospital management on a single architecture to prevent pilferage and making operations seamless.

### 1.23 President's Chair of Excellence on National Security at National Defence College

- Recently, **President of India has approved the establishment of "President's Chair of Excellence on National Security" at National Defence College.**
- It has been approved on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee of National Defence College.
- It was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### 1.24 Prime Minister unveils statue of Swami Vivekananda

- Location - **at Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) Campus in New Delhi.**

### 1.25 Design Competition for Iconic Structure at Nav Bharat Udyan (New India Garden) announced

- Recently, **Design Competition for Iconic Structure in Nav Bharat Udyan (New India Garden) has been announced.**

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- **Organized by** - Central Public Works Department (CPWD)
- **Prize** - ₹ 5 lac for the winning entry and Five commendation prizes of ₹ 1 lac each.

### 1.26 PM inaugurates Ayurveda institutes in Rajasthan and Gujarat

- Recently, **Prime Minister has inaugurated Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur on 5<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day.**

#### About Ayurveda Day

- It has been celebrated on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Theme - 'Ayurveda for Covid-19'

### 1.27 Two inscriptions discovered in Karnataka

- Recently, **two inscriptions have been discovered near Rajanukunte, Doddaballapura in Karnataka.**

#### About the Inscriptions

- **Hoysala kingdom inscription** - 14<sup>th</sup> century inscription stone was found in the Kambada Anjaneya temple.
- **Wodeyar rule inscription** – 18th century inscription found at villages of Kadatanamale and Arakere.

### 1.28 Paytm launches Merchant Leading Program

- Recently, **Paytm has launched 'Merchant Lending Program.'**
- It has **planned to provide collateral-free loans of up to ₹500,000 at a low-interest rate and unique daily EMI product customized for micro-merchants.**
- Paytm also aims to **disburse ₹1,000 crore in loans to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by March 21.**

### 1.29 First Solar based Integrated Multi Village Water Supply Project inaugurated

- Recently, **India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) has been launched in Arunachal Pradesh.**

### 1.30 IRCTC Bharat Darshan Yatra from December 12

- Recently, **IRCTC has informed that it will be organizing "Bharat Darshan Yatra."**
- It will be organized between 12<sup>th</sup> December -18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- Theme – 'Show India to Indians.'

### 1.31 Telangana govt announces 50% waiver in domestic property tax

- Recently, **Telangana government has announced 50% waiver in domestic property tax.**
- The 50 per cent waiver would be adjusted next year for those who have already paid their property tax.

### 1.32 India's most generous list for 2020

- Recently, **"India's most generous" list for 2020 has been released.**
- **Released by** - Hurun India and EdelGive.

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- It has featured individuals who have donated ₹5 crore or more during the period under review.
- **Top 10** – Azim Premji, Shiv Nadar, Mukesh Ambani, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal, Ajay Piramal, Nandan Nilekani, Hinduja brothers, Gautam Adani and Rahul Bajaj.

### 1.33 India ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in global mobile game downloads in 2020

- Recently, the "**worldwide game downloads list in the first nine months of 2020**" was released by app intelligence firm **Sensor Tower**.
- **Top three countries in the list** are as follows:
  - India
  - United States
  - Brazil
- **Garena Free Fire** was **the most downloaded game globally** in the first nine months of 2020, followed by **PUBG Mobile** and **Subway Surfers**.

### 1.34 Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils 'Statue of Peace' in Rajasthan

- Recently, Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** unveiled '**Statue of Peace**' to mark the **151st Birth Anniversary** celebrations of **Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj**.
- The **Statue of Peace** is **installed** at **Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan**.

### 1.35 Supercomputer Param Siddhi ranked 63rd in top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world

- Recently, **India's** artificial intelligence (**AI**) **supercomputer Param Siddhi** has achieved **global ranking of 63** in **TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world**.

#### About Param Siddhi-

- A high performance computing-artificial intelligence (**HPC-AI**) **supercomputer** established under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**.
- **Developed-** Jointly by **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.

### 1.36 Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates NCC's Constitution Day Youth Club Campaign

- Recently, the "**Constitution Day Youth Club Campaign**" of the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** was inaugurated by **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh**.
- **Aim-** To mobilise youth to **spread awareness about the Indian Constitution** amongst the **people** across the nation.
- During the campaign, the youth will also **promote the following hashtags** on social media:
  - **# Its My Duty (Department of Justice)**
  - **# MeraKartavya (NCC twitter handle)**

### 1.37 'Infinity Ride 2020' from Kashmir to Kanyakumari begins

- Recently, '**Infinity Ride 2020**', the **sixth edition** of ride has **commenced** from **Kashmir** and will **conclude** at **Kanyakumari**.

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- **Aim-** To create **awareness and reach out to para talent from across the country** and discovering budding para sporting talent and groom them to compete at the highest level.
- Launched by- **Aditya Mehta Foundation**

### 1.38 RuPay card Phase-II to be launched in Bhutan

- Recently, **Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister of Bhutan **Lyongchen Dr. Lotay Tshering** jointly launched the "**RuPay card Phase-II**".
- **Aim-** RuPay card Phase-II **will allow Bhutanese card holders to access RuPay network in India.**
- **Additional Information-** RuPay card Phase-I was launched in Bhutan in August 2019 and enabled visitors from India to access ATMs and Point of Sale (PoS) terminals across Bhutan.

### 1.39 Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad releases "My Stamp on Chhath Puja"

- Recently, Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad released a "**My Stamp on Chhath Puja**".
- During the launch, the minister also released **special cover on the theme 'Chhath- A symbol of Simplicity and Cleanliness'**.

#### About My Stamp-

- An innovative concept **initiated** by **Department of Posts** which allows any common person or corporate organisation to book order and get a **personalised photograph or an image of a Postage Stamp.**

#### About India Post-

- Director General- Vineet Pandey

### 1.40 Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh releases third volume of 'The Republican Ethic'

- Recently, Raksha Mantri Shri **Rajnath Singh** has **released** the **third volume** of '**Loktantra Ke Swar**' and '**The Republican Ethic**'.

#### About Loktantra Ke Swar-

- A compilation of speeches of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind which presents a comprehensive picture of his work, personality and values.

### 1.41 Tamil Nadu Governor passes ordinance banning online gaming in the state

- Recently, **Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit** promulgated an **Ordinance banning online gaming in the state.**
- It **bans-**
  - **persons** who are **wagering or betting** in the **cyberspace** using **computers or a communication device.**
  - **electronic transfer of funds** used for **wagering or betting** and **distributing the winnings** or prize money.

### 1.42 AYUSH & DBT jointly conducting India's first animal study on SARS-CoV-2 virus

- Recently, **India's first animal study** on **SARS-CoV-2 virus** jointly conducted by **Ministry of AYUSH** and Department of Bio-Technology (**DBT**), has moved into its **final stages.**

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- This study is being held at the **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, an autonomous institute of DBT located in **Faridabad, Haryana**.

#### 1.43 MoPNG signs MoU to establish Compressed Bio-Gas plants across India

- **Aim-** To establish Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants across India under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative.
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) signed MoU with energy companies to establish Compressed Bio-Gas plants (CBG) across India, and signed MoU with technology providers in CBG sectors for facilitating availability of technology for the projects.

##### About SATAT Initiative-

- **Launched by-** Government of India on **1st October 2018**.
- **Aim-** To boost production and availability of CBG as an alternative and affordable clean fuel for transportation sector, and envisage to set up 5000 CBG plants by Fiscal Year 2023-24.

#### 1.44 Petroleum Minister inaugurates Seismic Survey Campaign in Mahanadi Basin in Odisha

- Recently, Petroleum Minister **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Rs 220 Crore seismic survey campaign** of **Oil India Limited (OIL)** in **Puri District, Odisha** in the **Mahanadi Basin**.
- **Aim-** For commercial production of oil and gas from **Mahanadi Basin**.

#### 1.45 NHAI collaborates with 200 Premier Institutes to leverage local expertise

- Recently, **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** collaborated with Premier Institutes including 18 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and **190 other Engineering colleges** to **Leverage Local Expertise**.
- **Aim-** To provide world-class **National Highway (NH) network** and to create a **bridge** between **technical Institutions and Industry**.
- These Premier Institutes will **adopt nearby stretches of National Highways**, on voluntary basis under Institution Social Responsibility, study improvement prospects, usage of new technologies on the adopted stretches and give suitable suggestions to NHAI.

#### 1.46 Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology releases Backend Code of Aarogya Setu

- Recently, **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** has released the **Backend Code of Aarogya Setu**.
- **Aim-** To encourage collaborative development between Government departments / agencies and private organizations, citizens and developers to spur the **creation of innovative e-governance applications and services**.

##### About Aarogya Setu App-

- **Aim-** To contain the spread of COVID-19 in India by identifying Bluetooth contacts of COVID positive users and issues alerts for helping people to stay safe.

##### About Backend Code-

- Code that runs on the server, receives requests from the clients and contains the logic to send the appropriate data back to the client.

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#### 1.47 Doodh Duronto trains crosses 4-crore litre mark of supplying milk to Delhi

- Recently, the special train **Doodh Duronto** crossed **4-crore litre mark** of supplying **milk** to **Delhi**.

##### About Doodh Duronto-

- It is a **special milk train** introduced between **Renigunta** in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Delhi** for transportation of **milk** during lockdown due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- **Introduced by- South Central Railway**

#### 1.48 Union Education Minister conferred with Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award

- Recently, **Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has been conferred with the **Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award** for writing, poetry and other literary works.

##### Important Books of Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

- The German version 'nureinWunsch' of his story collection 'Just a Desire', is published in Afro Asian Institute, Hamburg.
- His 'Sparsh Ganga' initiative was included in Mauritius school curriculum.

##### About the Award

- It honours poets, writers and artists for their exemplary work in their respective fields.
- **Given by** - Vatayan-UK organization in London

#### 1.49 Ministry of Tourism organizes a webinar on "India's Hidden Gems" under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series

- Recently, **Ministry of Tourism** has organized a webinar titled **"India's Hidden Gems."**
- Aim - to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

#### 1.50 Scientists discover oldest known human-made nanostructures in ancient artifacts in Tamil Nadu

- Recently, **Scientists** have discovered the **oldest known human-made nanomaterials** in the **"unique black coatings"** of ancient pottery shards.
- Venue - discovered from an archeological site in Keeladi, Tamil Nadu.
- It was dated to **600 BC**.

#### 1.51 Baghjan oil well fire in Assam still raging after five months, the longest in India

- **The Baghjan oil well** fire began with a blowout on **May 27** this year.
- **The blowout site well no. 5** is located next to the **Dibru Saikhowa National Park (DSNP)** in **Tinsukia district, Assam**.
- The site belongs to Navratna PSU- **Oil India Limited**

#### 1.52 Delhi government launches Jeevan Seva app for Covid patients

- Recently, The Delhi government launched the **Jeevan Seva app** to aid Delhi's Covid patients and their families for a safe commute to hospitals and healthcare facilities in the city.
- The app was launched in collaboration with **EVERA Cab Services** and will use **electric vehicles** as ambulances to transfer non-critical cases to healthcare facilities in Delhi, **free of cost**.

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### 1.53 First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district

- In **Maharashtra**, the first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is coming up in Parbhani district.
- The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will operate on solar power.

### 1.54 10th edition of National Science Film Festival begins

- Recently, the **tenth edition** of the **National Science Film Festival** has **commenced** in a virtual mode.
- Organized by- **Vigyan Prasar**, an autonomous agency under Department of Science and Technology (**DST**), and **Tripura State Council of Science and Technology**.

### 1.55 All fixed to mobile calls to be dialed with prefix '0' from 15th January, 2021

- Recently, the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has given some **recommendations** on "**Ensuring Adequate Numbering Resources for Fixed Line and Mobile Services**".
- Considering the TRAI's recommendations, the **Department of Telecommunications** has taken the decision of implementing the following:
  - All Fixed to Mobile calls will be dialed with **prefix '0'** from **15th January, 2021**.
  - There will be no **change in dialing plan** from **fixed to fixed, mobile to fixed and mobile to mobile** calls.
  - All fixed line subscribers will be provided with '0' dialing facility.

### 1.56 PM Modi releases book on the Life of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji

- Recently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has released a **book on the life and ideals of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji**.
- **Author of book- Kirpal Singh**.

### 1.57 80<sup>th</sup> All India Presiding Officers Conference

- Recently, Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi** addressed the concluding session of **80th All India Presiding Officers Conference**, also known as **the Speakers' Conference**.
- **Theme-** Harmonious coordination between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary — Key to a vibrant democracy
- **Venue- Conference** held on the banks of **river Narmada in Kevadia, Gujarat**

### 1.58 APEDA holds Virtual Buyer Seller Meet with Germany

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has recently held a **Virtual Buyer Seller Meet** in collaboration with Embassy of **India, Berlin** and **German Agribusiness Alliance**.
- **Aim-** To **promote export of fresh fruits and vegetables** from India.

### 1.59 Indian Railway launches digitised online HRMS

- **Indian Railway** has recently launched the completely digitized online **Human Resource Management System (HRMS)**.

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- **Aim-** To leverage **improved productivity & employee satisfaction** by improving efficiency and productivity of Railway system.

**Following modules of HRMS have been launched:**

- **Employee Self Service (ESS) module-** It enables railway employees to interact with various modules of HRMS.
- **Provident Fund (PF) Advance module-** It enables Railway employees to check their PF balance and apply for PF advance online.
- **Settlement module-** It digitizes the entire settlement process of retiring employees.

#### **1.60 ITAT organises All India Webinar to celebrate 71st Constitution Day**

- The **Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)** has organized an **All India Webinar** to celebrate the **71st Constitution Day**, also known as **Samvidhan Divas**, on 26th November, 2020.
- **ITAT** is a quasi judicial **institution** which is specialized in dealing with **appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts**.

#### **1.61 Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addresses 48th Annual Conference of RSSDI**

- Union Minister Dr **Jitendra Singh** has addressed the **48th Annual Conference** of Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (**RSSDI**).
- **On the occasion, the minister released the following documents-**
  - Guidelines for Management of Diabetes
  - Diabetes Update 2020
  - Annual Case Book
  - RSSDI Year Book of Diabetes

#### **1.62 Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal addresses CII's Digital Gems & Jewellery Conference**

- Recently, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri **Piyush Goyal** has **addressed** the **Digital Gems & Jewellery Conference on Self-Reliance in Jewellery: Mining, Manufacturing & Markets**.
- **Organized by-** Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

#### **1.63 India signs agreement with Afghanistan for completion of a Shahtoot dam**

- **India** has signed an **agreement** with **Afghanistan** during the "**Afghanistan 2020 Conference**" held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Hosted by-** Governments of **Afghanistan** and **Finland** with the **United Nations**
- **Aim-** To complete a **Shahtoot dam** which will provide **safe drinking water** to the residents of **Kabul**, and will be build on the **22 km long Phul-e-Khumri transmission** line of 2009.

#### **1.64 Stadium in West Bengal's Barasat named after Diego Maradona**

- Recently, a **stadium** in **Barasat, North 24 Parganas** district of **West Bengal** has been named as "**Diego Maradona Aditya School of Sports Cricket Stadium**" after argentine football legend **Diego Maradona**.

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### 1.65 CSIR–AMPRI to highlight Traditional Artisans and Crafts Expo at IISF2020

- **CSIR–Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** has been given the responsibility of **Traditional Artisans and Crafts Expo** at the India International Science Festival 2020 (IISF2020).

#### About IISF-

- It is an annual event which aims to engage the public with science and celebrate the joy of science, **6th edition of IISF** will be held virtually
- **Theme of IISF 2020- Science for Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Global Welfare**

### 1.66 AI & Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK) set up in Bengaluru

- Recently, an **AI & Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK)** has been set up in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Aim-** To **promote technology innovations in AI** (Artificial Intelligence) & **Robotics** leading to societal impact by executing R&D projects in various sectors, focusing on problems unique to India.

#### About ARTPARK-

- Established by- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** with support from **AI (Artificial Intelligence) Foundry**
- It has received **seed funding** of Rs 170 Cr from **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** under the **National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**.

### 1.67 Newly electrified Dhigawara-Bandikui section of North Western Railway inaugurated

- Recently, a newly **electrified Dhigawara-Bandikui section** of **North Western Railway** has been inaugurated by the **Union Railway Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal**.
- After the electrification of this line, the **route** from **Rewari** to **Ajmer** has been **electrified** and as a result the **electrified trains** from **Delhi** to **Ajmer** will start soon.
- **Electrification** done by- **Central Organization for Railway Electrification (CORE)**, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

### 1.68 Releasing of book titled "PM Modi and his Government's special relationship with Sikhs"

- Recently, **Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar** has released a book titled as '**PM Modi and his Government's special relationship with Sikhs**' along with **Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- Occasion - birth anniversary of **Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji**.
- **Produced by-** Bureau of Outreach Communication under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

### 1.69 Gujarat forest department transfers leopards as part of PPP project

- Recently, the **State forest department of Gujarat** has transferred 12 leopards from **Sakkar Baug Zoological Park, Junagadh**, to **Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom**, in **Jamnagar** district of **Gujarat**.

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- The transfer of leopards has been done for their maintenance and upkeep as part of a public private partnership (PPP) project between the **Gujarat government** and **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**.

#### 1.70 India-Vietnam to cooperate in the field of Hydrography

- Recently, **India** and **Vietnam** have signed an **Implementing Arrangement for cooperation** in the field of **Hydrography** between **National Hydrographic Office, India** and **Vietnam Hydrographic Office**.

#### 1.71 India & US extends MoU for cooperation on nuclear energy

- **India** and the **United States** have extended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for **cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years**.
- The two countries also **marked the tenth year** of cooperation at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP).

#### 1.72 APSEZ ranked 14th in Dow Jones Sustainability Emerging Markets Index, 2020

- The **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** has been ranked **14th** in the **Dow Jones Sustainability Emerging Markets Index, 2020**.
- APSEZ has been ranked in the **global transportation and transportation infrastructure sector**.

#### About DJSI Emerging Markets Index-

- It **assessed over 800 companies** across sectors from the **world's 20 emerging markets** out of which **100 companies** made it to the index.
- It is **based on long-term Environment, Social and Economic, and Governance criteria**.

#### 1.73 First cow hospital of Northeast inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh

- **Northeast's first-ever cow hospital** named as "**Surbhi Aarogyashala**" has been inaugurated in **Dibrugarh, Assam**, at a **cost of Rs 17 lakh**.

#### 1.74 Airtel Digital TV and Vedantu partners to provide classes via DTH channels

- **Aim of partnership-** To make education accessible to students across India by leveraging Airtel's reach.
- Under the partnership, two dedicated DTH channels "**Vedantu Materclasses**" will be available exclusively to the Airtel Digital TV customers.
- The channels will cater to students from **Classes 6 to 10** and **Classes 11 to 12** respectively and will cover the subjects namely **Maths** and **Science**.

#### 1.75 India gifts 2,000 vials of Remdesivir injections to Nepal

- **India** gifts 2,000 vials of **Remdesivir injections** along with other COVID-19 related assistance such as **essential medicines, ventilators, test kits** and **PPE materials** as part of ongoing support to **Nepal**.

### 1.76 Western Railway's first Kisan Rail left for Guwahati from Indore

- The first Kisan Rail of Western Railway (WR) carrying 180 tonnes of onions, has left for New Guwahati station from Indore in Madhya Pradesh.
- Operation Kisan Rail aims to ensure speedy transportation of perishable agricultural produce like vegetables and fruits to the market in a short period of time.

### 1.77 India's longest river bridge to be set up over river Brahmaputra

- The 19 km long new bridge will be built along National Highway 127-B over river Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya.
- Constructed by- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Construction.
- It will reduce the distance between Assam and Meghalaya by 250 km.

### 1.78 India CEO Forum on Climate Change

- Recently, India CEO Forum on Climate Change has taken place.
- Organized by – Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Objective
  - To create a mechanism for the government and businesses to formally talk about climate change issues.
  - Develop a common voice at global forums so that there is no disconnect between the stand of the government and that of the industries.

#### Key Highlights

- Union Environment Minister has requested the companies to provide their internal roadmaps and targets on a yearly basis to the Environment Ministry.
- He has also requested the CEO to participate in achieving targets set under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### 1.79 Minister of Science and Technology gives away Gandhian Young Technological Awards in two categories -SITARE-GYTI and SRISTI-GYTI awards

- Recently, Union Minister of Science & Technology has given the Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations - Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SITARE-GYTI) and Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technological Innovations- Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SRISTI-GYTI) awards.

#### About (SITARE)

- Aim - To support innovative student projects in the area of biotechnology.
- The scheme has two components:
  - SITARE-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award Grant (SITARE-GYTI)
    1. 15 innovative student projects will receive funding support of upto INR 15 lakhs each.
  - SITARE-Appreciation Grant
    1. Out of 30-40 students per workshop, 10 students are selected and provided a grant support of up to INR 1 lakh each to encourage their inquisitiveness and sustained efforts.

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## 1.80 Ministry of Jal Shakti informs about Grand Challenge for development of “Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System”

- Recently, Ministry of Jal Shakti has informed about the participation in the ICT Grand Challenge for development of “Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System.”
- It has informed that a total of 218 applications have been witnessed in the challenge.



The banner features a central graphic of a woman's face with gears, surrounded by logos of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Digital India, and Jal Jeevan Mission. Below these are logos for CDAC, MeitY Startup, SEPI, and myGov. The main text reads 'ICT Grand Challenge' in large green letters, followed by 'Grand challenge for development of smart water supply measurement & monitoring system'. A green box highlights 'Awards & Recognition :'. The awards list includes funding for prototype and product stages, a winner prize of Rs 50 lakh, and marketing support. At the bottom, it states 'Application submission 5th October 2020' and 'Application form available at MeitY Startup Hub'.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Digital India  
Power To Empower

Jal Jeevan Mission  
Har Ghar Jal  
At Bharat Ki Door

Supported by: CDAC MeitY Startup SEPI myGov मेरे सरकार

### ICT Grand Challenge

Grand challenge for development of smart water supply measurement & monitoring system

**Awards & Recognition :**

- ✓ Ideation to prototype stage : Funding for 10 selected teams @ Rs 7.5 Lakh each
- ✓ Prototype to product stage : Funding for 4 selected teams @ Rs 25 Lakh each
- ✓ Product deployment stage : Funding for 4 selected teams for Field trail, Testing, Deployment, Logistics & Travel, sourcing & installation (of Hardware & Software)
- ✓ Winner-1 @ Rs 50 lakh and Runner-ups-2 @ Rs 20 Lakh each
- ✓ Incubation and Marketing support by Meity and Jal Jeevan Mission
- ✓ Approved Solution - would be listed in GeM portal

Application submission  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Application form available at MeitY Startup Hub

- It has been launched to **create innovative, modular, and cost-effective solution** and to develop a ‘Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System’ to be deployed at the village level.
- The ICT grand challenge has **invited proposal from Indian Tech start-ups, MSMEs, Indian Companies, Indian LLPs.**
- **Launched by** – National Jal Jeevan Mission in partnership with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY).
- **Implementing Agency** – C-DAC, Bangalore

## 1.81 Union Minister for Social Justice Inaugurates ADIP Camp for free Distribution of Assistive Aids and Devices to Divyangjan in North Mumbai Through Virtual Platform

- Recently, **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment** has inaugurated an ADIP camp for Divyangjan.
- **Organized by** – Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur
- **Place** – North Mumbai

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- It has provided free distribution of assistive aids and devices to Divyangjans.

### About Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP Scheme)

<b>Launch Year</b>	1981
<b>Ministry</b>	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
<b>Aim</b>	To improve the independent functioning and to arrest the extent of disability and occurrence of secondary disability of Divyangs.

#### 1.82 U.K. in India network launches campaign on gender equality

- Recently, 'UK in India' network has signed a "Pledge for Progress", it is among 114 organisations who have signed this
- The UK and India have been working together to help ensure women and girls can reach their full potential.
- **Aim** - To empower organisations and individuals to break down gender norms and together build a gender-equal society
- It has been signed for **five key commitments – Lead, Represent, Embed, Include, Mobilise**

#### 1.83 Centre notifies draft rules for Industrial Relations Code

- Recently, **The labour ministry has notified draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.**
- It has paved way for **greater flexibility to employers to retrench workers while making it mandatory for unions to give prior notice before a strike.**
- **It would replace**
  - Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1949
  - Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954
  - Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules 1946
  - Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957.
- **Key Features**
  - **Ease of doing business** – Establishments with more than 300 workers will have to seek Government Approval to lay 15 days in prior to the lay off of the intended actions.
  - The limit was 100 employees earlier.
  - It **restricts the workers from going on strike.**
  - It **prescribes subscription charges to the trade unions** and make it difficult for the unions to go for collective bargaining.
  - The **closure of establishments** should be done after seeking **60 or 90 days prior approval from the Government.**
  - It has **tweaked the definition** of industry as it took out the eminent institutes, especially those related to **defence and space such as DRDO and ISRO out of its purview.**
- **Government has also proposed Occupational Safety, Health and working Conditions Code and the social security code.**

#### 1.84 6 women led startups win COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge

- Recently, **six women led startups have won COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge.**

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## About COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge

- **Organized by** – MyGov in collaboration with UN Women.
- **Objective** – To encourage and involve women led startups to come up with innovative solutions that can help in the fight against COVID19 or solve problems that impact a large number of women.
- The Challenge was **implemented in two stages**: Ideation stage and Proof of Concept (PoC) Stage.
- **Cash Prize**: Rs. 5 lakhs each for the top 3 winners, Rs. 2 lakhs each to the 3 startups chosen for their promising solutions.
- Top 3 entries were selected as winners, and in view of the high quality of solutions presented, 3 additional entries were recognised as 'Promising Solutions'.

### 1.85 Mansar Lake Development Plan inaugurated

- Recently, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, inaugurated **the Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir** to increase tourism.
- The project is eyed to attract almost **20 lakh tourists** every year and create employment for **1.15 crore man-days** with an income generation of **₹800 crore per year**.

### 1.86 National Jal Jeevan Mission organizes Virtual Conference for Rural Water Supply

- Recently, National Jal Jeevan Mission organized the virtual conference of State Ministers for Rural Water Supply.
- Special emphasis of conference was on **100-day campaign**.

## Key Highlights of Conference

- The mission gives highest priority to water quality. Currently, there are **2,233 government-owned water quality testing labs** in States/ UTs.
- **'100-day' campaign** has been launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 to make provision for assured piped water supply in **schools, anganwadi centres and ashramshalas** (residential schools in tribal areas).

### 1.87 Centre to set up Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)

- Recently, the Ministry of Ayush released the **'Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)'**
- It is a strategy policy unit of **Ministry of AYUSH** and **M/s Invest India** with the objective to **facilitate planned and systematic growth** of the Ayush Sector.
- The bureau will support the Ministry in **strategic and policy making initiatives** that shall help pave the way to reach the full potential of the Sector and stimulate growth and investment.

### 1.88 VAIBHAV Summit: A Unique Confluence of Resident and Overseas Indian Scientists

- Recently, **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit**, a global virtual summit of **overseas and resident Indian researchers and Academicians** concluded successfully.
- It was inaugurated on **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020** with joint effort of various Science & Technology (S&T) and Academic organizations.

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- **Aim-** to bring out the comprehensive roadmap to leverage the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researcher for solving emerging challenges.

### 1.89 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020

- Recently, the **13<sup>th</sup> Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference** was being organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Theme: **Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility**
- It focuses to provide accessible and convenient transport to the people.

### 1.90 15 States have been identified for implementing Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice

- According to the Food Ministry, the government is making plans to distribute fortified rice through the **Integrated Child Development Services and Mid-Day Meal schemes** across the country from next year, with a special focus on **112 aspirational districts**.
- For it, Centre is Implementing **Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System**
- The Pilot Scheme has been approved for a period of **three years beginning 2019-2020** with a total budget outlay of **Rs.174.6 Crore**.
- **Fifteen State Governments** have identified their respective districts (1 district per state) for implementing the Pilot Scheme.
- Already 5 states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh have started the distribution of fortified rice in their respective identified districts.

### 1.91 8th Meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

- Recently, **India virtually hosted the 8th Meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments**.
- Both countries agreed to facilitate investments in key Indian and UAE sectors and also reviewed the existing **UAE special desk ('UAE Plus')** and the **Fast Track Mechanism created in 2018** to facilitate investments.

#### About Joint Task Force

- Joint Task Force was created in 2012 as a crucial forum for further deepening the already strong economic ties between the UAE and India.

### 1.92 30 Indian cities likely to face acute water risks by 2050: WWF

- According to the **WWF Water Risk Filter**, **100 cities** are expected to suffer the greatest rise in water risk by 2050 and home to at least **350 million people** as well as **nationally and globally important economies**.
- Nearly **50 cities in China**, and **30 in India**, including **Delhi, Jaipur, Indore, Amritsar, Pune, Srinagar, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kozhikode** and **Vishakhapatnam**, are such high-risk regions.
- **Jaipur topped the list of Indian cities**, followed by **Indore and Thane**.
- Globally, populations in areas of high-water risk could rise from **17% in 2020 to 51% by 2050**.

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## About WWF Water Risk Filter

- Launched in **2012**, It is an **online tool**, co-developed by the **Worldwide Fund for Nature** to assess and respond to water-related risks.

### 1.93 Kochi: first in the country to develop a 'scientifically informed and participatory' action plan

- The city is the first in the country to develop a '**scientifically informed and participatory**' action plan.
- The Kochi Corporation has prepared a local biodiversity strategy and action plan which sets **29 goals for the city to achieve on biodiversity conservation by 2025**.
- The mapping was taken up by the Kochi Corporation's **Centre for Heritage, Environment and Development** and **ICLEI-South Asia** as part of a **German-funded project, Integrated Subnational Action for Biodiversity (Interact-Bio)**.

### 1.94 ECI organized International Election Visitors Programme 2020

- Recently, Election Commission of India organized an **International Virtual Election Visitors Programme 2020 (IEVP)** for foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs)/Organisations in the context of the ongoing Bihar Legislative Assembly Elections.
- Delegates from over **40 countries** across the world and **3 international organizations** (viz. **International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) and Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**) have been invited to participate in the IEVP 2020.
- The main objective of conducting the programme is to provide unique overview of **SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) programme**.

## Background

- Earlier, the programme was **launched during 2014** parliamentary elections. Currently, Bihar has been chosen because the state has **one of the largest electorates** in the world with more than **72 million electorates**.

### 1.95 "Tourist Facilitation Centre" inaugurated at Guruvayur, Kerala under PRASHAD Scheme

- Recently, Ministry of Tourism virtually inaugurated the "**Tourist Facilitation Centre**" facility constructed under the project "**Development of Guruvayur, Kerala**" under **PRASHAD Scheme**.

### 1.96 Prime Minister chaired the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference

- Recently, Prime Minister chaired the **Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 Conference**, aimed at attracting investment in the country.
- The conference focused on discussions around **India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms and the government's vision for making the country a \$5 trillion economy**.
- Organized by - **Ministry of Finance and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**.

### 1.97 Government Issued Liberalized Guidelines for 'Other Service Provider' Industry

- Recently, Government has issues Guidelines for '**Other Service Provider**' Industry in **BPO and ITeS Sectors** which tremendously reduces the compliance burden of the BPO industry.

## Key Highlights of Guidelines

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- **No registration requirement** for Other Service Provider centres in India.
- BPO industry engaged in data related work have been taken out of the ambit of OSP regulations.
- Companies now can adopt '**Work from Home**' and '**Work from Anywhere**' policies.
- In addition, requirements such as deposit of bank guarantees, requirement for static IPs, frequent reporting obligations, publication of network diagram, penal provisions etc. have also been removed.

### 1.98 IFFCO Bazar partners with SBI YONO Krishi App

- Recently, **IFFCO Bazar**, [www.iffcobazar.in](http://www.iffcobazar.in), the e-commerce arm of IFFCO has announced its integration with the **SBI YONO (You Only Need One) Krishi**, which is the dedicated portal catering to the farmer's needs.
- Hassle free payment portal of SBI YONO and quality products of IFFCO is a combination which aims to drive the digital sales and provide variety of agriculture products accessible to lakhs of Indian Farmers.

#### About IFFCO Bazar

- One of the fast-growing agriculture-based **e-commerce portals** in India, promoted by **IFFCO**.
- The portal is available in **12 Indian languages** and promises free home delivery pan India.
- It also **operates 1200+ stores in 26 states across India**.

### 1.99 Atal Innovation Mission and Sirius (Russia) Launch 'AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0'

- Recently, The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, and **Russia's Sirius** have jointly launched '**AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0**'.
- It is a **14-day virtual programme** for Indian and Russian schoolchildren.
- It is the first Indo-Russian bilateral youth innovation initiative, which seeks to develop technological solutions, both web-based and mobile-based, for the two countries.
- **48 students and 16 educators and mentors** will create **8 virtual products and mobile applications** addressing global challenges in the wake of the covid-19 pandemic.

### 1.100 UNDP-powered accelerator programme for social impact startups launched in Kerala

- Recently, Kerala Government launched Green Innovation Fund, a fund-linked accelerator programme for **social impact start-ups**.

#### About Green Innovation Fund

<b>Implementing agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kerala Startup Mission, Haritha Keralam Mission and United Nations Development Programme, India.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to support startups working on SDG goals (Climate change related) by giving them Grant and technical support</li> </ul>
<b>Key Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The issues that the GIF will seek to address are recurring natural disaster, human-animal conflict, sustainable tourism, sustainable agriculture, waste management, water and energy issues etc.</li> <li>• Startup selected for the programme are <b>eligible for fund upto Rs 7 lakh</b>.</li> </ul>

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- The GIF is part of **India High Range Mountain Landscape project (IHRML)**

### About IHRML Project

- The Project is an attempt towards mitigating the effects of climate change and other threats faced by the ecologically fragile landscape of Anchar and adjoining areas through building an effective collaborative governance framework for multiple-use management.

#### 1.101 IMD to issue forecast for malaria outbreak from next monsoon

- According to IMD Official's, The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** will start issuing **forecast for malaria outbreaks** from next monsoon.
- India also plans to ramp up its **high-performance computing (HPC)** facility from the existing capacity of **10 petaflops to 40 petaflops**.
  - Currently, **India is only next to the U.S., the U.K. and Japan in HPC.**
- The **IMD first studied the malaria data it got from Nagpur** which can be applied to other places as well and can help predict large Malaria outbreak.

#### 1.102 Haryana assembly passes bill on 75% job quota in private sector for locals

- Recently, Haryana Assembly passed a bill to give **75% reservation** in private sector jobs to youth from the state.
- Quota will be applicable for jobs offering a **salary less than 50,000 per month**.
- It applies to **private companies, societies, trusts and partnership firms**, among others, located in the state.

#### 1.103 Uttar Pradesh among Top 5 in MSME employment generators amid Covid-19

- According to RBI Report, Uttar Pradesh has secured a place among Top 5 in MSME employment generators amid Covid-19.
- **The states ahead of Uttar Pradesh are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.**
- The Uttar Pradesh government not only managed the return of about **40 lakh migrants** from all over the country but also took up the onerous task of providing them employment.
- The state government signed MoUs with various industries for creation of **11 Lakh jobs within a year**.
- A new portal '**Sathi**' was launched to help entrepreneurs set up new units.

#### 1.104 "Go Electric Campaign" of BEE: AP to set up 400 EV charging stations

- Recently, the **"Go Electric"** campaign was launched by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** in coordination with the **Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission** and the **Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP)**- the State nodal agency for establishment of the charging stations
- The Andhra Pradesh State Government is to set up **400 Electric Vehicle charging vehicles** all over the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles.

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### 1.105 UP launches special campaign to identify people suffering from TB

- Recently, UP government launched a special **10-day campaign** to identify people suffering from tuberculosis (TB) in the state.
- Campaign covered **29 districts of the state**.
- Health workers reached out to **81 lakh people**, identified those suffering from TB, screened them and helped them avail treatment at no cost.

#### Additional Information

- Centre, state govts working to make **India TB-free by 2025**

### 1.106 IREDA signs MoU with MNRE, setting key targets for the year 2020-21

- Recently, **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**.
- **Objective – To set key targets for the year 2020-21.**
- Government of India has set a revenue target of **Rs. 2,406 crore** under ‘**Excellent**’ rating along with various performance-related parameters.

### 1.107 Punjab Government launches a mission to achieve 100% school results

- Recently, the **Punjab Government** has launched the ‘**Mission Shat Pratishat**’ for 2020-21.

#### About ‘Mission Shat Pratishat’–

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>The State Government of Punjab</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<b>To empower schools to achieve 100% results despite the COVID- 19 pandemic.</b>
<b>Features</b>	It will further strengthen <b>the digital education infrastructure</b> in schools through e-books, EDUSAT lectures, e-content, online classes, broadcast of lectures through television and video lectures prepared by the teachers.

### 1.108 Central Government releases Rs 6,000 crore as the second tranche of GST compensation under Special Borrowing Window

- Recently, The Central Government borrowed transferred **Rs 6,000 crores** as second tranche on account of **GST compensation** to 16 States and 3 UT.
- The borrowing is at an interest rate of 4.42%.
- With this, the government has facilitated total loans of **Rs 12,000 crore** to date under the **special window programme**.

#### Background

- The central government will borrow **₹1.1 lakh crore** under the special window to meet the shortfall of GST compensation.
- It will be passed onto states as back-to-back loans in lieu of the GST compensation cess.

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### 1.109 Vigilance Awareness Week 2020

- Recently, the **Vigilance Awareness Week 2020** has been celebrated from **27 October to 2 November 2020**.
- **Theme 2020- "Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)"**

#### Recent initiatives launched by the Government in Vigilance Awareness Week 2020 -

- Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has launched the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances 's (DARPG) "Ideas Box" on " Good Governance Practices in a Pandemic"**.
- The Ideas Box for crowd sourcing of ideas has been operationalized both on the DARPG as well as on the MyGov platform.

### 1.110 Government of India to set up 14 more Aerodromes (Seaplane Base)

- Recently, government of India announced to set up **fourteen more aerodromes** in the country to develop **sea plane tourism in the country** under UDAN scheme.
- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India** are to implement the project jointly.

#### Additional Information

- The inclusion of seaplanes to connect water aerodromes were started under **Phase 3 of UDAN scheme**.
- **The Seaplane at the Statue of Unity, Kevadiya is operated by Spice Jet**. The Spice Jet private firm has secured 18 sea routes under UDAN scheme.

### 1.111 Indian School of Business and Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore's programme ranked among top 100 in Executive MBA Ranking 2020 by Financial Times

- Recently, the **Executive MBA Ranking 2020 by Financial Times** has been released, and **two leading Indian business schools** have been ranked among **top 100** in the list. They are:

Ranking	Institution	Programme
53	Indian School of Business	Post Graduate Programme in Management for Senior Executives (PGPMAX)
95	IIM, Bangalore	Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management

- **Ranking Parameters:** Increase in Salary, Career growth, Aims achieved, Female Faculty and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- **Hong Kong based Kellogg/HKUST Business School's** programme has secured the **first place**.

### 1.112 Centre amends law to set up Jammu & Kashmir Industrial Development Corporation

- Recently, **Ministry of Home affairs** amended and introduced a new chapter in the **Jammu & Kashmir Development Act 1970**, to set up **Industrial Development Corporation** in the Union Territory.

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- **Aim** –speed up industrial growth in the UT by establishing industrial areas and industrial estates.
- Based on the recent amendment, **the corporation has powers to purchase, sell, lease and transfer of both movable and immovable property, establish commercial centres** for the purpose of establishing and managing industrial areas and estates.

### 1.113 'Standup Mitra' portal records over 96,00 loan sanctions as of September end

- Small Industries Development Bank of India's (SIDBI) 'Standup Mitra' portal has sanctioned over **96,000 loans** amounting over Rs **21,000 crores** as of **September 2020** end.

#### About Standup Mitra Portal:

- It provides support to the potential beneficiaries of Standup India Scheme through:
  - **Step by Step guidance on their business proposals**
  - **Information on financing**
  - **Credit Guarantee**

### 1.114 Indian Institute of Science- only Indian institute to get a spot in top 100 of the Times Higher Education subject ranking 2021

- Recently **Times Higher Education (THE)**, has released the **World University Rankings of 1,512 universities** from **93 countries** across **11 streams**, focusing the best international universities in higher education for Indian students.
- **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru** is the only Indian institution to be ranked in the top 100 list. It has secured **96<sup>th</sup> rank in computer science** stream and **94<sup>th</sup> rank in engineering technology**.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi** is ranked in between **401 to 500** and **Delhi University** is ranked **501** in the **Arts & Humanities Stream**.
- **Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi** – ranked **401-500** in **Business and Economics** category.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> rank holders** in various streams are:
  - **Stanford University, USA** – **Arts & Humanities, Business & Economics**.
  - **University of Oxford, UK** – **Clinical & Health, Computer Science**
  - **Harvard University, USA** – **Engineering & Technology**.

### 1.115 Climate Change- the cause for doubling of natural disasters: United Nations

- According to a new report titled "**The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019**" published by the **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**, **climate change** is the reason behind the **doubling of natural disasters** for the past two decades from **2000 to 2019**.

#### Key findings from the report:

- **7,348 major disaster** events happened between **2000-2019**, affecting **4.2 billion population** and costing **\$2.97 trillion** to the global economy
- **Asia** has suffered highest number of disasters and **China** is the most affected country.
- The deadliest single disaster was **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami** claiming the lives of **226,400 deaths**, followed by **2010 Haiti earthquake** resulting in **222,000 deaths**.
- **India** is the **second most affected country by floods**, after China.

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#### Additional Information:

- **International Day of Disaster Reduction** is celebrated by United Nations every year on **13<sup>th</sup> October**.
- This year's theme - **Disaster risk governance**.

#### 1.116 Gig Workers to make Provident Fund (PF) contribution for the first time

- For the first time in India, people working in **unorganized sectors, migrant workers, part-timers, gig workers** and **platform workers** would be asked to make contributions to avail the benefits of **PF** and **employees state insurance schemes**
- Government is likely to start seeking **contribution from gig companies** towards a **national social security fund** from **1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**.
- Famous aggregator firms like Uber, Ola, Swiggy and Urban Company are expecting **more than 1 million workers to join the new regime in the first year itself**.

#### Relevance:

- In India **85%** of the population work in **unorganized sector** and this move will help them enjoy the same benefits as that of the organized sector workers.

#### 1.117 Asia Power Index for 2020

- Recently, **Lowy Institute** has released **“Asia Power Index for 2020.”**
- It has ranked 26 nations and territories.
- It has measured power using 128 indicators including economic relations, defense spending, internal stability, information flows and projected future resources.

#### Major Findings

- **Top 5 countries** – USA, China, Japan, India and Russia.
- US, Russia and Malaysia posted the biggest losses on the index.
- India has lost economic growth potential in the covid pandemic.
- India will reach 40% of China's economic output by 2030, compared with the 50% estimate in 2019.

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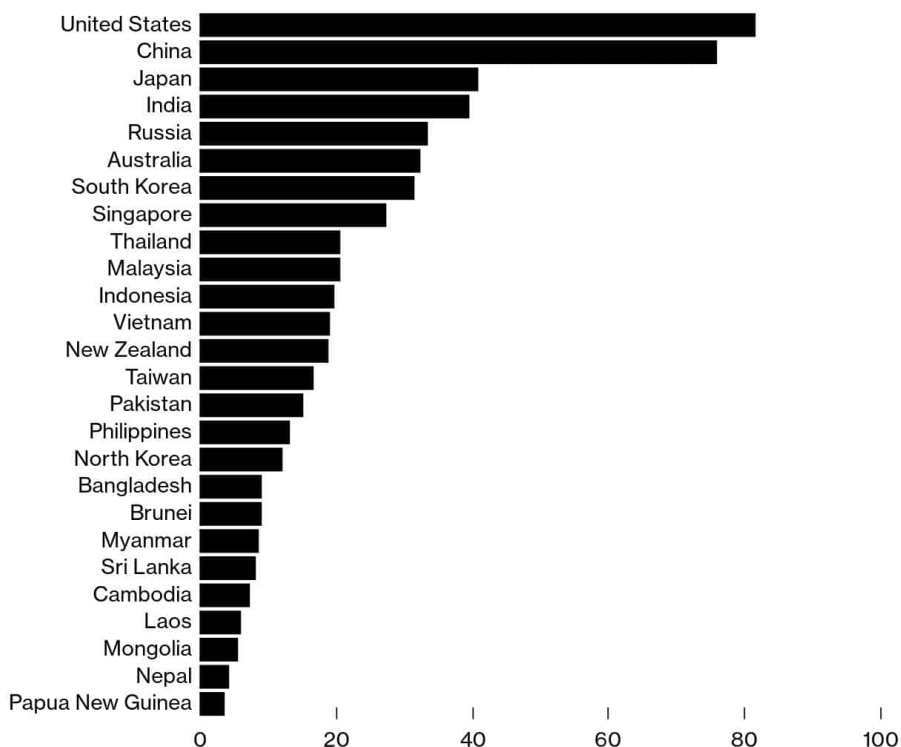
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### Who Wields the Most Power in Asia



Source: Lowy Institute Asia Power Index

Bloomberg

#### Relevance

- According to the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, around **347.4 million people in the Asia-Pacific region could fall below the USD 5.5 a day poverty line because of the pandemic.**

#### 1.118 March to Million initiative

- Recently, **Microsoft and NASSCOM** has launched 'March to Million' initiative.
- It has **partnered with Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) and Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE).**
- Aim – **To skill one million youths in AI by 2021.**

#### Key Highlights

- Under the initiative, Microsoft and NASSCOM will skill 30,000 youths from Telangana in Artificial Intelligence.
- It has introduced students to the concepts of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Data Science

#### 1.119 FinMin approves MEIS allocation of Rs 39,000 cr for exports during FY20

- Recently, **Finance Ministry** has approved the allocation of Rs 39,097 crore under the **Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)** for the exports made during FY 2019-20.

#### About Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)

<b>Introduce</b>	<b>It is one of the two schemes introduced in Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20</b>
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b>

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<b>Aim</b>	To make India's products more competitive in the global markets.
<b>Objective</b>	To offset infrastructural inefficiencies and the associated costs of exporting products produced in India giving special emphasis on those which are of India's export interest and have the capability to generate employment and enhance India's competitiveness in the world market.

### 1.120 Cabinet approves PLI scheme worth Rs 1.46 lakh crore for 10 sectors

- Recently, **Union Cabinet has approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme worth up to Rs 1.46 lakh crore for 10 key sectors in a bid to boost India's manufacturing capabilities and enhancing exports.**
- It will be offered for the sectors such as White goods manufacturing, Pharmaceutical, Specialised steel, Automobiles etc
- Automobiles & Auto Components have received the maximum incentive of Rs 57,042 crore, followed by Advance Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery which got an incentive of Rs 18,100 crore

**Furthering Make in India for AatmaNirbhar Bharat**

**PLI Scheme Heralds a New Era in Mobile Phone & Electronic Components Manufacturing**

- 22 companies applied under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme; 40 others applied for component manufacturing in India
- Production of ₹11.50 lakh crore and Exports of ₹7 lakh crore expected over next 5 years
- Domestic value addition expected to grow from 15-20% to 35-40% for mobile phones & 45-50% for electronic components
- The sector to generate 3 lakh direct & 9 lakh indirect jobs in next 5 years

### 1.121 Fourth edition of India Mobile Congress 2020

- Recently, **Minister of State for Information Technology has announced the fourth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020.**
- It would take place from 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.
- Organized by – **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAT).**
- Theme – "**Inclusive Innovation - Smart | Secure | Sustainable**".
- **Partners** – Dell Technologies, Ribbon Communications and Red Hat.

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### 1.1221<sup>st</sup> BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

- Recently, **1st BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting** has taken place.
- It was attended by Union Finance Minister.

#### Key Highlights

- Finance Minister has informed that G20 (all BRICS countries are members) has delivered some very significant initiatives
  - **G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19** – It has provided broad guidance to navigate a collective global response to the crisis.
  - **G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative** – It has ensured immediate support to address the liquidity needs of low-income countries.
- It has also discussed **expansion of the membership of the New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- Union Finance Minister has also shared her perspective on Russia's initiative to develop an integrated Digital Platform (Data Room).

### 1.123 Ministry of Power mandates all DISCOMs to comply Energy Conservation (EC) Act, 2001

- Recently, **Ministry of Power** has issued notification in September, 2020 to cover all the **Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)** under the preview of the **Energy Conservation (EC) Act, 2001**.
- It has been formulated in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

#### Key Highlights

- **All entities having issued distribution license by State/Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission under the Electricity Act, 2003 have been notified as Designated Consumers (DCs)**.
- DISCOMs will be governed under the various provisions of EC Act, such as Appointment of Energy Manager, Energy Accounting & Auditing, identification of Energy Losses Category wise, Implementation of energy conservation & efficiency measures etc.
- **The number of DISCOMs covered under the EC Act will increase from 44 to 102.**
- The quarterly data of the DISCOMs will be collected and monitored by the government to suggest measures for increasing the efficiency and reduce the energy loss.

### 1.124 Claims through Affidavit Form no longer required now under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY) of ESIC

- Recently, **ESIC** has informed that **claims through Affidavit Form no longer required under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY)**.

#### About Atal Bimit Kalyan Yojana

<b>Launch Year</b>	2008
<b>Implemented by</b>	Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.
<b>Key Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The employees of organized sector who lose employment get financial help from the government.</li> <li>• It benefits only those employees who are covered under the ESI scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	The insured has worked for at least 2 years before leaving the job and has contributed at least 78 days during the contribution period.

### 1.125 20<sup>th</sup> Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State

- Recently, **20<sup>th</sup> Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State** has taken place.
- **Chaired by** – Russia
- Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister.

#### Important information shared by Prime Minister

- India, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC would be focusing on the **theme of ‘reformed multilateralism’** to bring about desirable changes in global governance.
- He has also extended full support to **observing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCO in 2021 as the “SCO Year of Culture.”**

### 1.126 Union Minister of Education virtually inaugurates the National Education Day programme

- Recently, **Union Minister of Education** has virtually inaugurated the National Education Day programme.
- Organized by - **IIT Bombay** to commemorate the **birth anniversary of India’s First Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.**

#### Key Highlights

- **IIT Bombay Research Excellence Awards 2019** has been presented during the programme.
- Professor **Krithi Ramamritham Award** for creative research-2019 has been given to Prof. Jayakrishnan Nair and Prof. Varun Bhalerao.’

### 1.127 2<sup>nd</sup> National Water Awards

- Recently, **2<sup>nd</sup> National Water Awards (NWAs)** for the year 2019 has been presented.
- **Organized by** - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Focus** - On the good work and efforts made by individual and organisations across India, and the government’s **vision for the path to ‘Jal Samridh Bharat’.**
- Best State Award – **Tamil Nadu** followed by **Maharashtra** and **Rajasthan.**

### 1.128 Government sets up Inter-Ministerial Committee to strengthen the Capital Goods Sector

- Recently, **Government** has set up a **22-member Inter-Ministerial Committee** to strengthen the **Capital Goods Sector.**
- It has been set up to achieve the national goal of achieving a USD 5 trillion economy and a USD 1 trillion manufacturing sector.

#### About the Committee

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- It will work out ways and means to make the capital goods sector globally competitive and to become the manufacturing hub for the world.
- Chairman - **Secretary, Department of Heavy Industries.**

### 1.129 Districts of Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad of Uttar Pradesh brought under the jurisdiction of Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Delhi

- Recently, **the districts of Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad of Uttar Pradesh, have been brought under the jurisdiction of Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Delhi.**
- It was earlier under the jurisdiction of FRRO, Lucknow.
- It is done for matters relating to receiving and processing of applications for various services in respect of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders.

#### About Overseas Citizen of India

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** defines an OCI as a person who:
  - Was a citizen of India on or after 26th January 1950; or
  - Was eligible to become a citizen of India on 26th January 1950; or
  - Is a child or grandchild of such a person, among other eligibility criteria.

### 1.130 Ministry of Textiles has launched a Campaign #Local4Diwali

- Recently, **Ministry of Textiles has launched a Campaign #Local4Diwali.**
- The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft which is the cultural heritage of India.

#### Aim

- To urge people to buy and gift Indian handicraft products on this Diwali.
- To give a boost to Indian handicrafts and artisans.

#### Relevance

- **Ministry of textile has informed that the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.**

### 1.131 Finance Minister announces measures on AatmaNirbhar Bharat 3.

- Recently, **Union Finance Minister has announced measures on "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat 3.0."**
- It has announced 12 key measures as part of the campaign.
- The amounts of ₹ 2.65 Lakh crore has been sanctioned for the campaign.

#### Important Announcements

##### 1. Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- Launched to incentivize job creation during COVID-19 recovery.
- Beneficiaries / New Employees under the scheme would be:
  - Any **new employee joining employment in EPFO** registered establishments on **monthly wages less than Rs.15,000**

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- EPF members **drawing monthly wage of less than Rs.15,000 who made exit from employment during COVID Pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020 and is employed on or after 01.10.2020.**
  - Central Govt. will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new eligible employees engaged on or after 01.10.2020.
  - The subsidy will be provided for –
    1. **Establishments employing up to 1000 employees:** Employee's contributions (12% of Wages) & Employer's contributions (12% of wages) totalling 24% of wages
    2. **Establishments employing more than 1000 employees:** Only Employee's EPF contributions (12% of EPF wages)
  - **Tenure - 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**
- 2. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs, businesses, MUDRA borrowers and individuals (loans for business purposes)**
- It has been **extended till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**
  - A Credit guarantee support **scheme ECLGS 2.0 has been launched for Healthcare sector and 26 stressed sectors.**
  - It has been launched with credit outstanding of above Rs. 50 crore and up to ₹ 500 Crore in February 2020 stressed due to COVID-19, among other criteria.
  - The Entities will get **additional credit up to 20% of outstanding credit** with a tenor of five years, including one year moratorium on principal repayment.
  - The scheme would be available till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- 3. Production Linked Incentive Scheme**
- 10 more Champion Sectors would be covered under the Production Linked Incentives Scheme to help boost competitiveness of domestic manufacturing.
  - **Funding**
    - Government has sanctioned **worth ₹ 1.46 Lakh Crore to 10 champion sectors.**
    - A total amount of nearly 1.5 Lakh Crore has been earmarked across sectors, for next five years.
  - **Ten sectors**
    - Advance Cell Chemistry Battery
    - Electronic/Technology Products
    - Automobiles & Auto Components
    - Pharmaceuticals Drugs
    - Telecom & Networking Products
    - Textile Products
    - Food Products
    - High Efficiency Solar PV Modules
    - White Goods (ACs & LED)

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- Specialty Steel.

#### 4. PM Awaas Yojana - Urban

- **An addition amount of Rs 18000 crore has been sanctioned for PMAY- Urban.**
  - Government has earlier allocated Rs. 8000 Crore.
- It will help ground 12 Lakh houses and complete 18 Lakh houses, create additional 78 Lakh jobs and improve production and sale of steel and cement, resulting in multiplier effect on economy.

#### 5. Support for Construction & Infrastructure –

- Government has released **relaxation of Earnest Money Deposit (EDM) & Performance Security on Government Tenders.**
- It has been **reduced from 5-10% to 3%.**
- It will also be extended to ongoing contracts and Public Sector Enterprises.
- **EMD for tenders will be replaced by Bid Security Declaration.**
- The relaxations in the General Financial Rules would be in force till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

#### 6. Income Tax relief for Developers & Home Buyers

- **Section 43 of Income Tax Act has been increased from 10% to 20%.**
  - It defines certain terms relevant to income from profits and gains of business or profession.
- It has been **increased for primary sale of residential units up to ₹ 2 Crore till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**
- **Consequential Relief of up to 20% shall also be allowed to buyers of the units under Income Tax Act till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

#### 7. Platform for Infra Debt Financing

- Government would be making an **equity investment of ₹6,000 Crore** in debt platform of **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).**
- It will help NIIF provide a debt of ₹ 1.1 Lakh Crore for infrastructure projects by 2025.

#### 8. Support for Agriculture

- ₹65,000 Crore has been provided to ensure increased supply of fertilizers to farmers to enable timely availability of fertilizers in the upcoming crop season.

#### 9. Boost for Rural Employment

- An Additional outlay of ₹10,000 Crore has been provided for PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana to provide rural employment.

#### 10. Boost for Project Exports

- ₹3,000 Crore has been provided to EXIM Bank for promoting project exports **under Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS Scheme).**

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## 11. Capital and Industrial Stimulus

- An additional budget stimulus of ₹10,200 Crore has been provided for capital and industrial expenditure on domestic defence equipment, industrial infrastructure and green energy.

## 12. R&D grant for COVID Vaccine

- ₹900 Crore has been provided to Department of Biotechnology for Research and Development of Indian COVID Vaccine.

### 1.132 PM Modi co-chairSs virtual India-ASEAN summit

- Recently, **Prime Minister has co-chaired India and ASEAN virtual summit** along with **Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.**
- **Focus** - On measures to recover from the economic turmoil triggered by the coronavirus pandemic and ways to further broad base the strategic ties.
- It has taken place amid China's aggressive behaviour in the disputed South China Sea as well as in eastern Ladakh.

#### Key Highlights of the Summit

- It has **reviewed the status of ASEAN-India strategic partnership.**
- It has also taken stock of progress made in key areas such as connectivity, maritime cooperation, trade and commerce, education and capacity building.

### 1.133 Third edition of Deccan Dialogue

- Recently, **third edition of Deccan Dialouge has taken place.**
- **Organized by** - Indian School of Business in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Theme** – “Crisis and Cooperation – Imperative in times of the pandemic.”
- **Objective** – To explore ways and means to address the crisis through various diplomatic efforts of cooperation and talk in detail on the pertinent issues faced by the world.

#### About Deccan Dialogue

- It is an annual flagship event of the ISB.
- **Aim** – To promote multi-stakeholder conversations on various aspects of diplomacy and the country's external engagement.

### 1.134 Haryana CM unveils 'Project Air Care' for Gurugram

- Recently, **Chief Minister of Haryana has unveiled 'Project Air Care' for Gurugram.**
- He has also inaugurated a project for the beautification of the Gateway of Gurugram on the Mehrauli-Gurugram Road.

#### About Project Air for Care

- It would be set up at areas with high Air Quality Indices (AQI).
- The project has been a result of a public-private partnership between **Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA)** and **GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) Consumer Healthcare.**

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### 1.13515<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit 2020

- Recently, **15th East Asia Summit has taken place, chaired by the Prime Minister of Vietnam.**
- India has been represented by Union Minister for External Affairs.

#### Key Highlights

- It has adopted **Hanoi Declaration**
  - The declaration has emphasized ASEAN-centered regional architecture
  - The summit stressed on the need to further enable East Asia Summit as an effective platform.
  - It stressed upon the effective implementation of Manila Plan of Action to advance the Phnom Penh Declaration (2018-2022). It focuses on East Asia Development Initiative.

### 1.136 Punjab sets target for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

- Recently, **Punjab has set the target to provide household tap water to all rural households by 2022.**
- It has also planned to enable 7.60 lakh household connections in the 2020-21.

#### About Takhni Single Village Scheme (SVS)

- It's a groundwater-based SVS commissioned in June 2020.
- It provides tap water connections to all 165 households in the village as well as to schools and anganwadis.
- It supplies water to around 40 households situated at higher elevation where water is lifted through booster pumping.
- **Operated and Maintained by** - GP Water & Sanitation Committee (GPWSC)

### 1.137 India at G-77 ministerial meeting

- Recently, **forum titled 'Global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the obstacles it poses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the SDGs' has taken place.**
- India was represented by India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti.

### 1.138 Uttarakhand CM distributes digital ration cards

- Recently, **Uttarakhand Chief Minister has distributed digital ration cards under 'One Nation One Ration Card.'**

#### About One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

<b>Announced in</b>	2019
<b>Ministry</b>	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
<b>Key Features</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any fair-price shop in India.</li><li>• For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format by using the local language and the other language could be Hindi or English.</li></ul>

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- The states have also been told to have a **10-digit standard ration card number**, wherein first two digits will be state code and the next two digits will be running ration card numbers.
- A set of another two digits would be appended with ration card number to create unique member IDs for each member of the household in a ration card.

### 1.139 IMF releases “Financial Access Survey for 2020

- Recently, **International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released “Financial Access Survey for 2020.”**

#### Key Highlights of the Survey

- Financial innovation has in part has led to a 17-fold jump in the number of adult Indians per thousand people.
- It has access to financial services offered by a mobile network or its partners from 73 in 2015 to 1,265 in 2019.
- It has suggested that improvement in closing the gender gap in financial access varied across countries with microfinance institutions playing an important role in lending to women in some economies.

### 1.140 Jharkhand Assembly passes resolution on Sarna Code

- Recently, **The Jharkhand Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution seeking the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in Census, 2021.**
- It has been sent to Center for approval.
- If the Centre approves **the new Sarna code**, Census 2021 would have to make space for a new religion.
- Jharkhand has 32 tribal groups of which eight are from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

#### About Sarna Code

- It will allow members of tribal communities in the state to identify themselves as ‘Sarna’, a distinct religious category.
- The followers of Sarna faith believe pray to nature and Its followers pray to the trees and hills while believing in protecting the forest areas.
- The holy grail of the faith is “Jal (water), Jungle (forest), Zameen (land).”

### 1.141 Govt employees can make purchases in family member's name under LTC plan

- Recently, **government has informed that Central government employees availing the LTC cash voucher scheme can purchase goods or services in the name of spouse or other family members eligible for LTC fare.**

#### About Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Cash Voucher Scheme –

- The Government in October 2020 has decided to give cash payment instead of one LTC during 2018-21, in which:
  - **Full payment on Leave encashment**
  - **Payment of fare in 3 flat-rate slabs depending on the class of entitlement**

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- Fare payment will be tax-free

### 1.142 13<sup>th</sup> Urban Mobility India Conference 2020

- Recently, **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** virtually organized the 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020.
- Theme 2020: **Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility**

The event essentially has four components as below:

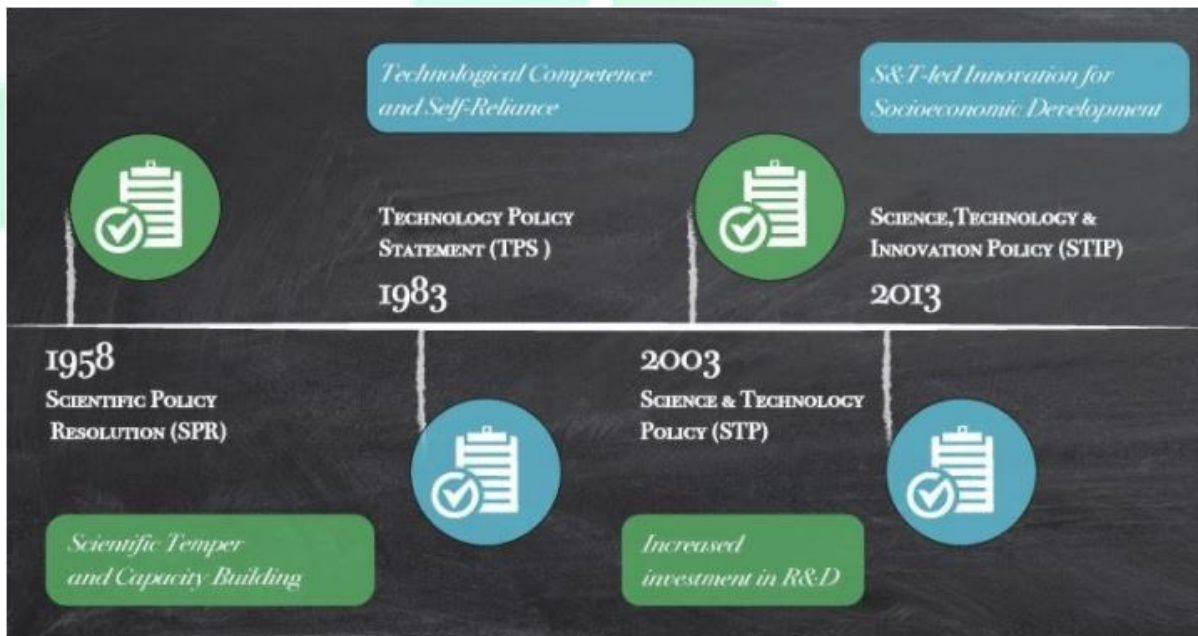
- **Conference:** platform for delegates to interact regarding Urban Transport.
- **Exhibition:** to showcase the latest developments in urban transport technology
- **Research Symposium:** to highlight the current research carried out by the academic and research institutes in urban transport. (To be Held in Jan 2021 due to COVID)
- **Awards for Excellence in Urban Transport:** to best urban transport projects / initiatives.

### 1.143 Ministry of Science & Technology holds first of its kind policy consultations with Indian Scientific Diaspora on STIP-2020

- Recently, Ministry of Science & Technology virtually held first of its kind policy consultations with Indian Scientific Diaspora on STIP-2020.
- It Invited them to play active role in STIP 2020 formulation exercise.

About STIP 2020

- Recently, **The Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP 2020)** was flagged off jointly by the **Office of Principal Scientific Advisor and Department of Science and Technology**.
- STIP 2020 aims to re-strategize priorities, sectoral focus, and methods of research and technology development for larger socio-economic welfare.



### Formulation Process

The STIP 2020 formulation process is organized into 4 highly interlinked tracks, which will reach out to around 15,000 stakeholders for consultation in the policy formulation.

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- **TRACK I:** This involves an extensive public and expert consultation process through Science Policy Forum.
- **TRACK II:** It comprises experts-driven thematic consultations to feed evidence-informed recommendations into the policy drafting process.
- **TRACK III:** It involves consultations with Ministries and States.
- **TRACK IV:** Constitutes apex level multi-stakeholder consultation.

#### 1.144 Startups took up the pandemic as a challenge and came up with innovative solutions

- **CAWACH Program** has been steered by **National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB) of DST with SINE, IIT Bombay** as the implementation partner.

**CAWACH** Centre for Augmenting War with COVID-19 Health Crisis invites you to JOIN THE WAR AGAINST CORONA

High impact, scalable solutions that addresses/mitigates various challenges faced by country/society due to severe impact of COVID-19  
FUNDING per startup : ₹ 50 Lacs - ₹ 2.0 CR (– ₹ 1 Cr)

**DIAGNOSTICS** **STERILIZERS & DISINFECTANTS**  
**VENTILATORS & PPE** **INFORMATICS**

**APPLICATIONS**  
Apply [www.isba.in/cawach](http://www.isba.in/cawach)  
Application submitted by **15 APR 2020** will be taken up for support on priority in first batch

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

- A startup as per definition under Startup India, preferably registered on Startup India Portal
- Less than 7 years in existence
- Should have qualified team in place
- Preferably at revenue stage or has raised fund earlier
- Preferably to have already deployed or ready to deploy product within a few of weeks

#### 1.145 Union minister of Commerce & Industry addressed the Conference 'India: Drivers of Change'

- Recently, Union minister of Commerce & Industry addressed the Conference 'India: Drivers of Change' organized by Bank of America.

##### Key Highlights of Address

- Approval has been given to introduce the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** in the 10 key sectors for Enhancing India's Manufacturing Capabilities and Enhancing Exports.
- The IHS Markit India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) touched 54.1 in **October** indicating growth in economic activities
- The GST collections in October were 10% more than the corresponding period of last year.
- **Emphasized on 4 Cs-Courage, Confidence, competence, and compassion**

#### 1.146 University of Hyderabad ranked 363 among 829 world's leading higher education institutions






- Recently, **RUR Rankings Agency** in partnership with **Clarivate Analytics** announced the release of **RUR 2020 Life Sciences World University Ranking**.
- Out of the 13 institutions figuring in this ranking from India, UoH is the only University to be ranked after IISc, the IITs and IISER-Pune, in the top 7 in India. **It stands 363<sup>rd</sup> out of 829 institutions globally.**
- **Teaching Ranking- 72; Country Ranking- 7**

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Rank	University	Score	Country	Flag	League
62	Indian Institute of Science	83.813	India		Diamond League
249	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	68.009	India		Silver League
271	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	65.448	India		Silver League
287	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune	64.654	India		Silver League
321	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	62.302	India		Bronze League
324	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	62.202	India		Bronze League
363	University of Hyderabad	59.050	India		Bronze League

### 1.147 India announces \$1 million aid to Covid-19 ASEAN Response Fund

- Recently, India announced a contribution of **USD 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund** at the **17th ASEAN-India Summit**, which was held **virtually**.
- India also reiterated its **US\$ 1 billion Line of Credit to support ASEAN connectivity** during the summit
- The Leaders also welcomed the adoption of the new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2021-2025

#### Relevance

- A cohesive, responsive and prosperous ASEAN is central to India's Indo-Pacific Vision and contributes to **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)**.

### 1.148 Our assistance does not create indebtedness: India at G-77 ministerial meeting

- Recently, At the G-77 annual ministerial meeting, India announced that India's assistance to other nations does not create indebtedness, is without conditionalities and the country's cooperation is guided by its partners' development priorities

#### Key Highlight of India's address at meeting

- India has pledged **15 million dollars for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance**, and operationalized the **COVID-19 Emergency Fund for India's neighbors** with an initial contribution of **10 million dollars**.

#### About G-77

- The **Group of 77 (G77)** at the United Nations is a coalition of **134 developing countries**, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.
- **Headquartered in Geneva**

### 1.149 Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, topped the Business Schools list in Central Asia: Eduniversal Rankings 2020

- **IIM, Bangalore** has **topped** the list of **Business Schools in Central Asia** under the category **"Universal Business School with strong global influence"** in the **Eduniversal Rankings 2020**, at the annual **Eduniversity 3-D World Convention 2020**.
- **IIM, Ahmedabad** go the **second spot** in the ranking under the same category.
- The **first three spots** in the **"Top Business School with significant international alliance"** went to **IIM-Calcutta, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad** and **IIM, Indore** respectively.

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### About Eduniversal Rankings:

- It is an **annual global ranking on business schools** provided **Eduniversal, Paris based rating agency**.
- **1000 Best Business schools** in **154 countries** spanning in **9 geographical zones** are ranked in this rating.

### 1.150 World Health Organization approves the first ever vaccine for emergency use against polio

- For the first time, **World Health Organization**, under **Emergency Use Listing Procedure**, (EUL) has approved a **vaccine for emergency use** to control the outbreak of **circulating vaccine-derived polio viruses (cVDPVs)** in several countries in African, East Mediterranean, Western Pacific and South- East Asian Regions.
- The unlicensed vaccine - nOPV2, is developed by **Bio Farma, owned by the Government of Indonesia**.

### What is cVDPVs?

- A rare condition that **occurs in the weakened strain of the poliovirus contained in the oral polio vaccine (OPV)** circulates among under-immunized populations for a long time.
- If proper vaccination is not given to children, this **weakened strains spreads among individuals, ultimately causing paralysis**.

### What is EUL?

- It is a procedure to **assess the suitability of unlicensed health products at the times of public health emergencies** such as Polio, and the recent Covid-19 outbreak
- Objective: **Faster Delivery of vaccination/medicines to address the emergency**.

### 1.151 One person can order Aadhaar PVC cards online for the entire family using mobile number

- As per the recent announcement by **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, any **registered mobile** can be used to get **Aadhaar polyvinyl chloride (PCV) cards for the entire family**.
- The authentication will be done by generating a one-time password (OTP) to the registered mobile number.

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- **Aadhaar PVC Card was Launched by UIDAI in October 2020.**

### 1.152 China backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) deal signed

- The **RCEP deal**, backed by the Chinese government, was signed by **15 Asian Countries** recently at Southeast Asian Summit 2020.
- The deal makes **China, a dominating country in the Asian Trade.**
- It is the **largest trade pact in the world** contributing **30%** of Global **Gross Domestic Product (GDP).**

**About RCEP deal:**

- It is a **Free Trade Agreement in the Asia Pacific Region**
- The deal was first negotiated in **2012.**

### 1.153 Integrated Joint approach required to combat climate change: UNEP report

- According to a recent report titled – “**STRENGTHENING SYNERGIES - How action to achieve post-2020 global biodiversity conservation targets can contribute to mitigating climate change**”, published by the **United Nations Environment Programme**, an integrated approach is required to preserve nature and combat climate change.

**Key Takeaways from the Report:**

- **Climate Change and biodiversity losses are interlinked**, which can be addressed by adapting **Nature based Solutions (NbS).**
- It **identifies popular biodiversity hotspots as the strategic regions** to implement Nature based Solutions
- Conserving **30 %** of land in strategic locations could safeguard **500 gigatonnes** of carbon stored in vegetation and soil and **reduce the extinction risk of nearly 9 out of 10 threatened terrestrial species.**

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- Climate change and biodiversity loss are **twin crises** that should be tackled together, with greater ambition and integrated action plans.

### 1.154 UNCRI releases ‘Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 pandemic’ report

- Recently, **United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)** has released a report titled ‘**Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 pandemic**’.

#### Key Highlights of the Report

- It has informed that terrorist, violent extremist and organized criminal groups have maliciously used social media to disseminate conspiracy theories about the origin of COVID-19.
- The researchers have examined **three groups of non-State actors**
  - Right-wing extremists
  - Groups associated with the ISIS or Da’esh terror group and al-Qaeda
  - Organized crime groups.

#### Relevance

- **The Global Fatwa Index** has identified COVID-19 related messages from groups associated with ISIS and al-Qaeda.
  - It has included non-official fatwas that called on ISIS members who have contracted COVID-19 to act as “biological bombs” by “deliberately spreading the disease among the organization’s enemies,”
- **Launched by** – Dar al-Ifta of Egypt

### 1.155 Capgemini launches Sakhi Drishtikon

- Recently, **Capgemini (French Company)** has launched “**Sakhi Drishtikon**” initiative.
- It has been launched to **train and hire rural women graduates, post-graduates or diploma holders in technical subjects from economically weaker families and bring them into the mainstream workforce.**

#### Key Highlights of the initiative

- It will have 500 rural women from across rural India joining its workforce by the end of December 2020.
- It will **equip the candidates** for jobs in the areas of **Security, Cloud and Data** and eventually help them build a career path.
- The company has plans to hire 15% of its fresh recruitments to come from the new stream of rural talent in 2021.
- **Eligibility** - A candidate should have 60% marks in academics and his/her family’s annual income should not exceed ₹1.8 lakh.
- All chosen candidates would be offered free laptops and broadband connections at their homes.

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### 1.156 ESCAP releases 'Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020'

- Recently, 'Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020' report has been released.
- **Released by** - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- It has cited efforts by 'BHUVAN' to leverage its geospatial tools in assisting the central and state governments towards containing the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting sustainable development projects in India.
- It has informed that the **services have been provided in six aspects**
  - Tracking
  - Identifying hotspots
  - Vegetable markets
  - Food needed
  - Home isolation
  - Pollution

#### About BHUVAN initiative

- It is an Indian web based utility which allows users to explore a set of map based content prepared by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

### 1.157 Operation 'Calypso': DRI busts international cocaine smuggling racket

- Recently, **The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** has busted an international drug smuggling racket.
- It has been busted under an operation **codenamed as 'Calypso'**.
- The operation was carried out in Mumbai and Rajasthan's Udaipur.

### 1.158 Siddipet and Peddapalli bags Swachhata Award

- Recently, **Siddipet and Peddapalli district of Telangana** have won the Swachhata Award.
- It has been given on the occasion of '**World Toilet Day**'.
- It has been given for **creating awareness on use of toilets, segregation of wet and dry garbage and their maintenance and campaign on Swachh Bharath in rural areas.**

### 1.159 LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

- Recently, Defence Minister has launched a portal for defence land management system (LMS)
- **Developed by** - Department of Defence in conjunction with Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and Armed forces.

#### About Land Management System (LMS)

- It is expected to bring greater transparency, efficiency and speed in dealing with land management matters.
- It will digitize all requests of defence land management received by the DOD in the future,
- The technical support for this GIS-based system has been provided by BISAG (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

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### **1.160 International Energy Agency releases “Energy Technology Perspectives 2020.”**

- Recently, a new study of International Energy Agency titled as “Energy Technology Perspectives 2020” has been released.
- **Focuses on** – The technology needs and opportunities for reaching international climate and sustainable energy goals

#### **Important Information Shared during the launch**

- **India has moved to the Centre stage of International Energy Affairs and is a role model for other major emerging economies.**
- It has praised the Indian government for its efforts in providing clean energy to millions by way of schemes like Ujjawala and Ujala

### **1.161 Government of India and the World Bank signs USD 120 million loan for the implementation of Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP)**

- Recently, **Government of India and the World Bank have signed USD 120 million loan signing for the implementation of Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP).**

#### **Key Highlights of the Project**

- It will help Meghalaya to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism.
- The project will improve about 300 km of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions.
- It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction.
- It will also support state government's “Restart Meghalaya Mission” to revive and boost development activities affected due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### **1.162 Government of India & NDB Sign Agreement for USD 500 Million for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project**

- Recently, **Government of India & NDB have signed an agreement for USD 500 Million for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project.**
- It has been launched to Provide Fast, Reliable, Safe and Comfortable Public Transport System in the National Capital Region.

### **1.163 Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 Cities**

- Recently, **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched a webinar titled “Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge”.**
- **Aim** – To ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of ‘hazardous cleaning.
- **It has seen launch of a series of advisories prepared by Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO)**

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### 1.164 Prime Minister inaugurates REINVEST- 2020

- Recently, Prime Minister has **inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020)**.
- **Organized by** - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- **Theme** - ‘Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition’
- **Aim** - To accelerate the worldwide effort to scale up development and deployment of renewable energy and connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders.

### 1.165 UNICEF releases “Averting a Lost COVID Generation”

- Recently, **UNICEF has released a report titled “Averting a Lost COVID Generation.”**

#### Key Highlights of the Report

- It has found that **children and adolescents under 20 years of age have accounted for 1 in 9 of COVID-19 infections.**
- **11 per cent of the 25.7 million infections reported by these countries.**
- Around **one-third of the countries analyzed have witnessed a drop of at least 10 per cent in coverage for health services** such as routine vaccinations, outpatient care for childhood infectious diseases, and maternal health services.
- **40 per cent decline has been witnessed in the coverage of nutrition services for women and children across 135 countries.**

### 1.166 Hyderabad – Nashik SpiceJet Flight Flagged off under UDAN

- Recently, **Hyderabad – Nashik SpiceJet Flight has flagged off under UDAN.**
- Under the scheme, **First direct flight has also been operationalized from Kalaburagi, Karnataka to Hindon Airport, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.**
- The route has been awarded to Star Air.

### 1.167 Finance Minister attends the virtual G20 Finance Ministers

- Recently, **Union Finance Minister has attended the virtual G20 Finance Ministers.**
- It has been **presided by Saudi Arabia.**
- It has been conducted to discuss G20 Finance Minister’s views on the global economic outlook and downside risks in wake of the COVID-19 crisis and how G20 could carry forward the collective global action initiated during the crisis.
- **Union Finance Minister has highlighted the following initiative during the meet**

#### G20 Action Plan

- It is an expression of collective commitment to fight COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Debt Service Suspension initiative**
  - In April 2020, the **World Bank’s Development Committee, IMF and the G20 Finance Ministers endorsed the Debt Service Suspension Initiative.**
  - It has been endorsed to help the poorest countries manage the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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### 1.168 Awas Diwas and Awas Week celebrated

- Recently, **Awas Diwas** has been celebrated on **20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.
- It has been celebrated on the launch of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin**.
- The **Awas Week** has been celebrated from **16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**.

### 1.169 National Pharmacy Week (NPW)

- Recently, **National Pharmacy Week (NPW)** has been celebrated.
- It has been celebrated from **16<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020**.
- **Theme** - “Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals”
- **Aim** - To make all stakeholders aware of the presence of pharmacists in the society and to know the role played by registered pharmacists with respect to medicines, their usage, handling and dispensing.

### 1.170 15<sup>th</sup> G20 Leaders’ Summit

- Recently, **15<sup>th</sup> G20 Leader’s Summit** has taken place.
- **Theme** – ‘Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All’.
- It has **focused on three aim**
  - **Empowering People** by creating the conditions in which all people especially women and youth can live, work and thrive
  - **Safeguarding the Planet** by fostering collective efforts to protect our global commons
  - **Shaping New Frontiers** by adopting long-term and bold strategies to share benefits of innovation and technological advancement
- **Convened by** – Saudi Arabia

### 1.171 12<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit

- Recently, **12<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit** has taken place.
- It has convened under Presidency of President Vladimir Putin of Russia on 17 November 2020, in a virtual format.
- **Theme** – “Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”
- **BRICS nation** has adopted a new counter-terrorism strategy to effectively deal with terrorism.

### 1.172 APEC Ministerial Meeting

- Recently, **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting** has taken place.
- The meeting was **chaired by Malaysia**.
- **Theme** – Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress

#### Key Highlights

- Final Review of APEC’s Progress Towards the “**Bogor Goals**” has been released.
- It was adopted in 1994 and the target to achieve the deadline was 2020.
- It provided guidance to member countries to implement bilateral, multilateral and unilateral policies.

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### 1.173 Union Minister of Education launches Lilavati Award-2020

- Recently, **Union Minister of Education** has virtually launched **Lilavati Award-2020**
- **Theme** – “Women Empowerment”
- **Objective** - To create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition, literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women.

#### About the Lilavati Award

- **Initiative of** - All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- **Aim** – To recognise efforts by AICTE-approved institutions to treat women with ‘equality and fairness’.
- **It has seven categories**
  - Women health
  - Self defence
  - Sanitation and hygiene
  - Literacy
  - Women entrepreneurship
  - Legal awareness
- The award has been named after the **12<sup>th</sup> century book called “Lilavati”**. The book was written by the **mathematician Bhaskara II**.
- **Prize:** The first prize winner will get Rs 1 lakh, the second winner will get Rs 75,000 and the third winner will get Rs 50,000.

### 1.174 EESL Signs MoU with DNRE Goa to implement the country’s first Convergence Project

- Recently, **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** and **Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Goa**, have signed a memorandum of understanding to discuss rolling out of **India’s first Convergence Project in the State**.
- Under the MoU, EESL and DNRE will carry-out the feasibility studies and subsequent implementation of decentralized solar energy projects.

### 1.175 PM inaugurates PM-FME Scheme

- Recently, **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries** has virtually inaugurated the **capacity building component of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme)**.
- He has also launched **GIS One District One Product (ODOP)** digital map of India.

#### About PMFME Scheme

<b>Launch Year</b>	2020
<b>Ministry</b>	Ministry of Food Processing Industry
<b>Type</b>	Centrally Sponsered Scheme
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and promote formalization of the sector.</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.</li> </ul>
<b>Outlay</b>	Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25
<b>Key Features</b>	It envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

### 1.176 Worldwide Cost of Living 2020

- Recently, **Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2020 has been released.**
- Released by** - The Economist Intelligence Unit
- It has rated rates 133 global cities.
- It has compared the price of a basket of 138 everyday items in each city.

#### Key Findings

- It has shown how the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the cost of living in about 130 cities around the world since the start of 2020.

Top 5 most expensive cities	Country	City	WCOL index (New York=100)	Movement
1	Switzerland	Zurich	103	4
1	France	Paris	103	4
1	China	Hong Kong	103	0
4	Singapore	Singapore	102	-3
5	Israel	Tel Aviv	101	2

Top 5 cheapest cities	Country	City	WCOL index (New York=100)	Movement
133	Syria	Damascus	22	0
132	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	29	0
130	Zambia	Lusaka	30	-3
130	Venezuela	Caracas	30	-2
129	Kazakhstan	Almaty	33	2

### 1.177 The Climate Transparency Report 2020

- Recently, **The Climate Transparency Report 2020 has been released.**

#### Key Findings

- Energy-related CO2 emissions have declined to 1.8 percent in 2019** for the first time due to climate policies rather than due to external shocks (such as the 2008-09 financial crisis).

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- It has declined by 0.1 per cent, down from a 1.9 per cent growth in 2018.
- Coal consumption has decreased by two per cent.
- Only five G20 members have set targets to phase out coal

#### **About The Climate Transparency Report 2020**

- It was **previously known as “Brown to Green Report”**
- It is the world’s most comprehensive annual review of G20 countries’ climate action and their transition to a net-zero emissions economy.

#### **1.178 TRACE Bribery risk Matrix 2020**

- Recently, **TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020 has been released.**
- It measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- It has ranked the countries on **four factors**
  - Business interactions with government
  - Anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement
  - Government and civil service transparency
  - Capacity for civil society oversight, including the role of the media.

#### **Global Findings**

- **Countries with Highest Bribery** - North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea
- **Country with lowest commercial Bribery** - Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand
- Bhutan has secured 48th rank with a score of 37.
- Somalia has moved out of the bottom ranking which it held from 2017 to 2019, and is now ranked 187th out of 194.

#### **India Specific Finding**

- India has been **ranked at 77<sup>th</sup> position** with a score of 45
- It was ranked at 78<sup>th</sup> position with a score of 48 in 2019.
- India has fared better than its neighbours - Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh

#### **1.179 ADB approves \$50 mn loan to improve resource planning in West Bengal**

- Recently, **ADB has approved USD 50 million loan to improve resource planning in West Bengal.**
- It would support the integration of financial and information system and the expansion of automation reforms in the operations of the state government
- The loan will be supplemented by a USD 350,000 technical assistance grant for capacity building, monitoring of IFMS (Integrated Financial Management System)

#### **1.180 WHO launches strategy to eliminate cervical cancer**

- Recently, **The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer.**

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- **Aim** - To reduce more than 40% of new cases and 5 million related deaths by 2050 with vaccination, screening and treatment.

### Important Information

- By 2030 countries should achieve a **target of**
  - **90% of girls fully vaccinated with HPV** vaccine by 15 years of age.
  - **70% of women** screened using a high-performance test by age 35 and again by 45
  - **90% of women** identified with **cervical disease** receive treatment (90% of women with pre-cancer treated and 90% of women with invasive cancer managed).
- According to WHO, the annual number of new cases of cervical cancer is expected to increase from 5,70,000 to 7,00,000 between 2018 and 2030, while the annual number of deaths is projected to rise from 3,11,000 to 4,00,000.

### 1.181 World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

- Recently, **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)** has been celebrated.
- It has been celebrated from **18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.
- **Aim** – To increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

### 1.182 UN collaborated to undertake Team Halo

- Recently, **United Nation has collaborated with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London to undertake Team Halo**.

### About Team Halo

- It is an initiative which **aims to counter the misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines**.
- It aims to highlight the work undertaken by scientists in India, the UK, the US, South Africa, Qatar, UAE, France, Spain, Peru, Canada and Brazil.
- It has **created a platform for communication between the scientists working on Covid-19 vaccines and the citizens of these countries**.

### 1.183 Mastercard, USAID join hands for Project Kirana

- Recently, **Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have partnered under the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) to launch Project Kirana**.
- It will help increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion and digital payments adoption of kirana shops that are owned or operated by women.

### About Project Kirana

- It will work to increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion and digital payments adoption of kirana shops that are owned or operated by women
- Under the project, 3000 women would be enrolled in Uttar Pradesh.

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### 1.184 Maha Awas Yojana

- Recently, **Maharashtra government** has launched a new rural housing project named "**Maha Awas Yojana.**"
- Under the project, 8.82 lakh rural houses will be built in 100 days period.
- **Project Cost** - ₹4,000 crore

### 1.185 EPFO facilitates multiple options for submission of Digital Life Certificate by EPS pensioners

- Recently, **Employees' Provident Fund Organization** has facilitated multiple options for **EPS pensioners** to submit their **Digital Life Certificate (DLC)** close to their home or at their door step owing to the pandemic.

#### Key Highlights

- The **life certificate** will remain valid for one year from date of submission of **DLC**.
- The pensioners who have been issued **Pension Payment Order in 2020** need not upload **Jeevan Praman Patra (JPP)** till completion of one year.
- JPP submitted through all these modes/agencies are equally valid.
- EPS pensioners can now submit DLC at pension disbursing bank branch and nearest post offices.
- EPS pensioners can also submit DLC using the **UMANG** app.

### 1.186 Delhi Government launches online sessions to the government students on the responsible use of social media

- Recently, **The Delhi Government** has launched online sessions to the government students on the responsible use of social media
- **Aim** – To create awareness about various threats on the internet and ways to protect themselves from these threats.

### 1.187 London gets the top spot in World's Best Cities 2021

- Recently, **World's Best Cities 2021**, has been released.

#### Global Findings -

- **Top 5 Cities** – London, New York, Paris, Moscow and Tokyo

#### India Specific Finding

- New Delhi is the only Indian city to be featured on the rankings.
- It has been ranked at **62<sup>nd</sup>** place.

#### About World's Best Cities Rankings

- It is an **Annual Report** published by **Resonance Consultancy**, specializing on real estate, tourism and economic development.

#### Ranking Parameters

- **100** cities in the world, with more than **one million population** have been ranked using **25 different factors**.
- Additional factors like unemployment, the rate of covid-19 infections and income disparity was also taken into consideration.

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### 1.188 Government releases draft rules on Code for Social Security,2020

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment, has released the draft rules for the code on Social Security, 2020.

#### Key Takeaways from the draft rules:

- It is linked with various provisions related to **Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)**, **Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** and **National Social Security Board** for unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers.
- **Aadhar based registration** made available, including **self-registration** by unorganized, gig and platform workers in the national portal created by the central government.
- **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW)** can register themselves using Aadhar card in a separate portal, maintained either by the Central or the State Government.
- Provision for **single electronic registration of an establishment**, including cancellation of registration in case of closure of the business.
- Procedure for **self-assessment and a payment of cess related to BOCW** is specified.
- Employer can calculate construction cost based on the rates released by state public works department or central public works department or on the basis of return or documents submitted to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority,
- The rate of interest for delay in cess payment has been decreased from 2% every month or part of a month to **1%**.

### 1.189 Ernakulam and Wayanad in Kerala bag Jal Shakti Awards 2020

- Recently, **Ernakulam and Wayanad districts in Kerala have won the Jal Shakti Awards 2020 for excellence in waste management and sanitation.**

#### Parameters for selection:

- Individual and Community Toilets
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management
- Information dissemination
- Utilization of funds
- Reporting.

### 1.190 Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report 2020 released by International Vaccine Access Centre

- Recently, the annual **Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report** has been released by **International Vaccine Access Centre.**

#### Key findings of the report

- **1.24 million babies under-5** owing to Diarrhoea and pneumonia in 2017.
- About **1200 young** children die per day of diarrhoea.
- A child under **5 dies of pneumonia in every 39 seconds.**
- The overall world's health systems are falling short of ensuring children have access to prevention and treatment of these diseases.

#### India's Performance in the Report

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- India has achieved the **90% target for three out of five vaccines**, mentioned in the report.
  - Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) vaccine
  - Measles-containing-vaccine first dose
  - Haemophilus influenzae type B
  - Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV)
  - Rotavirus vaccine

#### **About Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report**

- It is an annual report **prepared by the International Vaccine Access Centre**.
- **It measures the progress on how countries are delivering major interventions** by analyzing 10 parameters like **breastfeeding, immunization, care-seeking and antibiotics, ORS, Zinc supplementation etc.**
- The impact of covid-19 is also taken as a parameter this year.

#### **1.191 Amazon India launches 'STEP' to accelerate growth of sellers**

- Recently, **Amazon India has launched a performance based benefits programme – STEP, to the sellers on its electronic commerce platform.**
- **Aim** - Empowering sellers to increase their growth in the platform by focusing on performance metrics like cancellation rate, return rate, etc., that matters to customers.

#### **1.192 Lonar Lake, Sur Sarovar declared as Ramsar sites**

- Recently, **the Lonar Lake in Buldhana District, Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar (Keetham Lake) in Agra, Uttar Pradesh have been added to the list of recognized Ramsar Sites.**
- **Kabartal** in Begusarai District, Bihar has also been added in the list as a **wetland of international importance**, making it the **first Ramsar Site in Bihar.**
- **India** now has **41 wetlands** in the Ramsar Sites list, the highest in South Asia.

#### **About Ramsar Convention/ Convention on Wetlands**

- International treaty signed in **1971 in Ramsar, Iran**
- **Aim** – Developing a global network of wetlands to conserve biodiversity and supporting human life.

#### **1.193 Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR – SBI) awarded at National Water Awards 2019**

- Recently, **scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR – SBI) have won the first prize in National Water Awards 2019 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the category “Best Research/ Innovation/ adaptation of New Technology for Water Conservation category”.**
- The team was awarded for developing **“Soil Moisture Indicator” (SMI)** and its application in Irrigation Water Management.

#### **About Soil Moisture Indicator (SMI)**

- It helps farmers to save water by assessing the moisture levels in soil while planning for irrigation.

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### 1.194 Surat sets up first affordable housing for migrant workers

- Recently, **Surat has become the first city to set up housing under The Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme for migrant workers.**

#### About ARHC Scheme:

<b>Launch Year</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
<b>Ministry</b>	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Sub-scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban)
<b>Aim</b>	Providing rental housing to migrant workers at affordable rates.
<b>Implementation</b>	The scheme will be implemented under models namely' <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Converting the existing Government Funded vacant houses into AHRC's through Public Private Partnership or by Government agencies.</li><li>Construction, Operation and Maintenance of AHRC's by public and private organizations on their own vacant land</li></ul>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Urban Migrant Workers, People from Low Income Group (LIG) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS)
<b>Target Year</b>	March 2022

### 1.195 4th Global Meet on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies held virtually

- Recently, **the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Meet on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies has taken place.**
- Organized by** - the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance.
- Aim** – Increasing awareness on the importance and methods of timely response to virtual assets used in financial crimes and money laundering.

#### About Global Meet on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies

- It is an **annual conference** started in **2016**.
- Aim** - Increasing the knowledge and capacity to investigate crimes involving cryptocurrencies.

### 1.196 Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed the 33rd Stop TB Partnership Meet

- Recently, **the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare virtually addressed the 33<sup>rd</sup> Stop TB Partnership Meet.**

#### About Stop TB Partnership:

- Established in **2001**.
- Aim** – ensuring access to effective diagnosis, treatment and cure for the people who are vulnerable to TB

#### Additional Information:

- “The End TB Strategy”** by the World Health Organization aims to eradicate TB in the world by **2030**.

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### 1.197 Central Government releases draft rules under the Occupational Safety, Health (OSH) and Working Conditions Code, 2020

- Recently, the central government has released the draft rules under the Occupational Safety, Health (OSH) and working conditions Code 2020

#### Key highlights from draft rules:

- Every employee of an organization should be issued an **appointment letter** as per the prescribed format, within three months from the date of implementing the rules.
- **No employee shall be employed in any company without issuing appointment letter.**
- **Free Annual health checkup** should be conducted by the employer for every worker of a factory, dock, mine or other construction work, who has **completed 45 years of age.**
- It has provided for **journey allowance once in a year to migrant workers.**
- It has also provided for **single electronic registration, licence and annual integrated return** for an establishment.
- The **maximum wage period** is fixed as **one month** for contract workers. Wages must be paid before the expiry of the seventh day after the last day of the wage period.
- Wages should be disbursed **only through bank transfer or electric mode.**
- Every company with more than **500 workers** should have safety committees to provide a forum for the workers to represent their concerns on occupational safety and health issues.
- Regarding women safety, they can be employed before 6 a.m. and beyond 7 p.m. only after getting consent.
- While calculating overtime, time between 15 to 30 minutes, will be calculated as **30 minutes**, as per the rules. Currently less than 30 minutes is not counted for overtime.
- Simplification and integration of mines rules with OSH code.

#### About OSH and Working Conditions Code 2020

<b>Enactment Year</b>	<b>September 2020</b>
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Department of Labour and Employment</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving Safety, Health and Work Conditions at workplace</li><li>• Simplifying procedures and protocols</li><li>• Facilitating Electronic Maintenance of records</li></ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The bill is passed based on the rules and recommendations as per the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Commission on Labour (1999).</li></ul>

### 1.198 Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched National Newborn Week 2020

- Recently, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has launched the **National Newborn Week 2020**
- It was observed from **15<sup>th</sup> November to 21<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**
- **Theme:** Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere
- **Aim :** Reduction of New Born Mortality Rate

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### 1.199 Online Conference held to mark 3 Years of UMANG

- Recently, an online conference “Celebrating 3 years of UMANG and Milestone of 2000+ services” has been organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, to mark 3 years of UMANG.
- Recently, the **Nyaya Bandhu Application** has been **integrated** on the **UMANG** platform on the occasion of **Samvidhan Divas** or **Constitution Day**.
- It will enable to make pan India easy accessibility of this mobile based legal service to approx 2.5 Cr registered users.

#### About Nyaya Bandhu-

- Launched- **2017**
- Launched by- **Department of Justice**
- **Aim-** To establish a framework for **dispensation of pro bono legal services** across the country.
- It connects **practicing advocates** interested in pro bono work with eligible **marginalised** and **vulnerable beneficiaries**, through an Android Mobile Application.

### 1.200 G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance

- Recently, **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has selected **36 cities** from **22 countries** and **six continents** to pioneer a new global policy roadmap for smart cities developed by the **G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance**.
- The “pioneer cities” would be **adopting policies** for
  - Privacy protection
  - Better broadband coverage
  - Accountability for cyber security,
  - Increased openness of city data
  - Better accessibility to digital city services for disabled and elderly people
- From India, **Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad** have been selected as the pioneer cities.

#### About G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance

- It establishes and advances global policy norms to help accelerate best practices, mitigate potential risks, and foster greater openness and public trust.
- Secretariat of the Alliance – World Economic Forum and International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

### 1.201 MNRE proposes scheme for development of wind-solar hybrid parks

- Recently, **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has proposed scheme for “**Development of Wind Parks/ Wind-Solar Hybrid Park.**”
- **Aim** - To address the key issues faced by renewable energy projects

#### Key Highlights

- The Wind-Solar Hybrid park will be a concentrated zone of power projects.
- It will provide an area with the required infrastructure

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### 1.202 USAID partners with Catalyst Management Services (CMS) to launch “COVIDActionCollab (CAC).”

- Recently, **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** has partnered with **Catalyst Management Services (CMS)** to launch “**COVIDActionCollab (CAC).**”
- It has been launched to support India’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### About “COVIDActionCollab (CAC)”

- It is a people-centric, partnership led, multidisciplinary platform to support the most vulnerable communities who have been disproportionately affected by the virus to survive and thrive.
- Under the initiative, USAID will provide USD 3 million over two years.

### 1.203 China to overtake 56 nations in world’s per-capita income rankings by 2025

- Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected in the “**World Economic Outlook**” that **China** is set to overtake **56 countries** to take **70th position** in the **world’s per-capita income rankings** by year **2025**.
- **China** is forecasted to have **per-capita GDP** equal to **\$25,307 in 2025**.

#### Key projections made in World Economic Outlook-

- **Turkmenistan** is projected to be the only country climbing further up the rankings than China, advancing 58 spots.
- Only four of the world’s 50 biggest economies will **achieve an increase in per-capita GDP** namely **Vietnam, Taiwan, Egypt and China**.
- **U.S., Brazil, India, Mexico** and the **U.K.** are **forecasted to post strong rebounds by 2025**.

### 1.204 Maharashtra government to give per month financial assistance to sex workers

- **Maharashtra government** has recently decided to provide **per month financial assistance of Rs 5000** to female **sex workers** whose income has been greatly reduced.
- The sex workers who are identified by the **National Aids Control Organisation** will get the aid.

### 1.205 Abhayam app launched in Andhra Pradesh

- Recently, **the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister** has **launched the Abhayam mobile application**.
- **Aim** – Ensuring the safety of women and children travelling in taxis and auto rickshaws.

#### About Abhayam App:

- It would help women in alerting police by pressing panic button in case of emergency
- It will be rolled out in **Vishakapatnam**, on a pilot basis by enabling Internet of Things (IoT) enabled Global Positioning System (GPS) devices in **1,000 auto rickshaws**.

### 1.206 NITI Aayog forms panel to study feasibility of Hyperloop technology in India

- Recently, **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog**, has formed an **expert committee to study the feasibility of Virgin Hyperloop technology in India**.

#### About the Committee:

- **Committee Head** : V.K. Saraswat, NITI Aayog

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- **Objective:** To study about the commercial viability, safety and regulation systems of Virgin Hyperloop technology in India.

#### About Hyperloop technology:

- It is an ultra-high speed mode of travel.

#### 1.207 Minister of Food Processing and Industry inaugurates Mega Food Park in Punjab

- Recently, **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries has virtually inaugurated Mega Food Park (MFP).**
- **Place:** Phagwara in Kapurthala

#### Relevance

- Government has started a scheme to create 10,000 new FPOs in February 2020.
- It has also created a 10,000 crore fund under Aatmanirbhar Bharat in May 2020, for development of food processing sector which will benefit farmers and create employment opportunities.

#### 1.208 First Virtual SCO Young Scientist Conclave

- Recently, **First Virtual Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Young Scientist Conclave has taken place.**
- **Aim** – To bring brightest young minds from SCO on a common platform to harness their knowledge for addressing common societal challenges through research and innovation
- India has been represented by Union Science & Technology Minister.
- Government had announced a US Dollars 12 Crore grant for COVID-19 vaccine research under 'COVID Suraksha Mission'.

#### 1.209 West Bengal Government Launches "Duare Duare Sankar" initiative

- Recently, **West Bengal Government has launched "Duare Duare Sankar" initiative.**
- It has been launched for taking government services to the doorsteps of people of the state.
- **Tenure** – 1st December 2020 – 31st January 2021

#### 1.210 PM chairs 33rd PRAGATI interaction

- Recently, **Prime Minister has chaired 33<sup>rd</sup> PRAGATI interaction.**
- It has reviewed the projects taken up by the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Power Ministry.

#### About PRAGATI

- It stands for **Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.**
- It is a unique integrating and interactive platform.
- **Aim** - To address common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

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### 1.211 Union Education Minister addresses a virtual National Conference on 'Empowering through Zero- Shunya Se Sashaktikaran'

- Recently, **Union Education Minister** has addressed a virtual National Conference on 'Empowering through Zero- Shunya Se Sashaktikaran'.
- **Organized by** – Sri Aurobindo Society
- During the event minister has launched an e-book titled 'Innovation and Leadership Casebook - Covid Edition'.
- The minister has honoured more than 40 education officers for their leadership role and 26 teachers for their innovative practices during Covid-19 pandemic.

### 1.212 EPFO conferred with Platinum Partner Award for highest transactions on UMANG App

- Recently, **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has been conferred with **Platinum Partner Award for highest transactions on UMANG App**.
- It has registered more than 25 lakh transactions.
- Under the app, **EPFO members can access 19 different services of EPFO on their mobile phone**.

### 1.213 NITI Aayog releases 'Mitigation and Management of Covid-19: Practices from India's States & UTs'

- Recently, **NITI Aayog** has released a compendium of practices from states and union territories that details information about various initiatives implemented by states, districts, and cities in India for containing and managing the Covid-19 outbreak.

#### Key Highlights

- The practices in the compendium have been **disaggregated under six sections**:
  - Public health and clinical response
  - Governance mechanisms
  - Digital health
  - Integrated model
  - Welfare of migrants and other vulnerable groups
  - Other practices.

### 1.214 Global R&D Summit-2020

- Recently, **Global R&D Summit-2020** has taken place.
- **Organized by** - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Department of Science & Technology.
- **Theme** - "Building Resilient Economies through Technology and Innovation: Industry & Science Collaboration in the New World Order".

### 1.215 Ministry of Ports, Shipping and waterways issues Draft Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020 for Public Consultation

- Recently, **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and waterways** has issued **Draft Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020 for Public Consultation**

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## Key Highlights

- It seeks to provide increased opportunities for investment and provide greater impetus to a self-reliant domestic investment climate in the maritime industry.
- **Incorporate the best practices** – It has the primary aim of promoting the growth of the Indian shipping industry by incorporating the best practices adopted by other advanced countries like the U.S., Japan, U.K., Singapore and Australia.
- **Compliant with international laws** – The Bill incorporates all up-to-date IMO Conventions or protocols, to which India is a party.
- **Ensure safety and security** – The Bill incorporates adequate provisions to ensure the safety and security of vessels, safety of life at sea, prevent marine pollution, provide for maritime liabilities and compensations.

### 1.216 WMO releases greenhouse gas Bulletin for 2020

- Recently, **World Meteorological Organization has released its annual greenhouse gas bulletin for 2020.**
- It is an **annual report.**
- **Published by** – WMO.

## Key Highlights

- WMO has described the projected 2020 drop as a **“tiny blip.”**
- **Levels of carbon dioxide has touched a new record of 410.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2019.**
- **Concentrations of methane has increased by 8 parts per billion in the 2018-19 period.**
- WMO has expected **annual global carbon emissions to fall in 2020 due to COVID measures**
  - It has made a **preliminary estimate of between 4.2-7.5%.**
- The annual increase is larger than the previous year and beats the average over the last decade

### 1.217 AP launches Jagananna Thodu scheme

- Recently, **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has launched the Jagananna Thodu scheme.**
- Under the scheme, an amount of ₹905 crore has been deposited into the bank accounts of 9.05 lakh small traders towards provision of interest-free loan.

## Key Highlights

- It provides interest free **loan of upto Rs 10000 for street vendors and hawkers.**
- **Eligibility**
  - Age of applicant should be 18 years.
  - Monthly income should not exceed Rs 10000 in rural areas and Rs 12000 in urban areas.
  - The applicant must have an identity card issued by the government.

### 1.218 World Water Challenge 2020

- Recently, **World Water Challenge 2020 has taken place.**
- **Organized by** - Ministry of Environment, South Korea, and Korean Water Forum.
- Under the challenge, **‘Best Solution Award’** has been awarded to **S. Senthil Kumar.**
- He has won the award for his project titled as **‘Extraction of water from air.’**

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### 1.219 Scotland first in the world to make sanitary products free

- Recently, **Scotland has passed The Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill.**
- Under the bill, it has **made sanitary products free to all women.**
- It has become the **first nation in the world to take a step against “period poverty.”**

#### Background

- In 2018, Scotland became the first country to provide free sanitary products in schools, colleges and universities.

### 1.220 L’Oréal Paris launches its global campaign to train people against harassment in public spaces, in India

- Recently, **Loreal Paris has kickstarted its “Stand Up” campaign** on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- It has been launched **to train people against harassment in public spaces, in India.**
- Loreal Paris has **partnered with Ipsos to conduct field research across Canada, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Spain, the UK and the US.**

#### Key Highlights

- It has informed about bystander intervention training programme devised to encourage the witnesses of harassment to take action to defuse situations and make public spaces safer.
- It comprises of **‘5Ds method’** that includes
  1. Distracting
  2. Delay
  3. Delegate
  4. Document
  5. Direct

#### About International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

- It has been celebrated on **25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**
- **Theme** - “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”.

### 1.221 Chief Minister of Bengal announces that the “Swasthya Sathi” scheme would cover the entire population of the State

- Recently, **Chief Minister of Bengal has announced that the “Swasthya Sathi” scheme would cover the entire population of the State.**

#### About Swasthya Sathi Scheme

- It is a health scheme of West Bengal.
- It provides **basic health cover for secondary and tertiary care up to Rs. 5 lakh per annum per family.**
  - Up to Rs 1.5 Lakh through Insurance Mode and beyond 1.5 lakh to 5 Lakh through Assurance Mode.

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### 1.222 Government Launches Mission COVID Suraksha to accelerate Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development

- Recently, **The Government has announced the third stimulus package of Rs. 900 Crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission.**
- The grant would be provided to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for Research & Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines.

#### Relevance

- Phase-I of the COVID Suraksha Mission has been allotted Rs.900 Crore for a period of 12 months.

#### About COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission

- It is a targeted effort to enable development of indigenous, affordable and accessible vaccines in India.
- **Led by** - Department of Biotechnology
- **Implemented by** - a dedicated Mission Implementation Unit at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)
- The existing activities under National Bio Pharma Mission (NBM) and Ind-CEPI Mission will provide complementary strengths to this Mission.

### 1.223 M/o Tribal Affairs Conducts Master Training of Training (ToT) Programme

- Recently, **Ministry of Tribal Affairs has conducted Master Training of Training (ToT) Programme.**
- It has been conducted in collaboration with **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Odisha.**

### 1.224 SIDBI partners with Tamil Nadu to bolster MSME ecosystem in the state

- Recently, **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government to develop the ecosystem for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.**
- **Objective** – To enhance efficacy and removal of bottlenecks for MSMEs in the state.
- Under the MoU, SIDBI will deploy a project management unit (PMU) in the government of Tamil Nadu.

### 1.225 Oil regulator PNGRB simplifies gas pipeline tariff for better affordability

[Sustainable Development and Environmental Issues]

- Recently, **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has released a unified tariff structure for over a dozen pipelines that form the National Gas Grid.**
- It will lead to a 20-30 per cent rise in transportation charges paid by users near the source but a reduction for consumers in the hinterland.
- **Aim** - To make natural gas more affordable to users far from the source of natural gas or import terminals.

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- It includes GAIL's network of seven pipelines.
- It has notified a two-zone tariff structure

Zone	Area	Tariff
1	300-km from the source of gas	40 percent of the tariff of Second Zone
2	Beyond 300-km from the source of gas	

### 1.226 UN release \$25 mn for women-led projects fighting gender-based violence

- Recently, **United Nations humanitarian chief has released 25 million US dollars from its emergency fund to support women-led organisations that prevent and respond to gender-based violence.**
- The funding has gone to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women.
- Out of the total, UNFPA will receive 17 million dollars and 8 million dollars will go to UN Women.

#### Relevance

- Recently, "**16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence**" campaign has been launched on **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.**
- **About International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**
- It has been celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### 1.227 India has highest bribery rate in Asia: Transparency International

- Recently, **Transparency International has released "The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB), Asia."**

#### Global Finding

- **India has the highest bribery rate followed by Cambodia and Indonesia.**
- **Maldives and Japan have maintain the lowest overall bribery rate followed by South Korea and Nepal.**
- One in five citizens paying a bribe to access key government services, such as health care or education.
- Three out of four people think corruption is a big problem in their country
- One in seven being offered a bribe to vote one way or another at elections.

#### India Specific Finding

- **India has the highest bribery rate at 39 per cent in the region.**
- It has the **highest rate of people (46 per cent) using personal connections to access public services.**

### 1.228 India cuts import tax on crude palm oil to 27.5% as food prices rise

- Recently, **The government has reduced the import tax on crude palm oil to 27.5 per cent from 37.5 per cent.**
- It has been reduced to bring down rising food prices.

### 1.229 Delhi ranks 27th, Mumbai 33rd globally as fastest-growing prime residential market: Report

- Recently, **Knight Frank has released the Prime Global Cities Index Q3 2020 report.**

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## Global Findings

- **Top 5 Cities** – Auckland followed by Manila, Shenzhen, Toronto and Seoul.
- **The strongest-performing world region** - North America
- **The percentage of cities registering flat or positive annual price growth** – 62%
- **The index's annual increase in the year to September 2020** – 1.6 %

## India Specific Finding

- **Delhi has been ranked at 27<sup>th</sup> position followed by Mumbai at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Bengaluru at the 34<sup>th</sup> place.**
- Findings of Indian Cities

City	% change Q3 2019 – Q3 2020	% change Q2 2020 to Q3 2020
Delhi	0.2	- 0.1
Mumbai	- 1.3	- 0.7
Bengaluru	- 1.4	- 1.5

- Bengaluru was ranked at 26<sup>th</sup> position followed by Delhi at 27<sup>th</sup> and Mumbai at the 32<sup>nd</sup> position in Q2 2020.

## About Prime Global Cities Index Q3 2020 report

- It is a global index that measures annual price appreciation of luxury residential properties.
- The report tracks the movement in prime prices across 45 cities.

1	Auckland	36	Madrid
2	Manila	37	Kuala Lumpur
3	Shenzhen	38	Dubai
4	Toronto	39	Dublin
5	Seoul	40	New York
6	Zurich	41	London
7	Vancouver	42	Nairobi
8	Los Angeles <sup>1,3</sup>	43	Hong Kong
9	Geneva	44	Bangkok
10	Shanghai	45	Singapore

### Top 10

### Bottom 10

## 1.230 The State of Tax Justice 2020

- Recently, **The State of Tax Justice 2020 report has been released by the Tax Justice Network.**

## Global Findings

- Countries are losing a **total of over USD 427 billion in tax each year to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion.**
- **Biggest tax losers**
  - United States
  - United Kingdom
- **Biggest contributors to other countries tax losses**

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- Cayman Islands
- United Kingdom

### India Specific Finding

- India has been losing over **USD 10.3 billion (about ₹75,000 crore)** in taxes every year owing to global tax abuse by MNCs and evasion by private individuals.
- **Social impact** of the lost tax is equivalent to **44.70%** of the **health budget** and **10.68%** of **education spending**.
- India has been ranked as the **second biggest tax loser in Asia after China**.

### 1.231 Union Minister of Education inaugurates ATAL Faculty Development Programme by AICTE

- Recently, **the Union Minister of Education has inaugurated 46 online All India Council of Technical Education Training and Learning (ATAL) Faculty Development Programmes**.
- **Organized by** – All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).
- **Aim** – To train teachers from the higher education institutions associated with the AICTE about the recent trends in technology.
- It would be conducted in **22 Indian States**

### 1.232 UMANG Awards for Partner Departments announced

- Recently, **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) Awards for Partner departments has been announced in the online conference “Celebrating 3 years of UMANG and Milestone of 2000+ services”**.
- **It has been organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.
- The awardees have been selected based on average monthly transactions, across different services offered in the application.

### Winners:

- Central Department categories:
  - **Platinum Partner Award:** Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) :
  - **Gold Partner Award:** Digilocker
  - **Silver Partner Award:** Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Bharat Gas Services:
  - **Bronze Partner Award:** HP Gas, Doordarshan, National Consumer Helpline, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban, Jeevan Pramaan & Jan Aushadhi Sugam
- **Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh** are the **top three states** under the **State Government services**.

### 1.233 7th Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar held virtually

- Recently, **the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar has virtually taken place**.
- **Objective:** To review the issues related with bilateral trade in different sectors and measures to tackle covid-19 issues and expanding ties in the pharma and health sector.

### Key highlight:

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- Both the nations, have finalized an agreement to set up a **modern Integrated Check Post (ICP) in Indo-Myanmar border at Tamu, Myanmar** with financial assistance from India.
- The ICP would promote bilateral trade between the local communities by establishing border haats.

### 1.234 9th Edition of Auto Serve 2020 – Electric Mobility Conference 2020 organized the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways** has attended a virtual conference “9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Auto Serve 2020- Electric Mobility Conference 2020.
- **Organized by** – Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- **Theme** - Seizing Opportunities in New Normal

#### Key highlights:

- Government aims to make India an automobile hub in the next five years.
- 25 million potential job opportunities available in the automobile sector in the future.

### 1.235 Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmer’s Welfare launches Sahakar Pragma

- Recently, the **Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmer’s Welfare** has launched **Sahakar Pragma** scheme.
- **Aim** - Imparting knowledge and organizations skills among the members of the cooperative societies in the rural areas.

#### About Sahakar Pragma

<b>Launch Year</b>	<b>November 2020</b>
<b>Nodal Agency</b>	National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)
<b>Implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 18 Regional Training Centres with 45 new training modules will be introduced.</li> <li>● Training sessions will be conducted at Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy (Linac) and its Regional Training Centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Member of Primary Co-operatives, Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups.

### 1.236 Union Sports Minister launches Fit India School Week 2020

- Recently, the **Union Sports Minister** has launched the **second edition of Fit India School Week**.
- It would be conducted in **December 2020**
- **Aim** – To encourage kids to participate in physical activities and sports events regularly.

#### Addition Information:

- The **first edition** of Fit India School Week was launched in **November 2019**.

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### 1.237 Government approves Rs 6,000 crores infusion into National Infrastructure Investment Fund

- Recently, the cabinet has approved the equity infusion of Rs. 6,000 crores into the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) debt platform by the year 2025
- **Aim** - To mobilize capital upto Rs 1.1 lakh crore to finance infrastructure projects by 2025.
- It would be sponsored by NIIF.
- It comprises of Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited (AIFL), NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited (NIIF-IFL) and Non-Banking Finance Company Infrastructure Development Fund (NBFC – IDF).
- The amount of Rs 6,000 crores will be invested as equity in the NIIF Debt Platform over two financial years, i.e., 2020-21 and 2021-22.

#### Target:

- The platform should raise external long term capital and debt in the next few years which would multiply the Rs 6,000 crores infusion to 14-18 times.
- NIIF Infrastructure Debt Financing Platform is expected to contribute nearly Rs 1 lakh crores in debt to the infrastructure sector in the next 5 years.

#### Relevance:

- Rs 6,000 crore equity infusion into the NIIF has been announced as a part of the Covid Stimulus Package – Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0.

### 1.238 Prime Minister inaugurates RE- Invest 2020

- Recently, the Prime Minister has inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo: RE-Invest 2020.
- Organized by – Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- **Theme:** ‘Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition’.
- Aims to
  - Accelerate the worldwide effort to scale up development and deployment of renewable energy
  - Connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders.
  - Provide an international forum for investment promotion in renewable energy.

#### Important Information

- India’s renewable energy capacity is the fourth largest in the world

### 1.239 UNDP and Invest India launches the SDG Investor Map for India

- Recently, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Invest India have launched the first ever Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Investor Map for India.
- **Aim** – ‘Building Back Better’ from covid-19 and increasing the country's resilience to future threats by investing in Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Key highlights:

- 18 investment opportunities areas (IOA) have been identified across 6 critical SDG – enabling sectors, namely,
  - Education
  - Healthcare

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- Agriculture and Allied Services
- Financial Services
- Renewable Energy and Alternatives
- Sustainable Environment

### 1.240 Centre releases important statistics based on the Civil Registration System

- Recently, the Home Ministry has released the annual report – “Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System 2018”.

#### Key findings:

- Top 5 states/ Union Territories with highest sex ratio at birth (SRB)

Rank	State	Sex Ratio
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1084
2	Nagaland	965
3	Mizoram	964
4	Kerala	963
5	Karnataka	957

- Top 5 States/ Union Territories with least sex ratio at birth

Rank	State / Union Territory	Sex Ratio
1	Manipur	757
2	Lakshadweep	839
3	Daman & Diu	877
4	Punjab	896
5	Gujarat	897

- The sex ratio of Delhi – 929, Haryana-914, Jammu & Kashmir- 952.

#### About the report:

- It is an annual report prepared by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home affairs.
- It provides outline of the working of the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India.
- It provides key data on registered births, deaths, infant deaths and still births.

### 1.241 Centre launches “India Climate Change Knowledge Portal”

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change has launched “India Climate Change Knowledge Portal.

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### About the portal:

- It is a **single point resource** developed to produce **updated information** about the various initiatives taken by different ministries against climate change.
- Eight major components included in the portal are:
  - **India's Climate Profile**
  - **National Policy Framework**
  - **India's National Development Council (NDC) goals**
  - **Adaptation Actions**
  - **Mitigation Actions**
  - **Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation**
  - **International Climate Negotiations**
  - **Reports & Publications.**

### 1.242 Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Goa Government to implement 'Goa Tribal Development Plan

- Recently, **TRIFED and Goa Government** have decided to implement the 'Goa Tribal Development Plan'.

#### About 'Goa Tribal Development Plan':

<b>Launch Year</b>	November 2020
<b>Implemented by</b>	TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, State Government of Goa
<b>Budget</b>	Rs. 50 crores
<b>Aim</b>	Providing end-to-end development packages for tribal communities to promote employment opportunities and entrepreneurship
<b>Implementation</b>	Establishment of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 25 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVK)</li><li>● 25 procurement centres-cum-godowns</li><li>● 2 tertiary processing units (mega food parks/ tribal enterprises)</li><li>● 2 flagship retail outlets.</li></ul>
<b>Target</b>	Identification of 20 minor food produces per VDK

### 1.243 Prisons lack awareness about the needs of transgender inmates: Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) Report

- According to a recent report titled - 'Lost Identity: Transgender Persons in Indian Prisons', prisons lack awareness about the needs of the transgender inmates.
- Uttar Pradesh (47) and Telangana (40) are having the highest number of inmates.

#### About the report:

- It has been released by **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.**
- It has been prepared based on right to information replies from the state governments and prisons.

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### 1.244 Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) extends deadline for submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra

- Recently, the EPFO has extended the time limit for the submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra (Life Certificate) upto 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- This will benefit 35 lakhs pensioners under Employees Pension Scheme-1995 (EPS -1995).

#### About Jeevan Pramaan Patra:

- It is a document submitted by a pensioner to his/her banker to avail continuous credit of pension.
- It is valid for one year from the date of issue.
- Every year pensioners should submit it by 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- It can be submitted through Common Service Centres (CSCs), bank branches, post offices, postmen and Grameen Dak Sevaks.

### 1.245 Health Ministry celebrates 11th National Organ Donation Day

- Recently, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has celebrated the 11<sup>th</sup> National Organ Donation Day on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

#### Key Highlights:

- According to data available on the WHO Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation (GODT), India has been ranked at 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world with 12,666 organs transplanted in 2019.
- Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (ROTO) West has been judged the best ROTTO in the country.
- Tamil Nadu State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO) has been awarded the best SOTTO.
- Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh has been judged the best hospital in India.

#### About National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization:

- It is setup under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- It is the apex organization for coordination of organ transplant surgeries in India.
- Mandated under Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act 2011.

### 1.246 Centre Launches National Portal for Transgender Persons and Inaugurates Garima Greh

- Recently, the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a National Portal for Transgender persons and Garima Greh – A Shelter home for Transgender persons.

#### About the National Portal for Transgender persons:

- It facilitates transgenders to apply for important certificates and Identity cards digitally.

#### About Garima Greh:

- It has been inaugurated in Vadodara (Gujarat), established in association with Lakshya Trust, run entirely, by transgenders.

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### 1.247 Shanghai – World’s Most connected city amid Covid -19

- Recently, **Shanghai has become the world’s most connected city in September 2020, as per International Air Transport Association’s (IATA) air connectivity index.**

#### Key Findings:

- **Top most connected cities:**

Rank	September 2019	September 2020
1	London, United Kingdom (UK)	Shanghai, China
2	Shanghai, China	Beijing, China
3	New York, United States of America (USA)	Guangzhou, China
4	Beijing, China	Chengdu, China
5	Tokyo, Japan	Chicago, United States of America

#### About IATA’s air connectivity index:

- It is released annually and measures the degree of connectivity of a city with other cities around the world.

### 1.248 Uttar Pradesh Governor gives assent to ordinance against forcible religious conversion

- Recently, **the Uttar Pradesh Governor has given assent to “The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020”.**
- Aim – To prevent forcible religious conversion of women for the sole purpose of marriage.

#### Key Highlights of the Ordinance:

- The marriage will be considered null and void in case of forcible conversions.
- The violators will get punishment of not less than one year, which can be extended to five years, with a fine of Rs 15,000.
- Punishment for forcibly converting minor, or person belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Schedule Tribe – 3 to 10 years of jail with a fine of Rs 25,000.
- Punishment for mass conversion: - 3 to 10 years of jail with a fine of Rs 50,000.

### 1.249 Centre proposes Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

- Recently, **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has proposed to set up Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).**
- It has set up a steering committee to formulate and implement the plan.
- **Aim – To set up a neutral electronic commerce platform to provide equal opportunities to producers, traders and consumers**

### 1.250 Government extends credit guarantee scheme for stressed sectors

- Recently, **the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), has announced the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 2.0.**

#### About ECLGS 2.0:

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- It is an **expansion of ECLGS 1.0**
- **100% guarantee would be provided by NCGTC** for the loans.
- It covers **26 stressed sectors** and **health care sector** identified by **K.V. Kamath Committee**.
- **Eligibility** – The **outstanding loans** by the above mentioned sectors should be between **Rs 50crores and Rs. 500 crores** as on **29<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.
- **Under ECLGS 2.0**, borrowers account should not be outstanding for more than 30 days as on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- **NCGTC will provide 20% of outstanding dues** to the eligible borrowers as **working capital without collateral**.
- Loan Moratorium & Repayment Conditions:
 

Category	Moratorium	Repayment Period
<b>ECLGS 1.0</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>3 years</b>
<b>ECLGS 2.0</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>4 years</b>
- It is valid till **31<sup>st</sup> March 2021** or till the guarantee amount- **Rs 3 lakh crore** is sanctioned under ECLGS 1.0 and ECLGS 2.0, whichever is earlier.

**About ECLGS 1.0:**

## International News

### 1.251 Pakistan PM launches 'CPEC City' project

- Recently, **Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan** has launched **'CPEC City' project**, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.
- It would consist of education and commercial zones, public buildings, apartments, golf course, theme park and sports facilities.

### 1.252 China suspends Ant Group IPO in Shanghai, Hong Kong

- Recently, **China** has suspended **Ant Group's USD 37 billion** stock market listing in both **Shanghai and Hong Kong**.

**Note:** Ant Group is owned by Jack Ma.

### 1.253 Greek island goes electric with Volkswagen transport deal

- Recently, **Volkswagen** and **Greece government** have signed a memorandum of understanding for the project on the Aegean island of **Astypalea**.
- Under the agreement, **Volkswagen** would be providing electric vehicles, charging points and ride-sharing services to the island.

### 1.254 Tropical Storm Eta forms, ties record for most named storms

- Recently, **Tropical Storm Eta** has tied the record for most named storms in a single Atlantic hurricane season.
- It was formed in **the Caribbean**.

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### 1.255 Bangladesh, US launch joint naval exercise 'CARAT Bangladesh 2020'

- Recently, **The Bangladesh and US Navies have launched the 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh-2020.'**
- It has been launched to expand relationships and broaden maritime awareness between the two countries.

### 1.256 US approves sale of \$600 million in MQ-9 armed drones to Taiwan

- Recently, **United States has approved the sale of USD 600 million in MQ-9 armed drones to Taiwan.**
- It has earlier approved plans for a USD 2.37 billion sale of Harpoon missile systems to Taiwan.

### 1.257 Dubai to introduce facial recognition system on public transport

- **Dubai**, is all set to launch a **facial recognition system on public transport**, to strengthen the security.
- This system has been launched on behalf of the **Global Expo exhibition** to be hosted in Dubai in **October 2021**.

### 1.258 China's first indigenous aircraft carrier is combat ready by 2020 year end

- **Shandong, China's first domestically built aircraft carrier** has finished regular testing and training missions and it is anticipated to be **combat ready by the end of 2020**.
- **Liaoning**, the **first aircraft carrier** commissioned in the Chinese Navy, has also finished the regular trainings.

### 1.259 UAE relaxes Islamic laws, allows cohabitation of unmarried couples

- Recently, **UAE has relaxed Islamic laws in the country.**

#### Key Relaxation

- It has **allowed cohabitation of unmarried couples.**
- It has decided to get **rid of laws protecting honour crimes.**
- It has **scrapped penalties for alcohol consumption**, sales and possession for those 21 and over.

### 1.260 UAE to extend 'golden' visa's eligibility criteria

- Recently, **The United Arab Emirates has informed that it will extend its "golden" visa system.**

#### Relevance

- UAE in 2019 had started granting 5- and 10-year renewable visas to certain foreign investors, entrepreneurs, chief executives, scientists and outstanding students.

#### About Golden Visa System

- It grants 10-year residency in the West Asian nation.

### 1.261 Tesla launches \$250 tequila online, quickly 'out of stock'

- Recently, **Tesla Inc has launched its own brand of tequila, named as "Tesla Tequila."**
- The alcoholic venture would be available only in selected U.S. states, including New York, California and Washington.

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### 1.262 Sikhs in Pakistan mark first anniversary of Kartarpur Corridor

- Recently, **Sikhs in Pakistan** has held rituals at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib to mark the first anniversary of the inauguration of the historic Kartarpur Corridor.

#### About Kartarpur Sahib Corridor

- It has linked Dera Baba Sahib in Gurdaspur in India and Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

### 1.263 Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari releases special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi

- Recently, **Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari** has released special anthology on **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- It has been **titled as 'My understanding about Gandhi.'**
- The book has been brought out by the Embassy of India along with the BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation to cherish the values of the Mahatma's universal teachings with Nepali friends.

### 1.264 Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2020

- Recently, **Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2020** has taken place.
- During the conference, **India has invited global firms to invest in its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs).**
- Union Minister for Petroleum has informed that India's share in global energy consumption is set to rise from 7% to 12% in 2050.

### 1.265 World's first hydrogen powered double-decker buses launched in Scotland

- Recently, the **world's first hydrogen powered double-decker buses** were launched in **Aberdeen, Scotland**.
- These **buses emit water vapours** instead of carbon monoxide.
- **Aim-** To tackle **air pollution** and transform the **Aberdeen city** into a **green economy**.

### 1.266 United Nations humanitarian office releases \$100mn to seven countries

- Recently, the **United Nations humanitarian office** has released **\$100mn** in emergency funding to **seven countries**.
- **Aim-** To save countries which are presently **at a risk of famine in Africa** and the **Middle East** amid **conflict** and the **COVID-19** (coronavirus) pandemic.

### 1.267 Typhoon Vamco hits Philippines

- Recently, **typhoon "Vamco"** hit the **Philippines** and caused serious destruction in the country.
- This is the **21st storm** to hit the country in year 2020.
- **Philippines** was earlier **hit by Goni**, the most powerful typhoon seen in the past seven years.

### 1.268 Ancient Hindu temple discovered in Swat district of Pakistan

- Recently, **Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts** discovered a **Hindu temple** at a mountain in **Swat district of Pakistan**.
- The **Hindu temple** is believed to have been **constructed 1,300 years ago**.

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### 1.269 Hurricane IOTA hits Central America

- Recently, **hurricane "IOTA"** hits **Central America** with destructive winds, overpowering rain and storm, causing destruction in the region.

### 1.270 ADB allocates \$20 mn for COVID-19 vaccine access

- Recently, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has allocated **USD 20 mn for COVID-19 vaccine access and establish systems to enable equitable vaccine distribution.**
- It has comprised of USD 20 million from ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF) and USD 300,000 from the High-Level Technology Fund financed by the government of Japan.
- The assistance will also support identification and promotion of innovative cold chain and vaccine-tracking technologies.

### 1.271 U.S., Taiwan step up economic partnership

- The U.S. and Taiwan are stepping up cooperation in a newly created economic dialogue.
- The two sides signed a five-year agreement establishing the **U.S.-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue**, which is meant to be held annually.

### 1.272 Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin has approved governance reform

- Recently, Russian **Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin** has approved an order to begin a governance reform from January 1, 2021.
- The reorganization is planned to be completed by April 1, 2021

#### Additional Information

- President Vladimir Putin recently signed an order to increase the number of Deputy Prime Ministers from 9 to 10.

### 1.273 Japan & Australia sign defence deal to counter China's influence in South China Sea

- Recently, Japan and Australia signed **Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA)** which allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations.

### 1.274 Chinese hydropower company plans first downstream dam on Brahmaputra

- A **State-owned Chinese hydropower company POWERCHINA** will construct the first downstream dam on the lower reaches of the **Brahmaputra river**, or **Yarlung Zangbo** as it is known in **Tibet**.
- The company has signed a "**strategic cooperation agreement**" with the **Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) government**.

### 1.275 UK appoints Nadhim Zahawi as Vaccines Minister to oversee COVID-19 Inoculations

- Recently, the **United Kingdom** government has appointed **Nadhim Zahawi** as **Vaccines Minister**.
- **Aim-** He has been appointed **to oversee COVID-19 Inoculations** to be conducted in the country.

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### 1.276 UAE to become 1st Arab Gulf country to generate electricity from coal

- The **United Arab Emirates** is set to become **the first Arab Gulf country to generate electricity from coal** as \$3.4 billion **Hassyan coal plant** is going to be set up in **Dubai**.
- **Developed by- Acwa Power of Saudi Arabia.**

### 1.277 SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage begins

- Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has recently launched the **first ever SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage** during the **19th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government**, held in **New Delhi**.
- **Online Exhibition Developed by- National Museum, New Delhi**, in collaboration with SCO member countries.

### 1.278 UAE allows 100% foreign ownership of firms

- Recently, the government of the **United Arab Emirates** has issued a **decree** that allows the **foreign investors to fully own local companies without the need for an Emirati sponsor**.
- The newly issued decree **replaces the Commercial Companies Law No. 2**.
- **Aim-** To attract investment into an economy staggering from the coronavirus and a decline in oil prices.

### 1.279 United States University establishes chair in Jainism

- Recently, **the University of California, Santa Barbara**, has established a **chair to develop undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Jainism**
- It has been named as **The Bhagvan Vimalnath Endowed Chair in Jain Studies**.
- \$1 million has been donated to establish the chair.
- **Aim:** Teaching the principles of Jainism and their influence in modern society.

### 1.280 Facebook Cryptocurrency Libra to Launch as Early as January 2021

- According to Financial Times report, **Facebook's Libra cryptocurrency** is readying to launch as early as January 2021.
- **Libra Association** that will issue and govern Libra- plans to launch a single digital coin backed by the **dollar**.

#### About Libra Association

- Facebook established the **Libra Association** to oversee the Libra currency.
- **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland
- Association currently has **27 members**.

## Appointments

### 1.281 Priyanka Radhakrishnan becomes New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister

- Recently, **Priyanka Radhakrishnan** has become **New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister**.

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- **New Zealand's new Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson has also become the country's first openly gay man to hold the role.**

#### **1.282 Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha appointed as a Chief Information Commissioner**

- Recently, **Mr. Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha** has been appointed as India's Chief Information Commissioner.

#### **1.283 Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra elected to UN advisory committee**

- Recently, **Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra** has been elected to the **UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)**.
- **Tenure - Three-year term beginning January 1, 2021.**

#### **1.284 Joe Biden elected as 46th President of the United States**

- Recently, **Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.** has been elected as the **46th President of the United States**.
- He has beaten U.S. President Donald Trump.

#### **1.285 H.E. John Pombe Magufuli sworn as President of Tanzania**

- Recently, **H.E. John Pombe Magufuli** has sworn as **President of Tanzania**.

#### **1.286 Duarte Pacheco of Portugal elected as new President of Inter Parliamentary Union**

- Recently, **Duarte Pacheco of Portugal** has been elected as the **new President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)**.
- He has been elected for the period **2020-2023**.

#### **About Inter Parliamentary Union**

- It is the global organization of national parliaments.
- **Headquarters** - Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **1.287 Indian American Pia Dandiya appointed the White House fellow for 2020-21**

- Recently, **Indian American Pia Dandiya** has been appointed as the **White House fellow for 2020-21**.
- She has been **placed at the United States Department of Education** and has become the only Indian American among 14 other White House Fellows

#### **1.288 M M Kutty appointed chairman of commission on Delhi air quality management**

- Recently, **M M Kutty** has been appointed as **chairman of commission on Delhi air quality management**.
- The members have been appointed for a term of three years w.e.f. the date of assumption of charge of the post, or until attainment of the age of 70 years

#### **1.289 AR Rahman appointed as ambassador for "Breakthrough Initiative" of BAFTA**

- Indian music composer **AR Rahman** has been **appointed** as the **ambassador** for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts' (**BAFTA**) "**Breakthrough Initiative**".

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- The "Breakthrough Initiative" **supported** by Over-the-top platform "**Netflix**", aims to identify, celebrate, and support up to five talents working in film, games, or TV in India.

### **1.290 Dinabandhu Mohapatra appointed as independent director of Indiabulls Housing Finance**

- Recently, the board of **Indiabulls Housing Finance** has approved the appointment of **Dinabandhu Mohapatra** as an **independent director** of the company for a period of three years.
- **Dinabandhu Mohapatra** has earlier served as the **MD & CEO, Bank of India**.

#### **About Bank of India-**

- **Headquarter-** Mumbai
- **Tagline-** Relationship beyond banking

## **Persons in news**

### **1.291 Violinist Shri TN Krishnan passed away**

- Recently, **Shri TN Krishnan** has passed away.
- He was a **noted violinist**.
- **Honoured with** – Sangeetha Kalanidhi, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.

### **1.292 Veteran actor Somashekar Rao passes away**

- Recently, **Film and theatre actor H.G. Somashekar Rao** has passed away.
- He was from Karnataka.

### **1.293 Actor Faraaz Khan passes away**

- Recently, **Bollywood actor Faraaz Khan** has passed away.

### **1.294 Ritchie Torres becomes first openly gay Black member in US Congress**

- Recently, **Ritchie Torres** has made history by becoming the first openly gay Black man elected to the **U.S. Congress**.
- He belongs to Democratic Party.

### **1.295 Indian-American physician named co-chair of President-elect Biden's coronavirus task-force**

- Recently, **Indian-American physician Dr. Vivek Murthy** has been named as one of the three **co-chairs of the COVID-19 task-force** that will guide President-elect Joe Biden on dealing with the **coronavirus pandemic**.
- He has been named along with Dr. David Kessler and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith

### **1.296 Bahrain's Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa passes away**

- Recently, **Bahrain's Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa** has passed away.
- He was the long-serving prime minister of the country.

### **1.297 Japan formally proclaims Crown Prince Akishino heir to throne**

- Recently, **Japan** has formally proclaimed **Crown Prince Akishino** heir to throne.

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- He has been proclaimed the crown after Emperor Naruhito had become monarch in 2019.

### 1.298 Japan Nobel laureate Koshiba who found neutrinos passed away

- Recently, Japanese astrophysicist Masatoshi Koshiba has passed away.
- He was a co-winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in physics for confirming the existence of elementary particles called neutrinos.

### 1.299 First female director appointed to Pakistan Cricket Board

- Recently, Alia Zafar has been appointed as the first female director of Pakistan.

### 1.300 Jerry Rawlings passes away

- Recently, Jerry Rawlings has passed away.
- He was credited as a driving force behind Ghana's emergence as a stable democracy.

### 1.301 Noted actor Asif Basra found dead

- Recently, Actor Asif Basra has passed away.
- He has starred in movies such as "Jab We Met", "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai" and "Kai Po Che."

### 1.302 Haryana's first woman MP Chandrawati passes away

- Recently, Haryana's first woman Member Parliament Chandrawati has passed away.
- She has also served as Lt.-Governor of Puducherry.
- She belongs to Congress party.

### 1.303 Ravi Belagere passed away

- Recently, Ravi Belagere has passed away.
- He was famous for his popular Kannada tabloid "Hi Bangalore."
- He was known for his writings on the crime world and his column 'Paapigala Lokadalli.'

### 1.304 Nitish Kumar takes oath as 37<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Bihar

- Recently, the National Democratic Alliance won the 2020 Bihar assembly elections after winning 125 seats in the 243-member assembly.
- Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the fourth consecutive term.

### 1.305 Veteran Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee passes away

- Recently, a veteran Bengali actor and the Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Soumitra Chatterjee has passed away.
- He was the first Indian film personality who was conferred with the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France's highest civilian award.

### 1.306 Rajasthan state cabinet minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal passes away

- Recently, the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment of Rajasthan, Bhanwarlal Meghwal has passed away.

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- He represented **Churu district's Sujangarh constituency** in the Assembly and had also served as the education minister of Rajasthan.

### 1.307 First Chairman of L&T Financial Services Y M Deosthalee passes away

- Recently, the **first chairman and managing director** of **L&T Financial Services**, **Y M Deosthalee** has **passed away**.
- He also headed the panel constituted by Reserve Bank of India to prepare the blueprint for Public Credit Registry (PCR).

### 1.308 Noted writer Devipriya passes away at 69

- Recently, Devipriya, noted poet, writer, journalist and Sahitya Akademi awardee, passed away.

### 1.309 Peru's interim president Merino resigns after deadly protest

- Peru's interim president, **Manuel Merino**, has resigned less than a week into his new administration, after a night of protests calling for his removal and a subsequent police crackdown left at least two dead and dozens wounded.

### 1.310 Barack Obama's memoir off to record-setting start in sales

- Former President Barack Obama's '**A Promised Land**' sold nearly 890,000 copies in the U.S. and Canada in its first 24 hours, putting it on track to be the **best-selling presidential memoir in modern history**.

### 1.311 Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi passes away

- Recently, the **former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi** has passed away.
- He served as the chief minister of Assam for three terms from year 2001 to 2016.

### 1.312 Father of Indian IT industry Faqir Chand Kohli passes away

- Recently, **Faqir Chand Kohli**, who is also known as the **father of Indian Software Industry** has passed away.
- He was the **founder-CEO** of **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.

### 1.313 Senior Congress leader and party treasurer Ahmed Patel passes away

- **Recently, the senior Congress leader and party treasurer Ahmed Patel** has passed away.
- He was an **eight-time parliamentarian** and served five times in the Rajya Sabha while three times in the Lok Sabha.

### 1.314 Football legend Diego Maradona passes away

- **Argentine football legend Diego Maradona** has passed away recently.
- He became a global icon after leading Argentina to a World Cup triumph in 1986.

### 1.315 Former Sudan Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi passes away

- Former Sudan Prime Minister **Sadiq al-Mahdi**, who was the country's last democratically elected leader has **passed away**.

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### 1.316 Former World Bank president James Wolfensohn passes away

- Recently, **former president** of the **World Bank James Wolfensohn** has **passed away**.
- He was from **Australia** and had served as the president of World Bank for 10 years.

### 1.317 Former Goa governor Mridula Sinha passes away

- Recently, former governor of Goa, **Mridula Sinha** has **passed away**.
- She was from **Bihar**.

### 1.318 Alia Bhatt launches kidswear brand “Ed-a-mamma”

- Recently, Bollywood actor **Alia Bhatt** has launched her own **kidswear** brand “**Ed-a-mamma**”.

## Science and Technology

### 1.319 Union Minister for Science and Technology release Special Cover of Department of Posts to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Department of Science & Technology

- Recently **Union Minister for Science & Technology** has released the **Special Cover of Department of Posts** for commemorating the **Golden Jubilee of Department of Science & Technology (DST)**.

#### Relevance

- Department of Science & Technology has been celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary from 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.

### 1.320 Gov Tech-Thon 2020

- Recently, **Gov Tech-Thon 2020** has taken place.
- **Organized by** - IEEE, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Oracle, under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

#### Important Awardees

Position	Name	Purpose
First	<b>Fit For Future</b> , from Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Private Limited.	For demonstrating an <b>innovative solution prototype for automating vehicle fitness checks</b>
Second	<b>Hack Demons</b> of Indian Institute of Information Technology Vadodara	For providing <b>secure solution for delivering unsupervised tests remotely</b>
Third	<b>Orange</b> team from PES University Bengaluru	For providing a <b>unique solution for seed certification</b> using Block Chain technology.

### 1.321 PSLV-C49 successfully placed EOS-01, 9 customer satellites ‘precisely’ into orbit: ISRO

- Recently, **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has informed that **PSLV-C49 successfully placed EOS-01 ‘precisely’ into orbit**.
- It has also place nine international customer satellites comprising of
  - Lithuania – 1
  - Luxembourg – 4

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- USA – 4

### **1.322 EEPC India, NID join hands for scaling up medical device industry to meet health challenges like Covid 19**

- Recently, **Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India and the National Institute of Design have joined together to promote and upgrade the designs and technology for the medical devices industry.**
- It would enable industry to meet the emerging needs of India's health sector, particularly in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.
- A **webinar titled “Post Covid 19- Design Intervention for Medical Device Industry” has also been launched.**

### **1.323 China successfully launches biggest launch of a foreign with a single rocket**

- Recently, **China has successfully launched the biggest launch of foreign satellites with a single rocket.**
- It has launched 13 satellites which include 10 developed by Argentinian company Satellogic.

### **1.324 IIT Madras Clean Water Centre join hands with Japanese Firm TAKANO to bring new water technologies to India**

- Recently, **the International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW) has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DG TAKANO, a Japanese firm, to introduce new clean water technologies in India.**
- DG TAKANO will provide its expertise on cutting-edge Japanese sustainable technologies, support ICCW to collaborate with Japanese companies to develop innovative products and technologies.

#### **About the International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW) -**

- It is one of the Research Centre of IIT - Madras.
- Objective - To create water professionals for tomorrow.

### **1.325 Fast radio burst, spotted by NASA for the first time in the Milky Way**

- Recently, **NASA has spotted Fast Radio Burst (FRB) for the first time in Milky Way galaxy.**
- The **X-ray portion of the FRB was detected by several satellites, including NASA's Wind mission.**
- The **radio component was discovered by the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME).**

### **1.326 CSIR-SERC, Chennai Develops Indigenous Emergency Retrieval System (ERS) for Power Lines**

- Recently, **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) has developed an indigenous technology Emergency Retrieval System (ERS).**
- It has been developed for quick retrieval of power transmission in the event of failure of transmission line towers.

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## About Emergency Retrieval System (ERS)

- It is a lightweight modular system that is used as temporary support structure to restore power immediately after the collapse of transmission line towers during natural calamities such as cyclone/earthquake, or manmade disruptions.

### 1.327 Virgin Hyperloop hosts first human ride on new transport system

- Recently, **Virgin Hyperloop** has completed the world's first passenger ride on a super high-speed levitating pod system.
- It has reached at a speed of up to 172 km per hour at the company's DevLoop test site in Las Vegas, USA.

### 1.328 China successfully sends world's first 6G communications test satellite into orbit

- Recently, **China** has successfully sent world's first 6G communications test satellite into orbit.
- It has been launched from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in China.

### 1.329 Asteroid 16 Psyche

- According to a NASA study published in "The Planetary Science Journal" has found an asteroid "16 Psyche" could be made entirely of metal.
- The asteroid is believed to be worth USD 10000 quadrillion.
- It orbits between Mars and Jupiter.

### 1.330 Scientific Social Responsibility to create new interface between science and society

- Recently, a webinar on World Science Day for Peace and Development has taken place.
- **Organized by** - Department of Science and Technology (DST) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

## About World Science Day

- It has been celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- **Theme** - 'Science for and with Society'

### 1.331 Thirty Meter Telescope Project

- Recently, **Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez** has worked closely with Indian astronomers on the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the **Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)** project.
- It would be installed at Maunakea in Hawaii.

## About Thirty Meter Telescope

- It is an international partnership between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India.

### 1.332 NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission lifted off from Kennedy Space Center

- Recently, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) **SpaceX Crew-1 mission** lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at the agency's **Kennedy Space Center** in Florida.
- **Crew-1 mission** is the first of six crewed missions **NASA** and **SpaceX** will fly as part of the agency's Commercial Crew Program.

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- **Crew Dragon spacecraft** named "**Resilience**" will en route to the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- **Aim-** The crew will conduct science and maintenance during their six-month stay at the **ISS** and will **come back in year 2021**.

### 1.333 L&T delivers first hardware for Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle to ISRO

- Recently, **Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T)** has delivered **the first hardware "a booster segment"** for **Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle** to Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**).

#### About Gaganyaan Mission-

- It is **India's first human spaceflight mission** which aims to send **a three-member crew to space** for a minimum of seven days by **2022**, as part of the **Indian Human Spaceflight Programme**.

### 1.334 Australia to temporarily host ISRO satellite tracking facilities

- Recently, at the **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020**, **Australian Minister** for Industry, Science and Technology **Karen Andrews** announced that **Australia** will **temporarily host** Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) **satellite tracking facilities**.
- The facilities will include **earth observation** and **data analytics, robotics, and space life sciences**.

### 1.335 CSIR-SERC develops ERS to help in restoration of power lines

- Recently, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**)'s Structural Engineering Research Centre (**SERC**) has developed an **emergency response system (ERS)**.
- **Aim-** A modular, light weight structure will **help in quick restoration of power supply in case of failure of transmission towers**.

### 1.336 IMO accepts "IRNSS" as component of World-Wide Radio Navigation System

- Recently, the International Maritime Organisation (**IMO**) accepted the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (**IRNSS**) as a component of the **World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)**.
- **About IRNSS-** It is an independent **regional navigation satellite system** developed by **India**. It provides **accurate position information service** to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters.

### 1.337 NASA-ESA Launched 'Sentinel-6' Satellite to Track Earth's Rising Sea Level

- Recently, **NASA and European Space Agency** together launched 'Sentinel-6' Satellite via SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- The Satellite can be used to Track Earth's Rising Sea Level.

### 1.338 The Leonid meteor showers are currently making their yearly appearance

- According to Norway-based website timeanddate.com, The Leonid meteor showers are currently making their yearly appearance and will reach their **peak in India on November 17 and 18**.

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### 1.339 Chapare virus: Scientists confirm rare deadly virus in Bolivia

- The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently discovered a rare virus in Bolivia.
- The virus is believed to be carried by **rats**, which in turn may have passed it to humans
- It first occurred in 2003 in **Chapare Province, Bolivia**.

### 1.340 Sweden getting on board India's Venus mission "Shukrayaan"

- **Sweden** joins **India's Venus orbiter mission 'Shukrayaan'** with a scientific instrument to explore the planet.
- The satellite instrument "**Venusian Neutrals Analyzer (VNA)**" of **Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF)** will study how the charged particles from the Sun interact with the atmosphere and exosphere of the planet Venus.

#### About India's Venus orbiter mission 'Shukrayaan'-

- **Aim-** To investigate the surface processes and shallow subsurface stratigraphy, solar wind interaction with Venusian Ionosphere, and studying the structure, composition and dynamics of the atmosphere.

### 1.341 ICMR approves Dry Swab direct RT-PCR method for Coronavirus detection

- Recently, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has approved the "**Dry Swab-Direct RT-PCR**" method for **Coronavirus** detection.
- **Developed by-** **CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)**, Hyderabad
- **Aim-** To scale up the **detection** of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (**SARS-CoV-2**).

### 1.342 IIT Madras develops unmanned survey craft for Indian ports and inland waterways

- Recently, researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**, have developed a **solar-powered unmanned autonomous survey craft** for Indian ports and inland waterways.
- The craft can undertake autonomous hydrographic and oceanographic surveys and can also provide real-time data transmission over long distance.

### 1.343 NASA's Curiosity rover hints at ancient megaflood in Mars

- Recently, a research, published in the journal Scientific Reports, assessed data collected by NASA's hinted at the ancient megaflood on the Martian surface.

#### About Curiosity Rover-

- It was **launched** by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) in **2011**.
- **Aim-** To **determine** if **Mars** was ever able to **support microbial life**.

### 1.344 IIT- M researchers develop solar-powered submersible craft

- Recently, **the researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** has developed a **solar-powered submersible craft**.

#### About the solar-powered submersible craft:

- It is an unmanned craft and will be used in Indian Ports and Waterways.

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- It has been tested at the Kamarajar Port, Chennai.
- It is capable of delivering precise and accurate depth measurements even in very shallow waters.

## Environment

### 1.345 National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources have identified four species of shrimps hitherto not found in Indian waters

- Recently, Scientists associated with the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources have identified four species of shrimps hitherto not found in Indian waters, identified as “Hippolytoid shrimps.”
- Found at - Agatti Island of Lakshadweep group of islands
- Out of the four two shrimp species are new to science.
- These have been named as “Periclimenella agatti” and “Urocaridella arabianesis.”

### 1.346 Union Environment Minister inaugurates country's first demonstration plant which produces compressed biogas from biomass

- Developed by – Praj technologies in Pune

### 1.347 UNESCO lists Panna under Biosphere Reserves

- Recently, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has included Panna National Park of Madhya Pradesh under its list of Biosphere reserves.
- It has described the National Park as a critical tiger habitat and has also pointed out that it is home to World Heritage site of Khajuraho temples.
- It has also included Fuvahmulahand Addu Atoll of Maldives under the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

### 1.348 World’s strongest storm in 2020 makes landfall in the Philippines

- Recently, World’s strongest storm in 2020, named as Super Typhoon Goni has made landfall in the Philippines.

### 1.349 ‘Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025’

- Recently, the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has cleared an "Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025" for conserving vultures.
- It has laid out strategies and actions to stem the decline in vulture population.

#### Key Highlights –

- Saliently, the drugs that are used to treat cattle and known to poison vultures will be banned by the Drugs Controller General of India.
- Diclofenac, a drug used to treat cattle, was linked to kidney failure in vultures and a decline in the bird population.
- It proposes to establish Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

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- There would also be a conservation breeding programme for the Red Headed vulture and Egyptian vulture, and at least one **“Vulture Safe Zone” in every State for the conservation of the remnant populations.**
- **There would be four rescue centres** in different geographical areas:
  - Pinjore in north India
  - Bhopal in central India
  - Guwahati in northeast India
  - Hyderabad in south India

### 1.350 ‘Mahabali frog’ may be Kerala’s official amphibian

- Recently, **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden of Kerala has informed that ‘Mahabali frog’ has been proposed to become official amphibian of Kerala.**

#### About Mahabali Frog

- It is dark purple to greyish in colour and is one of the rarest frog species endemic to the Western Ghats.
- **Scientific Name** – Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis
- It is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

### 1.351 New genus of tree frog discovered, found in Andamans and Northeast India

- Recently, **Scientists and researchers from the University of Delhi and the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a genus of tree frog found in the Andaman islands and the northeast.**
- It has been named as genus Rohanixalus after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda.

### 1.352 Tristan da Cunha island creates massive marine protection zone

- Recently, **Tristan da Cunha island has created a marine protection zone to safeguard endangered rockhopper penguins.**
- It has become the biggest “no-take zone” in the Atlantic Ocean protecting fish that live in the waters and tens of millions of seabirds that feed on them.
- It will become part of the U.K.’s Blue Belt Program.

#### About UK’s Blue Belt Program

### 1.353 Operation Thunder 2020

- Recently, **India Customs has intercepted an 18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates.**
- It has been intercepted under **“Operation Thunder 2020.”**

#### About Operation Thunder 2020

- It is the fourth in a series of “Thunder” operations carried out annually since 2017.
- The participating countries under the operation has focused mainly on the species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Co-ordinated by - **Interpol and the World Customs Organisation**

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### 1.354 Kabartal becomes Bihar's first Ramsar site

- Recently, **Kabartal has become Bihar's first Ramsar site.**
- India has 39 Ramsar Sites.

#### About Ramsar Site

- It is an international treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. It is named after the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed on February 2, 1971.

### 1.355 India's first moss garden comes up near Nainital

- **India's first moss garden** has been developed at **Khurpatal in Nainital district.**
- The main aim behind developing the garden was **to conserve the various species of moss** and other bryophytes
- Moss are one of the most ancient flora (Plant) on the planet, existing since Jurassic era.

### 1.356 Cyclone 'NIVAR' hits Tamil Nadu

- Recently, the **Cyclonic storm "NIVAR"** has made landfall along the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast and struck the region with torrential rains, strong winds and high tides.

### 1.357 New species of burrowing frog named as "Sphaerotheca Bengaluru"

- Recently, a new species of **burrowing frog** has been named as "**Sphaerotheca Bengaluru**".
- A group of researchers documenting "**Amphibians in the Deccan Plateau parts of Karnataka**" has discovered this frog species in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### 1.358 Pilibhit Tiger Reserve awarded for doubling tiger population

- Recently, **Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and Uttar Pradesh Forest Department** have been awarded **TX2 (Tiger Times Two) Tiger Conservation awards 2020, for the first time in India.**
- They have been awarded for doubling tiger population in 4 years against a target of 10 years.
- The tiger count has increased from 25 in 2014 to 65 in 2018.
- **Also, the Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA), in the Indo-Bhutan Border has been awarded with a tiger conservation excellence awards.**

#### About TX2 Tiger Conservation awards 2020:

- It has been conferred to mark the **10 year anniversary of global TX2 Goal.**
- It has been presented by the initiators of TX2 Goal.

#### About Global TX2 Goal:

- It has been set by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Union for Conservation of Nature, Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards and the Lion's Share.
- It was launched in **2010.**
- **Aim:** Doubling of Tiger Population by 2022.

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## Days in news

### 1.359 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists : 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov

- Recently, **United Nations** marks the **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists**.
- It has been celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.
- Theme - **“Protect Journalists, Protect the Truth”**

### 1.360 International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict : 6<sup>th</sup> November

- Recently, **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict** has taken place.
- It has taken place on **6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

### 1.361 National Cancer Awareness Day 2020: 7<sup>th</sup> Nov

- Recently, **National Cancer Awareness Day 2020** is being celebrated in India since 2014.

### 1.362 World Pneumonia Day: 12<sup>th</sup> Nov

- Recently, **World Pneumonia Day** has taken place.
- It has been celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- **Theme** – ‘Every Breath Counts’

### 1.363 Public Service Broadcasting Day: 12<sup>th</sup> Nov

- Recently, **Public Service Broadcasting Day** has been celebrated.
- It is celebrated every year on 12<sup>th</sup> November to mark Gandhi Ji's visit to All India Radio in 1947.

### 1.364 Jharkhand celebrates 20th Statehood Day: 15<sup>th</sup> Nov

- Recently, **Jharkhand** celebrated its **20<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day** on **15th November 2020**.

### 1.365 International Day of Tolerance 2020: 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

- International Day for Tolerance is observed every year on **November 16**.
- **Theme 2020:** Tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.

### 1.366 National Press Day 2020: 16<sup>th</sup> Nov

- National Press Day is observed on **November 16** every year to commemorate the institution of the Press Council of India.
- Theme 2020: **Role of Media during COVID-19 and its Impact on the Media**

### 1.367 National Epilepsy Day 2020: 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

- National Epilepsy Day is observed on November 17 every year.
- Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of brain characterized by recurrent ‘seizures’ or ‘fits’.

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### 1.368 Indian Army celebrates 240th Corps of Engineers Day: 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

- Recently, the **Indian Army** celebrated the **240th Corps of Engineers Day** on **18th November 2020**.

#### About Corps of Engineers-

- It provides **combat engineering support, develops infrastructure for armed forces** and other defence organisations.

### 1.369 India observes Naturopathy Day on 18<sup>th</sup> November

- Recently, **Naturopathy Day** was observed in the country on **18th November**.
- On the occasion, a **virtual program** was held with following two **themes**:
  1. The growing perception of Naturopathy as a future-oriented system of healthcare
  2. The evergreen relevance of Gandhian thoughts on health

### 1.370 World Toilet Day: 19<sup>th</sup> November

- Recently, **World Toilet Day** has been observed by the **United Nations** on **19th November 2020**.
- **Theme** for year 2020- **Sustainable sanitation and climate change**
- On the occasion of World Toilet Day, **India** strengthened its **resolution "#Toilet4All"**.

### 1.371 World COPD Day 2020: 18<sup>th</sup> Nov

- The World COPD Day is celebrated on November 18 every year.
- COPD is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.
- Theme 2020: **Living Well with COPD-Everybody, Everywhere.**

### 1.372 World Toilet Day 2020: 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

- World Toilet Day is celebrated on 19 November every year.
- Theme 2020: **Sustainable sanitation and climate change.**

### 1.373 NCC Celebrates 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary: 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov

- Recently, 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** has been celebrated on 22 November 2020.
- Defence Secretary has informed that the cadets and Associate NCC Officers, led by example in activities such as 'Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat', 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Fit India'.

### 1.374 AAI observes Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020

- Recently, the Airports Authority of India (**AAI**) has commenced the **Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020**.
- **Aim-** To raise awareness on Aviation Safety.
- **Duration-** **23rd November to 27th November 2020.**

### 1.375 National Milk Day celebrated on 26th November

- **Aim-** To raise awareness of the importance of milk as a balanced diet.
- The day is celebrated on the **birth anniversary** of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, known as the father of the Indian white revolution.

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### 1.376 Global Innovation and Technology Alliance celebrates its 9th Foundation Day

- Recently, the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) has celebrated its **9th Foundation Day** on **28th November 2020**.
- **Theme of the day- Atmanirbhar Bharat.**

#### About GITA-

- A Public Private Partnership (PPP) company promoted jointly by the **Technology Development Board**, Department of Science & Technology, and the **Confederation of Indian Industry**.

### 1.377 Assam celebrates 'Lachit Divas' on 24th November

- Recently, the state of **Assam** has celebrated the '**Lachit Divas**' on **24th November 2020**.
- The day is celebrated to promote the ideals of **Lachit Borphukan**, a commander in the Ahom kingdom in Assam known for his leadership and valour in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat.

### 1.378 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

- This day has been celebrated on **25 November** every year.
- Theme for year 2020- **Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect.**

## Defence in news

### 1.379 24<sup>th</sup> edition of MALABAR-20 naval exercise

- **Recently, 24th edition of the MALABAR naval exercise has taken place.**
- **Place** – Visakhapatnam
- **Participating Countries** – India, United States of America, Japan and Australia.

### 1.380 Enhanced version of PINAKA Rocket System successfully Flight Tested

- Recently, **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has **successfully flight tested enhanced version of PINAKA rocket system.**
- It was tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

#### About PINAKA Rocket System

- It is a multi-barrel rocket system (MBRL) system that can fire 12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.
- **Developed by** – DRDO

### 1.381 Second batch of Rafale jets arrive in India

- Recently, **The second batch of three Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have arrived in India.**
- It has reached the Jamnagar airbase.

#### Relevance

- IAF have inducted the first batch of five Rafales of 36 jets contracted from France in September 2020.

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### 1.382 Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics

- Recently, Prasar Bharati has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics.
- **Aim** - To bring quality educational programmes to every household, including those in rural and remote areas.
- Under the agreement, 51 DTH education TV channels shall be available as DD co-branded channels to all DD FreeDish viewers.
- It **comprises of**
  - Swaymprabha
  - e-Vidya for classes 1 to 12 of NCERT
  - Vande Gujarat
  - DigiShala

### 1.383 Indian Coast Guard ship C-452

- Recently, Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) ship C-452 has been commissioned.
- **Indigenously designed and built by** – Larsen & Toubro, Surat.
- It was indigenously built in India under the Make in India initiative.

### 1.384 Tri- service exercise 'Bull Strike' conducted at the Nicobar Islands

- Recently, a joint tri-service exercise 'Bull Strike' has been conducted at the Teresa Island in the Nicobar Islands.
- **Conducted by** - The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)

### 1.385 Defence Minister inaugurate model of anti-satellite missile system

- Recently, **Union Defence Minister has inaugurated a model of the anti-satellite (A-SAT) missile system.**
- **Inaugurated at** – Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) headquarters in New Delhi.

#### Relevance

- DRDO had successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test 'Mission Shakti' in March 2019.

### 1.386 Indian Army Hands Over 20 Fully Trained Military Horses And 10 Mine Detection Dogs To Bangladesh Army

- Recently, Indian army has handed over 20 fully trained military horses and 10 mine detection dogs to Bangladesh army.
- The equines and canines have been **trained by the Remount and Veterinary Corps of Indian Army.**

### 1.387 India successfully tests all-weather Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile

- Recently, India has successfully tested an all-weather Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile.

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- It has a range of 30 kilometres completing the development trials of the weapon system.
- **Launched from** - Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha

#### **About Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)**

- It is a missile system that can be operated during all weather conditions and in all terrain conditions.
- **Developed by** - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Bharat Electronics Ltd.

#### **1.388 Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir launched**

- Recently, **Indian Navy's fifth Scorpene class submarine Vagir has been launched.**
- **Built by** - Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL) with **technology transfer from France.**
- It has been fifth of the Indian Navy's Kalvari class submarines of Project 75 after Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj and Vela.

#### **1.389 Indian Army builds extreme weather habitat for troops in Ladakh**

- Recently, the **Indian Army** has completed building **extreme weather habitat for troops** deployed in **Ladakh** and the habitat comes with **integrated arrangements for electricity, water, heating facilities, health and hygiene.**
- **Aim-** To ensure the **operational efficiency** of the **troops deployed** in the sector during the winters.

#### **1.390 Malabar Maritime Exercise 2020 concludes in Arabian Sea**

- Recently, the **24th edition** of **MALABAR maritime exercise** concluded in the **Arabian Sea.**
- **Indian Navy hosted** the **exercise in two phases** in the following manner-
- **Phase 1-** conducted off Visakhapatnam in **Bay of Bengal.**
- **Phase 2-** conducted in the **Arabian Sea.**
- It involves participation of **Indian Navy, United States Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force,** and **Royal Australian Navy.**

#### **1.391 Indian Navy Marine Commandos conducts Combat Free Fall exercise in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

- Recently, **Indian Navy Marine Commandos (MARCOS)** conducts **Combat Free Fall (CFF)** exercise.
- **Venue** - airfields of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- **Aim-** To enhance the operational skills of troops to jump at a distance far away from their target from heights of over 10,000 feet and open their parachutes at a low altitude after free-falling for a period of time and quietly glide to their objective.

#### **1.392 Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy conducts Indo-Thai CORPAT**

- Recently, **the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy** conducted **30th edition** of **India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT).**
- **Venue-** Andaman Sea

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- **Participating ships-** Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk from Indian Navy, and Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi from Royal Thai Navy.

### 1.393 Jat Regiment Celebrated It's 225 Years of Distinguished And Illustrious Service

- Recently, **Jat Regiment** has celebrated it's 225<sup>th</sup> years of distinguished and illustrious service.

#### About Jat Regiment

- A part of the infantry of the Indian Army, is one of the longest-serving and most-decorated regiments.
- It has also participated in first and second world war.

### 1.394 Indian Navy to Host Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea

- Recently, Indian Navy hosted the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of **India - Singapore** Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 in Andaman Sea.

### 1.395 Centre for Land Warfare Studies celebrates completion of 15 Years of Excellence

- Recently, **Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)** has celebrated its “15 Years of Excellence” on **18 November 2020** by organising a **webinar** on “**Shifting Domains of Warfare with Special Focus on China’s Increasing Adventurism**”.
- On the occasion, **Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane** conferred the “**Scholar Warrior Award**”.

#### About CLAWS-

- An independent think tank affiliated to the Indian Army.

### 1.396 Indian Navy inducts two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones from U.S.

- The **Indian Navy** has recently inducted two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian** unarmed drones to enhance **surveillance** over the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
- These drones have been **procured** from the **United States** on lease for a **period of one year**.

### 1.397 Indian Navy completes the refit of Maldivian Ship MNDF CGS Huravee

- Recently, the **Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam** completed the **refit** of **Maldivian Coast Guard Ship MNDF CGS Huravee**.
- **Background-** **MNDF CGS Huravee** (originally **INS Tillanchang**) is an indigenously built Trinkat class patrol vessel **gifted to Maldives** by the **Government of India** in **2006**.

### 1.398 4th NSA Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation meeting

- Recently, the **4<sup>th</sup> NSA Level Meeting on Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation meeting** has taken place to held discussion on **issues** related to **cooperation in maritime security** in the **Indian Ocean region**.
- **Hosted by-** **Sri Lanka**
- **Participating countries-** **India, Sri Lanka, Maldives**, while **Mauritius and Seychelles**.

#### Key highlight of meet-

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- **India, Sri Lanka** and the **Maldives** have agreed to improve **intelligence sharing** on issues such as terrorism, cyber security, extremism, drugs, arms and human trafficking, and effect of climate change on maritime environment.

### 1.399 Navy's 'IMAC' to become National Maritime Domain Awareness centre

- Indian Navy's **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC)** is set to become **National Maritime Domain Awareness (NDMA) centre**.
- IMAC is the nodal centre of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence System (NC3I).
- It **links the operational Centres** and **lower echelons of the Navy** and the **Coast Guard** spread across the country's coastline.
- **Headquarters of IMAC**- Gurugram, Haryana

### 1.400 India successfully test-fires land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- **India** has “**successfully**” test fired the **land-attack version** of **supersonic cruise missile BrahMos** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** territory.
- **Range** of the new missile has been extended from the original 290 km to **400 km**.

### 1.401 Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 begins in Andaman Sea

- **Indian Navy** has **joined** the **naval forces** from **Thailand** and **Singapore** for **SITMEX-2020**, a trilateral exercise.
- This is the **2<sup>nd</sup> edition** of the **SITMEX** exercise.
- **Hosted by**- Singapore Navy

### 1.402 Indian Navy receives Poseidon 8I maritime aircraft from US

- Recently, the **Indian Navy** has received the **first** of the four **Poseidon 8I** maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine **warfare aircraft** from the **United States** under the USD 1.1 billion deal.
- **P-8I** is based on the **Boeing next-generation 737** commercial airplane.

CivilsTap Hlmachal **Sports**

### 1.403 Jio named title sponsor of Women's T20 Challenge

- Recently, **The BCCI** has announced **Jio** as the **title sponsor** of the **Women's T20 Challenge**.
- It has taken place in Sharjah.

### 1.404 Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijju inaugurates SAI Regional Centre in Zirakpur

- Recently, **Union Sports Minister** has inaugurated **Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centre**.
- **Place** – Zirakpur
- **Aim** – To build more world-class training facilities across India

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#### 1.405 Sports Ministry announces new incentive structure to fund 500 private academies

- Recently, **Sports Ministry** has introduced incentivization structure to extend monetary support to **500 private academies**.
- It has been introduced **through the Khelo India Scheme over the next four years starting FY 2020-21**.
- **Aim** – To encourage all academies, especially the private academies to continue improving the level of infrastructure, resources and sports science support so that athletes can get best in class training.

#### 1.406 Mumbai Indians won a record fifth IPL title

- Recently, **Mumbai Indians** has won the **13<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020**.
- It has won the title for a record fifth IPL title.
- It has **defeated Delhi Capitals in the final**.

#### Important Awardees

- **Man of the Match (Final)** – Trent Boult
- **Most Valuable Player** – Jofra Archer of Rajasthan Royals

#### 1.407 China's Chen Meng claims ITTF Women's World Cup title

- Recently, **Chen Meng** has defeated **Sun Yingsha** to win her maiden ITTF Women's World Cup.
- Both the player belongs to China.

#### 1.408 Daniil Medvedev wins ATP Finals title

- Recently, the **Russian** tennis star **Daniil Medvedev** has **defeated** the Austrian player **Dominic Thiem** to win the **ATP Finals** title held in **London, United Kingdom**.

#### 1.409 Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports restores recognition of AAI

- Recently, the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has **restored** the **government recognition** to Archery Association of India (**AAI**) as a National Sports Federation, for a **period of one year**.
- **World Archery (international federation for Archery sport)** has also lifted the suspension of AAI.

#### 1.410 Mission Olympic Cell approves training camp in U.S.A for wrestler Bajrang Punia

- Recently, **Mission Olympic Cell** has **approved** a one-month training camp in the U.S.A for wrestler **Bajrang Punia**.
- **Mission Olympic Cell** is a body set up by the Sports Authority of India (**SAI**) to **select athletes** who are to get **assistance** under the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme**

## Awards

#### 1.411 Ramineni award for G.R. Chintala

- Recently, **Dr. Ramineni Foundation's Visishta Puraskaaram** has been conferred on **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chairman Govinda Raju Chintala**.

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- Sonu Sood has been awarded with Pratyeka Puraskaaram.

#### **1.412 Society of Biological Chemists (India) chooses Dr Susanta Kar for “Prof.A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award-2020”**

- Recently, **Society of Biological Chemists (India)** has chosen **Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow** for **Prof.A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020**.
- He has been awarded for his contributions towards defining the survival tactics of **Leishmania donovani**.
- It is a protozoan parasite that infects macrophages and is a causative agent of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala Azar).

#### **About Prof. A.N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award**

- The Award is given for Biological Chemistry and Allied sciences, preferably related to parasitic infections.

#### **1.413 J.C. Daniel Award for Hariharan**

- Recently, **Filmmaker Hariharan** has been chosen for the prestigious **J.C. Daniel Award for 2019**.

#### **About J.C. Daniel Award**

- It is conferred by the state of Kerala annually in recognition to an individual’s contributions to Malayalam cinema.
- It carries a purse of ₹5 lakh, a plaque, and a citation.

#### **1.414 Malayalam writer S. Hareesh bags 2020 JCB Prize for Literature**

- Recently, **Malayalam writer S. Hareesh** has been announced as the winner of the ₹25-lakh **JCB Prize for Literature**.
- He has conferred the award for his novel "**Moustache**".

#### **1.415 General Naravane conferred the honorary rank of General of Nepali Army**

- Recently, **Indian Army chief General M. M. Naravane** has been conferred the honorary rank of **General of the Nepali Army** by **President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari**.

#### **1.416 Chanel Miller’s memoir wins prestigious book award**

- Recently, **Chanel Miller** has won the **Dayton Literary Peace Prize**.
- He has been awarded for her memoir “**Know My Name.**”
- **Alice Hoffman’s The World That We Knew** has won the **fiction award**.
- **Christy Lefteri’s The Beekeeper of Aleppo** was named **runner-up for fiction**.
- **Jennifer Eberhardt’s Biased** about how unconscious bias shapes human behaviour from the classroom to the courtroom was named **runner-up for nonfiction**.

#### **1.417 Narinder Batra bags Capital Foundation National Award**

- Recently, **Narinder Batra** has won the **Capital Foundation National Award**.
- He has been awarded for his contribution to sports.

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- The award has been celebrated to commemorate 106<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of renowned jurist, Justice Krishna Iyer.

#### **About Narinder Batra**

- He has been serving as the president of International Hockey Federation (FIH) and a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

#### **1.418 Urban mobility award**

- Recently, **The Ernakulam Jilla Autorickshaw Drivers' Cooperative Society has bagged the Urban Mobility India 2020 award.**
- **Instituted by** - Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Development.
- The award has been given for bringing drivers under an umbrella and for introducing an **autorickshaw-ride-booking app named AuSa.**

#### **1.419 Shankha Subhra Das bags Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award**

- Recently, a Tripura based engineer, **Shankha Subhra Das** has won the **Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) award.**
- He has been awarded for **developing a technology which generates power from wet clothes and can be used to charge mobile phones or to power medical diagnostic devices.**

#### **1.420 Avtar announces winners of Excellence in CSR & Male Ally Legacy Awards 2020**

- Recently, **Johnson & Johnson** bagged the **award for Excellence in CSR at 'Best of the Best 2020'** — an annual D&I Conference organized by diversity and inclusion firm Avtar and Working Mother.
- **Deepak Iyer**, MD & President of Mondelez, was conferred with **Male Ally Legacy Award 2020.**

#### **1.421 Department of Fisheries celebrates World Fisheries Day**

- Recently, **Department of Fisheries has celebrated World Fisheries Day.**
- It has been celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020.
- Government had also awarded Best performing States for 2019-20 in the Fisheries sector for the first time
  - **Marine states** – Odisha
  - **Inland states** - Uttar Pradesh
  - **Hilly and NE states** – Assam
  - **Best Marine District** – Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh
  - **Best Inland District** – Kalahandi, Odisha
  - **Best Hilly and NE District** – Nagaon, Assam
  - **Best Organizations for Marine-** Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd.
  - **Best Organization for Inland** – Telangana State Fishermen Cooperative societies Federation Ltd
  - **Best Organization for Hilly region** – Assam Apex Cooperative Fish Marketing and Processing Federation Ltd.

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#### 1.422 Douglas Stuart's 'Shuggie Bain' wins 2020 Booker Prize

- Recently, New York-based Scottish writer **Douglas Stuart** won the **2020 Booker Prize** for his debut novel 'Shuggie Bain'.

#### 1.423 New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to receive International Emmy for COVID-19 briefings

- New York Governor **Andrew Cuomo** is set to soon receive an **International Emmy award** for his once-daily televised briefings on the coronavirus
- This award is bestowed by **the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS)** in recognition to the best television programs.

#### 1.424 Ashraf Patel named social entrepreneur of the year

- **Ashraf Patel** of **Pravah & ComMutiny Youth Collective (CYC)** has been awarded the **Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY)- India 2020 award**. She has been awarded for her leadership of social action and investment in youth.
- Award instituted by- **Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation**.
- The SEOY award **recognizes entrepreneurs** who implement **innovative, sustainable and scalable solutions to solve India's social problems**.

#### 1.425 FFI selects film "Jallikattu" as India's official entry for Oscars 2021

- Recently, the **Film Federation of India (FFI)** has announced that the **Malayalam film "Jallikattu"** has been selected as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category for the **Oscars 2021**.
- **Directed by-** Lijo Jose Pellissery.

## Banking

#### 1.426 Paytm Money Launches Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

- **Paytm Money**, the wholly owned subsidiary of fintech company Paytm, has recently launched **Exchange Traded Funds**, after getting approval from the Securities Exchange Board of India.
- **Aim** – To attract **1 lakh investors** in the **next 12-18 months** through ETFs.

#### About Paytm Money:

- **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- **Chief Executive Officer:** Varun Sridhar

#### 1.427 HDFC Life launches new campaign to support Covid-hit Mumbai's 'Dabbawalas'

- Recently, **HDFC Life** in association with **Ketto India** has initiated a **nationwide crowdfunding campaign**.
- It has been **titled as "PromisewalaDabba."**
- **Aim** – To empower the Dabbawala community before they can bounce back resuming their deliveries across Mumbai.

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#### 1.428 Reserve Bank to evaluate impact of 'RBI Kehta Hai' awareness campaign

- Recently, RBI decided to evaluate the impact of multi-media public awareness campaign 'RBI Kehta Hai', which was launched in **14 languages** to educate the public about **safe banking and financial practices**.

#### 1.429 NPCI allows WhatsApp to start payments service in a 'graded' manner

- Recently, **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** allowed **Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp** to start its payments service in the country in a "graded" manner.
- **WhatsApp can expand its UPI user base** in a graded manner starting with a **maximum registered user base of twenty (20) million in UPI**.
- A cap of **30 per cent of total volume of transactions processed in UPI** will be applicable on all Third-Party App Providers (Like WhatsApp) from **January 1, 2021**.

#### 1.430 RBI announced co-lending scheme for banks, NBFCs for priority sector lending

- Recently, RBI announced **Co-Lending Model (CLM) scheme** under which banks can provide loans along with NBFCs to priority sector borrowers based on a prior agreement.
- The CLM, which is an improvement over the co-origination of loan scheme announced by the **RBI in September 2018**

##### About Co-origination Scheme

- All scheduled commercial banks (**excluding regional rural banks and small finance banks**) may engage with **non-banking financial companies- non-deposit taking-systemically important (NBFC-ND-SIs)** to co-originate loans for the creation of priority sector assets.
- At least **20% of the credit risk** will be on the NBFC's books and the balance will be on the bank's book till maturity.
- **Tripartite agreement** will be signed between bank, NBFC and customer
- The bank and NBFC will open a common account to pool loan contributions for disbursement and repayments

#### 1.431 Govt levies 5% duty on TV parts import

- Recently, the government imposed a **5% basic customs duty** on key components used in production of television displays.
- Customs duty will apply on imported components that are used in **liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and light emitting diode (LED) television panels**.

##### Background

- In July 2020, Government imposed restrictions on import of colored Televisions including TV sets of screen size ranging from up to 36 cm to over 105 cm, including the Liquid crystal display (LCD) television sets.

#### 1.432 DIPAM signs an agreement with World Bank

- Recently, **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** signed an agreement with **World Bank** for **advisory services on Asset Monetization**

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- DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of **non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment** or closure and enemy property of value of **INR 100 crores and above**.
  - **Non-core assets** are assets that are not necessary for a company to carry on its business in the ordinary course.

#### **1.433 Kris Gopalakrishnan appointed first chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub**

- Recently, RBI has set up an **Innovation Hub** for the financial sector and appointed **Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan**, co-founder and former co-chairman of Infosys, as the **chairperson of the governing council for the entity**.
- **The aim of the RBIH** is to create an eco-system that would “**focus on promoting access to financial services and products**. This will also promote financial inclusion.”
- The governing council will also have a chief executive who is yet to be appointed.

#### **1.434 SEBI launches SMARTs program to strengthen investor education framework**

- Recently, SEBI launched the **Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs)** programme to strengthen investor education and awareness framework.
- The first batch of SMARTs empanelled by Sebi includes **40 individuals across 16 states and union territories, covering 31 districts on a pan-India basis**.
- SMARTs will conduct investor education programs in their **respective geographical areas**.
- The education programs to be conducted by SMARTs will be **free of cost to investors**.
- The cost for conducting the programs would be met from **Sebi's Investor Protection and Education Fund**.

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