



RACE Coaching Institute for Banking and Government Jobs  
Courses Offered: BANK | SSC | RRB | TNPSC | KPSC |

[www.raceinstitute.in](http://www.raceinstitute.in) | [www.bankersdaily.in](http://www.bankersdaily.in)

# **LEGEND MAGAZINE**

## **DECEMBER – 2020**

**(CURRENT AFFAIRS AND QUIZ,  
BANKING & ENG VOCABULARY)**

**Exclusively prepared for RACE students**

Chennai: #1, South Usman Road, T Nagar. | Madurai | Trichy | Salem | Coimbatore | Chandigarh |  
Bangalore | Erode | Namakkal | Puducherry | Thanjavur | Trivandrum | Ernakulam | Tirunelveli | Vellore | Tirunelveli  
| Tiruvanamalai | Cochin | Tuticorin | Rajapalayam | Kozhikode | Nagercoil |

**H.O: 7601808080 / 9043303030 | [www.raceinstitute.in](http://www.raceinstitute.in)**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>NATIONAL NEWS:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL NEWS:</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>BANKING AND ECONOMY:</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>APPOINTMENTS:</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>BOOKS AND AUTHORS:</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>RANKINGS:</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>OBITUARY NEWS:</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>SPORTS NEWS:</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>IMPORTANT DAYS:</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ:</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ:</b>	<b>126</b>

### NATIONAL NEWS:

#### Northeast's First Cow Hospital Inaugurated at Dibrugarh, Assam:

- A cow shelter in **Dibrugarh, Assam** inaugurated **Northeast's first-ever** cow hospital, on the occasion of **Gopashtami**. The hospital, **Surbhi Aarogyashala**, is set up by **Shree Gopal Gaushala** at a cost of **Rs 17 lakh**. The hospital will provide services in **30 km radius**. There are **368 cows** in the shelter.

#### Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurates Phagwara mega food park in Punjab:

- Union Food Processing Industries Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually inaugurated the **Rs 107.83 crore** mega food park at **Phagwara** in **Kapurthala district** of **Punjab** which is likely to generate **5, 000 jobs**.

#### Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar unveils 'Sahakar Pragya' to impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas:

- Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** unveiled "**Sahakar Pragya**". The 45 new training modules of **Sahakar Pragya** of the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country along with **Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy**.

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates RE-INVEST 2020:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the virtual third **Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020)**. The three days' summit is organised by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.
- The theme for RE-Invest 2020 is "**Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition**".

#### PM Modi unveils coin, postal stamp to mark 100 years of Lucknow varsity:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unveiled a commemorative coin of the centennial foundation day of the **University of Lucknow** through a video conference. He also released a special **commemorative postal stamp** issued by India Post and its special cover during the event.

#### 10th edition of National Science Film Festival kicks off in a virtual mode:

- The tenth edition of prestigious **National science film festival** got off in a virtual mode held in **Tripura**. **VigyanPrasar**, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has been organizing this festival as a part of its science popularization endeavour.

### **Union Home Ministry relaxes account norms for NGOs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act:**

- **Union Home ministry** relaxed the norms for NGOs mandated to maintain FCRA account with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** under **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)**.
- Ministry has set deadline of **March 31, 2021** for NGOs registered under FCRA to open account at SBI. It allowed NGOs to maintain existing **FCRA Account** for utilization purposes.

### **Flipkart joins hands with 'Give India Foundation' to donate 50, 000 PPE kits to the UP Government:**

- E-commerce company **Flipkart** Partners with '**GiveIndia Foundation**' donated **50, 000** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to the **Uttar Pradesh** government. The PPE kits were provided to the state officials in a virtual ceremony, convened by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh **Yogi Adityanath** and Flipkart's Chief Corporate Officer (CCO), **Rajneesh Kumar**.

### **Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launches second edition of Fit India School Week:**

- Union Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** launched the second edition of the "**Fit India School Week**" program in the presence of **Fit India Mission**. Sports Minister encourages school children to participate in the Fit India movement. It was launched in **2019**.

### **ESIC extended Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana scheme up to June 2021:**

- **ESI Corporation (ESIC)** has announced the extension of the "**Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana**" (ABVKY) by another one year up to June 30, 2021 and relaxed the eligibility conditions for the period between **March 24, 2020** and **December 31, 2020**.

### **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports restores recognition of Archery Association of India:**

- Ministry of **Youth Affairs & Sports** has restored the government recognition to **Archery Association of India** as a **National Sports Federation** for promotion and regulation of Archery Sport in the country.
- Government recognition of AAI was withdrawn **eight years** back on account of failure to conduct its elections in accordance with the **National Sports Development Code of India, 2011** (Sports Code). Government recognition of AAI will be valid for **one year**.

### **Government has issues draft 'Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020' for public consultation:**

- Central government has issued draft '**Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020**' for public consultation. The proposed legislation aims to repeal and replace the **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**.

- The Bill has been drafted with the primary aim of promoting the growth of **Indian shipping industry** by incorporating the best practices adopted by other advanced countries like the **US, Japan, UK, Singapore** and **Australia**, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs 33rd PRAGATI interaction:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **33rd PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)** meeting. During the meeting, multiple projects, grievances, and programs were reviewed.

### Indian Railway launched a completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS) for employees:

- **Indian Railway Board** Chairman **V K Yadav** has launched PF Advance module **Human Resource Management System (HRMS)**. It enables Railway employees to check their **PF balance** and apply for **PF advance online**.

### Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches 'National Portal for Transgender Persons' and 'Garima Greh':

- **National Portal for Transgender Persons** has been developed for providing e-services for applying **Certificate** and **Identity card** to transgender Persons. **Garima Greh** will shelter Transgender with all basic facilities such as shelter, food, medical care, recreational facilities, etc.

### Larsen & Toubro bags over Rs 7, 000-crore order to construct part of Bullet Train Project:

- L&T Construction has secured mega contract from the **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL)** to construct **87.569 km** of the MAHSR project. The approximately **508 km** will cover **Maharashtra**, Union Territory of **Dadra and Nagar Haveli** and **Gujarat**, with **12 stations** along the route.

### Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami launches 'Thee' app:

- **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister **Edappadi K. Palaniswami** launched '**Thee**', a mobile phone-based application for the benefit of the public to reach out to the **Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services** when in need.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7477 Cr in Uttar Pradesh:

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of **16 National Highway projects** worth **7477 crore** rupees in **Uttar Pradesh**.

- These road projects worth **505 kilometers** will enhance better connectivity, convenience, and economic growth in the state. Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** was also present at the virtual function.

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

- **NITI Aayog** released "**Mitigation & Management of Covid-19- Practices from India's States & Union Territories**" 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.

### Goa Government to install statue of Football Legend Diego Maradona:

- **Goa** government will install the life-size statue of late **Argentine** football legend **Diego Maradona** in the coastal belt of North district by **2021**. The statue would be installed somewhere at **Candolim or Calangute** to inspire the football playing youth.

### Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan laid foundation stone for CBG plant in Bagalkot district of Karnataka:

- Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel **Dharmendra Pradhan** laid the foundation stone for the **Leafiniti Bioenergy's CBG plant** in **Bagalkot** district of **Karnataka**, through video conference. This plant will utilize **200 TPD** of press mud and will be commissioned at the estimated cost of about 42 crores.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman holds 5th review meeting on CAPEX of CPSEs to boost expenditure in economy:

- Finance Minister Nirmala **Sitharaman** held a Video Conference with Secretaries of the Ministries of Power, Mines and Department of Atomic Energy and the CMDs of **10 Central Public Sector Enterprises** CPSEs of these Ministries, to review the **Capital Expenditure** (CAPEX) in this financial year.
- **Mrs Sitharaman** stated that more efforts are still required to achieve the target of **75 per cent** CAPEX by third Quarter and more than 100 per cent by fourth quarter of the **Fiscal year 2020-21**.

### Ladakh gets largest solar project at Leh Indian Air Force station:

- Union Territory of **Ladakh** has got the **largest solar power project** setup under the Centre's '**Make in India**' initiative at **Leh IAF station** to provide sustainable energy alternative to fossil fuel and traditional methods of energy generation.



- The project namely '**Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Powerplant 1.5 MW**' has been completed within 12 months well before the completion deadline of March 31, 2021. The approximate cost of setting up the project is around **Rs 122 crore**.

### **Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launches India Climate Change Knowledge Portal:**

- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Prakash Javadekar** launched the **India Climate Change Knowledge Portal**. The portal will have all the major steps the Government is taking at both national and international levels to address the **climate change issues**.

### **UN World Food Programme Signed LoU with Rajasthan to Achieve Food & Nutritional Security Goals:**

- **United Nations World Food Programme** (WFP) signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with **Rajasthan** government for the proposed participation to achieve **Food and Nutritional Security Goals**.

### **Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches Nafed's Honey FPO Programme:**

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually inaugurated the Honey **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)** Programs in **five states** which will be set up with the help of **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**.
- The areas covered under the programme are Sundarbans in **West Bengal**, East Champaran in **Bihar**, Mathura in **Uttar Pradesh**, Morena in **Madhya Pradesh**, and Bharatpur in **Rajasthan**.

### **Union Environment Ministry Approves Construction of Rs 1, 100 Crore Song Dam Drinking Water Project in Dehradun:**

- Union Ministry of **Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project worth **Rs 1100 crore** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. This scheme will provide **24-hour drinking water** to the city of Dehradun and will give a rebirth to **River Rispana**.

### **Assam Celebrates Lachit Diwas:**

- **Assam** celebrities **Lachit Divas** on **24 November** at various parts of the state honoring the memory of Ahom general Lachit Borphukan, who defeated the **Mughal army** on the banks of the Brahmaputra in the Battle of Saraighat in **1671**.

### Assam proposes 6th national park "Raimona National Park" in militancy ravaged forest:

- Assam environment and forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya unveiled the map for state's sixth proposed national park "**Raimona National Park**" at **Kokrajhar**. Assam already have five national parks, **Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang, Dibru-Saikhowa**.

### EPFO Extends Deadline to Submit Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra) for Pensioners till February 28, 2021:

- Employees Provident Fund Organisation** (EPFO) has extended the time limit for the submission of the **Jeevan Praman Patra** or **Life Certificate** up to **February 28, 2021**.

### PFC and REC to provide Rs 8, 520 crore loan to SJVN's power project in Bihar:

- State-owned **PFC (Power Finance Corporation Ltd)** and **REC (Rural Electrification Corporation)** have signed an initial pact with **SJVN** to provide **Rs 8, 520 crore** worth loan for a thermal power plant in **Buxar, Bihar**.
- The **Buxar thermal power** project is expected to be commissioned in **2023-24** and generate approximately **9, 828 Million Units** of energy to meet the future power requirement of Bihar and other states.

### SpiceJet launches dedicated freighter services to Leh in Ladakh:

- Airline major **SpiceJet** launched dedicated freighter services connecting **Leh** with the rest of the country. Accordingly, the airline operated its **first freighter flight** from **Delhi to Leh** carrying 13 tonnes of cargo supplies.
- The flight was operated by **SpiceXpress**, the dedicated cargo arm of SpiceJet, whereas a **Boeing 737 freighter** has been deployed on this route.

### LG Manoj Sinha releases Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan" first ever publication in 5 official languages of J&K:

- Lieutenant Governor of **Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha** has released Panchayat Newsletter "**Parivartan**" a first ever publication in five official languages of J&K at **Raj Bhavan, Jammu**.
- LG appreciated the initiative of the **Department of Rural Development** and **Panchayati Raj** for coming out with a publication in all the five official languages of J&K, viz **Dogri, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi, and English**.

### Jammu and Kashmir, Mission Youth inks MoUs with BSE to spread financial literacy:

- Asia's oldest stock exchange, **BSE** has signed **four MoUs** with **Mission Youth, Jammu & Kashmir** government to spread financial awareness, support economic development, and encourage **sustainable livelihood** in the Union Territory.



- The MoUs were signed by the representatives of BSE and CEO, Mission Youth, **Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah** in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha**.

### Prime Minister Modi inaugurates six-lane widening project of the Varanasi-Prayagraj section of NH-19:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurates **six-lane widening project** of the **Handia (Prayagraj)** and **Rajatalab (Varanasi)** section of National Highway 19. The **73-km** stretch of the newly widened and six laned **NH-19**, made with a total outlay of **Rs 2, 447 crore** is expected to reduce the travel time between Prayagraj and Varanasi by **one hour**.
- **Dev Deepawali** has become a **world-famous festival** of light and fervour in **Varanasi**, is celebrated on every Purnima of the Kartik month.

### SIDBI signed MoU with Tamil Nadu government to develop MSME ecosystem:

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tamil Nadu government** to develop the **MSME ecosystem** in the state.

### Andhra Pradesh government Launched "Jagananna Thodu scheme" to provide interest-free loan to small traders and artisans:

- Chief minister **Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched **"Jagananna Thodu scheme"** extending **zero-interest loans** to vendors and artisan across the state. He paid **Rs 905 crore** to banks to extend Rs 10, 000 interest-free loan to 9.05 lakh small traders. Through this, about **₹1, 000 crore** is lent to 10 lakh people.
- QR based **Smart ID cards** will be provided to vendors to avail the benefits. The scheme will be monitored by **Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP)** & Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) of **Andhra Pradesh** government.

### Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal inaugurates newly electrified Dhigawara-Bandikui section of North Western Railway:

- Union Minister of Railways Shri **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated newly electrified **Dhigawara-Bandikui** section of **North Western Railway (NWR)** in the state of Rajasthan. The section is on **Delhi-Ajmer** route via **Jaipur** where electrification work has recently been completed.

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

- **Government of India** has announced the **third stimulus** package of **Rs. 900 Crore** a period of **12 months** for the **'Mission COVID Suraksha'**. The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission. This grant will be provided to the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** for Research & Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines.

### **Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda to launch 10-day-long 'Aadi Mahotsav':**

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** launched the **10-day long Aadi Mahotsav**. It is a unique celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, and commerce. It commenced in **2017**. It aims to familiarize people with the rich & diverse craft & culture of tribal communities.
- Minister of State for Tribal Affairs **Renuka Singh**, Minister for Tribal Development, Madhya Pradesh **Meena Singh** and TRIFED chairman Ramesh Chand Meena would be the guests of honour for this Virtual inauguration.

### **Punjab government signs MoU with International Agency I-DAIR for Digital Infrastructure in Health Sector:**

- **Punjab** Government inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International **Digital Health & Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative** (I-DAIR), hosted at the Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- This collaborative Endeavor would provide **Digital Opportunity** to nearly **30 million Punjabis** to reinvent and reinvigorate the delivery of health services in the world.

### **India signs \$133 million loan agreement with ADB to strengthen power distribution sector in Meghalaya:**

- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) and the **Government of India** signed a **\$132.8 million** loan agreement to strengthen the power distribution system of **Meghalaya**. To modernize the distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to **households, industries, and businesses** in India's northeastern state of Meghalaya.

### **India to have 5G subscriptions by 2026:**

- **India** has the highest average monthly mobile data traffic per smart phone, is expected to surpass **350 million 5G** subscriptions by **2026**, accounting for **27%** of all mobile subscriptions in the country, according to a report by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson.

### **PM Narendra Modi virtually attends 8th Convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** Virtually addressed the students on 8th Convocation day of **Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of '**45 MW Production Plant of Monocrystalline Solar Photo Voltaic Panel**' and '**Centre of Excellence on Water Technology**'.

### Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot inaugurates India's first "Organ donor Memorial" in Jaipur:

- **Rajasthan** Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** inaugurated the country's first **Organ Donor Memorial** in **Jaipur**, on National Organ Donation Day (November 27).
- The organ donor memorial has been built near SMS Hospital by the Mohan Foundation Jaipur Citizens Forum and the **Jaipur Municipal Corporation**.

### Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Inaugurates Suryadhar Lake in Dehradun:

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated the **Suryadhar lake** at **Doiwala** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**. The Suryadhar lake is located at the trijunction of Haridwar, Rishikesh and Dehradun, and has been built at a cost of **Rs 50.25 crore**.
- The lake is 550 metres long, 28 metres wide and 10 metres deep with a capacity of **77,000 cubic metres**.

### West Bengal launches massive 'Duare Sarkar' outreach campaign ahead of 2021 assembly Election:

- **West Bengal** Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has launched a massive outreach programme '**Duare Sarkar**' (government at doorsteps) to ensure that people avail the benefits of **11 state-run welfare schemes** and also to hear out their grievances related to the programmes.
- The campaign will be conducted in four phases, with slogan '**jar jekhane darkar, asche apnar duare sarkar**' (government will be at your doorsteps whenever you need it).

### Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches Orunodoi scheme:

- **Assam** Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched '**Orunodoi**' scheme, the biggest **Direct Benefit Transfer** scheme of the State at a programme held at Numali Jalah Parade Ground in **Amingaon, Assam**. The scheme has been rolled out with **17 lakh** odd families as beneficiaries at present as the government would transfer **Rs. 830 per month**.

### Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol:

- The high-octane premium grade petrol being marketed under the brand '**XP-100**' developed by **Indian Oil Corporation Limited** will be made available in 10 cities across the country including the national capital in the **first phase**.

### Goa CM Pramod Sawant Launches One-Time Power Bill Settlement Scheme 2020:

- **Goa** Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** launched a **One-Time Settlement Scheme (OTS)** a state welfare scheme of the Department of Electricity to provide waivers for the pending **electricity bill payments**.

### **Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa laid the foundation stone for a 11.5-megawatt power plant run on municipal waste at Bidadi:**

- **Karnataka** Chief Minister **B S Yediyurappa** laid the foundation stone for a **11.5-megawatt** power plant based on municipal waste in Bidadi, a town in **Bengaluru**. It is first of its kind power plant in the state being set up by the **Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)** and will help in converting **600 tonnes** of municipal waste into 11.5-megawatt energy.

### **Maharashtra's first child-friendly police station 'Balsnehi' inaugurated in Pune:**

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in **Maharashtra**, **Pune City** Police started the '**Balsnehi (child-friendly) police station**' on the premises of the Lashkar police station in **Pune Camp**.

### **Union Minister Prakash Javadekar virtually participates in Industry Transition Leadership Summit:**

- Union Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Information & Broadcasting and Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise Minister **Prakash Javadekar** virtually participates in the **Industry Transition Leadership Summit (LeadIT)** in **New Delhi**.

### **ADB approves \$430 million financing facility to improve power supply in Uttar Pradesh:**

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$430 million** multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) to improve the quality and reliability of electricity supply in **Uttar Pradesh**.

### **ADB sign \$50 million loan agreement to boost digital platforms in West Bengal:**

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** have inked **\$50 million** policy-based loan agreement to improve **financial management** procedures and operational efficiencies in **West Bengal**.
- The project '**West Bengal Public Finance Management Investment Programme**' will help to achieve more fiscal savings, promote informed decision making, and improve service delivery in the state.

### **Kolkata's Majerhat Bridge Named "Jai Hind" To Mark Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th Birth Anniversary:**

- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurates the newly built **Majerhat bridge** (650-metre) in Kolkata as "**Jai Hind**" bridge to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of **Subhas Chandra Bose**.

### **Power Minister R K Singh launches 'Green Charcoal Hackathon' to deal with farm fires and residue:**

- Minister of State (Independent charge) for Power and New and Renewable Energy **R K Singh** launched the **Green Charcoal Hackathon**, which would focus on deliberating on technology to convert farm residue into green charcoal.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver the keynote address at IIT 2020 Global Summit:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be delivering a keynote address at the **IIT-2020 Global Summit**, organised by **PanIIT USA**. The summit will focus on issues like the global economy, technology, innovation, health, habitat conservation, and universal education. The theme of this year's summit is '**The Future is Now**'.

### **9th International Sand Art Festival and 31<sup>st</sup> Konark festival begins in Odisha:**

- The 9th edition of the **International Sand Art Festival** kicked-off at the **Chandrabhaga Beach** of Konark. The 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the **Konark Festival** also kicked-off in **Odisha**. World-renowned artist, **Sudarsan Pattnaik** has been appointed as the **Chief Curator** of the festival. This year, the main themes of the sculptures were '**Environment**' and '**Covid-19**'.

### **Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 15 Highway Projects Worth Rs 4, 127-Crore in Nagaland:**

- Union minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for **Rs 4, 127-crore** highway projects in **Nagaland** in a virtual ceremony, the government. The national highway projects pertain to a total length of **270 kilometers**.

### **Odisha approves Single Emergency Helpline Number '112':**

- Odisha Government** approved the **Unified Emergency helpline number 112** to provide all forms of police assistance to people in **distress**. Launching the service Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** said the consolidated helpline number would enable police to rush services to people in an efficient manner.

### **Education Ministry sets up a task force headed by Amit Khare for preparing roadmap on technical education in mother tongue:**

- Education Ministry** set up a task force for preparing a roadmap on imparting technical education under the chairmanship of Secretary of Higher Education **Amit Khare**. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Education Minister, **Ramesh Nishank**.

### **Phase 8 of Vande Bharat Mission extended till December 31:**

- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson **Anurag Srivastava** stated that **Phase VIII** of **Vande Bharat Mission** has been extended till **December 31, 2020**. Under this extended phase called Phase 8 Plus, **897 international flights** have been scheduled to operate from **15 countries** with a capacity to repatriate an estimated **5 lakh** people.

### Venkaiah Naidu releases commemorative postage stamp in honour of late Prime Minister, Shri I K Gujral:

- The Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** paid rich tributes to the late Prime Minister, **Inder Kumar Gujral** while releasing through virtual mode a commemorative **Postage Stamp** in his honor.
- Shri Gujral was the **12th Prime Minister** of India, served as the Prime Minister from **April 1997-March 1998**.

### Andhra Pradesh government Achieve the target to provide safe drinking water to all by 2024:

- Andhra Pradesh** Governor **Biswa Bhusan Harichandan** participated as Chief Guest at the "**Hygiene Matters**" seventh **WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)** Conclave organised by **UNICEF** and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

### Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH decides to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council:

- Ministries of **Commerce and Industry** and **AYUSH** have decided to work together to set up an **Export Promotion Council** to boost AYUSH exports. This decision was taken in a joint review of AYUSH trade and industry by Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** and AYUSH Minister **Shripad Yesso Naik**.

### NHPC to commission 2, 000 MW hydropower project on Subansiri, Assam by March 2022:

- Public Sector Unit major **NHPC** (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) said the **2, 000 MW Subansiri hydropower project**, which was stalled for nearly 8 years will be commissioned by **March 2022**.
- Construction work of the ambitious project at **Gerukamukh** along the **Assam-Arunachal Pradesh** border on **Subansiri river**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually Inaugurates Construction Work of Agra Metro Project:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the construction of the **Agra Metro Project** via videoconferencing. This project is spread across two corridors and will boost '**Ease of Living**' for the people of Agra as well as benefit tourists who visit this vibrant city.



- The estimated cost of the project will be **Rs 8, 379.62 cr** which will be completed in **5 years**. The Agra Metro project comprises two corridors with a total length of **29.4 km**.

### ADB approves \$190 million loan for upgrade of Bengaluru power distribution system:

- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved a **USD 190 million** (over Rs 1, 400 crore) loan for modernisation and up-gradation of the power distribution system in Karnataka's capital city of **Bengaluru**.
- The funding for the Bengaluru **Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution** Project by ADB includes a **USD 100 million** sovereign loans and a **USD 90 million** without sovereign guarantee loan to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).

### Ministry of AYUSH to develop Nisarg Gram campus at Pune as the 21st Century abode of Naturopathy:

- Union Ministry of **Ayush** has announced that the upcoming new campus of the **National Institute of Naturopathy** (NIN), **Pune** will be named as **Nisarg Gram**.

### West Bengal government expands 'Swasthya Sathi' health scheme to include all:

- **West Bengal** government had decided to enrol at least **7.5 crore** people but with the expansion, every family in West Bengal will be included in the "**Swasthya Sathi Health**" Scheme. The annual expense of Swasthya Sathi health scheme is **Rs. 2, 000 crores**. The scheme will be applicable from **December 1, 2020**.

### QRMP scheme launched for GST payers with turnover up to Rs 5 crore:

- The government has launched the **Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes** (QRMP) scheme for small taxpayers under the GST system. Taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of up to **Rs 5 crore** in the preceding financial year and have filed their **October GSTR-3B** (sales) return by November 30, 2020, are eligible for this scheme.

### Government Makes it Mandatory to Mention 8-digit HSN Code in Tax Invoice for 49 Chemical Based Products:

- The government has made it mandatory to mention **8-digit HSN** or **tariff code** for **49 chemical**-based products while issuing Goods and Services Tax (GST) invoice, a move expert feel is aimed at curbing tax evasion.
- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** (CBIC) made it for a registered person to mention **eight numbers** of digits of **HSN Codes** in a tax invoice issued by him. Currently, businesses mention up to **4-digit tariff code** while issuing invoices.

### Uttar Pradesh's Dandupur railway station to be renamed as Maa Barahi Devi Dham:

- The Union government has given its consent after which **Uttar Pradesh** chief minister **Yogi Adityanath** gave his nod to the renaming of the railway station. The Dandupur railway station situated between **Pratapgarh** and **Badshahpur** on **Lucknow-Varanasi** rail section will now be named **Maa Barahi Devi Dham**.

### Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses ICAI's Startup Manthan 2.0:

- Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** has introduced several benefits to encourage and **boost startups**. Addressing the ICAI's Startup **Manthan 2.0**, he stated that the government is constantly providing inputs and impetus to the Startup ecosystem to help them expand their base.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually address India Mobile Congress 2020 virtually:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address at the virtual **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2020**. IMC 2020 is being organised by the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, and the **Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)**.
- The aim of IMC 2020 is to align PM Modi's vision to promote '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**', '**Digital Inclusivity**', '**Sustainable Development**', **entrepreneurship** and **innovation**.

### Historical fort cities of Gwalior, Orchha in Madhya Pradesh included in UNESCO world heritage cities list:

- The historical fort cities of **Gwalior** and **Orchha** in **Madhya Pradesh** have been included in the list of **UNESCO's world heritage cities** under its The **World Heritage Cities Programme**.

### Union Minister Harsh Vardhan virtually inaugurates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020 Conference:

- The Minister of Science and Technology and Vice President of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), **Dr Harsh Vardhan** virtually inaugurated the **2<sup>nd</sup> TCGA 2020** conference in New Delhi.

### Central Government recognized Two New Zoos in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh:

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Prakash Javadekar** chaired 37th General Body meeting of **Central Zoo Authority** granted recognition to two new zoos one the **Rajgir Zoo Safari** in Nalanda, **Bihar** and **Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan** in Gorakhpur, **Uttar Pradesh**.

### Union Minister Kiren Rijiju launches 2nd edition of 'Fit India Cyclothon':

- Minister of State of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the second edition of '**Fit India Cyclothon**' via social media. The mega cycling event held **25 days** in the month of **December 2020**.

### Mizoram government launches livelihood generation project for migrant workers:

- Mizoram** chief minister **Zoramthanga** launched a **Rs 3.3 crores** project under **Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC)** to **assist migrant workers**, who lost their jobs outside the state due to the ongoing pandemic.
- The project will have seven components to assist the **migrant workers** for **livelihood generation**.

### Uttar Pradesh government sign MoU with IWAI to promote water tourism:

- Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Inland Waterways Authority (IWAI)**, Government of India, to promote and encourage the tourism industry by developing **river tourism** in the state.

### West Bengal government Approves Construction Of State's First Deep Sea Port in Tajpur:

- West Bengal** Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** announced that the state cabinet has approved the construction of a deep seaport in **Tajpur, West Bengal**. The Port will be built at a cost of **Rs 15, 000 crore** and will generate employment for **25, 000 people**.

### Cabinet approves PM-WANI scheme to provide free internet service through WiFi networks:

- The Union Cabinet approved **PM-WANI (Prime Minister WiFi Access Network Interface)**, a key scheme in the telecom sector to expand the internet coverage across the length and breadth of the country. Union Telecom Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** stated that the **PM-WANI** was an extension of the Centre's vision of **digital empowerment**.

### PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament House Building under the Central Vista Project:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the New **Parliament Building** at the **Sansad Margin Parliament Complex**. The new building is an intrinsic part of the vision of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The **four-storied** New Parliament Building is to be built in an area of **64500 sq. m** at an estimated cost of ₹ 971 crores, to be completed in time to commemorate India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day.

### Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with the Survey of India for the historic land survey:

- Andhra Pradesh** government exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Survey of India (SoI)** for taking up the land resurvey christened '**YSR Jagananna**

**Saswath Bhoo Hakku-Bhoo Raksha Pathakam'**, in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. A comprehensive land survey in Andhra Pradesh is being taken after **100 years**.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-PLUS):

- Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** signed the joint declaration by the **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus** (ADMM-Plus) on strategic security vision. ADMM Plus has grown to become the fulcrum of **peace, stability**, and rules-based order in the ASEAN region.

### Cabinet approves Rs. 23, 000 crores for the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment:

- The Union Cabinet has approved **Rs. 22, 810 crores** for the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)** to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivise the creation of new employment opportunities during the COVID-19 recovery phase under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0**.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Rs. 266-crore three-lane Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the three-lane **1.5 km** long **Koilwar bridge** over **Sone river** in **Bihar** through video conferencing.
- A sum of **Rs. 266 crores** have been spent on the bridge. The existing two-lane bridge for both rail and road traffic is **138 years old**. The bridge is a major road for transport between **Bihar** and **Uttar Pradesh**.

### Lt. Governor of Ladakh RK Mathur inaugurates the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Ladakh Literature Festival 2020:

- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh **R K Mathur** virtually inaugurated the second edition of **Ladakh Literature Festival, 2020**, in **Leh**. The three-day festival will host a series of talks, the importance of the region, the ancient knowledge of Ladakh, **folk music, cultural dance, geology** and **wildlife of Himalayas** and several interesting topics on YouTube and Facebook streaming.

### Maharashtra government launches 'Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme' with MGNREGA:

- **Maharashtra** government launched "**Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme**" named after Former Agriculture Minister and the President of **Nationalist Congress Party** **Sharad Pawar** who is also the chief architect of the ruling **Maha Vikas Aghadi**.

### **Odisha government launches "Eco-Retreat" programme at 5 locations for the tourism sector:**

- The **Odisha government** Tourism Department launched the second edition of its flagship "**Eco-Retreat**" programme at five locations viz. **Konark, Bhitarkanika, Daringibadi, Hirakud** and **Satkosia**. The event was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** through virtual mode.

### **Union Jal Shakti Minister inaugurates 5<sup>th</sup> India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) 2020:**

- **5<sup>th</sup> edition of India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)** is organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and Center for **Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)** with the theme of comprehensive analysis and holistic management of local rivers and water bodies with a focus on **Arth Ganga** – river conservation synchronised development.

### **National Centre for Divyang Empowerment inaugurated at CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet near Hyderabad:**

- Union Minister of State for Home **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated the National Centre for **Divyang Empowerment** at the CRPF (**Central Armed Police Forces**) Group Centre in **Hakimpet** near **Hyderabad**.

### **Uttar Pradesh government launches scheme for Tharu tribe:**

- **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched a scheme to take the unique culture of the **Tharu tribes** all over the world. The intention of this scheme is to put the tribal villages on a tourism map. This will **create jobs** and bring **economic independence** to the tribal population in the region.
- The state government is working to connect Tharu villages in the districts of **Balrampur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur** and **Pilibhit** which borders **Nepal**.

### **Lakshadweep Becomes Country's First Union Territory to be declared 100% Organic:**

- The **Ministry of Agriculture** had declared **Lakshadweep** as India's first Union Territory to become **100 Percentage** organics. After **Sikkim**, Lakshadweep becomes the first Union Territory to be 100% organic as all farming is carried out without **synthetic fertilisers** and pesticides, providing access for making agriculture a more **environment-friendly** activity.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi address FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting and inaugurates FICCI Annual Expo 2020:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** delivered the inaugural address at FICCI's **93rd Annual General Meeting** and Annual Convention. The event was organised by **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**. The theme for the FICCI 93rd AGM is '**Inspired India**'.

### **Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshiyari inaugurates 30th Annual Global Conclave of IISSM:**

- Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** inaugurated the 30th Annual Global Conclave of the International Institute of Security and Safety Management (IISSM) virtually from Raj Bhavan in **Mumbai**.
- This 2-day conclave theme is "**COVID-19 – From Survival to Revival: Emerging Paradigms in Security and Safety Services**".

### **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for NAEC Pvt Ltd in the Hingna industrial area of Nagpur:**

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone for **Nagpur Auto & Engineering Cluster Pvt Ltd** (NAEC) in Hingna Industrial Area of **Nagpur, Maharashtra**. The cluster approved under the Cluster Development Plan of MSME comprises Micro Small Enterprises in the **Auto & Engineering Sector**.

### **Prime Minister Modi Laid Foundation Stones of Mega Desalination & Renewables Projects at Mandvi in Kutch, Gujarat:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of several development projects in **Kutch, Gujarat**. These projects include a desalination plant, a **hybrid renewable energy park**, and a fully automated milk processing and packaging plant.
- The Desalination Plant at Mandvi will have a capacity of **100 MLD**. It will complement the **Narmada Grid, Sauni network** & treatment of wastewater.

### **NITI Aayog releases' Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India':**

- **NITI Aayog** released a white paper, '**Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India**.' The white paper laid out India's vision for public health surveillance by integrating the **three-tiered** public health system into **Ayushman Bharat**.
- **NITI Aayog** Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar** released the white paper along with Member (Health) **Vinod K Paul**, and CEO **Amitabh Kant**.

### **Ola to set up Rs.2, 400 crore world's largest scooter factory in Tamil Nadu:**

- Cab aggregator **Ola** Inks an MoU with the government of **Tamil Nadu** to be set up its first factory in **Hosur** with an investment of **Rs 2, 400 crore**. It will be the largest scooter manufacturing facility in the world.
- The development is part of the company's plan to foray into electric **scooter manufacturing** and expand its services to **smaller cities** and towns across the country.



### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute at National War Memorial on 49<sup>th</sup> Vijay Diwas:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** paid tribute at the National War Memorial in **New Delhi** on the **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of **1971** that made Bangladesh an independent country. The day is celebrated as '**Vijay Diwas**' on **December 16, 2020**.
- The entire year is being celebrated as '**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**' to commemorate the 1971 **India-Pakistan war's** golden jubilee.

### **Gujarat Becomes first Indian state to have Modernise Fire Safety Certification Process:**

- **Gujarat** to become the **first Indian state** that has approved a system to modernize the fire safety certification process. The system has been designed by the **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)** under its director-general **PK Taneja**.
- **Fire Safety COP** Portal is covering facilitation and empanelment of **Fire Safety Officers (FSOs)** and approval and renewal of **Fire Safety Certificate (FSC)** along with the provision of online payment.

### **UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to be the chief guest at Republic Day Parade 2021:**

- **United Kingdom** Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** will be the chief guest at the **Republic Day** celebrations in **January 2021**. British Foreign Secretary **Dominic Raab** announced after he met with External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**. India will be observing 72nd Republic Day on January 26, 2021.

### **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually chaired the 23<sup>rd</sup> Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in New Delhi:**

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the 23<sup>rd</sup> **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** meeting through video conferencing in **New Delhi**.
- The meeting reviewed the major **macroeconomic developments** and **Financial Stability issues** (global and domestic) with special reference to vulnerability related issues. It noted that the **policy measures** taken by the Government of India.

### **Norway Research Institute signs an MoU with the Clean Ganga Mission for development of sludge management framework:**

- **Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research** has signed an MoU with **cGanga**, a think-tank of the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, to develop a sludge management framework in India.
- Norway intends to deepen its relationship with India, especially in preventing **climate change** and conservation of the environment stated by Norwegian Diplomat **Karina Asbjørnsen**.

### Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launched 'YSR Free Crop Insurance scheme' for farmers:

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the '**YSR Free Crop Insurance**' scheme which directly credited **Rs. 1, 252 crores** into the bank accounts of **9.48 lakh** farmers who have lost their crops in 2019.
- The insurance is expected to cover a crop area of approximately **1.14 crore hectares**. The crop insurance for 2020 will be paid in **March/April 2021**.

### Ladakh Buddhist Association celebrates 'Losar' festival in Leh:

- '**Losar**' is a festival celebrated to mark the beginning of the new year of the **Buddhist community**. It is celebrated in the **11<sup>th</sup> month** of the **Tibetan calendar**, which can mean November, December, January, or February. Tibetans in **Himachal Pradesh** celebrate this as well.

### Three day long Migratory Birds Festival conducted in Bhagalpur, Bihar:

- **Bihar** is set to become North India's first "**BIRD RINGING STATION**" to observe, research and monitor migratory birds. It is the fourth state in the country after **Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Orissa**.
- Bihar's 1<sup>st</sup> Migratory Birds Festival was organized for 3 days in **Bhagalpur, Bihar**.

### Nehru Zoological Park becomes the first zoo in India to get ISO Quality Management Standards certification:

- The **Nehru Zoological Park** in **Hyderabad** has become the first zoo in the country to receive ISO 9001:2015 **Quality Management Standards** (QMS) Certification from the **ASCB** (Accreditation Service for Certifying Bodies), **United Kingdom**.

### Quality Council of India launches Recognition Scheme for Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies:

- **Quality Council of India** (QCI), at the behest of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has launched a scheme for the approval of **Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies**.
- The scheme aims to scale up **Hygiene Rating** by increasing the number of recognised Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies in the country.

### Defence Ministry approves the acquisition of military hardware worth Rs 28, 000 crores:

- The **Defence Ministry** has given its nod for the acquisition of weapon systems worth **Rs 28, 000 crores**, including an indigenous programme to develop a large **Airborne Early Warning and Control System** (AWACS) and next-generation offshore patrol vessels.

### **Union MSME minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 23<sup>rd</sup> Hunar Haat of indigenous master artisans in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh:**

- The Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **23<sup>rd</sup> Hunar Haat** of indigenous master artisans in **Rampur, Uttar Pradesh**. It is a platform for products made by **traditional artisans & craftsmen** from all over India.

### **Union MoRTH Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 33 highway projects in Karnataka:**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for **33 highway projects** in **Karnataka**.
- The projects are worth **₹11, 000 crores** to build **1, 200 kilometres** of highways stretch in the state. These roads will enhance better **connectivity, convenience,** and **economic growth** in the state.

### **Karnataka Government signs an MoU with the British Council to strengthen education and research exchange:**

- **Karnataka State Higher Education Council** (KSCHE) and the **British Council** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate English language proficiency among students. It is a first-of-its-kind **three years** MoU involving collaboration on leadership development in higher educational institutions.

### **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches "Pareshram portal" of the Labour Department:**

- Odisha's Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched "**PAReSHRAM**," a new portal of the Labour and Employee State Insurance Department. **Twenty-two** online services were launched as part of the **5T governance** of the state government through video-conferencing.

### **Skill India establishes the first centre of excellence for skill development in the power sector in Gurugram, Haryana:**

- Skill India has established its 1<sup>st</sup> **Centre of Excellence** for **Skill Development in the power sector** at the National Institute of Solar Energy, **Gurugram Haryana**. It will focus on creating a pool of highly skilled trainers & assessors for further training.

### **Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addressed the 75<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest diseases (NATCON):**

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** virtually addressed the platinum jubilee of the **National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases (NATCON)**.

- The Government is conducting the **world's largest National TB prevalence survey** with a massive sample size of **5, 00, 000**.

### India and ADB sign a 4.21-million-dollar PRF facility for the preparation of infrastructure development projects in Tripura:

- The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) signed a **4.21-million-dollar Project Readiness Financing** (PRF) facility to prepare infrastructure development projects to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in **Tripura**.

### National Infrastructure pipeline projects worth Rs. 44 lakh crores under implementation:

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari**, stated that the **National Infrastructure Pipeline** (NIP) infrastructure projects worth **₹ 44 lakh crores** are currently under implementation.
- The project has a **39%** investment by the Central Government, a **40%** investment by the respective states, and **21%** investment by the private sector.

### Vice President Venkaiah Naidu virtually inaugurates the 12<sup>th</sup> GRIHA Summit:

- Vice President of India **Venkaiah Naidu** virtually inaugurated the 12<sup>th</sup> **GRIHA** (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) Summit, organised by the **GRIHA Council** from **Hyderabad**. The Summit was held under the theme '**Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats**.'

### ADB and India signs \$300 million loans to upgrade the power distribution network in the state of Uttar Pradesh:

- The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) and the Government of India signed a **\$300 million** loan to upgrade the rural power distribution networks to provide reliable electricity supply to consumers in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.

### Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath named Jewar Airport as 'Noida International Greenfield Airport':

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has approved the name, design and logo of the '**Noida International Greenfield Airport**' which will be constructed in Noida's Jewar by **2023-24**.

### SIDBI joins hands with the Assam government for the development of MSME Ecosystem:

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India** (SIDBI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Assam Government** to develop the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** (MSME) ecosystem in the state.

- The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will support the **Assam Government** in making necessary interventions for enhancing the efficacy of MSMEs in the State.

### Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches India-Australia Economic Strategy Report:

- Addressing **CII's session** on Enhancing India Australia Bilateral Economic and Trade Relationship, **Piyush Goyal**, the Union Minister of Railways, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution has launched **the 'India-Australia Economic Strategy Report.'**

### Handicrafts exhibition 'Raag-Bhopali' held in Gauhar Mahal, Madhya Pradesh:

- **Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to introduce a new brand named '**Raag-Bhopali**' to give a new international identity to Bhopal's handicrafts. The exhibition is being organised in **Gauhar Mahal, Bhopal**.
- **Bhopal** is famous for its **zari, zardozi**, and **jute work**.

### Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurates two TRIBES India outlets in Kolkata and Gwalior:

- The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** has inaugurated **two TRIBES India outlets** located in **Kolkata**, West Bengal, and **Gwalior**, Madhya Pradesh. The aim is to preserve and promote the art and culture of the **tribal population**, who form roughly **8%** of the population.

### Uttar Pradesh Government launches 'Varasat' campaign to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas:

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has launched the special '**Varasat**' (natural succession) drive. It is aimed at eradicating the exploitation of the villagers in the name of Varasat of **land and property**.

### 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the North East Festival held in Guwahati, Assam:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the **North East Festival (NEF) 2020** was held in **Guwahati, Assam**. This was the first time that Guwahati has hosted the **two-day event**.
- The focus of the festival is "**growth agenda for North East post COVID19.**"

### ADB approves \$231 million loan to construct the Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power plant in Assam:

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a **\$231 million loan** for the construction of the **Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power (LKHEP)** plant in **Central Assam, India**.

- The plant will produce **120 MW** of electricity to harness water from the **Kopili river**, to address power requirements during peak demand periods.

### **Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar releases 'Status of Leopard in India 2018' report:**

- Union Environment Minister **Prakash Javadekar** released the **Status of Leopard in India 2018 report**. India's leopard population recorded an encouraging increase of **62%** in four years, from **7910** in **2014** to **12852** in **2018**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest number of leopards (3421), followed by **Karnataka** (1783) and **Maharashtra** (1690).

### **United Nations Women collaborates with the Kerala government for India's first Gender Data Hub:**

- The **Kerala government** and **UN Women** have collaborated to establish **India's first Gender Data Hub**. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**.

### **Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state in India to establish a Mega leather park in Kanpur:**

- **Uttar Pradesh** Government is set to establish **India's first** mega leather park. The mega leather park will come up in **Ramaipur** village of **Kanpur** with an investment of **Rs. 5, 850 crores**. The park, which is part of the mega leather cluster project, is likely to create **50, 000 jobs**.

### **Centre promulgates new 'Electricity Rules, 2020' to give consumers the right to 24x7 supply electricity rules:**

- The Union **Ministry of Power** issued a set of rules to ensure power consumers' rights in the country. As per the new rules, there will be **penalties** for **power distribution utilities** (discoms) for not maintaining mandated standards of services under the **Electricity (Rights of consumers) Rules, 2020**.
- The distribution licensee supply **24x7 power** to all consumers. However, the Commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like **agriculture**.

### **Uttar Pradesh launched India's First Blockchain-Enabled Rooftop Solar Trading Platform in Lucknow:**

- **Uttar Pradesh** has launched **India** and **South-Asia's first** blockchain-enabled '**peer to peer**' (P2P) trading platform for rooftop solar power. **India Smart Grid Forum** (ISGF), along with blockchain technology partner **Power Ledger**, Australia, and **Abajyon Consulting**, will execute the project.



### MPEDA launches India's First Aquafarmers Call Centre in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh:

- **Marine Products Export Development Authority** (MPEDA) has launched a first of its kind initiative **multilingual (English and Hindi) call centre** for aquafarmers at **Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh**.

### Gujarat signs MoU with Cerestra Group to establish Special Education Region at Dholera:

- The Government of **Gujarat** and **Cerestra Managers Private Limited** has signed an MoU for establishing a global level **Gujarat- Special Education Region (G-SER)** at **Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR)**. Dholera is the 1<sup>st</sup> **Greenfield Industrial City** which is being established to meet **Industrial 4.0**.

### Haryana Government signs MoU with India Accelerator to build a startup ecosystem:

- **India Accelerator** has recently entered into an MoU with Startup Haryana and the **Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (DITECH)**. The association strategically creates an ecosystem in the state that stimulates innovation and **growth of disruptive startups**. It will help in bridging the gap between **industries & startups**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates 6<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 in New Delhi:

- The **6<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival 2020 (IISF 2020)** is being organised by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences & **Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)** from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25 December 2020 in **New Delhi** virtually.

### Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan dedicates West 'Bengal's first oil and gas reserve 'Bengal Basin' to the nation:

- The Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Dharmendra Pradhan** dedicated **West 'Bengal's** first oil and gas reserve **"Bengal Basin"** to the nation.

### NWM, NYKS, and Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and Youth Affairs launched the "JSA II: Catch the Rain" Awareness Generation Campaign:

- **National Water Mission (NWM)** and Union **Ministry of Jal Shakti** in collaboration with **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** and Union **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** has launched the **"JSA II: Catch the Rain"** Awareness Generation Campaign.
- NWM has launched a campaign from **December 2020** to **March 2021** with the tag line **"catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls."**

### South 'India's first rehabilitation centre for monkeys to be set up in Telangana:

- **South 'India's first** rehabilitation centre for monkeys has come up at an estimated cost of **Rs. 2.25 crores** at **Gandi Ramanna Haritavanam** near Chincholi village of Nirmal district, **Telangana**. A primate is any mammal, including **lemurs, monkeys, apes, and humans**.

### Prime Minister Modi releases postal stamp to mark centenary celebrations at Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh:

- Prime Minister of India, **Narendra Modi** released a special postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of the **Aligarh Muslim University** (AMU). It is the first time in five decades that a prime minister has attended an AMU event as the chief guest.

### Union Minister Arjun Munda E-Launches New Tribes India Outlet at Guwahati International Airport, Assam:

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, **Arjun Munda**, has launched a new Tribes India Outlet at the Departure Lounge of **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordolai** International Airport, **Guwahati**.
- **Divine Products Private Limited** (DIVINITI) and TRIFED signed an MoU to create market-leading products and be labelled as "**TRIFED-DIVINITY Premium Range**" in New Delhi.

### Prime Minister Modi launches 'SEHAT', a health insurance scheme for Jammu-Kashmir:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** (PMJAY) **SEHAT** scheme for Jammu and Kashmir. **SEHAT** scheme stands for **Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine**, a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.

### Maharashtra signs MoUs worth ₹61, 000 crores with 25 companies under 'Magnetic Maharashtra' initiative:

- **Maharashtra** government signed an MoU worth **Rs 61, 000 crore** with **25** Indian companies in more than **15 sectors** under its '**Magnetic Maharashtra**' initiative. The MoUs signed are expected to create **2.53 lakh** jobs across the state.

### Special Postal Cover released to commemorate 25 years of Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA) in Secunderabad, Telangana:

- To commemorate the completion of **25 years** of the Controller of **Defence Accounts, Secunderabad**, a special postal cover was released by **S.Rajendra Kumar**, Chief Postmaster General, Telangana Circle in the presence of **Sanjiv Mittal**, Controller General of Defence Accounts.
- The special cover captures CDA Secunderabad's glory across the country, which has the '**Philately**' legacy alongside.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

#### **India and US extend MoU for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years:**

- **India** and **America** have Extended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years. The MoU concerning cooperation with the **Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP)**.

#### **India and Finland sign MOU for developing cooperation in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation:**

- **India** and **Finland** signed a MOU for developing cooperation between two countries in the field of **Environment protection** and **biodiversity conservation**. The MoU is a platform to further advance Indian and Finnish partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air **and water pollution; Waste management; Promotion of circular economy**.

#### **India and Bahrain Agree to Increase Defence and Maritime Security Cooperation:**

- **India** and **Bahrain** agreed to further strengthen their historic ties, including in areas of **Defence and Maritime Security**, as External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and his Bahraini counterpart **Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani** discussed the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as regional and global matters of mutual interest.

#### **United Nations Releases \$25 million for Women-led projects Battling Gender-Based Violence:**

- **United Nations** humanitarian chief **Mark Lowcock** has released **\$25 million** from the UN's emergency fund to support women-led organizations that prevent and respond to **gender-based violence** in **humanitarian settings**.

#### **Cambridge Dictionary names 'Quarantine' as Word of the Year 2020:**

- **Cambridge Dictionary** has named '**Quarantine**' as **Word of the Year 2020**. The word has been named the word of the year based on data that showed that it was one of the **most highly searched** words on the Cambridge Dictionary this year.

#### **UNDP Partners with Invest India to launch the "SDG Investor Map" for India:**

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **Invest India**, the national investment promotion agency under the Commerce & Industry Ministry, have launched **the 'SDG (sustainable development goals) Investor Map'** for India with **18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs)** in six critical sectors such as education and healthcare to help the country achieve its development goals.

### Scotland becomes First nation to provide free period products for all:

- **Scotland** became the first country to make **sanitary products free**. It is the first nation in the world to take a step against period poverty, which refers to the prevalent phenomena of being unable to **afford products** such as pads or tampons.
- In **2018, Scotland** became the first country to provide free sanitary products in **schools, colleges, and universities**.

### India partners with Israel for future with low carbon and pollution levels:

- **Israeli** Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** has committed partnership with **India** for a future with low **carbon and pollution levels**, and exuded confidence that solar energy would constitute over **25 per cent** of his country's energy supply by **2030**.

### 7th Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar:

- The **7th Joint Trade Committee** Meeting between **India** and **Myanmar** was held through virtual mode. The Meeting was co-chaired by **Dr. Than Myint**, Union Minister for Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar and **Piyush Goyal**, Commerce and Industry Minister of India.

### Arab Gulf's first coal-based power plant being developed in Dubai:

- **United Arab Emirates** is set to become the **first Arab Gulf country** to **Generate Electricity** from **coal**. The **\$3.4 bn** independent power producer (IPP) project developed with four **600MW** ultra-supercritical coal power units in the first phase. The **four units** (600MW each) are expected to come online in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively.

### India virtually hosts 19th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of Government:

- Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** chaired the 19th meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Council of Heads of Government to be hosted by **India** in virtual format.
- SCO Member States of **Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan** attends the SCO meeting.

### India and Vietnam sign implementation agreement on hydrography:

- **India** and **Vietnam** signed an **Implementation Agreement (IA)** on **hydrography** (involving measurement of depth of water, etc.,). The agreement was signed during a virtual bilateral meeting between Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and his Vietnamese counterpart General **Ngo Xuan Lich**.

### National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Participates in Trilateral Maritime Meeting in Sri Lanka:

- National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** took part in the high-level trilateral maritime dialogue among **India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives**. **Sri Lanka** is hosting the **fourth trilateral** meeting on **Maritime Security Cooperation** with India and the Maldives.
- The meeting is taking place after **six years** the last meeting was held in New Delhi in 2014.

### India and France Launches Bilateral Fast Track Mechanism in Investments:

- India and France launched a "**Bilateral Fast Track Mechanism**" in the **18th** session of **India-France Joint Committee investments**.
- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** and **French Minister Delegate** for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness **Franck Riester** also discussed ways to increase the trade and investment relations for the economic recovery after the coronavirus pandemic.

### Singapore Becomes First Country to Approve Sales of Lab-Grown Meat:

- **Singapore** has become the first country to approve sales of cultured **chicken** after the **National Food Agency** determined that it is safe for consumption, The Straits Times reported. Cultured meat is produced via cell culture, instead from slaughtered animals.

### Britain becomes first country in world to approve coronavirus vaccine "Pfizer-BioNTech":

- Britain has become the first country in the world to approve the "**Pfizer-BioNTech**" coronavirus vaccine. The British government has accepted the recommendation from the Independent **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency** (MHRA) to approve Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for use.

### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Participates at the inauguration of the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2020:

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** delivered a Keynote Address at the inauguration of the 20th Edition of **Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES)** 2020 in virtual format.
- The summit was organized by the **Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC)**. The theme for this year's event is "**Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People –Centric Economic Revival**".

### India and Suriname Hold 7th Joint Commission Meet to Review Bilateral Ties:

- The **7th India-Suriname** Joint Commission Meeting Co-Chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs **V. Muraleedharan** and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation of the Republic of **Suriname** Ambassador **Albert R. Ramdin**.

- The partnership with Suriname covers a wide range of sectors including the **power generation** and **transmission network, general supply**, and **water supply**.

### India and USA sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation:

- **India** and **the US** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Intellectual Property cooperation**. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Secretary, **Guruprasad Mohapatra**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry signed the MoU with US Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce of the US.

### New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern declares "Climate Emergency" and promises carbon neutral government by 2025:

- **New Zealand** Prime Minister **Jacinda Ardern** declared a "**Climate Emergency**" promises carbon neutral government by **2025**. **Britain** became the **first in the world** to declare a climate emergency. NZ aims to generate all energy from **Renewable Sources** by **2035**.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre:

- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare **Dr Harsh Vardhan** chaired the inaugural session of the annual conference of the **India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre 'health talks, '** under Sweden India **Nobel memorial week**.

### Indian and Russian navies conduct "PASSEX" Exercise in the eastern Indian Ocean Region:

- On the occasion of '**Navy Day**', the **Indian Navy** began a two-day **Passage Exercise** (PASSEX) with **Russian Federation Navy** (RuFN) in the **Eastern Indian Ocean Region** (IOR) aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding, and imbibing best practices between both the navies.

### India extends anti-dumping duty on steel products from China and US up to January 31, 2021:

- **India** has extended anti-dumping duty on imports of cold-rolled flat products of stainless steel of width **600-1250 mm** and above **1250 mm** of non-bonafide usage, from **China, Korea, European Union, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand**, and the **US**, till January 31, 2021.

### Bangladesh Signs First-Ever Preferential Trade Agreement with Bhutan:

- **Bangladesh** has signed first ever **Preferential Trade Agreement** (PTA) with **Bhutan** to boost **bilateral trade** between the two countries. This is the first PTA signed by Bangladesh with any country in the world since its independence in **1971**.



- **Bangladesh** Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** and her Bhutanese counterpart **Lotay Tshering** witnessed the signing ceremony by joining the event virtually from their official residences in **Dhaka** and **Thimphu**, respectively.

### **MoS for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai Virtually addressed 4th South Asia Forum on SDGs 2020:**

- **4th South Asian** Forum of **Sustainable Development Goal** (SDG) 2020 virtually organized by **UNESCAP** (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) South Asia and Pacific and Government of **Maldives**.
- Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs **Nityanand Rai** virtually addressed the forum from the Indian side. The main objective is to identify the opportunities to overcome the **challenges of disaster** and public **health risk management**.

### **Mount Everest is 8, 848.86 metres tall, say Nepal and China after remeasurement:**

- The **World's highest peak** is now taller by **86 centimeters**, Nepal and China jointly announced after remeasured **Mt. Everest** at **8, 848.86 metres**, over six decades after India conducted the previous measurement in **1954**.

### **ADB approves USD 2.5 million technical assistance for advanced biofuel development in India:**

- Manila based **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved a **USD 2.5 million** (about Rs 18 crore) technical assistance to support advanced **biofuel development** in India.
- The grant is funded from the **Asia Clean Energy Fund**, financed by the Government of **Japan** and the Republic of Korea's **e-Asia** and Knowledge Partnership Fund.
- 

### **Singapore replaces Switzerland to host the World Economic Forum in May 2021:**

- **World Economic Forum** (WEF) has decided to host its 2021 annual meeting in **Singapore**, which earlier was scheduled to take place in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**.

### **UNESCO launches State of the Education Report 2020 for India: Vocational Education First:**

- **UNESCO** virtually launches 'State of the Education Report for India 2020: **Technical and Vocational Education and Training** (TVET)', in **New Delhi**.
- The Report aims to support the Government of India which has already announced **skills development** as a key national priority under the **Skill India Mission**.

### **ADB launches USD 9 billion Covid-19 vaccine initiative for Asia-Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) members:**

- Manila Based **Asian Development Bank** has launched an initiative that will offer support to **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility** (APVAX) developing member economies to procure and deliver Covid-19 vaccines.
- **APVAX** will offer "**Rapid and Equitable Support**" to its developing members as they procure and deliver effective and safe coronavirus vaccines.

### **India and Uzbekistan inks 9 Agreements to strengthen strategic partnership:**

- Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** and President of **Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev** co-chaired a Virtual Summit between India and Uzbekistan.
- Indian Government also approved a **US \$448 million** Line of Credit for four developmental projects in **Uzbekistan** in road construction, sewerage treatment, and information technology.

### **5th India- Myanmar bilateral meeting on Drug Control Cooperation held virtually:**

- The **5th India- Myanmar** Bilateral Meeting on **Drug Control Cooperation** between the **Narcotics Control Bureau** (NCB), India and the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control, Myanmar was held virtually.

### **MoRTH inks MoU with Austria on technology cooperation in Road Infrastructure sector:**

- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** inked an MoU with the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Energy, Environment, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology of the **Republic of Austria** on Technology Cooperation in the **Road Infrastructure Sector**.
- The MoU was signed by Additional Secretary of MoRTH **K.C. Gupta**, and the Ambassador of Austria **Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer**.

### **Union Minister Harsh Vardhan Participated in 17<sup>th</sup> International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development:**

- 17<sup>th</sup> International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development entitled "**Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking stock and looking ahead in post COVID-19 crisis.**"
- This conference is jointly sponsored by **Partners in Population and Development** (PPD), the **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA), and the National Health Commission of China (as Chair of PPD).

### **Indian Embassy in Beijing launched Bollywood 'cinemaSCOpe' series for SCO diplomats:**

- **Vladimir Norov**, Secretary-General of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** and diplomats from the member states attended the inaugural session of a movie series '**cinemaSCOpe**' was organised by the **Indian Embassy**.

### **EXIM Bank extends USD 448 million line of credit to Uzbekistan:**

- **EXIM (Export-Import Bank of India)** behalf of the Indian government has extended a **USD 448-million** LoC (Line of Credit) for various infrastructure projects in the roads and transport, water and technology, communication sectors in **Uzbekistan**.
- Exim Bank has now **266 LOCs**, covering **62 countries** in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Oceania.

### **India, Iran, Uzbekistan hold a first trilateral meeting on jointly use of Chabahar port:**

- **India, Iran, and Uzbekistan** discussed the joint use of **Chabahar port** to enhance regional connectivity as the three countries held their first trilateral meeting focused on the strategic trade and transit facility in the **Gulf of Oman**.
- The first virtual meeting of the trilateral working group was a follow-up to Uzbek President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** during a summit with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** that the three countries should jointly promote **Chabahar port**.

### **The ninth edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand:**

- The ninth edition of **Sustainable Mountain Development Summit** commenced in virtual mode on **International Mountain Day (December 11)** hosted by **Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU), Dehradun**.
- The **four-day-long** summit was organised by Indian Mountain Initiative (IMI). The theme was '**Emerging Pathways for Building a Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adaptation, Innovation and Acceleration**'.

### **UNESCO to launch an international prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman:**

- The **UNESCO** has decided to launch an international prize in the field of '**Creative Economy**' in the name of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**. **50, 000 USD** dollar will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.

### **India and the World Bank sign \$400 million project to protect the poor from COVID impact:**

- **India & the World Bank** have signed a **\$400 million** project to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the **poor** and **vulnerable households** which are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- It enabled immediate cash transfers to about **320 million** individual bank accounts identified through pre-existing national social protection schemes under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)** and additional food rations to about **800 million** individuals.

### Prime Minister Modi to hold a virtual summit with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina** hold a virtual summit and had comprehensive discussions on the entire spectrum of the bilateral relationship, including further strengthening cooperation in the post COVID era between the two countries.
- The **Chilahati-Haldibari** rail link is expected to enhance connectivity to **Assam** and **West Bengal** from Bangladesh.

### Government of India and NDB sign agreement for \$1 billion to support Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREGS:

- **Indian government** and the **New Development Bank (NDB)** signed a loan agreement for lending **\$1 billion** for 'supporting India's economic recovery from COVID-19' by supporting the expenditures on rural infrastructure related to **Natural Resource Management (NRM)** and rural employment generation under the Government of India's **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**.

### India contributes 1 million USD to WADA for scientific research for clean sport globally:

- **India** has pledged a sum of **1 million USD** to the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** towards global scientific research budget to ensure an atmosphere of clean sport globally, which will allow WADA to develop innovative anti-doping testing and detection methods.

### Union Cabinet Approves MoU between India and the US for the exchange of information in the electricity sector:

- The MoU is between the **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** of India and the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** of U.S.A for exchange of information and experience in areas of mutual interest to both in the electricity sectors.

### The 35<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) is to be held in December 2020:

- The 35<sup>th</sup> edition of **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT)** between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy is to be conducted in December 2020.
- **INS Kulish**, an indigenously built missile corvette along with **P8I maritime patrol aircraft (MPA)**, will undertake coordinated patrol with the Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Cut Nyak Dien, a Kapitan Pattimura (Parchim I) class corvette and an MPA of the **Indonesian Navy**.

### India and Denmark agree to strengthen cooperation in maritime technology:

- The third meeting of the **Joint Working Group (JWG)** on shipping between **India and Denmark** was held virtually. The JWG discussions focused on identifying areas of cooperation between the two countries.

### UAE virtually hosts 20<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers Meeting of IORA member states:

- **United Arab Emirates** will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers Meeting of member states of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** chaired by His Excellency **Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh**, UAE's Minister of State. **Sri Lanka** will be the Vice-Chair of IORA for the period **2021-23**.
- **France** joined as the **23<sup>rd</sup>** member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

### India and Maldives hold discussions on cordial and multi-dimensional partnership to boost defence cooperation:

- Federation **Department of Defence Production (DDP)**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) through **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** organised a webinar and Expo between India and Maldives to boost **defence cooperation** with the Maldives.
- The theme of the webinar was '**Joint Indo Maldives High-Level Defence Engagement.**'

### Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Technology Summit virtually:

- The Union Minister of External Affairs **Dr. S. Jaishankar** virtually addressed the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Technology Summit 2020**. The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual **Global Technology Summit (GTS)** was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, in collaboration with **Carnegie India (CI)**.
- The summit was held under the theme "**The Geopolitics of Technology.**"

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> Indo-Japan SAMVAD Conference:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **sixth edition of the India-Japan SAMVAD** conference held in virtual mode. PM Modi proposed to create a library of **traditional Buddhist literature** and **scriptures** in India.

### India and Vietnam sign seven agreements during a virtual summit:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Vietnam PM **Nguyen Xuan Phuc** are holding a virtual summit to discuss the future development of the **India-Vietnam** comprehensive **strategic partnership**.

- India and Vietnam signed **seven agreements** during the virtual summit in areas such as defence, scientific research, renewable energy, nuclear energy, petro-chemicals, and cancer treatment.

### **ADB extends \$40-million loan to Northern Arc Capital to support microfinance borrowers and MSMEs in India:**

- Manila-based **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has extended a **\$40 million** loan to **Northern Arc Capital Limited** (NACL) to support the livelihoods of **microfinance borrowers** and **MSMEs** in India. NACL will also on-lend to **affordable housing finance** companies.

### **The World Bank signs \$500 million project to develop green, resilient, and safe highways in India:**

- The Government of **India** and the **World Bank** signed a \$500 million project to build **safe and green** national highway corridors in the states of **Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project will help reduce **GHG emissions** in the construction and maintenance of highways.

### **India and Israel signed an agreement to cooperate in the field of Health and Medicine & support 'Green Healthcare':**

- India** and **Israel** signed an agreement to cooperate in the fields of **Health and medicine**, including sharing of expertise in building climate-resilient infrastructure and support to **'Green Healthcare'**.

### **UNICEF launches tool to track developments in COVID-19 vaccine market dashboard:**

- UNICEF** has launched the COVID-19 **Vaccine Market Dashboard** – an interactive tool for **countries, partners, and industry** to follow the developments of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 vaccine market and its efforts of the COVAX Facility to ensure fair and equitable access for every country in the **world**.



## BANKING AND ECONOMY:

### RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 4%:

**Reserve Bank of India** in its **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC) meet has kept the policy rates unchanged as under:

Repo Rate:	<b>4.00%</b>
Reverse Repo Rate:	<b>3.35%</b>
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSFR):	<b>4.25%</b>
Bank Rate:	<b>4.25%</b>
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):	<b>3%</b>
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):	<b>18.00%</b>

### HDFC Bank hits Rs 8 lakh crore market cap for first time:

- The market capitalisation of **HDFC Bank** went past **Rs 8 lakh crore** making it the first domestic lender to achieve the feat. The market valuation rose to **Rs 8, 05, 742 crore** on **Bombay Stock Exchange** (BSE). HDFC Bank is **3rd most valued** domestic firm in terms of market capitalisation.
- Reliance Industries Limited** with a market capitalisation of Rs 13, 30, 633.76 crore is the country's most valued firm, followed by **Tata Consultancy Services** with Rs 10, 13, 819.30 crore valuation.

### OECD cuts India's FY21 GDP contraction rate to 9.9% from 10.2% earlier:

- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) has raised prospects of India's economy by pegging contraction at **9.9 per cent** from **10.2 per cent** it projected in September.
- OECD expects the GDP to rebound to **8%** in **2021-22** (FY22) and **5%** in **2022-23** (FY23). OECD expects the **world GDP** to contract **4.2%** from 4.5 % in 2020.

### S&P retains India's GDP forecast at 9% contraction for 2020-21:

- S&P Global Ratings** retained its forecast of **9 per cent** contraction in the Indian economy for the current fiscal (FY-21). S&P report on **Asia Pacific**, projected the Indian economy to grow at **10 per cent** in the next fiscal year.

### SBI partners NPCI and JCB to launch 'SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card':

- State Bank of India** has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) and **Japan's JCB International Co** for unveiling new '**SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card**'.

- The newly launched card is loaded with unique dual interface feature that enables the customers to use it for both **contact and contactless transaction**.

### **Punjab National Bank Launches loan management solution 'LenS-The Lending Solution' to speed up delivery:**

- **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) launched a tech-based loan management solution called '**LenS-The Lending Solution**' to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of **credit proposals**. PNB also launched **OTP based** withdrawal of **Rs 10,000** and above from PNB ATMs effective from 1st December 2020.

### **SBM Bank India joins hands with Finin to launch smart banking platform:**

- **SBM Bank India** announced the launch of **Smart Banking platform** in partnership with **Finin**. SBM Bank India issues a **Savings Account** that can be opened instantly and comes with a **VISA** powered Debit Card equipped with **smart card** management features.

### **RBI Bars HDFC Bank from Issuing New Credit Cards to customers:**

- **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has asked **HDFC Bank** to stop issuing new **credit cards** and halt launches of new digital business following interruption of the internet banking system. Launch of the digital business activities planned under its **Digital 2.0 program**.

### **Paytm partners with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans:**

- **Paytm** has announced its partnership with **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** to empower **MSMEs** with **instant digital loans**. Merchants will not have to visit the bank branch as the entire journey from application to approval will be completed on the **Paytm app** itself.

### **RBI predicts Indian economy to contract at 7.5% for FY21:**

- **Reserve Bank of India** has revised its forecast of economic growth for **FY 2020-21** to **(-)7.5%** compared to its earlier forecast of **(-)9.5%**. 2nd half of FY is expected to show growth. Change in the forecast has been prompted by a surge in demand in both rural & urban areas

### **IFSCA gets membership of International Association of Insurance Supervisors:**

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City** regulator **International Financial Services Centres Authority** (IFSCA) has obtained membership of the **International Association of Insurance Supervisors** (IAIS).

### HDFC Life Stands with Dabbawalas Of Mumbai with 'PromiseWalaDabba' Campaign:

- **HDFC Life** in association with **Ketto India** has initiated a nationwide crowdfunding campaign '**PromisewalaDabba**' to help the Dabbawalas of Mumbai. It will be delivered that includes **essential supplies** such as staple food ingredients, spices and accompaniments, sanitizers, and toiletries to their homes.

### Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd Launches Upgraded "USGI PULZ" Mobile Application:

- **Universal Sampo General Insurance** Company Limited has launched its mobile application the "**USGI PULZ**". Riding on the wave of digitalization, the app has been launched with the main intention of **enhancing service delivery**.

### RTGS system to be available on 24X7 basis from December 14, 2020:

- **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** system will be made available from **December 14, 2020**. Currently, the RTGS system is available for customers between **7:00 AM and 6:00 PM**.
- RBI also decided to increase the limit for **Contactless Card Transactions** to **Rs 5, 000 from Rs 2, 000** at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals from January 1, 2021
- RTGS shall be available for customer and inter-bank transactions round the clock, except for the interval between '**end-of-day**' and '**start-of-day**' processes, whose timings would be duly broadcasted through the RTGS system.

### RBI allows RRBs to access LAF, MSF windows along with calls in the money market:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** allowed regional rural banks (RRBs) to access the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**, **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** and **call or notice** money market, aimed at facilitating better liquidity management for these lenders.
- At present **Public sector banks** and **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** were permitted, while RRBs are not permitted to access the liquidity windows of the RBI as well as the call or notice market.

### RBI advises banks not to make any dividend payouts from profits pertaining to the FY ended March 2020:

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has advised banks not to make any **dividend payouts** from profits pertaining to the financial year ended **March 2020**.
- **RBI** has said that **conserving such payment** will further strengthen banks' **balance sheets** while supporting lending to the real economy. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, RBI had asked to withhold payment of dividends until **September 2020**.

### Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank Launches 'Kirishi OD' facility for Farmers:

- The Dharwad-headquartered regional rural bank, **Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB)**, has launched "**Kirishi OD (overdraft)**" facility for farmers. The limit is capped to a maximum of **Rs 1.5 lakh per acre** to irrigated lands and **Rs 1 lakh per acre** to dry land.
- The scheme was launched by Chief General Manager of NABARD **Neeraja Kumara Verma** in Dharwad, Karnataka.

### SEBI launches SMARTs program to strengthen investor education framework:

- Markets regulator **SEBI** launched the **Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs)** program, an initiative aimed at enhancing investor education and awareness. The launch of SMARTs program comes amid World Investor Week (**November 23 – 29**) being celebrated across the country.
- 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.

### IRDAI approves merger deal of Bharti AXA Insurance and ICICI Lombard:

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has given its in-principle approval for the merger of **Bharti AXA General Insurance** with **ICICI Lombard**. The merged entity will have a market share of around **8.7 percent** on proforma basis in the general insurance business.

### UBS Projects India's GDP at -10.5% for FY21:

- **UBS** has projected India's real GDP to contract **10.5%** in **FY21**, in its **Global Economics & Markets Outlook 2021-2022** report. For the fiscal 2021-22 (FY22) UBS expect India's real GDP growth to rebound to **+10%** in FY22. UBS also estimates India's GDP to stabilise at **6.2 percent** in **FY23**.

### RXIL's First Trade Credit Insurance Transaction in Sandbox with Tata AIG, ICICI Bank and YES Bank:

- **Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL)** recently initiated a **Trade Credit Insurance (TCI)** backed transaction with Tata AIG as the insurer and **ICICI Bank, YES Bank** as the financiers in **Sandbox environment**.

### ICICI Bank Launches Country's First App 'iMobile Pay' to Provide Payments and Banking Services for All:

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** launched '**iMobile Pay**' a mobile banking app that provides **payments** and **banking services** to customers of any bank.
- The app enabling customers to pay to any **UPI (Unified Payments Interface) ID** or **merchants**, pay bills and do online recharges among others with instant banking services

namely **savings account, investments, loans, credit cards, gift cards, travel cards** and much more.

## Kotak Mahindra AMC launches India's First International REIT Fund of Funds:

- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited** (Kotak Mutual Fund) announced the launch of Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds, India's first diversified **REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) Mutual Fund**.
- The new MF scheme is an open-ended mutual fund scheme that will have a **diversified investment portfolio** comprising listed REITs, which will invest in realty projects in the **residential, office, data centre, warehousing, retail, and hospitality** segments.

## RBI Cancels License of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Limited:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cancelled the licence of The **Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd**, Karad, Maharashtra, to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business. The bank has around **29 branches** across the state.
- The RBI said that more than **99 percent** of the customers would get full payment of their deposits from **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** as they fall under the **₹5 lakh** slab.

## Fitch revises India's GDP forecast contraction at 9.4% for FY21:

- **Fitch Ratings** raised India's GDP forecast to **-9.4%** in the current fiscal year to **March 2021** from a previously projected contraction of **10.5%** after the economy staged a sharper rebound in the second quarter (July-Sep).
- The GDP had grown **4.2 per cent** in **FY 2019-20** (April 2019 to March 2020). Fitch has also projected the **FY22** GDP growth at **11 per cent** and **6.3 per cent** growth in **FY23**.

## Bank of Baroda launches 'Atmanirbhar Women Gold Scheme':

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has launched the **Atmanirbhar Women Scheme** as part of its Baroda Gold Loan. Under the scheme, the bank is offering retail loans at **0.50 per cent** concession for **women**. The bank under the gold loan scheme is also offering **agri-gold loan** at **0.25 percent** concession.

## Nomura expects India to be fastest-growing Asian economy in 2021 at 9.9%:

- **Nomura** has projected India to be the fastest-growing Asian economy in 2021. It has estimated the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth of India for the calendar year **2021 (CY21)** at **9.9%**.
- Nomura expects GDP growth at **-7.1 per cent** for the calendar year 2020 (CY20). And Nomura expects GDP at **-8.2 per cent** in FY21, and 11.9 per cent in **FY22**.

### **ICICI Bank to be designated bank for all financial transactions under National Health Mission in West Bengal:**

- Private Lender **ICICI Bank** has received the mandate to be the designated bank for all financial transactions below **National Health Mission (NHM)** in **West Bengal**, outbidding State Financial institution of India and different public sector lenders regardless of their greater presence within the state.

### **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Launches Neighbourhood Banking Channel 'Money Mitra':**

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has introduced a new channel, "**Money Mitra**" to make banking services accessible to customers in their neighbourhood. Money Mitra is a concept that facilitates entrepreneurs running local businesses like **Kirana / medical stores** or **Insurance agencies** to offer retail banking solutions to Ujjivan SFB customers exclusively.

### **Federal Bank ties up with Orbit Remit Limited to offer money transfer facility from New Zealand to India:**

- **Federal Bank** has entered into a tie-up with **Orbit Remit Limited**, a money transfer company, to facilitate money transfer from **New Zealand to India**.

### **ADB raises India GDP growth forecast to -8% from -9% for FY21:**

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** revised its forecast of India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in FY21 to an **8%** contraction, up from **9%** in September.

### **Equitas SFB launches three in one account offering various investment options:**

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has announced the launch of its **3-in-1 account** that allows customers to invest in a wide variety of financial products. The account will combine **savings, trading and demat accounts** as three financial products under a **umbrella entity**.

### **RBL Bank and ICICI Prudential join hands for Bancassurance Partnership:**

- **RBL Bank** and **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company** have joined hands under a **bancassurance** (Bancassurance means selling insurance products through banks) partnership to sell insurance policies to the bank's customers.
- **398 RBL Bank** branches across **28 states** will distribute ICICI Prudential Life's protection and savings products.

### **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launches e-agricultural spot market platform "BEAM":**

- India's First and Largest Securities market, **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities **BEAM (BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd.)** through its subsidiary BSE Investments.



### Reserve Bank of India released a Draft Circular on Declaration of Dividend by Non-Banking Financial Company:

- The **Reserve Bank of India** had released a draft circular on the Declaration of Dividend by NBFCs. The RBI has proposed that NBFCs should have at least **15% Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR)** and NPA ratio should be less than **6%** for the last **3 years**.
- RBI released the "**Draft Circular on Declaration of Dividend by NBFCs**" to ensure greater **transparency** and **uniformity** in practice.

### Reserve Bank of India to set up ABPC (Automated Banknote Processing Centre) in Jaipur:

- **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has decided to set up an **Automated Banknote Processing Centre** (ABPC) in **Jaipur** for a receipt, storage, and dispatch of currency notes.
- The functions of the ABPC will also include processing of banknotes received from **Currency Chests** (CCs) and bank branches and destruction of **soiled banknotes** in an **automated manner**.

### Canara Bank launches "FX 4 U" for forex remittance via Internet Banking:

- **Canara Bank** has launched "**FX 4 U**" through **internet banking**, helping users manage and handle their **forex transactions** seamlessly. All the Eligible customers will be able to undertake remittance facilities in adherence to the **FEMA** (Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999) regulations.

### CRISIL revises India's GDP forecast to -7.7% for fiscal 2021:

- **Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited** (CRISIL) has revised the growth rate of the **Indian economy** to contract **7.7%** in the ongoing fiscal 2020-21, compared to the **9%** forecast in September 2020, due to "**Faster-Than-Expected**" recovery in the second quarter.
- For the fiscal **2021-22** (FY22), CRISIL expects the growth to bounce back to **10%**.

### S&P revises India's GDP contraction forecast to 7.7% from 9% for FY21:

- The **US-based** rating agency **S&P** raised India's growth projection for the current fiscal to **(-) 7.7 %** from **(-) 9 %** estimated earlier on rising demand and falling COVID infection rates. S&P has projected India's growth to rebound to **10 percent** in **FY22**.

### IFSCA notifies IFCA (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020:

- **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs had announced in the **Union Budget 2020** for setting up an **IBE** (International Bullion Exchange) at the IFSC (**International Financial Services Centre**) in **GIFT City**, Gandhinagar, **Gujarat**.

### ICICI Bank partners with Aceware to launch 'AceMoney Micro ATM service' in Kerala:

- **ICICI Bank** launched '**AceMoney Micro ATM service**' in association with **Aceware** in **Kochi, Kerala**. The service will enable people to withdraw money from their bank account from **home**.
- The money will be delivered at the doorstep within **30-40 minutes** after the order is placed. The maximum withdrawal limit is **Rs 10, 000**, which is the limit for other bank ATM withdrawals per transaction.

### India Post Payments Bank launches new digital payment app 'DakPay':

- **Department of Posts (DoP)** and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** unveiled a new digital payment app called '**DakPay**' at a virtual event. The app is part of the department's ongoing efforts to expand digital financial inclusion to all country corners.
- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, and Law & Justice **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched the app. '**DakPay**' will facilitate the customers of the DoP and IPPB in **easy digital transactions** and other banking and postal services.

### SEBI forms a new department headed by Nagendraa Parakh to check promoter frauds-Business Journal:

- Market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has set up a specialised department, **CFID** (Corporation Finance Investigation Department), to tackle diversion of funds, bank loans, and company promoters' resources.
- SEBI's executive director **Nagendraa Parakh** will head the new department. He is currently heading **Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department (MIRSD)**.

### Edelweiss General Insurance launches India's first Open API Gateway for Insurance products:

- India's first cloud-native insurer **Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has launched the first of its kind, **Open API (Application Programming Interface) Gateway**, to facilitate complete digital collaboration with its business partners.

### SBI lowers FY21 GDP contraction forecast to 7.4 percent from 10.9 percent:

- **State Bank of India's** economic research department has lowered India's FY21 GDP contraction forecast to **7.4 percent** against an earlier forecast of **10.9 percent** contraction, based on better-than-expected recovery. SBI has also forecasted India's GDP growth in FY22 at **11 percent**.

### **RBI announces 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort under regulatory sandbox with a theme of 'cross border payments':**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced the second cohort under the **Regulatory Sandbox (RS)** with the theme of '**Cross Border Payments**' and a reduced net-worth requirement for entities interested in participating from **Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs**.
- **India** is the largest recipient of **inbound remittances**, accounting for **15%** of the global share.

### **SBI Card and BPCL jointly launch credit card offering benefits to high fuel spending customers:**

- **SBI Card** in association with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** is set to launch "**BPCL SBI Card Octane**" offering maximum savings to consumers who spend a significant amount on fuel.
- The card offers **7.25 percent** value back on fuel and lubricant spends at BPCL fuel stations and **6.25 percent** value back on **Bharat Gas spends**.

### **BSE EBIX launches beta version of term insurance for ICICI Prudential Life Insurance:**

- **BSE Ebix** Insurance Broking Private Limited, a joint venture of **BSE** and **Ebix Fincorp Exchange Private Limited**, launched the **beta version** of term insurance of **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co Ltd's** state-of-the-art hi-tech platform.

### **IndusInd Bank launches its first metal credit card 'PIONEER Heritage' in partnership with Master Card:**

- **IndusInd Bank**, in partnership with **Mastercard**, announced the launch of its first metal credit card '**PIONEER Heritage**' for the bank's **ultra-high net worth** segment of customers.

### **ICRA revises India's GDP to contract to 7.8 percent in FY21:**

- The domestic rating agency **ICRA Ratings** has forecasted the GDP of India to contract to **7.8%** from **11%** in FY21. In the second quarter of the financial year **2021**, GDP had contracted by **7.5 percent** as against a decline of **23.9 percent** in the **April-June** quarter.

### **RBI extended Central KYC Registry to legal entities from individual accounts:**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced that all regulated entities would upload '**Know Your Customer**' data pertaining to accounts of legal entities opened on or after **April 1, 2021**, onto the **Central KYC Registry (CKYCR)**.
- **Regulated entities (REs)** have already been uploading the KYC data pertaining to all **individual accounts** opened on or after **January 1, 2017**, onto CKYCR in terms of the

provisions of the **Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005.**

### **NPCI launches offline payments feature for contactless RuPay cards:**

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched an offline **contactless payment feature** for **RuPay** cardholders. RuPay cardholders can now make offline payments at **Point-Of-Sale (PoS)** devices using **Near-Field-Communication (NFC)** enabled cards in areas with limited network connectivity.
- The **RuPay NCMC (National Common Mobility Card)** offline wallet can be used to make ticket payments in transit, including **metros, bus tickets, cab fares**, etc.

### **PayU becomes the first to offer Google Pay tokenized payment flow for merchants:**

- India's leading online payments solutions provider, **PayU** has collaborated with **Google Pay** to introduce **tokenized payments** flow for merchants. PayU's **4.5 lakh** merchants can offer Google Pay users the option to use their **debit cards, credit cards** or **Google Pay UPI** to make repeated payments without having to physically share their card details.

### **Retail inflation of India declines to 6.93% in November:**

- According to the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** data report, India's retail inflation declined from **7.61%** in **October 2020** to **6.93%** in **November 2020**. The prices of vegetables, however, saw an increase of **15.63%** in November as compared to the same time last year. In October, the prices of vegetables had jumped by **22.51%**.

### **Central Bank of India launches 'RuPay Select' Contactless Debit Card:**

- **Central Bank of India (CBI)**, in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, launched a unique variant of contactless Debit Card 'RuPay Select.' The card will focus on customers' **lifestyle, fitness, rejuvenation, nutrition**, and **personal care**.

### **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launched "ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund":**

- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** has launched the "**ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund**," an open-ended equity scheme. The **New Fund Offer (NFO)** opens on December 29, 2020 and closes on January 12, 2021.

### **Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Defence Forces for its newly launched 'Baroda Military Salary Package':**

- **Bank of Baroda** signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with **Indian Navy** and **Indian Coast Guard** and renewed its existing MoU with the **Indian Army**, to offer specially customised banking services through '**Baroda Military Salary Package**'.

- It covers personal accidental insurance, permanent total disability, air accident insurance, etc.

### **ICICI floats 'Infinite India' platform to help MNCs set shop in the country:**

- Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** has set up an on-line platform "**Infinite India**" to provide banking and other valued services to **foreign companies** for setting up or expanding business in the country.
- As an '**Authorised Dealer Category 1**', the bank can authorise the setting up of **liaison offices** (LO) and **branch offices** (BO).

### **NCAER projects GDP contraction of 7.3% in FY21:**

- The **National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** has estimated that 'India's GDP is likely to contract from **12.6%** to **7.3%** in the current financial year (FY21).

### **SBI Tops in UPI transaction while Paytm Payments Bank has best tech for UPI payments; NPCI report:**

- According to the recent report by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, **Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)** has the lowest technical decline rate at **0.02%** among all UPI remitter banks and **0.04%** among all **UPI beneficiary banks**.
- **State bank of India (SBI)** topped in UPI (Unified Payment Transaction) Transaction with **607 million** transactions among **UPI remitter banks**. The list was followed by **Axis bank** (241 million) and **HDFC Bank** (179 million).

## **ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:**

### **Government approves merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS India:**

- **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** will merge into the Indian arm of Singapore-based **DBS Bank**, leading to removal of all restrictions, including withdrawal cap of **Rs 25, 000**, which the RBI had placed on the lender earlier this month. LVB is the **second private sector bank** after Yes Bank, has run into rough weather during this year.

### **HDFC Bank signs MoU with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ICCI) to support SMEs and Start-ups:**

- **ICCI** (Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries in its endeavour to support **SMEs and Start-ups** has signed an MoU with **HDFC Bank**. Through this association ICCI engages, enrolls and supports various **Startups /SMEs /MSMEs** (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to facilitate financial and other facilities to/from HDFC Bank.

### CCI Approves Acquisition by Reliance Retail Ventures of Retail of Future Group:

- **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) approves acquisition by **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited, Retail** and **Fashion Lifestyle Limited** of the retail and wholesale undertaking and the logistics & warehousing undertaking of Future Group under Competition Act 2002.

### NSDL Payments Bank Joins Hands with HDFC ERGO to Offer Customised Insurance Solutions to Customers:

- India's leading private sector general insurance company **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** and **NSDL Payments Bank Limited**, Subsidiary of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) announced their partnership to offer a whole range of **general insurance products** to the bank's customers.

### YES Bank in partnership with Worldline introduces SMS Pay on POS terminals for Remote Payments:

- **YES BANK** in partnership with **Worldline** has announced the launch of **SMS Pay** functionality on **POS terminals**, enabling merchants to accept contactless and **remote payments** from their customers. SMS Pay provides an alternative channel of payment acceptance for the merchants at **zero incremental cost**.

### Razorpay Partners with Visa to Launch "RazorpayX Corporate Cards" to Help Small Business Owners Weather COVID-19:

- India's leading full-stack financial solutions company **Razorpay** and **Payments Technology** Visa launched the 1st of its kind card "**RazorpayX Corporate Cards**" for Indian entrepreneurs. The bank-issued cards help to provide relief and stabilize the financial operations of the business owners of **startups** and **SMEs**.

### HDFC Limited to acquire 19.9% stake in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC:

- Mortgage lender **HDFC Ltd** will acquire nearly 20 percent stake in Renaissance Investment Solutions **ARC (asset reconstruction company)** Private Ltd for **Rs 49.8 lakh**.

### Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology collaborates with IBM to build future-ready skills and enhance employability:

- **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology** (MeitY) and **IBM India Pvt Ltd** announced a collaboration to set up an education and skilling ecosystem that creates **critical thinkers, problem-solvers**, and **next-generation innovators** through the **Common Services Centre (CSC) Academy**.
- It aims to provide access to employment to **4, 000 village-level youth** in **rural areas**.



### **India Grid Trust inks pact to acquire 74% stake in Parbati Koldam from Reliance Infra:**

- **India Grid Trust** has inked an agreement to acquire **74 per cent stake** in **Parbati Koldam Transmission Company (PKTCL)** from **Reliance Infrastructure Limited**. The implied enterprise value for 100 percent equity shares is approximately **Rs 9, 000 million**.
- The paid-up capital of PKTCL is **Rs 272.837 crore** and net worth is of around **Rs 440.150 crore** in **FY19-20**.

### **Indian Bank signs pact with SIDBI for Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs:**

- The Partnership has launched **Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs-Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ARM-MSMEs)** in other words **Do-It-Yourself (DIY)** web module. MSMEs can use this module **free of cost**.
- **Indian Bank** has also introduced an online training programme "**MSME Prerana**" to train the MSMEs in basic accounting, maintenance of books of accounts and government / bank schemes meant for MSMEs.

### **Agricultural Finance Corporation of India join hands with HexGn to promote 1, 000 agri-tech start-ups:**

- Consulting firm **HexGn** and **AFC (Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd) India** have joined hands to promote agriculture-related entrepreneurship in India and aim to promote **1, 000 agritech** start-ups in **India** over the next **five years**.

### **Facebook buys Kustomer for USD 1 billion to Improve Services for Businesses:**

- The **Mark Zuckerberg**-led social media Tech-giant acquired New York-based **Kustomer**, was to give businesses access to tools that deliver excellent **service and support**.

### **NABARD and SBI sign MoU to extend concessional refinance facility to the watershed and tribal development projects:**

- The Karnataka regional office of **NABARD** and **State Bank of India** has signed an MoU worth **Rs. 5000 Cr** to extend **Concessional Refinance** facility to the beneficiaries of **watershed development** and **tribal development projects**. It aims to benefit **45000 beneficiaries** from 260 FPOs in **28 districts**.

### **Razorpay partners with PayPal to help MSMEs and freelancers go global:**

- India's leading full-stack financial solutions company **Razorpay** and **PayPal** have come together to enable seamless international payments for **MSMEs and freelancers**.

### **Sequoia India partners with NITI Aayog WEP to promote women entrepreneurship:**

- **Sequoia Indias** program “**Sequoia Spark**” for women entrepreneurs in India and Southeast Asia, and **NITI Aayogs Women Entrepreneurship Platform** (WEP) are collaborating on a year-long partnership to promote women entrepreneurship in India.

### **PayNearby Partners with NPCI and YES Bank to Launch “PayNearby shopping card” Powered by RuPay:**

- Hyperlocal fintech startup **PayNearby** partnered with **YES Bank** and **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) to launch the “**PayNearby shopping card**”, enabling its retail partners to derive maximum benefits of digital commerce in the mass market category.

### **NABARD sign MoU with APEDA for agriculture development and Export Policy:**

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** (NABARD) signed an MoU with **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** (APEDA) to work together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and **Allied Sectors** for bringing better value to the stakeholders and Implementing **Agriculture Export Policy** (AEP).

### **Rupifi Joins Hands with Axis Bank and Visa to Launch ‘Axis Bank Rupifi Business Credit Card’ for Small Businesses:**

- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has partnered with fintech lending platform **Rupifi** to offer a business credit card named Launch ‘**Axis Bank Rupifi Business Credit Card**’ powered by **Visa**.

### **SJVN signs MoU with IREDA for Cooperation on Green Energy Projects:**

- **SJVN Limited**, a PSU under the Ministry of Power has entered an MoU with **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.** (IREDA), a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, will provide its services to SJVN for **Green Energy projects**.

### **NTPC signs MoU with IIFM for Narmada Landscape Restoration project:**

- India’s largest power generator **NTPC** Ltd (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Indian Institute of Forest Management** (IIFM), Bhopal, to implement the **Narmada Landscape Restoration Project**.
- The program is being implemented in partnership with a grant-in-aid from NTPC and **United States Agency for International Development** (USAID) in equal proportions.

### **PwC India collaborates with UNICEF and YuWaah to upskill 300 million youths in India over 10 years:**

- **PwC (Price waterhouse Coopers) India** announced the launch of a strategic collaboration with **UNICEF** and **YuWaah** to help bridge the digital gap and help upskill **300 million youths** in India over the next **10 years** and enable them to emerge as changemakers in society.

### **CII and Amazon India join hands to boost MSME business in 10 states:**

- **Amazon** and **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bring the benefits of e-commerce to **Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in **10 states** across India at the 17th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) **Global SME Business Summit**.

### **WNS Cares Foundation Partners with NITI Aayog to Empower Children and Youth on CyberSafety Education:**

- **WNS Cares Foundation (WCF)**, the CSR arm of **WNS** has partnered with **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)**, an initiative under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) by **NITI Aayog**, to empower children and youth with knowledge on relevant topics around cybersafety and digital education around **6, 500 schools** through its platform **"Cybersmart"**.

### **CII launches 'Digital Saksham' initiative with Mastercard and the National Institute for MSME:**

- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has announced a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Mastercard** and the **National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ni-MSME)** an organisation of Ministry of **MSME** to launch the **"Digital Saksham"** Initiative, an expansive program designed to strengthen the competitiveness of MSMEs through digital know-how and acceptance.

### **SBI General Insurance partners with Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd. for insurance penetration in rural India:**

- **SBI General Insurance** has announced a strategic partnership with **Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd. (MIBL)** through its **Sajhedaari programme**, to increase the penetration of insurance in **tier 2 & 3 cities**.

### **National Skill Development Corporation joins hands with BYJU's to Support Skilling of Teachers and Trainers:**

- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has joined hands with major ed-tech company **BYJU's** to support the teacher training and upskilling as part of the **Skill India Mission**.

- The main aim is to empower teachers and trainers with **skills and digital tools** to make learning very effective, engaging and personalised for children and youth.

### **UNIDO ties up with India Energy Storage Alliance to boost energy storage innovations in India:**

- The **United Nations Industrial Development Organization** (UNIDO) and **India Energy Storage Alliance** (IESA) and have joined hands to promote innovations in energy storage in India.
- The Partnership was done on the 4th round of innovation challenge by UNIDO's **Facility of Low Carbon Technology Deployment** (FLCTD) to support and encourage new Indian energy storage and e-mobility space.

### **DBS Bank India partners with Haqdarshak to boost MSME recovery:**

- **DBS Bank India** has collaborated with **Haqdarshak** to assist Indian **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises** via Haqdarshak's newly unveiled platform, which provides access to MSME-focused government-assisted schemes across the country.
- DBS Foundation's BTI grant of **Rs 2.7 million** helped Haqdarshak to ensure expansion into this segment.

### **Bharti AXA Life ties up with Primero Skills to support healthcare workers amid COVID19:**

- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** partners with **Primero skills** launched the **#GotYouCovered campaign, a unique initiative to appreciate frontline healthcare workers** striving to protect people from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Ewire Softtech ties up with YES Bank to launch 'EWIRE – YES BANK Prepaid Card':**

- **Ewire Softtech**, under Kerala Startup Mission, has launched '**EWIRE – YES BANK Prepaid Card**' in association with **YES Bank**, enabling the next-generation payment platform provider to chart an all-India presence.
- The prepaid card was launched on a PAN-India basis through its RuPay prepaid cards platform and **Ewire app**. It provided Loans, Insurance, and **Current Account Savings Account** (CASA) account through its channel partners.

### **SBI General Insurance partners with IntrCity RailYatri to provide domestic travel insurance to bus travelers:**

- **SBI General Insurance** has partnered with **IntrCity RailYatri**, a multi-modal intercity mobility platform, to provide **Domestic Travel Insurance** to customers opting to travel/commute through **IntrCity RailYatri**.
- This partnership will provide a wide **variety of coverage**, including accidental death, permanent total disability, and medical evacuation.

### WHO and IFRC sign MoU on emergency medical teams:

- The **World Health Organization** (WHO) and the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** (IFRC) launched 'Red Channel Agreement' a new collaboration to strengthen the delivery of emergency medical and health services during humanitarian crises.

### Citibank And NCPA Partner to Offer Hindustani Music Scholarships to Young Musicians:

- The **National Centre for the Performing Arts** (NCPA) has consistently worked towards an array of initiatives to promote the growth of art and culture in India.
- Since 2009, the National Centre for the Performing Arts with Citibank has been offering **scholarships** to promising young students who seek advanced training in **Hindustani music** (vocal & instrumental).

### FADA and ASDC join hands with Google India to bridge the digital skills gap in auto dealerships:

- The **Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations** (FADA) along with **Automotive Skills Development Council** (ASDC) had tied up with **Google India** to bridge the digital skills gap in the country's **auto dealerships** and build their capacity in this critical growth driver.
- The training programme will be conducted under Google India's '**Grow with Google**' initiative. The initiative will provide digital skill training to **20, 000** auto dealerships & **1, 00, 000** auto dealers across the marketing and sales divisions.

### IndiGrid collaborates with IBM for digital transformation of critical power infrastructure:

- India's leading infrastructure investment trust **India Grid Trust** (IndiGrid) announced a multi-year collaboration agreement with **IBM** to build **artificial intelligence (AI)**-enabled asset management platform.

### Snapdeal partners with NPCI to enable doorstep QR Code payments for orders:

- E-commerce major **Snapdeal** has partnered with **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) to allow shoppers to make **QR-based digital payments** at the time of accepting delivery of their orders.

### IIFL Home join hands with ICICI Bank for affordable housing and MSME loans:

- **IIFL Home Finance Ltd** and **ICICI Bank** have entered into a sourcing and servicing arrangement to partner in extending credit to the **affordable housing loans & MSME loans** (loan against property).

### **Western Coalfields partners with Orissa Mineral Development Corporation to increase production capacity:**

- **Coal India Limited** (CIL) subsidiary **Western Coalfields Ltd** (WCL) will enter into a joint venture with **Orissa Mineral Development Corporation** (OMDC) for a peak production capacity of **75 million tonnes** of coal.

### **Reliance and BP start gas production from 'Asia's deepest project off Kakinada coast:**

- **Reliance Industries Limited** (RIL) and **BP** (British Petroleum Company) announced the start of production from the '**R Cluster**', an ultra-deep-water gas field in block KG D6 off the **Kakinada coast**.
- The gas reserve '**R Cluster**' is situated in **Krishna-Godavari** basin of the **Bay of Bengal** at a depth of greater than **2,000 metres**, making it the deepest offshore gas field in **Asia**.

### **YES Bank partners with Salesforce to accelerate retail growth to enhance customer experience:**

- **Yes Bank** announced a collaboration with **Salesforce** to build a next-generation technology platform to power the **retail lending business**, in line with the bank's strategy to further scale up its **retail assets portfolio**. Yes Bank is the **first bank** in India to move to Salesforce for Loan origination and processing.

### **NMDC and MECL join hands to explore coal, diamonds, and other minerals across India:**

- India's largest iron ore producing Navratna Company **NMDC Limited** has signed an MoU with **Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited** (MECL) to collaborate and conduct exploration in mutually agreed projects for **iron ore, gold, coal, diamond, and other minerals** in various states.

### **PayPal's Xoom integrates with UPI payments to support instant remittances to India:**

- **PayPal's** money transfer service **Xoom** has added the **Unified Payments Interface** (UPI) to its platform, to enable **instant money** transfers to India, reports Verdict.
- This integration allows **non-residential Indians** (NRIs) and persons of Indian origin (PIOs) in the US, Canada, and Europe to remit money to their family and friends in India.



### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

#### Bharat Dynamics Flags Off Delivery of First Heavy Weight Torpedo "Varunastra":

- **Defence Research and Development** (DRDO) Chairman **G Satheesh Reddy** flagged off the first Production unit of Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT), "**Varunastra**".
- The Varunastra has been designed and developed by **Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** of DRDO while Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), **Vishakhapatnam** has manufactured the torpedo for the **Indian Navy**.

#### India Set to Launch 'Deep Sea Mission' for Exploration of Energy, Minerals:

- **Ministry of Earth Sciences** (MoES) stated that India will soon launch an ambitious "**Deep Ocean Mission**" to explore minerals, energy, and marine diversity of the underwater world. The mission is expected to cost over **INR 40 billion** (\$540 million).

#### Russia Successfully Test-Fired Tsirkon hypersonic Cruise Missile in the Arctic:

- **Russia** successfully test-fired **Tsirkon hypersonic** cruise missile from frigate Admiral **Gorshkov** of the Soviet Union from the White Sea. It successfully hit a sea target at **450 Kilometres** in the **Barents Sea**, at a speed of over Mach 8.
- The striking range of the missile can also exceed **1, 000 km-2, 000 km**. Tsirkon hypersonic Cruise Missile is developed & manufactured by **NPO Mashinostroyeniya**.

#### Mysterious New Mushroom Species Glow Like The Northern Lights In Meghalaya Forests:

- A **mushroom** documentation project in the forests of **Northeast India** has revealed not only **600 varieties** of fungi, but also led to a new discovery: a bioluminescent or light emitting variety of mushroom.
- The new species named **Roridomyces phyllostachydis** was first sighted on a wet August night near a stream in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in East **Khasi Hills** district and later at Krang Shuri in **West Jaintia Hills district**.

#### GMR Hyderabad airport introduces India's first 'Internet of Things enabled Smart Trolleys':

- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited** (GHIAL) is the **first airport in India** to deploy **Internet of Things** (IoT) for tracking and maintaining the availability of baggage trolleys for passengers in the real time across the airport.
- The GHIAL has installed **LoRa (Long Range) IoT** platform for the project of Airport Baggage Trolley.

### **Australia to host ISRO satellite tracking facilities temporarily:**

- Space agencies of **India** and **Australia** were working together to set up **Temporary ground station tracking facilities** in **Australia**. These include earth observation and data analytics, robotics, and space life sciences.
- **Gaganyaan mission** will see **India** become just the **fourth nation** to send a crew into space. This Mission is an ambitious plan of ISRO to put an Indian in space by **2022**.

### **UNDP Accelerator Lab India launches 'GRID' to foster development:**

- The India chapter of the Accelerator Labs, an initiative by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** launched a **Grassroot Innovation Database (GRID)** to foster inclusive development.
- It contains **1, 500 solutions**, ranging from simple to complex in design, which can be implemented at the **community level**. These innovative solutions have been developed by grass-root communities, individuals, start-ups, students, and other innovators from various states across India.

### **BHEL Sets New Record of Manufacturing India's Highest-Rated Auto Transformer:**

- State-owned engineering firm **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has successfully manufactured and tested (short circuit) **India's highest rating Auto Transformer** at the **National High-Power Test Laboratory (NHPTL)** at **Bina** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- The **500 MVA 400/220/33 kV** auto transformer has been designed and manufactured at BHEL's Bhopal plant for UP Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.

### **India successfully test-fires Anti-ship version of Brahmos missile from Andaman and Nicobar Islands:**

- **Indian Navy** has successfully test-fires a **naval version** of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile launched from the **INS Ranvijay Rajput-class** destroyer from **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- The Missile had a strike range of **300 Kms**. It was the first time that the missile was flight tested by 3 Services of the **Indian Armed Forces** (Army, Air Force & Navy).
- **BrahMos Aerospace** is an **India-Russian** collaboration.

### **Pune's GMRT becomes India's third IEEE Milestone facility:**

- The **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)** has been selected as an **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)** Milestone facility. This is the **third** such IEEE Milestone recognition for an Indian contribution.

### **Kaspersky partners with Indian CERT-In to create secure cyberspace:**

- Cybersecurity firm **Kaspersky** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Computer Emergency Response Team** (CERT-In) at the Ministry of **Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY).

### **China Becomes 2nd Country to Unfurl Its Flag on Moon, as Chang'e-5 Probe Takes Off for Earth:**

- **China** has become the **second country** to plant its national flag on the **moon's surface**. Before China's **Chang'e-5** probe took off from the moon to return to earth, a **Chinese national flag** unfurled from the lander-ascender combination.

### **Spaceteach start-up Pixxel partners with NSIL to launch a remote-sensing satellite on ISRO rocket in 2021:**

- India's first private satellite-imaging company, **Pixxel** has entered into an agreement with **NewSpace India Limited** (NSIL) and **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) to launch Pixxel's first remote-sensing satellite on an ISRO **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** (PSLV) rocket in early **2021**.

### **Japanese Hayabusa2 Space Capsule Carrying Pristine Asteroid "Ryugu" Samples Lands in Australia:**

- A small capsule bearing pristine pieces of the near-Earth asteroid "**Ryugu**" landed at Woomera in South Australian capital of **Adelaide**. The samples are expected to provide clues regarding the origin of the solar system & life on our planet.

### **Indian Navy orders Israeli "SMASH 2000" Anti-drone systems:**

- The Indian Navy has finalised a contract for procurement of a batch of **Israeli weapon systems** that are capable of bringing down high-speed enemy drones. The delivery of the "**SMASH 2000**" fire control systems is expected to begin early **2021**.

### **China successfully launches two satellites for gravitational wave detection:**

- **China** successfully launched two satellites for the detection of gravitational waves into planned orbit from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in the **Sichuan Province**.
- The two satellites would compose the **Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor** (GECAM) mission and was launched by a Long March-11 carrier rocket.

### **BSNL Partners with Skylo to Launch World's First Satellite-Based IoT Network in India:**

- **Skylotech India** has partnered with **Bharat Sanchar Nigam**, a global machine connectivity solutions company. The satellite is based on the **Internet of Things (IoT)**

device service that can be used across India where mobile towers are not present, including the seas within the country's jurisdiction.

### Malayan Giant Squirrel could decline by 90% in India by 2050: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Survey:

- According to a recent survey of Zoological Survey of India projected that numbers of the **Malayan Giant Squirrel** (*Ratufa bicolour*) could decline by **90%** in India by **2050**. The destruction of its habitat could restrict the squirrel to only **southern Sikkim** and **North Bengal** by **2050**.
- The Malayan Giant Squirrel is one of the **world's largest squirrel species**. It has a dark upper body, pale underparts, and a long, bushy tail.

### Indian-origin researcher Anshumali Shrivastava discovers a new machine-learning method to filter fake news on social media:

- A team of US researchers led by Indian American computer scientist **Anshumali Shrivastava** at **Rice University** has discovered an efficient way for social media companies to keep misinformation from spreading online by using **Machine Learning** (ML).

### Indian Navy's indigenous advance Project 17A Frigate 'Himgiri' Launched By GRSE:

- India's shipbuilder **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited** (GRSE) launched the second Project 17A ship "**Himgiri**" for the Indian Navy, at its shipyard in **Kolkata**.
- **Himgiri** is the first of the three **Project 17A** ships built at GRSE. The ship has taken its name and crest of the second Frigate of the Leander Class of ships, which incidentally was launched **50 years** ago in **1970**.

### Indigenously built interceptor boat of Indian Coast Guard commissioned at Hazira, Gujarat:

- An indigenously built interceptor boat joined the **Indian Coast Guard** at a function in **Hazira of Surat district, Gujarat**. The interceptor boat **C-454**, built by **Larsen and Toubro** at its **Hazira plant of Gujarat** under the control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (North-West) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- It will also further augment patrolling and **prevent illicit activities** such as infiltration, smuggling, and illegal fishing activities along the **International Maritime Borders**.

### Indian coast guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sujeet' commissioned in Goa:

- **Indian Coast Guard** (ICG) ship '**Sujeet**, ' the second in the series of five **Offshore Patrol Vessel** (OPV) built by Goa Shipyard Limited, was commissioned in **Goa**. The vessel was designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). The ship is **105 metres** long and weighs **2400 tonnes**.

- The ship will be based at **Goa** and will be deployed extensively for **EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone)** surveillance and other duties.

### **ISRO sets up a dedicated control centre 'NETRA' for Space Situational Awareness:**

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has set up a dedicated **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** Control Centre "**NETRA**" (Network for space object TRacking and Analysis), at its ISTRAC campus at Peenya, **Bengaluru**.
- The control centre was formally inaugurated by Chairman, ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space **K Sivan**.

### **ISRO successfully launches India's new communication satellite CMS-01 from Sriharikota onboard PSLV-C50:**

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched its **42<sup>nd</sup> communication satellite (CMS-01)** from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) of **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** at **Sriharikota**. The workhorse rocket **PSLV-C50** was used to carry the satellite in the intended orbit in space.

### **India Successfully Test-Fires Two Prithvi-2 Nuclear Capable Ballistic Missiles Off Odisha Coast:**

- **India** test fired **two Prithvi-2** nuclear capable ballistic missiles from **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Odisha's Balasore**. The trials of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) developed **surface-to-surface** missiles were successful.

### **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates India's first hypersonic wind tunnel test facility in Hyderabad:**

- The Union Minister of Defence **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the advanced **Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT)** test facility of the DRDO in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- The state-of-the-art HWT Test facility has made India the **third** country after the **US** and **Russia** to have such a huge facility.

### **Indian Navy signs MoU with INCOIS to share ocean services data:**

- **Indian Navy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** to share ocean services data and expertise in **operational oceanography**.

### **China's new space carrier rocket Long March-8 successfully launches five satellites on its maiden flight:**

- China's new space carrier rocket "**Long March-8**" made its maiden flight, sending **five satellites** successfully into planned orbit. The rocket was launched from the **Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site** in **Hainan, China**.
- The five experimental satellites will carry out the in-orbit verification of **microwave imaging** and other technologies. They will conduct experiments in **space science, remote sensing, and communication technologies**.

## **APPOINTMENTS:**

### **Vijay Sinha elected as Speaker of Bihar assembly:**

- **Vijay Kumar Sinha**, the NDA candidate for the Speaker's post in the **Bihar Assembly**, sailed through after a united opposition forced elections for the post after a gap of 51 years. He was declared elected by Pro-Tem Speaker **Jitan Ram Manjhi**.

### **Lt Gen Harpal Singh appointed new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army**

- Lieutenant General **Harpal Singh** has been appointed as the next **Engineer-in-Chief** of the **Indian Army**. He is currently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on December 1. Harpal has also been the Chief Engineer of **Project Dantak** (BRO).

### **NITI Aayog forms panel headed by VK Saraswat to study Feasibility of Virgin Hyperloop in India:**

- Government think-tank **NITI Aayog** has formed a high-level panel headed by **Vijay Kumar Saraswat** to explore the technological and commercial viability of the **Virgin Hyperloop** technology for ultrahigh speed travel in India, weeks after its first test was completed with humans on board.

### **Roch Marc Christian Kabore wins 2nd term as Burkina Faso President:**

- The 63-year-old **Roch Marc Christian Kabore** has won a second term as president of **Burkina Faso**, by winning the 2020 presidential elections. He won the election with **57.87%** of the vote, which is 1.6 million votes of 3 million cast, with turnout at **50%**.

### **Rajnish K Jenaw appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of NSFDC:**

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** (ACC) has approved the proposal of the **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment** for the appointment of **Rajnish Kumar Jenaw** (IP&TA&FS) as new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)**.



### **Indian oil Chairman Shri SM Vaidya taken charge as Vice President of the World LPG Association:**

- **SM Vaidya** is appointed as the Vice President of the **World LPG Association** (WLPGA), The **World LPG Association** (WLPGA) is the authoritative voice of the global LPG industry representing the full LPG value chain. The primary goal of the Association is to add value to the sector by driving **premium demand** for **LPG**.

### **Senior IAS officer Utpal Kumar Singh appointed as Secretary-General of Lok Sabha:**

- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** appointed senior IAS officer **Utpal Kumar Singh** as **Secretary-General** of the Lok Sabha. He will assume charge on December 1. Utpal Singh is a 1986 batch IAS officer of Uttrakhand Cadre. He will succeed incumbent **Snehlata Shrivastava**.

### **Music maestro AR Rahman Appointed as the Brand Ambassador for BAFTA Breakthrough India 2020-21:**

- Double Oscar winning Indian composer **A.R. Rahman** was appointed as the Ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)'s initiative "**BAFTA Breakthrough India 2020-21**".
- This initiative is supported by **Netflix**, aims to identify, celebrate, and support up to five talents working in **film, games, or TV** in India.

### **Marisol Casado of Spain re-elected as President of the International Triathlon Union (ITU):**

- **Marisol Casado** of Spain has been re-elected as President of the **International Triathlon Union** (ITU), earning another four-year term. She has led World Triathlon since 2008. **Loreen Barnett** of Canada has also won another **four-year term** after being re-elected as **Secretary General** of ITU.
- In the Vice-President race, **Antonio Alvarez of Mexico**, **Sarah Springman** of Great Britain, and **Bill Walker** of Australia were all re-elected.

### **Joe Biden names Indian American Neera Tanden as White House budget chief:**

- US President-elect **Joe Biden** nominated Indian American **Neera Tanden** as Director of Office of Management and Budget, as he announced key members of his economic team. She would be the first woman of colour and first Indian American to lead the **Office of Management and Budget** (OMB).

### **Sandeep Kataria becomes first Indian to be appointed as global CEO of Bata:**

- **Switzerland** headquartered Footwear major **Bata Shoe** Organization has appointed **Sandeep Kataria** as the new global Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He is the **first Indian** to be appointed to the global role of Bata.
- He takes over from **Alexis Nasard**.

### **Thomas Bach re-elected second term as President of International Olympic Committee until 2025:**

- **International Olympic Committee** President **Thomas Bach** is set to remain in office until **2025** as he will run unopposed next year for a second term. Bach was first named as the organization's president in **2013**.

### **Centre constitutes Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA) headed by R P Gupta:**

- Central Government has set up an **Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement** (AIPA) for achieving its goals under the global deal.
- The **17-member** Committee comprise of members from 13 key ministries of the Union Government headed by Environment Secretary **R P Gupta** and the additional secretary, MoEFCC, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** will be the vice chairperson.

### **IAS officer Varsha Joshi appointed as the Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board:**

- **Senior IAS officer Varsha Joshi** has appointed as the interim Chairperson of **National Dairy Development Board** (NDDB). She replaces **Dilip Rath**, whose tenure as Chairman of NDDB ended in November.

### **Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry assumes the charge as Director General of Border Roads Organisation:**

- Lieutenant General **Rajeev Chaudhary** took charge as the Director General of **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Chaudhary is the **27th** Director General of the Border Roads.

### **Joe Biden appoints Indian American Vivek Murthy as Surgeon General:**

- US President-elect **Joe Biden** has selected his key Covid-19 advisor, Dr Vivek Murthy, as the next Surgeon General. The 43-year-old Indian American doctor is one of the **three co-chairs** of the Biden's coronavirus Advisory Board.
- Joe Biden has selected another former Obama administration official, **Jeff Zient**, for senior roles to help fight COVID-19. **Jerome Adams** is the incumbent Surgeon General.

### Dronacharya Awardee Kuldeep Handoo from J&K appointed PM's 'Fit India' Movement Ambassador:

- **Kuldeep Handoo**, First Dronacharya Awardee from the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** has been appointed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's '**Fit India**'. Handoo is **Wushu Coach** of Team India is serving as Inspector in Jammu and Kashmir Police Department.

### Horlicks Protein Plus Ropes in Akshay Kumar as Brand Ambassador:

- **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** has announced actor **Akshay Kumar** as their brand promoter for **Horlicks Protein Plus**, through a TVC. He will represent the brand and encourage urban **Indian adults** to fight the protein deficiency on a daily basis by making '**Protein ka routine**' (make protein a routine).

### Uday Shankar becomes first M&E executive to be elected as FICCI president:

- **Uday Shankar**, the outgoing chairman of **Star & Disney India** and president of The **Walt Disney Company**, Asia Pacific, is the newly elected president of FICCI for the year 2020-21. He will succeed **Sangita Reddy**, current president of FICCI and joint MD, Apollo Hospitals Group during FICCI's 93rd AGM.

### AFI appoints Radhakrishnan Nair as chief coach of Indian athletics:

- **Athletics Federation of India** appointed **Radhakrishnan Nair** as its full-time chief coach, filling the post left vacant after the resignation of **Bahadur Singh** in July.

### Indian-origin health expert Anil Soni appointed as the first CEO of The WHO Foundation:

- Indian-origin global health expert **Anil Soni** has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched **The WHO Foundation**, which works alongside the **World Health Organization** to address most pressing health challenges across the world.

### Sushil Kumar Modi elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Bihar:

- Former **Deputy Chief Minister** and **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** candidate **Sushil Kumar Modi** elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha in a by-poll that was necessitated by the death of Union minister and Lok Janshakti Party founder **Ram Vilas Paswan**.

### Debendranath Sarangi Elected as a vice president of World Squash Federation:

- President of Squash Rackets Federation of India **Debendranath Sarangi** was elected as one of the **three vice presidents** of the **World Squash Federation** and its annual general body meeting. **Zena Wooldridge** of England was elected as **president**.

### **Serum Institute's Adar Poonawalla named as 'The Straits Times Asian of the Year 2020' with 5 others:**

- Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), Chief Executive, Adar Poonawalla has been named among six **"The Straits Times Asians of the Year"** for 2020, by Singapore's leading daily, **The Straits Times**, for their work in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Annika Sorenstam elected president of International Golf Federation:**

- **Annika Sorenstam** was elected president of the **International Golf Federation (IGF)**. She is replacing the outgoing Peter Dawson. Sorenstam, a **72-time** winner on the **LPGA Tour** and former No. 1 from Sweden, will take up the position on January 1.

### **Anindya Banerjee appointed as next Ambassador of India to Republic of Korea:**

- **Anindya Banerjee** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of **India** to the Democratic People's **Republic of Korea**. Anindya Banerjee is presently an **Assistant High Commissioner** in the Assistant High Commission of India, **Chittagong**.

### **Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah re-appointed as Prime Minister of Kuwait:**

- Kuwait's Emir **Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah** has reappointed **Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid al-Sabah** as prime minister of the country. Sheikh Sabah had been foreign minister **since 2011** before being elevated to the post of premier in late **2019**.

### **Romanian Defence Minister Nicolae Ciuca Named Interim Premier after Ludovic Orban Resigns:**

- Romania's Defence Minister **Nicolae Ciuca** was named interim prime minister after **Ludovic Orban** resigned over his ruling centre-right **National Liberal Party**, PNL's poor showing in parliamentary elections.

### **Justice Rajesh Bindal Appointed Acting Chief Justice of Jammu And Kashmir High Court:**

- Justice **Rajesh Bindal** was appointed as the acting chief justice of the common high court for the union territories of **Jammu and Kashmir** and **Ladakh**. He succeeds Justice **Gita Mittal**. President of India appointed him, in the exercise of the power conferred by **Article 223** of the **Constitution of India**.

### **Indian-American Pramila Jayapal elected as Chair of Congressional Progressive Caucus:**

- Indian-American Congresswoman, **Pramila Jayapal**, has been elected as the chair of the **Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC)**, making her one of the most powerful US lawmakers in the **117<sup>th</sup> Congress**. She became the first **Indian-American woman** to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Private lender HDFC Bank appoints Sanmoy Chakrabarti as Chief Risk Officer (CRO):**

- Private sector lender **HDFC Bank** has appointed **Sanmoy Chakrabarti** as the **Chief Risk Officer (CRO)** for **3 years**. He will replace **Jimmy Tata**, who will take on **Chief Credit Officer**.

### **RBI re-appointed Uday Kotak as MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank for 3 years:**

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has approved the re-appointment of **Uday Kotak** as managing director of **Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB)** for a further period of three years. The banking sector regulator also approved the appointment of part-time chairman **Prakash Apte** for three years.

### **Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Sekhar Vempati elected as the Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union:**

- CEO of Prasar Bharati **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** was elected as the Vice President of the **Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union**.
- The **Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union** was formed in **1964** as a professional association of broadcasting organisations with over **286 members** in **57 countries** and regions, reaching a potential population of about three billion people.

### **NASA selects Indian-American Raja Chari as the Commander of SpaceX Crew-3 mission:**

- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and the **European Space Agency (ESA)** have selected Indian-American **Raja Chari** to be the Commander of the **SpaceX Crew-3 mission** to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Raja Chari would be the Commander of SpaceX Crew-3 mission, while NASA's **Tom Marshburn** will be the pilot, and ESA's Matthias Maurer will serve as the mission specialist. This mission is expected to be launched in **2021**.

### **Nana Akufo-Addo won 2<sup>nd</sup> term as the President of Ghana:**

- The incumbent Ghanaian President **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo** has won the presidential election and secured his **second term**. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of the **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** won **137** out of 225 parliamentary seats, and NDC won **136** seats.

### **Bank of Baroda appoints Ian De Souza as a new Chief Financial Officer:**

- **Bank of Baroda** has appointed **Ian De Souza** as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He will replace **Subrat Kumar**. De Souza is a Chartered Accountant, ICWA, MMS (Finance) with 23 years of experience in the banking & financial services domain.

### NHAI chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu gets extension for six months:

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** chairman **Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** has received a **six-month** extension in his central deputation. He had received the first extension of six months till **January 21, 2021**. His second extension term would be until **July 21, 2021**.

### Senior IAS officer Aditya Nath Das appointed as Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh:

- **Aditya Nath Das**, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of **Andhra Pradesh**. He will take over from incumbent **Nilam Sawhney**.
- Aditya is presently serving as the **special chief secretary**, water resource and environment, forest, science, and technology departments.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

### Kohima Smart City Development Limited declared winner at ET Govt Global Smart Cities Forum 2020:

- In Nagaland, **Kohima Smart City Development Limited** (KSCDL) has been declared Winner at the **ET Government Global Smart Cities Forum 2020** under the category Best Digital Initiative of the Year (Technology) for Kohima City **Wifi Phase-I Project**.

### 14-year-old TN girl Vinisha Umashankar wins Children's Climate Prize for designing solar-powered ironing cart:

- **Vinisha Umashankar**, a 14-year-old student of class **9th grade** at a private school in **Tiruvannamalai** has won the prestigious Children's Climate Prize for designing a mobile ironing cart that uses **solar panels** to power a steam **iron box** instead of using conventional charcoal.

### Malayalam film Jallikattu is India's official Oscar entry:

- **Malayalam** film **Jallikattu** has been selected as **India's official entry** for **Oscars** in the **foreign-language film category**. The film was unanimously chosen among **27 entries** across Hindi, Marathi and other languages. The film is based on a short story Maoist by **S Hareesh**.

### Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Nominated For 2021 Nobel Peace Prize:

- **Israeli** Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** and **Abu Dhabi** Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** have been nominated for the **2021 Nobel Peace Prize** for their roles in establishing diplomatic ties between their countries.



- They have been nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize 2021** for their contribution to establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Especially for the signing of the **Abraham Accord peace** agreement by **Israel, Bahrain & UAE**.

### **Indo-Japan cooperation wins OECD MAP 2019 award for highest agreement ratio in transfer pricing cases:**

- **Indo-Japan** cooperation has won the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) Mutual Agreement Procedure **2019 Award** for highest agreement ratio for a pair of jurisdictions for **transfer pricing cases**.
- In another category 4, **Norway- United States** cooperation won the 2019 MAP Awards for **"other cases"**.

### **Tamil Nadu ranks first in organ donation for sixth consecutive year:**

- **Tamil Nadu** has bagged the first rank for organ donation in the country for the sixth consecutive year. The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation** of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare department gave the award to Tamil Nadu Health Minister **C Vijayabaskar** and Tamil Nadu Health Secretary **Radhakrishnan** through a virtual meet.
- So far, a total of **8, 245 organs** have been received from 1, 392 organ donors in Tamil Nadu.

### **Amul becomes 8th largest dairy in the world; IFCN Germany report:**

- Dairy giant **Amul** has ranked **8th** among the top 20 global dairy processors as assessed by the international dairy research body **IFCN** (International Farm Comparison Network) Dairy Research Network.

### **Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com named "Pandemic" as the word of the year:**

- For the first time, two dictionary companies **Merriam-Webster** and **Dictionary.com** have declared the same word **"Pandemic"** as word of the Year. Pandemic is a word having roots in **Latin and Greek**, where **"pan"** denotes **"for all"** and **"demos"** indicating **"people or population"** sometimes roots to **"democracy"**.

### **Manipur's Nongpok Sekmai Police Station selected as India's Top Police Station for 2020:**

- The Ministry of **Home Affairs, Government of India** releases the list of **Best Performing Police Stations** across the country every year, to incentivize more effective functioning of police stations and bring healthy competition among them.
- The **Nongpok Sekmai Police Station** in **Manipur** topped the list of best police stations in India while **AWPS-Suramangalam** in **Tamil Nadu's** Salem city was the country's second-

best police station, Kharsang PS in **Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district** was the third-best police station.

### **President Donald J. Trump to Award the Medal of Freedom to Lou Holtz:**

- President **Donald J. Trump** will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to **Louis Leo Holtz**. Louis Leo Holtz is one of the greatest **football coaches** and Former **American football player**.
- This prestigious award is the **Nation's highest civilian honor**, which may be awarded by the President to individuals who have made especially **meritorious contributions** to the security.

### **HCL Tech's Roshni Nadar tops the list of India's wealthiest women:**

- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** of **HCL Technologies**, followed by **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** of Biocon and **Leena Gandhi Tewari** of USV has topped the list of wealthiest women in India.
- According to the second edition of the '**Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women**' report, compiled by Kotak Wealth Management, a division of **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, and **Hurun India**.

### **Reliance Industries Ltd Tops Fortune India 500 list of India's largest companies for the second straight year:**

- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries Ltd** (RIL) topped the list for the second straight year, According to the **Fortune India 500** annual list of India's largest corporations.
- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd** (IOC), bagged second place followed by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation** (ONGC) at third place.

### **15-year-old Indian American Gitanjali Rao Becomes First-Ever TIME 'Kid of The Year':**

- Fifteen-year-old Indian American **Gitanjali Rao** has become the first-ever '**Kid of the Year**' by **TIME** for her contribution to using technology against issues such as contaminated drinking water, opioid addiction, and cyberbullying. The magazine chose the "**Brilliant**" teenager for her "**Astonishing Work**" in tackling social issues.
- She has created applications named '**Kindly**' to help people, especially kids, fight opioid addiction, and cyberbullying.

### **Maharashtra School Teacher Ranjitsinh Disale becomes first Indian to win Global Teacher Prize 2020:**

- **Ranjitsinh Disale**, a primary school teacher from India was on Thursday named the winner of the \$1 million (Rs 7.4 crore) annual **Global Teacher Prize 2020** in recognition of his efforts to promote girls' education and trigger a **Quick-Response** (QR) coded textbook revolution in India.

- **Rajitsinh** made efforts and added QR codes to textbooks of primary classes to provide links to **audio poems, video lectures, stories, and assignments.**

### 'Fagun Haway' and 'No Dorai' wins Bangladesh best films award 2019:

- **'Fagun Haway'** and **'No Dorai'** wins Bangladesh's best films award 2019 The Bangladesh Ministry of Information announced the **National Film Awards for 2019**. Films 'No Dorai' and 'Fagun Haway' jointly won the best film award.
- **Taneem Rahman Anghshu** who directed the film 'No Dorai' got the Best **Director award**. The awards this year have been given away in **26** categories. **Emon Chowdhury** got the Best Music Director award for the film **'Maya- The Lost Mother'**.

### Myanmar indigenous activist Paul Sein Twa wins 'Green Nobel Prize' 2020 from Asia:

- An indigenous **Karen activist** who spearheaded establishing a sprawling conservation zone in eastern Myanmar has been awarded **Goldman Environmental Prize 2020**. Paul Sein Twa led his people in setting up a **peace park & conservation** effort in the **Salween basin**.

### Anita Anand Wins PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize 2020 for story on Jallianwala Bagh:

- British Indian journalist and author **Anita Anand's** book that tells the story of a young man caught up in the **1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre** in **Amritsar** has won a prestigious history-literary prize in the UK.
- **'The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj'** beat six other titles for the PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize for History 2020, awarded annually for a **non-fiction book** of specific historical content.

### Shantanu Narayen and Ajay Banga named among top 10 Fortune Businessperson of the Year 2020; Elon Musk Topped:

- Adobe CEO **Shantanu Narayen** and Mastercard CEO **Ajay Banga** have been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> position respectively by **Fortune Businessperson of the Year 2020**.
- The list was topped by CEO of **Tesla** and **SpaceX** **Elon Musk** for a second time. CEO of Advanced Micro Devices **Lisa Su** has been ranked in 2nd spot followed by **Jensen Huang**, CEO of **Nvidia** in the 3rd spot.

### 'Invest India' wins UNCTAD's Investment Promotion Award for 2020:

- **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD) has declared **'Invest India'** as winner of the **United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020**. The award ceremony took place at UNCTAD Headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- The Award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of the **World's best-practice investment promotion agencies**.

### **ICAR's Bhopal-based IISS Conferred King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award of FAO:**

- The **India Council of Agricultural Research** (ICAR) said that its Bhopal-based **Indian Institute of Soil Science** has been awarded the prestigious "**King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award**" by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

### **Yulimar Rojas and Mondo Duplantis crowned World Athletes of the Year 2020:**

- Swedish pole vaulter **Mondo Duplantis** and Venezuelan triple jumper **Yulimar Rojas** are the Male and Female World Athletes of the Year 2020. They are their countries' first recipients of the prestigious athletics award announced during the virtual awards

### **Raj Kamal Jha wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for 'The City and the Sea':**

- Writer and chief editor of The Indian Express, **Raj Kamal Jha**, has won the **3<sup>rd</sup> Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020** for his book, The City, and the Sea. **Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al** Stated the late Sultan of Oman and The People of Oman, and choreographer **Sandip Soparrkar** from India received the **Tagore Prize for Social Achievement**.

### **Actor Sonu Sood tops the list of Global Asian Celebrity 2020:**

- Bollywood actor **Sonu Sood** has been named the number one Asian celebrity on the planet for the year 2020. Sonu topped the **50 Asian Celebrities** in The World list, published by the **UK-based Eastern Eye newspaper**.
- Other **Indian personalities** from the world of cinema, music and fashion who featured in the list this year include **Armaan Malik** at the fifth position, **Priyanka Chopra** at sixth, Telugu superstar **Prabhas** at seventh, and **Ayushmann Khurrana** at eleventh.

### **Wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valarivan honoured at FICCI India Sports Awards 2020:**

- Tokyo Olympics bound athlete's wrestler **Bajrang Punia** and shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** bagged the top honours at the **FICCI India Sports Awards 2020** held virtually this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Former Indian Cricketer **Anil Kumble** received the '**Best Company Promoting Sports (Private Sector)**' award on behalf of his enterprise.

### **Carolina Araujo of Brazil Becomes First Non-Indian To Win Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians:**

- The **Ramanujan Prize** for Young Mathematicians 2020 has been awarded to **Carolina Araujo** for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry in a virtual ceremony. She is the **first non-Indian women** mathematician to receive this prize.

- Dr.Araujo is a Mathematician from the **Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA)**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is also the Vice President of the Committee for Women in Mathematics at the **International Mathematical Union**.

### **Ashraf Patel wins the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award India 2020:**

- The founder member and Board member of Pravah and ComMutiny – The Youth Collective (CYC), **Ashraf Patel**, has been awarded the **Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award** – India 2020.
- Union Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, **Smriti Zubin Irani** presented the award. The 11th edition of the annual award was instituted by the **Schwab Foundation** and **Jubilant Bhartia Foundation** in 2010.

### **Kamala Harris and Joe Biden jointly named Time's 'Person of the Year' 2020:**

- US President **Joe Biden** and Vice President-elect **Kamala Harris** have been jointly named Time magazine's 2020 "Person of the Year".
- Time magazine has named the Korean pop group **BTS** as its Entertainer of the Year, and basketball star **LeBron James** as Athlete of the Year. Zoom founder **Eric Yuan** was aptly named Businessperson of The Year 2020.

### **UNEP announces Champions of the Earth Award 2020 to six Recipients:**

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** virtually announced **6 Individuals** as recipients of the 2020 Champions of the Earth Award, UN's highest environmental honor.
- The Earth Award's Champions is presented in 5 categories, including **Lifetime Achievement, Inspiration and Action, Policy Leadership, Entrepreneur Vision, Science, and Innovation**.

### **The Champions of the Earth 2020 are:**

- Prime Minister of Fiji, **Frank Bainimarama**, honoured in the Policy Leadership category for his global climate action work and his commitment to climate-responsive national development
- **Dr. Fabian Leendertz (Germany)**, honoured in the **Science and Innovation category** for his discoveries in zoonotics and his work in One Health
- **Mindy Lubber (USA)**, recognized in the **Entrepreneurial Vision category** for her commitment to turning capital markets green by mobilizing top investors and companies and making the business case for climate action and sustainability
- **Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)**, awarded in the **Inspiration and Action category** for her **leadership** and unifying work with indigenous communities that halted drilling in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest



- **Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)**, also honoured in the **Inspiration and Action category** for **teaching farmers** his traditional nature-based solution to regenerate their soil and turn barren land into arable land and forest across Africa
- This year's champions are joined by **Professor Robert D. Bullard (USA)**, who was awarded the Champion of the Earth Lifetime Achievement award for his commitment and service to environmental justice.

### Postal Department confers Meghdoot awards to postal employees for their achievements in 2019-20:

- The **Department of Posts** conducted **Meghdoot Award Function 2020** in **New Delhi**. The Meghdoot award is given **every year** for excellence in postal service. The award is given in **8 categories**. A cash award of **Rs. 21, 000**, a Gold Medallion, and a citation are presented to the winners.

### Kylie Jenner tops Forbes' list of highest-paid celebrities of 2020:

- American celebrity **Kylie Jenner** has come out at the top of the **Forbes** 2020 list of highest-paid celebrities. According to the list, **Kylie Jenner** earned **\$590 million**, followed by **Kanye West** with **\$170 million**.
- **Roger Federer** with **\$109 million**, **Cristiano Ronaldo** with **\$105 million**, **Lionel Messi** with **\$104 million**, Tyler Perry, Neymar, Howard Stern, LeBron James, and Dwayne Johnson have also featured in the top 10 list.

### SAIL receives Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2020:

- **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** has been awarded the prestigious **Golden Peacock Environment Management Award** for the **second consecutive year** in the **steel sector** by the Institute of Directors for its Corporate Responsibility for **Environment Protection**, and continuously focusing on adopting various environmental measures.

### Indian entrepreneur Vidyut Mohan named as one of the 'Young Champions of the Earth' winners by UN environment agency:

- 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur **Vidyut Mohan** is among the seven winners of the prestigious **"Young Champions of the Earth"** 2020 prize given by the **UN environment agency** to global change-makers using innovative ideas and ambitious action to help solve some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

### Robert Lewandowski and Lucy Bronze won FIFA Player of the year awards:

- Bayern Munich striker **Robert Lewandowski** was named men's player of the year at FIFA's 'The Best' award ceremony in Zurich. The 32-year-old Lewandowski, top scorer in **Europe** and winner of the **Champions League** with Bayern.



- England defender **Lucy Bronze** took the women's award, seeing off the challenge of **Wendie Renard** and **Pernille Harder**. The **Puskas Award for best goal** went to Tottenham's South Korean striker **Son Heung-min**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented 'ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award' to Ratan Tata:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** virtually delivered the **keynote address** at **ASSOCHAM** (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) **Foundation Week 2020**.
- Prime Minister also presented the **ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award** to Mr. **Ratan Tata**, who received the award on behalf of the **TATA Group**.

### Unilever, Tata Power and Maruti win at Grant Thornton SABERA 2020 Awards:

- The **Grant Thornton SABERA Awards** acknowledge the inspiring stories of impact and development aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. **Hindustan Unilever** & **Tata Power** won under the Category **Responsible Business**. **Maruti** won under **Exemplary Business Adaptation Through COVID** Category.

### Ravi Shankar Prasad and Sanjay Dhotre present Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards:

- **Sreenivas Karanam** from Bangalore was selected for the **FIRST prize** for his contribution in developing a cost-effective, customised technical solution under the brand '**C mobile**', for deep-sea communication.
- **Prof. Subrat Kar** from New Delhi was selected for the **SECOND prize** for his innovative solution on development & deployment of a **large-scale sensor network** and devices to avoid the train-animal collision.

### Delhi's Sunder Nursery chosen for two UNESCO Asia-Pacific awards for conservation:

- Delhi's iconic **Sunder Nursery**, a 90-acre garden which was transformed into a **horticultural paradise** after decade-long conservation work, is among the winners in '**Special Recognition for Sustainable Development**' and Award of Excellence in the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards** for "**Cultural Heritage Conservation 2020**".
- Also, **Koothambalam** at **Guruvayoor Temple** in **Kerala's Thrissur** has been chosen in the **Award of Distinction** category.
- In the Award of **Merit category**, **Amar Singh College**, Srinagar and Malabari Hall Building, Mumbai, besides Pingyao Diesel Engine Factory in, China, have been chosen.

### UNESCO recognise Singapore's 'Hawker' Culture serving as 'community Dining Room':

- The '**Hawker' Culture** in **Singapore**, a popular Singaporean style of street dining and culinary practices in a multicultural urban environment has been recognised by the **UNESCO** at the **National Day Rally**.
- The culture has made it to the UN's prestigious '**Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**' along with French **cuisine**, **Thai massage**, and **yoga**.

### F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton wins BBC Sports Personality of the Year award for 2020:

- Six-time world champion **Lewis Hamilton** was named the '**BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020**'. It is the **second time** that Hamilton has been crowned the sports personality award. Prior to this, he won the award in **2014**.

### Other Sports Personalities of the Year 2020:

- Coach of the Year: **Jurgen Klopp**
- Team of the Year: **Liverpool**
- Young Sports Personality of the Year: **Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix**
- World Sport Star of the Year: **Khabib Nurmagomedov**
- Panel Special Award: **Marcus Rashford**
- Helen Rollason Award: **Captain Sir Tom Moore**
- Captain Tom Young Unsung Hero: **Tobias Weller**
- Unsung Hero: Sergeant **Matiu Ratana**

### Aesthetic Dhokra decorative pieces added to the Tribes India collection:

- **Exquisite Dhokra** products from different tribes of India were among the main items added in the **7<sup>th</sup>** edition of "**From Our Home to your Home**" campaign on **Tribes India**, which focusses on sourcing **new, natural, attractive** as well as immunity-boosting tribal products and bringing them to the customer.

### President Trump presents the Legion of Merit honour to Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

- President **Donald Trump** has conferred the **Legion of Merit**, one of the highest military honours of the US, on Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for his leadership in elevating bilateral strategic partnership and accelerating the emergence of India as a global power.
- The award was accepted by India's Ambassador to the US, **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** on behalf of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **L&T Defence gets 'Green Channel Status' from the ministry of defence for naval weapon systems:**

- The **Defence Ministry** has granted '**Green Channel Status**', which has benefits like **deemed registration status** and waiver from pre-dispatch inspection, to **L&T Defence** for major naval weapon delivery systems, the firm.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS:**

### **Shashi Tharoor's Latest Book "The Battle of Belonging" Launched by Prabha Khaitan Foundation:**

- A book titled "**The Battle of Belonging**" was authored by **Shashi Tharoor**. It was launched at the **Prabha Khaitan Foundation's** signature event **Kitab**. This book is the culmination of a lifetime's thoughts, readings and arguments on issues of nationalism and patriotism which are not just theoretical or academic but intensely personal too.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi Releases Book on Life and Ideals of Guru Nanak Dev:**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has released a book on the **life and ideals** of **Guru Nanak Dev**, the founder of **Sikhism** and first of its ten gurus. The book has been penned by **Kirpal Singh Ji**. Minority Affairs Minister **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** was also present during the book release.

### **A Book titled "Romancing Targets: Get Closer to Selling in 7 Steps" authored by Nidhi Vadhera:**

- A book titled "**Romancing Targets: Get Closer to Selling in 7 Steps**" authored by **Nidhi Vadhera**. The book was published by **Success Gyan Publishing**.

### **A Book Titled "Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life"; authored by Amish Tripathi and Bhavna Roy:**

- **Amish's** second non-fiction book is titled "**Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life**". The book has been co-authored by Amish's sister **Bhavna Roy**. The book is published by **Westland Publications Pvt Ltd**.

### **A New Book Titled 'Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific' Released by ADB:**

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has released a new book titled '**Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific**'. The book provides insight on how stronger regional cooperation strategies, including in health, trade, finance, and disaster risk, can help governments in Asia and the Pacific accelerate **economic growth** and **robust recovery** from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Prakash Javadekar and Hardeep Singh Puri release booklet 'PM Modi and his Government's Special Relationship with Sikhs':**

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting **Prakash Javadekar** along with Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** released a booklet titled '**PM Modi and his Government's Special Relationship with Sikhs**'.
- It was published by Ministry of **Information and Broadcasting**, and released in **English, Hindi & Punjabi languages**.

### **A book titled "Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield" New Book Authored by Amrit Raj:**

- Indian journalist **Amrit Raj** authored his new book titled "**Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield**" which maps the story of the company and the brand "**Royal Enfield**", a premium homegrown brand for the global market. The book was published by **Westland Books**.

### **A New Kids Book titled "Vahana Masterclass" Launched by Italian Writer Alfredo Covelli:**

- Italian Writer **Alfredo Covelli** launched his new kids book titled "**Vahana Masterclass**" illustrating the Indian Mythology and Culture. **Indian mythology** and **culture** are very popular among other countries, they admire the way we worship our god and goddesses. The book was published by **Scholastic India**.

### **Vice President releases a book on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam titled "40 Years with Abdul Kalam-Untold Stories" Authored by Sivathanu Pillai:**

- Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** was releasing a book titled "**40 Years with Abdul Kalam - Untold Stories**" authored by scientist **Sivathanu Pillai**. The book is based on the life of the former President of India **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**. The book is published by **Pentagon Press LLP** and the foreword was written by **Pranab Mukherjee**, former president of India.

### **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released a book titled 'The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force':**

- A book titled '**The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force**' was released by Lok sabha speaker **om Birla** at the parliament house in New Delhi.
- Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Nitu is co-authors of the book, **M. Dhinakaran**, and their team **Mr. Amit**, Assistant Commandant CRPF and Inspector **Deepak Saxena**.

### **Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu releases the book 'Oh Mizoram', a collection of English poems written by the Governor of Mizoram, P S Sreedharan Pillai:**

- Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** has virtually released a book titled "**Oh, Mizoram**". It is a collection of poems written by **P S Sreedharan Pillai**, the Governor of Mizoram. The book is published by **Indus Scrolls Press**.
- This book presents a huge opportunity for **North-Eastern states** to promote their **tourism sector** for domestic audience.

### **Former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis released a book titled 'Ayodhya' authored by Madhav Bhandari:**

- Former Maharashtra Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra, **Devendra Fadnavis** released the book '**Ayodhya**' authored by '**Madhav Bhandari**' in Mumbai.

### **A Book titled 'The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha' authored by former union minister Jairam Ramesh:**

- Former Union minister **Jairam Ramesh's** new book will uncover and narrate the story of phenomenal poem '**The Light of Asia**' that has shaped people's thinking of the Buddha and his teachings. The book will be published by **Penguins Viking imprint**.

## **RANKINGS:**

### **India becomes fourth largest producer of renewable energy in world: PM Modi:**

- **India's renewable power** capacity is the **4th largest** in the **world** and it is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. The renewable energy capacity in India is currently **136 Giga Watts**, which is about **36 percent** of the country's total capacity.

### **India ranks 8th in Most Impacted country by Terrorism; Global Terrorism Index 2020 report (Afghanistan Topped):**

- **Global Terrorism Index 2020** ranks **India** as **8th** in the world on a list of countries most affected by terrorism in **2019**, with 558 incidents that killed **277** and injured **439**. Further, the report marks **South Asia** as region worst affected by terrorism for the **second year** in a row.
- **Afghanistan** (9.592) was reported to be the most impacted of the 163 countries, **Iraq** (8.682) was the second most affected nation, followed by **Nigeria** (8.314).

### India tops bribery rate in Asia region; Transparency International report:

- **India** has the **highest bribery rate** of the country at **39 percent** in **Asia** and the largest number of people who use personal connections to access public services, according to a new report by corruption watchdog Transparency International.
- In the survey, titled '**Global Corruption Barometer – Asia**', the agency surveyed **20,000 people** across **17 Asian countries** in between June and September.

### India tops the list of educated migrants in rich countries; OECD data:

- According to **OECD** (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) data report, **India** came at the **top** with around **3.12 Million** Highly Educated Migrants living in the OECD Nations as of **2015-16 data**.
- India continues to top the OECD list of **educated emigrants** since **2015/16** with more than three million highly educated migrants in the OECD, the share of those considered of high education status was nearly **65%**.

### Lahore Tops List of World's Most Polluted Cities, while Delhi Ranks Second: US Air Quality Index:

- According to air pollution data released by the **US Air Quality Index (AQI)** **Pakistan** cultural capital **Lahore** (423 PM rating) has been ranked as the world's most polluted city. **New Delhi** came in second with a PM of **229**, while Nepal's capital **Kathmandu** ranked the third-worst city with a PM of **178**.

### India recorded largest reduction in malaria cases in South-East Asia from 2000-2019; WHO Report:

- According to **World Health Organisation (WHO)** report, **India** made "**Strong Progress**" in the fight against malaria, recording the largest reduction in cases in **South-East Asia** from 20 million in **2000- 2019** to about **5.6 million**.

### National University of Singapore secured the top position for 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year: QS Asia University Rankings 2021:

- The **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** has announced its **Asia University Rankings 2021** Asia's higher education institutions ranking in association with **King Abdulaziz University** (Saudi Arabia).
- **National University of Singapore** secured the top institution position for the third consecutive year and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) **Bombay, Delhi** and **Madras** are among in the top 50 institutions in the country.



### India ranked 10th in Climate Change Performance Index 2021:

- **India** is ranked at **10th place** in the **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021**. For the second time in a row, **India** continued to remain in the top 10. The country scored **63.98 points** out of 100. India was at **9th** spot last year in the index.
- The first three places remain unoccupied while **Sweden** (4th) **United Kingdom** (5th), **Denmark** (6th), **Morocco** (7th), **Norway** (8th), **Chile** (9th) were among the top 10 rankers in the index.

### Mumbai Bagged Top Position in Urban Quality of Life Index released by IIT Bombay:

- **IIT-Bombay** researchers have rolled out an urban quality of life index to show the reality of life in India.
  - Top city: **Mumbai**
  - The other top cities: **Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai**.
  - Most women-friendly: **Chennai**
  - Least women-friendly: **Patna**
  - Highest crime rate against women: **Jaipur**
  - Lowest crime rate against women: **Chennai**
  - Widest gap in literacy rate between men and women: **Jaipur (13.2%)**
  - Lowest gap in literacy rate between men and women: **Kolkata (5.4%)**.
  - Highest overall Literacy rate: **Pune (91%)**
  - Lowest overall Literacy rate: **Hyderabad (83%)**.
  - Highest unemployment rate for women: **Patna**

### India drops to 9th spot in Global Spam Call Tally: Gujarat Gets Max Calls; Insights Report:

- According to the 4th Edition of **Global Insights Report for 2020** released by **Truecaller**, a Swedish Caller ID and Spam Blocking app, India ranked **9th** in the list of countries affected by **spam calls** in 2020. **Gujarat** received the most spam calls. The list was topped by **Brazil, United States & Hungary**.

### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ranked 41 in World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes:

- Union finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** is featured in Forbes' list of **100 most powerful women** in the world. Sitharaman is ranked **41st** and other Indians in the list include HCL Corporation CEO and Executive Director **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** and Biocon Founder **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**.
- German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** grabbed the No. 1 slot for the **10th consecutive year**, with European Central Bank head **Christine Lagarde** coming in second for the second year in a row.

### India drops to the second position in BNEF's 2020 Climatescope ranking; Chile bags the top spot:

- **India** has dropped to the **second position** in the recently released **Bloomberg New Energy Finance's (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope** survey ranking from the first last year, because of a decline in clean energy investment, which fell **12 per cent** in 2018-19 to \$ **8.5 billion** and has plummeted **32 percent** since 2017.
- **Chile** has bagged the **top spot** in the survey which is reflective of its strong clean energy policies while **Brazil** remained at the **third position**.

### India ranks 131 in the United Nation's Human Development Index 2020; Norway Tops:

- According to a report released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, India dropped one spot to **131** among 189 countries in the human development index 2020.
- **Norway** has topped the index, followed by **Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong**, and **Iceland**. **Niger** is the lowest-ranked country at the 189<sup>th</sup> place.

### Hong Kong is the most expensive city in the world according to ECA's International Cost of Living Report 2020:

- **Hong Kong** is the most expensive location in the world for expatriates, despite rental prices falling over the past 12 months. **Tokyo** was ranked the second most expensive city, followed by **New York** and Switzerland's **Geneva** and **Zurich**.
- **Mumbai** dropped 34 places and was placed as the 94<sup>th</sup> most expensive city for expatriates.
- **New Delhi** - 144, **Bengaluru** -174, **Hyderabad** - 177 & **Kolkata** - 179.

### India ranked 111 out of 162 countries in Human Freedom Index 2020:

- India was ranked **111<sup>th</sup>** out of **162 countries** as per the recently released **Human Freedom Index 2020**, a worldwide ranking of civil, economic, and personal freedom. India ranked 94<sup>th</sup> on the index in 2019.
- **New Zealand** was ranked one in the index, followed by **Switzerland** and **Hong Kong**. **China** was ranked 129<sup>th</sup>, **Bangladesh** at 139<sup>th</sup> and **Pakistan** at 140<sup>th</sup> among the Asian countries.

### India ranked 63<sup>rd</sup> in the Ease of Doing Business Survey 2020; New Zealand topped:

- According to the **World Bank's** Ease of Doing Business Survey 2020, **India** remained unaffected in the revised Ease of Doing Business report and ranked **63<sup>rd</sup>**. China dropped seven places to **85<sup>th</sup>** from the previous **78<sup>th</sup>** position.
- The list was topped by **New Zealand**, followed by **Singapore** and **Hong Kong** in the **2<sup>nd</sup>** and **3<sup>rd</sup>** place, respectively.

### **Lionel Messi scores 643rd goal for Barcelona to equal Pele's record of goals for a single club:**

- Argentine footballer **Lionel Messi** has equalled Brazilian legend **Pele's** record of **643 goals** for a single club by scoring for **Barcelona** against Valencia. Messi has achieved the feat in a Spanish league match where both the teams ended in a 2-2 draw.

### **Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju virtually inaugurates 8 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence across India:**

- Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** virtually inaugurated **8 Khelo India State** Centres of Excellence across India in the presence of State Sports Ministers. The 8 States include **Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Kerala, Telangana, Nagaland, Karnataka, and Odisha.**

### **Indian men's hockey team in 4th position, women's team in 9th position in FIH rankings:**

- The Indian **men** and **women** hockey teams will finish 2020 in **fourth** and **ninth positions**, respectively, after a major part of the year was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **International Hockey Federation** (FIH) announced that the **Belgium** men's team and the **Netherlands'** women will finish the year at the top of the world rankings.

## **OBITUARY NEWS:**

### **Argentina football legend Diego Maradona Passed away at 60:**

- Argentine** football legend **Diego Maradona**, widely regarded as one of the game's greatest ever players, died of a heart attack. He had recently battled health issues and underwent **emergency surgery** for a subdural haematoma.

### **Founder of TCS and father of India's IT industry Faqir Chand Kohli passed away at 96:**

- Padma Bhushan awardee, **Faqir Chand Kohli**, who was the founder and first **CEO of Tata Consultancy Services**, has passed away after reportedly suffering from a heart attack. He pioneered India's 'Technology Revolution' to help the country build a **USD 100 billion IT industry** during his tenure at TCS.

### **James Wolfensohn, Former World Bank President Passed away at 86:**

- James Wolfensohn**, who served as the **president** of the **World Bank** for **10 years** and was a guiding force for a couple of the most well-known cultural institutions in the U.S., has died. He known as a champion of the **world's poor.**

### **Former Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre S Ramakrishnan passed away at 71:**

- Padma Shri awardee **S Ramakrishnan**, Indian space scientist and former director of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre** died at Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala**. He also served as a director of **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre** (LPSC) from June 2010 to December 2012.

### **Veteran Congress Leader Ahmed Patel passes away at 71:**

- Senior Congress leader **Ahmed Patel** passed away at a **Gurugram** hospital after testing positive for the COVID-19. Patel was Lok Sabha MP for three terms from **1977 to 1989** and Rajya Sabha MP since **1993** representing **Gujarat**.

### **Mexican Singer and Actress Flor Silvestre passed away at 90:**

- **Flor Silvestre**, one of **Mexico's** most popular **singers** who also starred in scores of films, died. Emerging as a radio star in her late teens, Silvestre inked a recording deal with Columbia Records in 1950 and soon began to score **Spanish-language hits**.

### **Bangladeshi actor and Liberation War fighter Aly Zaker Died at 76:**

- Eminent **Bangladeshi** actor and cultural personality **Aly Zaker** died in Dhaka. Zaker was an **actor, director** and **playwright** who contributed to theatre, TV and Films in Bangladesh. He was also a founder trustee of the **Liberation War Museum** in Dhaka.

### **British Actor David Prowse Passed Away at 85:**

- British character actor **David Prowse**, best known for playing '**Darth Vader**' in the original Star Wars trilogy, has died. He was a **weightlifter**-turned-actor, was selected to portray Darth Vader. However, the role was voiced by **James Earl Jones**.

### **Former Prime Minister of Sudan Sadiq al-Mahdi Died at 84:**

- **Sadiq al-Mahdi**, Sudan's last democratically elected prime minister and leader of the country's **largest political party**, died of COVID-19. He elected prime minister and was overthrown in **1989** in the military coup that brought former President **Omar al-Bashir** to power.

### **Senegal Football World Cup Star Papa Bouba Diop passed away at 42:**

- Former Premier League player and **Senegal** World Cup star **Papa Bouba Diop** has died. Diop made **63** appearances for his country with the highlight of his international career coming at the **2002 World Cup** where he scored the **first goal** of the tournament as Senegal stunned reigning champion France 1-0.

### Telangana MLA Nomula Narsimhaiah Passed away at 64:

- Senior leader of Telangana Rastra Samiti & Member of Legislative Assembly, **N. Narasimhaiah** passed away. He served as floor leader of the CPI-M twice in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Assembly while representing **Nakrekal constituency**.

### Rajasthan BJP MLA Kiran Maheshwari passes away at 59:

- BJP leader and MLA from **Rajsamand** in Rajasthan **Kiran Maheshwari** died at a hospital in Gurgaon. She had served, previously, as a member of parliament in the **14th Lok Sabha** where she represented the **Udaipur Constituency**.

### Rajya Sabha MP Abhay Bhardwaj passes away at 56:

- Rajya Sabha** MP from Gujarat **Abhay Bhardwaj** died due to Covid19. Abhay Bhardwaj was born on April 2, 1954 in Uganda. He was a renowned lawyer in **Rajkot** but was more known for his public welfare work in the **Saurashtra capital**.

### 'King of spices' Mahashay Dharampal Gulati passes away at 98:

- Dharampal Gulati**, the owner of **MDH Masala**, passed away due to cardiac arrest. Gulati was known as '**dalaji**' and '**Mahashayji**', Dharampal Gulati was born in 1923 in Sialkot, **Pakistan**. He was honored with '**Padma Bhushan**', the third-highest civilian award in 2019.

### Pizza Hut co-founder Frank Carney passes away at 82:

- American entrepreneur **Frank Carney**, who along with his brother Dan, started the Pizza Hut empire in the US city of **Wichita**, has passed away from pneumonia. He had recently recovered from Covid-19, but **Alzheimer's disease** for more than a decade, and pneumonia are common in Alzheimer's patients.

### Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing passed away at 94:

- Valéry Giscard d'Estaing**, the president of **France** from **1974 to 1981** who became a champion of European integration, died. He wrote the article in the **EU charter** that allowed **Brexit** to happen the brief measure that allows a member state to leave the bloc.

### Olympic gold medallist and World's Greatest Athlete, Rafer Johnson died at 86:

- Rafer Johnson**, who has crowned the **World's Greatest Athlete** after winning the decathlon gold medal at the **1960 Olympics**. Johnson turned to act and appeared in a few films, including the **James Bond** film Licence to Kill in **1989**.

### **Lakshadweep Administrator Dineshwar Sharma passed away at 66:**

- Lakshadweep Administrator **Dineshwar Sharma**, who earlier headed the Intelligence Bureau and was also the Interlocutor for **Jammu and Kashmir**, died in **Chennai**.

### **Veteran Bengali actor Manu Mukherjee passed away at 90:**

- Veteran Bengali actor **Manu Mukherjee** has passed away after a cardiac arrest. He had started his film career with Mrinal Sen's **Nil Akasher Niche** (1958). The actor is best remembered for his roles in Satyajit Ray's Joy **Baba Felunath and Ganashatru**.

### **Father of Fibre Optics Narinder Singh Kapany passed away at 94:**

- **Narinder Singh Kapany**, also known as the **father of fibre optics**, passed away. The India-born American **physicist** was named as one of the seven "**Unsung Heroes**" by Fortune in their '**Businessmen of the Century**' issue of **November 22, 1999**.

### **Veteran Marathi actor Ravi Patwardhan passes away at 84:**

- Veteran actor **Ravi Patwardhan**, known for his **Marathi TV** show **Aggabai Sasubai** passed away due to a heart attack. He was last seen in Tejashree Pradha, Nivedita Joshi-Saraf, Girish Oak, and Ashutosh Patki, among others.

### **Veteran Hindi writer Madhukar Gangadhar passed away at 88:**

- Veteran Hindi writer **Madhukar Gangadhar** died. Shri Gangadhar was the **lead storyteller** of the new story movement. He was an associate of Renuji in Patna Akashvani, director of **All India Radio** in Allahabad & Deputy Director General at Delhi AIR.

### **Hall of Fame Tennis player Dennis Ralston passed away at 78:**

- **Dennis Ralston**, a **five-time** Grand Slam doubles champion who was one of the first players signed to the professional **World Championship Tennis tour** in the **1960s** and a member of the sport's Hall of Fame, died in Austin, Texas.

### **Former Argentina manager Alejandro Sabella passed away at 66:**

- **Alejandro Sabella**, who led **Argentina** to the **World Cup Final 2014**, passed away after years of battling with cancer and heart problems. The ex-midfielder played **eight times** for his country. His two years in Sheffield were followed by a short spell at **Leeds United** before he returned to **Estudiantes** in 1982.

### **Tokyo 1964 Olympic champion Idogawa passes away at 81:**

- **Kinuko Idogawa**, one of the main members of Japan's gold medal-winning team in women's volleyball at the **Tokyo 1964 Olympics**, has died. The winning team was called the "**Witches of the Orient**" due to their diving and tumbling saves.



### Renowned Hindi poet and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Manglesh Dabral passed away at 72:

- Renowned **Hindi poet, journalist**, and **Sahitya Akademi Award** winner **Manglesh Dabral** passed away. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award, **India's National Academy of Letters**, in 2000 for his poetry collection **Ham Jo Dekhte Hain**.

### Legendary choreographer and Padma Shri awardee Astad Deboo passed away at 73:

- Padma Shri Awardee** and renowned choreographer **Astad Deboo** passed away at the age of 73 at his residence in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He founded the **Astad Deboo Dance Foundation** to provide creative training to marginalised sections and the **differently-abled**.

### Former Indian football Player, Dharmalingam Ethiraj passed away at 87:

- Former Indian footballer **Dharmalingam Ethiraj** passed away. He was one of the senior members of India's golden generation that won the football crown at the **1962 Jakarta Asian Games**. In his honor, **Madras Engineering Group** (MEG) named their stadium after him.

### Renowned Sanskrit scholar and Padma Shree Vidyavachaspati Govindacharya died at 85:

- Renowned **Sanskrit** scholar **Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya** died. He well versed in Veda Bhashya, Upanishad Bhashya, Mahabharata, Ramayana, and Puranas. A propagator of '**Madhwa**' ideology Govindacharya, had been conferred the **Padma Shree** in **2009**.

### Noted Marathi Music Composer Narendra Bhide Passes Away at 47:

- Noted music composer **Narendra Bhide**, who has mainly composed songs for **Marathi films**, dramas, and TV shows, passed away. Narendra Bhide was the **music director** in several popular films such as A Paying Ghost (2015), Deool Band (2015), Bioscope (2015) and Chi Va Chi Sau Ka (2017).

### Eswatini PM Ambrose Dlamini passed away at 52:

- Eswatini Prime Minister **Ambrose Dlamini**, who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus in neighboring **South Africa**, has died. Dlamini was appointed as the 10<sup>th</sup> prime minister of the country in **October 2018**.

### Deputy governor of Kabul Mahboobullah Mohebi died at Bomb blast:

- The deputy governor of Kabul **Mahboobullah Mohebi** and his secretary were killed, and two of his bodyguards were wounded in a blast in Kabul's 9th police district.

### **Former Australia Test all-rounder Eric Freeman passed away at 76:**

- Former **Australia** Test cricket all-rounder **Eric Freeman** has passed away. Eric made his Test debut against **India** in **1968**. He became the **first player** to opening a scoring shot with a **six**. He received the **Order of Australia** in **2002** for his services to sport.

### **Aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Roddam Narasimha died at 87:**

- Eminent aerospace scientist **Roddam Narasimha** died at a hospital in Bengaluru. Roddam had served at the prestigious **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, where he taught Aerospace Engineering from 1962 to 1999. He also served as the director of the National Aerospace Laboratories from **1984 to 1993**.

### **Senior BJP leader and former Gonda MP Satyadev Singh passed away at 75:**

- Senior leader of **Bharatiya Janata Party** and former **Gonda M.P Satya Dev Singh** has passed away. He contested from Gonda Lok Sabha constituency on the ticket of **Bharatiya Lok Dal** for the first time in **1977**. Later, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Balrampur parliamentary seat as Bharatiya Janata Party MP in **1991 and 1996**.

### **Eminent businessman and philanthropist RN Shetty passed away at 92:**

- RN Shetty**, a well-known personality of Murudeshwar taluka and chairman of **RNS group**, passed away. He founded R.N. Shetty and Company in **1961**, venturing into construction, infrastructure, hospitality & education sectors. He built tunnels for the railways, dams, bridges, canals, etc.

### **The Einstein of homoeopathy Prafull Vijayakar passes away at 68:**

- Prafull Vijayakar**, the famous **homoeopath** who had discovered and practised a predictive form of homoeopathy, passed away in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. Predictive homoeopathy attempts to understand the basic constitution of the patient and uses the same as the basis for **prescribing medicine**.

### **Veteran journalist Madhav Govind Vaidya passed away at 97:**

- Veteran **journalist**, ex-legislator, senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue and its first spokesperson **Madhav Govind Vaidya** passed away in **Nagpur, Maharashtra**. He became a member of the RSS in **1943**.

### **Congress veteran Motilal Vora passed away at 93:**

- Veteran Congress leader **Motilal Vora** died due to post-COVID-19 complications. He was born at **Jodhpur in Rajasthan** and began his career as a journalist. Motilal Vora served as

the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh twice, once from **1985 to 1988** and then again in 1989 for 11 months.

### **Former football player and Packers assistant coach Kevin Greene passed away at 58:**

- Former **Packers assistant coach** and **American** football player, **Kevin Greene** has passed away at 58. He was an assistant Packers coach for five seasons, including Super Bowl 45. Kevin was a coach from **2009-2013**.

### **Eminent Malayalam poet and activist Sugathakumari passed away at 86:**

- Eminent Malayalam **poet, conservationist**, and '**women's activist Sugathakumari** died in Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala**. She was one of the most active campaigners of the **Save Silent Valley Movement**. Raathrimazha, Ambalamani (temple bell) and Manalezhuthu are some of her famous works.

### **Pakistani human rights activist, Karima Baloch passed away at 37:**

- Pakistani human rights activist **Karima Baloch** who was living in exile in Canada had passed away in Toronto. She was listed by the **BBC** in its **100 most inspirational and influential women of 2016** for her work in **human rights**.

## **SPORTS NEWS:**

### **Sri Lanka to host Asia Cup in 2021 while Pakistan to be host in 2022:**

- The **Asia Cup 2020**, which had to be suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic, will reportedly be held in 2021 in **Sri Lanka**. As per the information given by **Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)**, CEO, **Wasim Khan**, Sri Lanka will host the **Asia Cup** in June 2021 while **Pakistan** has earned the rights to host the tournament in **2022**.

### **Sergio Perez claims maiden Formula One win at Sakhir Grand Prix 2020:**

- **Mexican** Formula One driver **Sergio Perez** won the **Sakhir Grand Prix 2020** held at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, **Bahrain**. It was the First edition of the Sakhir Grand Prix and sixteenth race of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.
- **Esteban Ocon** secured the **second position**, followed by Lance **Stroll** at **third place**.

### **Jehan Daruvala becomes first Indian to win a Formula 2 race Sakhir, Bahrain:**

- The 22-year-old **Jehan Daruvala** created history when he became the first Indian to win a **Formula 2 race** during the **Sakhir Grand Prix, Bahrain**.
- Daruvala is a member of the **Red Bull Junior Team** and competes for Carlin Motorsport. His Japanese teammate, **Yuki Tsunoda** came **second** while Britain's **Daniel Ticktum** was in a **third spot**

### Former 800m world champion Marina Arzamasova handed four-year doping ban:

- Former world champion **Marina Arzamasova** of **Belarus** received a four-year ban for doping after her defense that she had taken contaminated over-the-counter supplements was rejected.

### Madagascar replaces Maldives as host of 2023 Indian Ocean Island Games:

- Madagascar** has replaced **Maldives** as the host of the **Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG) 2023** due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The participating nations are Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Mayotte, Réunion & Maldives.
- The first edition took place in **1979** and it takes place every **4 years**.

### Indian wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel announces retirement from all forms of cricket:

- The 35-year-old **Indian** wicketkeeper-batsman **Parthiv Patel** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The left-hand batsmen have featured in **25 Tests, 38 ODIs** and two **T20Is** for India. He featured in **194 first-class** matches for **Gujarat** in domestic cricket.

### International Olympic Committee adds Breakdance as Medal Event in 2024 summer Olympic Games:

- The International Olympic Committee** announced that breakdancing will make its debut at the **2024 Paris Olympic Games** as a medal event. while 3 other sports (**Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, and Surfing**) will make their olympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics to be held in July 2021.

### Max Verstappen of Netherland wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020:

- Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** (Netherland) won the season-ending **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020** in Abu Dhabi, **United Arab Emirates**. It was Max's **second victory** of the season and career's **tenth victory**.
- Valtteri Bottas** (Finland) at second place, followed by world champion **Lewis Hamilton** (Great Britain).

### Indian Tennis player Ankita Raina and Ekaterine Gorgodze of Georgia won the ITF \$100k doubles title held in Dubai:

- Indian Tennis player **Ankita Raina**, who clinched her third doubles title of the season after she won the **Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge 2020** along with Georgia's **Ekaterine Gorgodze** in **Dubai**.
- The Indo-Georgian pair defeated Spain's **Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov** and Slovakian **Kaja Juvan** by 6-4 3-6 10-6 to win the final of the event.

### Lewis Hamilton wins Bahrain Grand Prix 2020:

- Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** (Great Britain) has won the **Bahrain Grand Prix 2020**. This is the **11th** victory for Hamilton of the season, and 95th F1 win of his career. Also, Hamilton now holds the records of historic **95 wins** in **Formula One history**.
- Red Bull Racing teammates **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands) and **Alexander Albon** (Thailand) were second and third, respectively.

### Virat Kohli beats Sachin Tendulkar to become fastest cricketer to score 12, 000 ODI runs:

- The 32-year-old India captain **Virat Kohli** became the fastest cricketer to score **12, 000 ODI runs**, breaking a record held by legendary compatriot **Sachin Tendulkar**. Virat Kohli reaches this landmark in his **242nd innings** followed by **Sachin Tendulkar** (300 innings), **Ricky Ponting** (314), and **Kumar Sangakkara** (336).

### Indian Football Team climb up to 104th position in latest FIFA Ranking:

- Indian national team** has moved up a spot to **104** in the latest FIFA Rankings. The Indian team were ranked **108th** in the October 2020 rankings. India has climbed 4 spots from 108.
- Belgium** remains Top Position followed by **France, Brazil, England, Portugal, and Spain**. **Argentina** are seventh, having interchanged spots with eighth-placed **Uruguay**.

### England's Dawid Malan Attains Highest-Ever Rating Points in T20I History:

- The 33-year-old left-hander **Dawid Malan** has reached 915 points, the first to cross the **900-point** mark after Australian **Aaron Finch's** 900-point achievement in July 2018.
- India's **Lokesh Rahul** is in the fourth position, while **Virat Kohli's** rank has dropped to 9th in the list.

### New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson retires from international cricket:

- The 29-year-old **New Zealand** all-rounder **Corey Anderson** has announced his retirement from international cricket. He once held the record for **fastest ODI hundred** in 36-ball against West Indies in January 2014.
- Corey has played **13 Tests, 49 ODIs** and **31 T20Is** for New Zealand, He also signed a three-year deal with USA's **Major League Cricket (MLC)**.

### Japan to host seven-team FIFA Club World Cup in 2021:

- Japan** will host the **18th** Edition of **FIFA Club World Cup** in its existing format in late **2021**, FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) President **Gianni Infantino** announced with his expanded version of the tournament still on hold for now after being **postponed** due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **Indian shooter Yash Vardhan wins Gold in Air Rifle at 6th International Online Shooting Championship:**

- Junior Asian champion **Yash Vardhan** clinched the 10m air rifle event at the 6th **International Online Shooting Championship** (IOSC). The 17-year-old shot a score of **251.9** to lift the title with a margin of **1.2 points**.
- **Martin Strempl** (Austria) won the silver medal, and **Oleksandr Halkin** (Ukraine) won the bronze medal.

### **Former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier passed away at 73:**

- Former **Liverpool** and **France** coach **Gerard Houllier** died. He managed Liverpool from 1998-2004 & led them to **5 major trophies**, including the FA Cup, League Cup & UEFA Cup treble in 2000-01. He became **France's** manager in 1992.

### **Qatar to host 2030 Asian Games while Saudi Arabia to host it in 2034:**

- **Olympic Council of Asia** announced **Doha** in **Qatar** would host the **Asian Games 2030**, while **Riyadh** in **Saudi Arabia** was chosen to host the **2034** edition. Saudi Arabia is one of four countries that has imposed a trade and travel boycott on Qatar since 2017.

### **Mauritius badminton player Kate Foo Kune banned for two years in doping case:**

- Four-time African badminton championship winner **Kate Foo Kune** was banned for **two years** in a doping case and will miss the Tokyo Olympics. Foo Kune was the **flag bearer** for **Mauritius** at the opening ceremony for the **2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics**.

### **Zimbabwe to host qualifiers of 2023 ODI World Cup to be held in India:**

- **Zimbabwe** will host the qualifiers of the **ODI World Cup 2023** between June 18 and July 9, according to a revised scheduled announced by the ICC due to the postponements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India, the hosts of the rescheduled ODI World Cup 2023, along with seven other top Super League teams will qualify directly for the tournament to be held in **October-November**.

### **Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Amir announces retirement from international cricket:**

- **Mohammad Amir** has announced his retirement from **international cricket**. The 28-year-old Left-arm bowler played in **36 Tests**, **61 One Day Internationals (ODIs)** and **50 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)**. He has claimed **119 Wickets** in Tests, **81 Wickets** in ODIs & **59 Wickets** in T20Is.



## Wrestler Anshu Malik clinches India's first medal at Individual World Cup 2020 held in Serbia, Belgrade:

- The 19-year-old Indian wrestler **Anshu Malik** bagged **India's first** medal at the Individual World Cup in **Belgrade, Serbia**, as she finished second in the women's 57 kg category.
- She lost in the final of the women's **57 kg category** against European champion **Anastasia Nichita** of Moldova (5-1).

## Amit Panghal, Simranjit Kaur and Manisha won gold medals in Cologne Boxing World Cup held in Germany:

- Indian boxers **Amit Panghal** (men's 52 kg), **Simranjit Kaur** (women's 60 kg) and **Manisha Moun** (women's 57 kg) won gold medals at the Cologne Boxing World Cup in **Germany**.
- Indian boxers bagged **nine medals** including **three golds, two silver** and **four bronze**.

## Four Indigenous games to be included in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021:

- The Union **Sports Ministry** has approved four indigenous games to be a part of the **Khelo India Youth Games 2021** which is scheduled to take place in **Haryana** next year.
- The four selected games represent different parts of the country - **Gatka** (Punjab), **Kalaripayattu** (Kerala), **Thang-Ta** (Manipur), and **Mallakhamba** (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra).

## Former Tamil Nadu and CSK bowler Vijaykumar Yo Mahesh retire from all forms of cricket:

- Former Tamil Nadu and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) seamer **Vijaykumar Yo Mahesh** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The right-arm medium-fast bowler ends his career with **108 wickets** in **50** first-class matches. He also scalped **93 wickets** in List A cricket at an average of **24.67**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATES	IMPORTANT DAYS	THEME
1 December	World AIDS Day	"Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: Resilience and Impact"
2 December	Border Security Force 56th Raising Day	-
2 December	National Pollution Control Day	-
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	-

2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	-
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	"Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World"
4 December	Indian Navy Day	-
4 December	International Day of Banks	-
5 December	International Volunteer Day	"Together we can through volunteering"
5 December	World Soil Day	"Keep soil alive, Protect soil biodiversity"
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	-
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	"Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development"
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	"RECOVER with INTEGRITY"
9 December	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	-
10 December	World Human Rights Day	"Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights"
11 December	International Mountain Day	"Mountain biodiversity"
12 December	UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) Day	-
12 December	International Universal Health Coverage Day	"Health for All: Protect Everyone"
12 December	International Day of Neutrality	-
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	-
15 December	International Tea Day	-
16 December	Vijay Diwas	-
18 December	Minorities Rights Day in India	-
18 December	United Nations Arabic Language Day	-
18 December	International Migrants Day	"Reimagining Human Mobility"
19 December	Goa's Liberation Day	-
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	-
22 December	National Mathematics Day	-
23 December	National Farmer's Day (Kisan Diwas)	-
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	-
25 December	Christmas Day	-
25 December	Good Governance Day (India)	-

## CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ:

Q.1) Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurates Phagwara mega food park in which Indian State?

a) Gujarat

**b) Punjab**

c) Haryana

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Karnataka

Q.2) The Agriculture Minister has unveiled \_\_\_\_\_ to impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas.

a) Arogya Sahayata

**b) Sahakar Pragya**

c) Kisan Sarkar

d) Kisan Pragya

e) Samman Vikas

Q.3) First-ever cow hospital in the Northeast has been inaugurated in which State?

a) Sikkim

b) Bihar

c) Tripura

**d) Assam**

e) Nagaland

Q.4) Which of the following Tiger Reserve has received the global award for doubling tiger population?

a) Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve

**b) Pilibhit Tiger Reserve**

c) Manas Tiger Reserve

d) Satpura Tiger Reserve

e) Pench Tiger Reserve

Q.5) Name the first Production unit of Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT), flagged off by DRDO recently for the Indian Navy?

a) Aridhaman

b) Armanshak

**c) Varunastra**

d) Sindhurakshak

e) Vikrant

Q.6) Who has been elected as Speaker of Bihar assembly?

a) Suresh Kumar

**b) Vijay Kumar Sinha**

c) Arvind Panagarya

d) Nanda Kishore

e) Sanjay Gupta

Q.7) Who is the author of the book titled "The Battle of Belonging"?

a) Arundhati Roy

b) Raghuram Rajan

**c) Shashi Tharoor**

d) Ruskin Bond

e) Sudha Murthy

Q.8) Research team from which of the following institution have Developed a Space Optical Communication Using Light Beams?

a) IIT Kanpur

b) IIT Mandi

**c) IIT Guwahati**

d) IIT Madras

e) IIT Bombay

Q.9) Who has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army?

a) Sivaraman

b) Manish Pandey

**c) Harpal Singh**

d) Indrajith Kumar

e) Karan Sharma

Q.10) NITI Aayog forms panel headed by whom to study Feasibility of Virgin Hyperloop in India?

a) Rajiv Kumar

**b) VK Saraswat**

- c) Ramesh Chand
- d) K VijayRaghavan
- e) Vinod Paul

Q.11) Diego Maradona recently Passed away.  
He was a Legendary \_\_\_\_\_ Player.

- a) Badminton
- b) Cricket

**c) Football**

- d) Tennis
- e) Basketball

Q.12) Who among the following has inaugurated Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020) virtually?

**a) Narendra Modi**

- b) Ram Nath Kovind
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Venkiah Naidu
- e) Rajnath Singh

Q.13) Who among the following has chaired the 33rd PRAGATI interaction?

- a) Nitin Gadkari
- b) Venkiah Naidu

**c) Narendra Modi**

- d) Rajnath Singh
- e) Piyush Goyal

Q.14) Thaawarchand Gehlot has e-launched a 'National Portal for Transgender Persons' and e-inaugurated a 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' in which State?

**a) Gujarat**

- b) Maharashtra
- c) Punjab
- d) Rajasthan
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.15) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports granted the annual recognition as a National

Sports Federation (NSF) to which sports association?

- a) Tennis Association of India

**b) Archery Association of India**

- c) Badminton Association of India
- d) Hockey India
- e) National Rifle Association of India

Q.16) National Science Film Festival 2020 is being jointly organized by Vigyan Prasar and the Council of Science and Technology of which of the following states?

**a) Tripura**

- b) Maharashtra
- c) Assam
- d) Sikkim
- e) Haryana

Q.17) Prime Minister has released a book on the life and ideals of Sri Guru Nanak Dev. The book was authored by whom?

- a) Haripal Sharma
- b) Tarun Gupta
- c) Sudeep Kumar

**d) Kirpal Singh**

- e) Mandeep Singh

Q.18) Which organization has released 25 million US dollars for women-led projects fighting gender-based violence?

- a) ADB

**b) UN**

- c) IMF
- d) NDB
- e) WB

Q.19) India signed an MoU with which country for developing cooperation in the field of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation?

- a) Italy

**b) Finland**

- c) Belgium

d) France

e) Germany

Q.20) Who among the following won the prestigious Children's Climate Prize for designing a mobile ironing cart?

a) Sudha Agarwal

b) Pavithra Raman

**c) Vinisha Umashankar**

d) Priya Ramachandran

e) Kiran Sharma

Q.21) Which company bags over Rs 7, 000-crore order to construct part of Bullet Train Project (Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail)?

a) Tata Projects

b) Reliance Industries

c) ITC Limited

**d) Larsen & Toubro**

e) Hindustan Unilever

Q.22) Sports Council of which state/ UT has inked an MOU with Cricketer Suresh Raina's Cricket Academy to develop budding Cricketers?

a) Chhattisgarh

b) New Delhi

c) Uttar Pradesh

**d) Jammu and Kashmir**

e) Haryana

Q.23) Which entity has launched a completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS) for employees to check their PF balance?

a) Union Public Service Commission

b) Employees Provident Fund Organisation

**c) Indian Railways**

d) Employees' State Insurance Corporations

e) Life Insurance Corporation of India

Q.24) Who has been appointed as chairman of Tata Chemicals?

a) Harichandran

**b) N. Chandrashekar**

c) Kishore Kumar

d) Sanjay Gupta

e) Jayant Kumar

Q.25) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7400 Cr in which Indian State?

a) Gujarat

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Haryana

**d) Uttar Pradesh**

e) Telangana

Q.26) Cambridge Dictionary names \_\_\_\_\_ as Word of the Year 2020.

a) Immunity

**b) Quarantine**

c) Lockdown

d) Separate

e) Mask

Q.27) Which country becomes the First nation to provide free period products for all?

a) Belgium

b) Germany

c) France

d) Thailand

**e) Scotland**

Q.28) The largest solar power project at a high altitude in India has been set up at which of the following states/UTs?

a) Jammu and Kashmir

b) Gujarat

**c) Ladakh**

d) Chhattisgarh

e) Manipur

Q.29) A bioluminescent or light-emitting variety of mushroom called 'Roridomyces phyllostachydis' first sighted in which Indian State?

**a) Meghalaya**

- b) Tripura
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Bihar
- e) Assam

Q.30) Which of the following Luxury Automobile Brand partnered with SBI customer base for selling its premium cars?

- a) Lexus
- b) Jaguar
- c) Audi
- d) Maserati

**e) Mercedes-Benz**

Q.31) James Wolfensohn, who has passed away recently, was the former President of which body?

**a) World Bank Group**

- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) New Development Bank
- d) United Nations
- e) Asian Development Bank

Q.32) Union Environment Ministry Approved the Construction of Rs 1, 100 Crore Song Dam Drinking Water Project in which Indian State?

- a) Andhra Pradesh

**b) Uttarakhand**

- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh
- e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.33) India partners with which country for the future with low carbon and pollution levels?

- a) Iran
- b) Maldives

**c) Israel**

- d) Japan
- e) Germany

Q.34) In November 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative Rs

100 coin of the centennial foundation day of which University?

- a) Madras University
- b) University of Delhi
- c) Banaras Hindu University

**d) University of Lucknow**

- e) Maharshi Dayanand University

Q.35) Which of the following countries Successfully Test-Fired 'Tsirkon hypersonic' Cruise Missile in the Arctic?

- a) Iran

**b) Russia**

- c) Israel
- d) Japan
- e) Germany

Q.36) Roch Marc Christian Kabore won 2nd term as President of which country?

- a) Albania
- b) Kosovo

**c) Burkina Faso**

- d) Montenegro
- e) Croatia

Q.37) Which state Government to install a statue of Football Legend Diego Maradona?

- a) Manipur
- b) Kerala

**c) Goa**

- d) Assam
- e) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.38) Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan laid the foundation stone for CBG plant in Bagalkot district of \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Nagaland

**c) Karnataka**

- d) Sikkim
- e) Tripura

Q.39) Razorpay Partners with which company to Launch "RazorpayX Corporate Cards" to



Help Small Business Owners Weather COVID-19?

a) Mastercard

**b) Visa**

c) American Express

d) Rupay

e) Capital One

Q.40) United Nations World Food Programme Signed Letter of Understanding (LoU) with which state government to Achieve Food & Nutritional Security Goals.

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Uttarakhand

**c) Rajasthan**

d) Madhya Pradesh

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.41) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed an MoU with which State Government to develop the MSMEs ecosystem in the State?

a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Rajasthan

**c) Tamil Nadu**

d) Haryana

e) Maharashtra

Q.42) Which of the following countries has topped in terms of bribery rate in the Asia region?

a) Japan

b) Pakistan

c) China

d) Singapore

**e) India**

Q.43) Which film is India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the 93rd Academy Awards or 2021 Oscars?

a) Anjaam Pathiraa

b) Trance

c) Tolet

d) Tumbbad

**e) Jallikattu**

Q.44) Which is the first Arab Gulf country to generate electricity from coal?

a) Bahrain

b) Oman

c) Afghanistan

**d) the United Arab Emirates**

e) Saudi Arabia

Q.45) PM Modi inaugurates six-lane widening project connect which two cities of National Highway 19?

a) Surat and Ahmedabad

b) Pune and Nagpur

c) Bhopal and Gwalior

**d) Prayagraj and Varanasi**

e) Agra and Pune

Q.46) What is the GDP growth rate projection of India for FY21 according to the UBS?

a) -6.1%

b) -8.5%

**c) -10.5%**

d) -9.8%

e) -7.3%

Q.47) Name the country which is the host nation for the 19th SCO Summit 2020?

a) Kazakhstan

b) China

c) Uzbekistan

**d) India**

e) Kyrgyzstan

Q.48) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched which program as a part of World Investor Week (Nov 23-29) 2020 being celebrated by SEBI in India.

a) SKILLS

**b) SMARTs**

c) SCOPEs

d) SHINEs

e) SHAPES

Q.49) Which of the following is the most affected country by terrorism. According to the Global Terrorism Index 2020?

**a) Afghanistan**

b) Israel

c) India

d) Pakistan

e) Bangladesh

Q.50) Which organisation signed 4 MoUs with Mission Youth and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) government to spread financial literacy?

a) SIDBI

**b) BSE**

c) IRDAI

d) NSE

e) SEBI

Q.51) Sadiq al-Mahdi recently passed away. He was the last democratically elected PM of which country?

a) Malta

b) Qatar

c) Iran

**d) Sudan**

e) Kuwait

Q.52) Raimona National Park is the 6th proposed national park of which State?

a) Sikkim

**b) Assam**

c) Bihar

d) Tripura

e) Nagaland

Q.53) A book titled 'Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific' has been released by which organisation?

a) WHO

**b) ADB**

c) World Bank

d) IMF

e) NDB

Q.54) Who has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha?

a) Ajay Tripathi

b) Ranjith Kumar

**c) Utpal Kumar Singh**

d) Surendra Sharma

e) Siva Yaduvanshi

Q.55) Who is the winner of Bahrain Grand Prix 2020?

**a) Lewis Hamilton**

b) Max Verstappen

c) Pierre Gasly

d) Charles Leclerc

e) Sebastian Vettel

Q.56) Border Security Force (BSF) observing its \_\_\_\_\_ Raising Day on December 01, 2020.

a) 58

b) 51

c) 60

**d) 56**

e) 55

Q.57) Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of BAFTA Breakthrough India 2020-21?

a) Arman Malik

**b) AR Rahman**

c) Pritam Chakraborty

d) Sid Sriram

e) Asha Bhosle

Q.58) Who has been re-elected as President of the International Triathlon Union (ITU)?

a) Denis Oswald

**b) Marisol Casado**

c) Sebastian Coe

d) Pat Hickey

e) Gerardo Werthein

Q.59) Name the State which is topped in organ donation for the sixth consecutive year.

a) Punjab

**b) Tamil Nadu**

c) Haryana

d) Rajasthan

e) Maharashtra

Q.60) Which company to acquire 74% stake in Parbati Koldam Transmission Company (PKTCL) from Reliance Infrastructure Limited?

a) L&T Power Transmission & Distribution

b) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

**c) India Grid Trust**

d) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

e) Nuclear Power Corporation of India

Q.61) According to the OECD data report, Which country tops the list of educated migrants in rich countries?

a) China

b) Australia

**c) India**

d) Germany

e) France

Q.62) Which state government Launched "Jagananna Thodu scheme" to provide interest-free loan to small traders and artisans?

**a) Andhra Pradesh**

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Karnataka

d) Telangana

e) Maharashtra

Q.63) National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Participates in Trilateral Maritime Meeting in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Maldives

b) India

c) Bhutan

**d) Sri Lanka**

e) Myanmar

Q.64) Which company has successfully manufactured and tested India's Highest-Rated Auto Transformer (500 MVA 400/220/33 kV)?

a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

**b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited**

c) Bharat Earth Movers Limited

d) Defence Research and Development Organisation

e) Bharat Electronics Limited

Q.65) Football Player Papa Bouba Diop has recently passed away. He played for which country?

a) Ghana

**b) Senegal**

c) Croatia

d) Mali

e) Kenya

Q.66) Which state government signs MoU International Digital Health & Artificial Intelligence Research Collaborative (I-DAIR) for Digital Infrastructure in Health Sector?

**a) Punjab**

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Haryana

d) Rajasthan

e) Maharashtra

Q.67) Which state government has launched the 'Duare Sarkar' campaign to aware of and help people avail of the state-run welfare schemes?

a) Gujarat

**b) West Bengal**

c) Haryana

d) Tripura

e) Karnataka

Q.68) India and \_\_\_\_\_ Joint Committee Launches Bilateral Fast track mechanism in Investment in its 18th session.

a) the Maldives

**b) France**

c) Australia

d) Kenya

e) Germany

Q.69) S&P has retained India's GDP forecast at what percent contraction in the current fiscal year (FY21)?

a) 8.5 Percent

b) 7.3 Percent

**c) 9 Percent**

d) 8.5 Percent

e) 9.4 Percent

Q.70) Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Inaugurates Suryadhar Lake in which city?

a) Almora

b) Varanasi

**c) Dehradun**

d) Haridwar

e) Chamoli

Q.71) Who among the following has been named as the Treasury Secretary by US President-elect Joe Biden?

a) Sarah McBride

b) Tom Daschle

**c) Neera Tanden**

d) Jennifer Rubin

e) Wally Adeyemo

Q.72) Who has been appointed as the new global CEO of Bata Shoe Organization?

a) Pawan Gupta

**b) Sandeep Kataria**

c) Mohan Singh

d) Rajeev Kumar

e) Kuldeep Yadav

Q.73) Thomas Bach re-elected second term as President of which International Organisation until 2025?

a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**b) International Olympic Committee**

c) World Anti-Doping Agency

d) International Paralympic Committee

e) United Nations Children's Fund

Q.74) According to the US Air Quality Index (AQI), which city Topped the List of World's Most Polluted Cities?

a) Delhi

**b) Lahore**

c) Gurugram

d) Karachi

e) Dhaka

Q.75) What is the projected GDP growth rate for India's FY21 as per the estimate of OECD?

a) 7.9 percent

b) 8.1 percent

c) 6.9 percent

d) 8.7 percent

**e) 9.9 percent**

Q.76) According to QS Asia University Rankings 2021, which University has secured the top position for 3rd consecutive year?

a) Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**b) National University of Singapore**

c) Tsinghua University

d) Nanyang Technological University

e) Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Q.77) \_\_\_\_\_ became the first country in the world to approve the sale of cultured meat.

a) the Maldives

b) Canada

**c) Singapore**

d) Malaysia

e) China

Q.78) Asian Development Bank signed a loan agreement worth USD 133 million for developing the power distribution sector in which state government?

a) Gujarat

b) West Bengal

**c) Meghalaya**

d) Tripura

e) Karnataka

Q.79) Name the cricketer who became the fastest cricketer to score 12, 000 ODI runs in 242 innings.

a) Shikar Dhawan

**b) Virat Kohli**

c) Steve Smith

d) Rohit Sharma

e) Sachin Tendulkar

Q.80) Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)?

a) Sanjay Gupta

b) Ganesh Chander

**c) Rajeev Chaudhary**

d) Harpal Singh

e) Santhosh Khan

Q.81) Which State Government launched a One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for pending electricity bill payments?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Telangana

**c) Goa**

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Haryana

Q.82) Which institution has signed loan agreement worth \$ 50 million to boost digital platforms for West Bengal Public Finance Management Investment?

a) IMF

b) World Bank

**c) ADB**

d) AIIB

e) NDB

Q.83) Which state government has launched a power plant based on municipal waste in Bidadi village?

a) Telangana

b) Kerala

c) Meghalaya

**d) Karnataka**

e) Assam

Q.84) Government of India has signed an MoU for loan amount \$430 million with ADB to improve power supply of which State?

**a) Uttar Pradesh**

b) Telangana

c) Meghalaya

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Haryana

Q.85) Which of the following became the first country in the world to approve Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine?

a) France

b) Russia

**c) United Kingdom**

d) USA

e) Germany

Q.86) Name the company which has developed India's first indigenous '100 Octane premium petrol'.

a) HPCL

b) BPCL

**c) IOCL**

d) GAIL

e) NTPC

Q.87) Who has been appointed as interim chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)?

- a) Sumanth Krishna
- b) Rajiv Kumar
- c) Kishore Raj

**d) Varsha Joshi**

- e) Dilip Rath

Q.88) Who is the author of a Kids Book titled "Vahana Masterclass"?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Bhavana Balakrishnan
- c) Amrit Raj

**d) Alfredo Covelli**

- e) Rohit Kumar

Q.89) Which state government has launched 'Orunodoi scheme' a Direct Benefit Transfer scheme?

**a) Assam**

- b) Kerala
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Karnataka
- e) Telangana

Q.90) Maharashtra's first child-friendly police station 'Balsnehi' inaugurated in which city?

- a) Mumbai

**b) Pune**

- c) Nagpur
- d) Thane
- e) Nashik

Q.91) Indian CERT-In partnered with which of the following companies to create secure cyberspace mechanisms?

**a) Kaspersky**

- b) CISCO
- c) Avast
- d) Smadav
- e) Firewall

Q.92) Which word is named as the Word of the Year 2020 as per the report of Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com?

**a) Pandemic**

- b) Corona
- c) Vaccine
- d) Quarantine
- e) Lockdown

Q.93) 9th edition of the International Sand Art Festival kicked-off in which Indian State?

- a) Haryana
- b) Gujarat

**c) Odisha**

- d) Tripura
- e) Meghalaya

Q.94) India signed a MoU with which country for Intellectual Property cooperation?

- a) France
- b) Japan

**c) The USA**

- d) UK
- e) Germany

Q.95) Which company has topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies in 2020?

- a) Adani Groups
- b) ONGC

**c) Reliance Industries Ltd**

- d) IOCL
- e) HPCL

Q.96) Who represented India at the 2020 Industry Transition Leadership Summit organized by Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)?

- a) S Jaishankar

**b) Prakash Javadekar**

- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Nitin Gadkari
- e) Narendra Modi



Q.97) According to IFCN Report 2020, Amul is ranked at which place as the Largest Milk Processor globally in the list of Top 20?

a) 6th

b) 2nd

**c) 8th**

d) 5th

e) 3rd

Q.98) Who has topped the latest ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings of Batsmen after attaining the highest-ever rating points (915)?

a) Babar Azam

b) Virat Kohli

**c) Dawid Malan**

d) Aaron Finch

e) Steve Smith

Q.99) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 15 Highway Projects Worth Rs 4, 127-Crore in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Arunachal Pradesh

b) Manipur

**c) Nagaland**

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Maharashtra

Q.100) Who among the following has inaugurated the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre?

**a) Harsh Vardhan**

b) Sadananda Gowda

c) Venkaiah Naidu

d) Rajnath Singh

e) Narendra Modi

Q.101) Which Indian female entrepreneur has topped the 'Kotak Wealth Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women' ranking 2020?

**a) Roshni Nadar Malhotra**

b) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

c) Leena Gandhi Tewari

d) Sudha Murthy

e) Vembu Radhakrishnan

Q.102) Ministry of Home Affairs selected Nongpok Sekmai as the India's topmost police station for 2020. The police station is in which State?

a) Assam

b) Arunachal Pradesh

**c) Manipur**

d) Nagaland

e) Bihar

Q.103) Who among the following has authored the book "Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield"?

a) Rajat Sharma

**b) Amrit Raj**

c) Saran Sharma

d) Ruskin Bond

e) Sumit Panghal

Q.104) RBI projected GDP growth of India at what percentage for FY21, after the latest Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meet?

a) -9.5%

b) -8.6%

c) -7.1%

**d) -7.5%**

e) -9.1%

Q.105) Name the Indian American girl who won the first edition of 'Kid of the Year' award by the TIME's magazine?

a) Anitha Sampath

b) Swetha Rupowali

**c) Gitanjali Rao**

d) Anjali Ranade

e) Haritha Murali

Q.106) Dineshwar Sharma has recently passed away. He was serving as the Administrator of which UT?

a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**b) Lakshadweep**

c) Jammu & Kashmir

d) Puducherry

e) Daman and Diu

Q.107) Which of the following films have jointly won the Bangladesh best films award of 2019?

a) Henmandu and No Dorai

b) Password and Maya

c) Fagun Haway and Shaludu

d) Shaludu and Dahan

**e) No Dorai and Fagun Haway**

Q.108) Who has been appointed as the Ambassador of 'Fit India movement'?

a) Sushil Kumar

b) Yogesh Singh

**c) Kuldeep Handoo**

d) P V Sindhu

e) Gaurav Khanna

Q.109) Who has been awarded as the Global Teacher Prize 2020?

a) Joginder Sharma

**b) Ranjitsinh Disale**

c) Hareesh Patel

d) Anand Mahindra

e) Paul Zacharia

Q.110) The Indian Navy holds 'Passage Exercise (PASSEX)' with which country in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR)?

a) Maldives

b) Japan

c) Indonesia

**d) Russia**

e) Sri Lanka

Q.111) Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of adult nutrition brand, Horlicks Protein Plus?

**a) Akshay Kumar**

b) Rajkumar Rao

c) Aamir Khan

d) Varun Dhawan

e) Salman Khan

Q.112) Who is the author of the book named "40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories", was released by Venkaiah Naidu?

a) Amrita Singh

b) Venkat Ramakrishnan

c) Romila Thapar

**d) Sivathanu Pillai**

e) Manish Sharma

Q.113) What is the current Policy repo rate?

a) 3.80%

b) 4.25%

**c) 4%**

d) 4.50%

e) 3.75%

Q.114) Asian Development Bank has approved a \$190 million loan for upgradation of which city's power distribution system?

a) Pune

b) Hyderabad

**c) Bengaluru**

d) Lucknow

e) Mumbai

Q.115) Which state government is set to achieve the target to provide safe drinking water to all by 2024?

a) West Bengal

**b) Andhra Pradesh**

c) Maharashtra

d) Karnataka

e) Telangana

Q.116) Who has been appointed as the chief coach of athletics by Athletics Federation of India (AFI)?

a) Manish Patel

**b) Radhakrishnan Nair**

c) Sandeep Singh

d) Ranjith Kumar

e) Suresh Sharma

Q.117) All-rounder Corey Anderson has announced his retirement from the international cricket. He was played for which country?

a) South Africa

b) West Indies

c) Australia

**d) New Zealand**

e) England

Q.118) Which startup has signed an agreement with ISRO to launch its first remote-sensing satellite onboard Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket?

a) Bellatrix

b) Manastu

c) Dhruva

**d) Pixxel**

e) Skyroot

Q.119) Paul Sein Twa has been awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize 2020. He is from which country?

a) Bhutan

b) Vietnam

c) Nepal

**d) Myanmar**

e) Thailand

Q.120) Which of the following has become the only second country after the US to unfurl its flag on the moon?

a) India

b) Russia

c) Japan

**d) China**

e) Germany

Q.121) Bangladesh has signed its first-ever (since 1971) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with which country?

a) Japan

b) Maldives

c) India

**d) Bhutan**

e) Myanmar

Q.122) Which country is to host seven-team FIFA Club World Cup in 2021?

a) France

b) Qatar

c) India

**d) Japan**

e) Brazil

Q.123) Who won the PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize 2020 for the book 'The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj', the story of Jallianwala Bagh?

a) Asha Bhosle

b) Ruskin Bond

c) Sudha Murthy

**d) Anita Anand**

e) Arundhati Roy

Q.124) Who became the first M&E executive to be elected as Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) President?

a) Shiv Nadar

b) Azim Premji

c) Sudhar sen

**d) Uday Shankar**

e) Vinay Kumar

Q.125) Which state government extends 'Swasthya Sathi Scheme' to provide an insurance coverage of Rs. 5 lakhs?

a) Gujarat

**b) West Bengal**

c) Haryana

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Karnataka

Q.126) According to the Fortune Index, who among the following topped the list of Businessperson of the Year 2020?

**a) Elon Musk**

b) Mark Zuckerberg

c) Jensen Huang

d) Tim Cook

e) Lisa Su

Q.127) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited signed an MoU with IIFM, Bhopal for Landscape Restoration Project of which river basin?

a) Ganga

b) Sultej

**c) Narmada**

d) Beas

e) Godavari

Q.128) Which of the following Nation will host the Asia Cup 2021?

a) Pakistan

b) India

**c) Sri Lanka**

d) Bangladesh

e) Afghanistan

Q.129) The CBIC has launched the 'Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)' scheme for the taxpayers whose aggregate annual turnover is \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Rs 25 crore

**b) Rs 5 crore**

c) Rs 10 crore

d) Rs 12 crore

e) Rs 15 crore

Q.130) Who is the winner of Sakhir Grand Prix 2020?

a) Max Verstappen

**b) Sergio Perez**

c) Lance Stroll

d) Esteban Ocon

e) Lewis Hamilton

Q.131) Sushil Kumar Modi unanimously elected to Rajya Sabha. He is the former deputy CM of which State?

a) Gujarat

b) Madhya Pradesh

**c) Bihar**

d) Uttar Pradesh

e) Maharashtra

Q.132) Name the first ever Indian player who has won the Formula 2 race at Sakhir Grand Prix 2020.

**a) Jehan Daruvala**

b) Karthick Naren

c) Karun Sharma

d) Armaan Ebrahim

e) Munaf Patel

Q.133) Which of the following one bagged United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) Investment Promotion Award 2020?

**a) Invest India**

b) Atma Nirbhar Bharat

c) Jal Jeevan Mission

d) Make in India

e) Skill India

Q.134) ICAR's Indian Institute of Soil Science has been awarded the prestigious "King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award" by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). The Institute is located in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Pune

b) Nagpur

c) Lucknow

**d) Bhopal**

e) Hyderabad

Q.135) Who has been named the male World Athlete of the Year 2020?

a) Sam Kendricks

**b) Armand Mondo Duplantis**

- c) Renaud Lavillenie
- d) Sergey Bubka
- e) Karsten Warholm

Q.136) Who has been named in "The Straits Times Asians of the Year" for 2020?

- a) Suraj Narredu
- b) Uday Kotak
- c) Gautam Adani

**d) Adar Poonawalla**

- e) Cyrus Mistry

Q.137) Who Elected as a vice president of World Squash Federation?

- a) Pratap Chandra

**b) Debendranath Sarangi**

- c) Baijayant Panda
- d) Rabindra Kumar Jena
- e) Kailash Choudhary

Q.138) Dandupur railway station to be renamed as Maa Barahi Devi Dham. The railway station is in which State?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka

**d) Uttar Pradesh**

- e) Maharashtra

Q.139) Which organisation has approved a USD 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) New Development Bank
- d) European Central Bank

**e) Asian Development Bank**

Q.140) Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah re-appointed as Prime Minister of which country?

- a) Uruguay

- b) Argentina

**c) Kuwait**

- d) Ecuador
- e) Venezuela

Q.141) Name the two cities of Madhya Pradesh which have been inducted in the UNESCO's World Heritage Cities list?

- a) Bhopal and Gwalior
- b) Orchha and Indore
- c) Sanchi and Ujjain

**d) Gwalior and Orchha**

- e) Satna and Jabalpur

Q.142) Which of the following IIT has released the Urban Quality of Life Index?

- a) IIT Guwahati

**b) IIT Bombay**

- c) IIT Delhi
- d) IIT Madras
- e) IIT Kanpur

Q.143) Who among the following has been appointed as next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea?

- a) Surender Singh
- b) Rajat Gupta

**c) Anindya Banerjee**

- d) Karan Sharma
- e) Sudhir Mishra

Q.144) What is the rank of India in the 'Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2021'?

- a) 12th
- b) 33rd
- c) 10th**
- d) 21st
- e) 14th

Q.145) As per the recent survey conducted by Nepal and China, which is the world's highest mountain peak (8, 848.86 metres)?

- a) Makalu

b) K2

c) Kangchenjunga

d) The Himalayas

**e) Mount Everest**

Q.146) Which organisation has inked an MoU with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal for the implementation of Narmada Landscape Restoration Project?

a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

b) Tata Group

c) Reliance Industries Limited

**d) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited**

e) Larsen & Toubro

Q.147) Who among the following has virtually inaugurated Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020 Conference in New Delhi?

**a) Harsh Vardhan**

b) Venkiah Naidu

c) Narendra Modi

d) Amit Shah

e) Anurag Thakur

Q.148) Dennis Ralston recently passed away. He was associated with which sport?

a) Football

b) Basketball

c) Cricket

**d) Tennis**

e) Wrestling

Q.149) PwC India has collaborated with YuWaah and which Organisation to upskill 300 million young Indians over the next 10 years?

a) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**b) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

c) International Finance Corporation (IFC)

d) United States Agency for International Development

e) World Economic Forum

Q.150) Rajir Zoo Safari was recently recognised by Central Zoo Authority. The zoo was located in which State?

a) Karnataka

b) Assam

c) Jharkhand

**d) Bihar**

e) Meghalaya

Q.151) Fitch revises the GDP forecast of India from -10.5% to \_\_\_\_\_ for the FY21.

a) -8.5%

b) -6.8%

**c) -9.4%**

d) -7.3%

e) -10.1%

Q.152) According to the Nomura report, which country has been projected to be the fastest-growing economy in the Asian region in the calendar year 2021 (CY21)?

a) Australia

b) Germany

**c) India**

d) Singapore

e) China

Q.153) West Bengal cabinet approved the construction of states First Deep-Sea Port at which place?

a) Durgapur

b) Hooghly

**c) Tajpur**

d) Udaipur

e) Darjeeling

Q.154) Who among the following has won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020?

a) Kiran Mehta

**b) Raj Kamal Jha**

c) Shekhar Gupta

d) Neelam Jolly



e) Suresh Kumar

Q.155) According to Nomura, the Indian economy is expected to grow at \_\_\_\_\_% in the calendar year 2021 (CY21).

a) 8.7%

**b) 9.9%**

c) 8.8%

d) 9.5%

e) 7.9%

Q.156) The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2021 has been rescheduled to take place in Singapore from which country?

a) Germany

b) Japan

c) Australia

d) Finland

**e) Switzerland**

Q.157) Kiren Rijiju has virtually launches which edition of the Fit India Cyclothon?

a) 5th

**b) 2nd**

c) 3rd

d) 1st

e) 4th

Q.158) Which player has won the 2020 Female World Athletes of the Year?

a) Olga Rypakova

b) Robeilys Peinado

**c) Yulimar Rojas**

d) Caterine Ibargüen

e) Mariana Pajón

Q.159) Name the state government which has signed MoU with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to promote water tourism.

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Karnataka

**c) Uttar Pradesh**

d) Jharkhand

e) Odisha

Q.160) Who is appointed as the Interim Prime Minister of Romania on December 07 2020?

a) Mikhail Gorbachev

b) Ion Iliescu

c) Ludovic Orban

**d) Nicolae-Ionel Ciucă**

e) Poliana Cristescu

Q.161) Parthiv Patel recently retired from which of the following sport?

a) Tennis

b) Football

**c) Cricket**

d) Wrestling

e) Badminton

Q.162) Manglesh Dabral passed away recently. He was a renowned \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Politician

b) Actor

**c) Poet**

d) Economist

e) Freedom Fighter

Q.163) The Book "Romancing Targets: Get Closer to Selling in 7 Steps" was authored by \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Nitin Nohria

b) John Harvard

**c) Nidhi Vadhwa**

d) Rakesh Khurana

e) Radhakrishnan Pillai

Q.164) ICICI Bank to be designated bank for all financial transactions under National Health Mission in which State?

a) Himachal Pradesh

**b) West Bengal**

c) Uttar Pradesh

d) Jharkhand

e) Odisha

Q.165) Confederation of Indian Industry and which company join hands to boost MSME business in 10 states?

- a) Myntra
- b) Flipkart

**c) Amazon India**

- d) LinkedIn
- e) Wipro

Q.166) Who has topped the '50 Asian Celebrities in The World' 2020 list of the UK based Eastern Eye newspaper?

- a) Ayushmann Khurrana
- b) Priyanka Chopra
- c) Amitabh Bachchan
- d) Alia Bhatt

**e) Sonu Sood**

Q.167) Which state government has launched a scheme to take the unique culture of the Tharu tribes across the world?

- a) Karnataka

**b) Uttar Pradesh**

- c) Assam
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Uttarakhand

Q.168) Who has been appointed as the new President of the World Squash Federation (WSF)?

- a) Breckin Meyer

**b) Zena Wooldridge**

- c) Lyndon Davies
- d) Sarah Fitz-Gerald
- e) Pablo Serna

Q.169) What is India's rank in global spam calls in Global Insights Report 2020 released by Truecaller?

- a) 15th

**b) 9th**

- c) 12th
- d) 7th

e) 5th

Q.170) Which state government launched an employment generation project, "Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers project"?

- a) Tripura
- b) Karnataka

**c) Mizoram**

- d) Nagaland
- e) Odisha

Q.171) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Koilwar bridge over which river in Bihar?

- a) Gomti
- b) Tapti

**c) Sone**

- d) Kosi
- e) Ganga

Q.172) What is the projected GDP growth rate of India in the year 2020 as per the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?

- a) -12%

**b) -8%**

- c) -9%
- d) -7%
- e) -6%

Q.173) What is the rank of Nirmala Sitharaman in the Forbes 2020 list of 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women'?

- a) 54
- b) 32

**c) 41**

- d) 27
- e) 48

Q.174) Which country's Anti-Drone System 'SMASH 2000 Plus fire Control Systems' was finalised by Indian Navy for procurement?

- a) China

**b) Israel**

c) France

d) Russia

e) Japan

Q.175) CII partners with National Institute for MSME and which company to launch 'Digital Saksham' to strengthen the competitiveness of MSME sector?

**b) Mastercard**

c) American Express

d) L&T

e) Visa

Q.176) Which event will make its debut at the Summer Olympics 2024 in Paris?

a) Surfing

**b) Breakdancing**

c) Sport Climbing

d) Kho-Kho

e) Skateboarding

Q.177) How much has been approved by the Cabinet for the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)?

**a) Rs.22, 810 crore**

b) Rs.25, 510 crore

c) Rs.28, 110 crore

d) Rs.27, 310 crore

e) Rs.23, 110 crore

Q.178) Name the scheme launched by the Government of India to improve the WiFi availability in public spaces across India.

a) PM-HOTSPOT

b) PM-WIFI

c) PM-SPEED

d) PM-CONNECT

**e) PM-WANI**

Q.179) Which is the first Union Territory of India to be declared as 100 percent organic UT?

a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli

b) Puducherry

c) Daman and Diu

**d) Lakshadweep**

e) Andaman and Nicobar

Q.180) National Skill Development Corporation Partners with which company to train and upskill teachers?

a) Veranda Race

**b) BYJU's**

c) Vedantu

d) Unacademy

e) Meritnation

Q.181) India has signed an MoU with which country on Technology Cooperation in the Road Infrastructure Sector?

a) Finland

b) Norway

**c) Austria**

d) Germany

e) Maldives

Q.182) Name the e-agricultural spot market platform launched by BSE for the agricultural commodities?

a) SHINE

b) STOCK

**c) BEAM**

d) RELAY

e) CART

Q.183) Who among the following has named as the TIME 2020 "Person of the Year"?

a) Donald Trump and Joe Biden

**b) Joe Biden and Kamala Harris**

c) Donald Trump and Kamala Harris

d) Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump

e) Barack Obama and Joe Biden

Q.184) Who has been awarded as the 'Social Entrepreneur of the year' by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation?

a) Azim Premji

b) Shiv Nadar

**c) Ashraf Patel**

- d) Mukesh Ambani
- e) Dinesh Trivedi

Q.185) Which telecom industry has launched the world's first satellite-based narrow band-Internet of things (NB-IoT) service?

- a) Jio
- b) Airtel

**c) BSNL**

- d) Vodafone-Idea
- e) Tata Docomo

Q.186) Who has been awarded with the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020?

- a) Ritabrata Munshi
- b) Miguel Walsh

**c) Carolina Araujo**

- d) Marcelo Viana
- e) Joseph Keller

Q.187) Who has Participated in 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Ram Nath Kovind

**c) Harsha Vardhan**

- d) Venkaiah Naidu
- e) Rajnath Singh

Q.188) Asian Development Bank has launched how much amount for Covid-19 vaccine initiative for the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)?

- a) USD 11 billion
- b) USD 8 billion

**c) USD 9 billion**

- d) USD 10 billion
- e) USD 12 billion

Q.189) What is the theme of International Universal Health Coverage Day 2020?

- a) Unite for Universal Health Coverage

**b) Health for All: Protect Everyone**

- c) Universal health coverage:
- d) Everyone Keep the promise for Health
- e) None of the Above

Q.190) Who among the following has addressed the FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Convention?

**a) Narendra Modi**

- b) Ram Nath Kovind
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Venkaiah Naidu
- e) Rajnath Singh

Q.191) Who has been conferred with the 2020 Female Sportsperson of the Year award by FICCI?

- a) Apurvi Chandela
- b) Manu Bhaker

**c) Elavenil Valarivan**

- d) Anjum Moudgil
- e) Both a and c

Q.192) As per Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) survey, the population of Malayan Giant Squirrel could get restricted to Sikkim & Bengal by which year?

- a) 2100
- b) 2030

**c) 2050**

- d) 2070
- e) 2065

Q.193) Rating agency CRISIL has projected the Indian GDP forecast at \_\_\_\_\_ percent in FY 21.

- a) -7.5%
- b) -8.1%
- c) -11.3%
- d) -10.5%

**e) -7.7%**

Q.194) EXIM bank has extended a Line of Credit (LOC) of \$448 million to which country for financing in Roads & Transport, Water and Technology & Communication sectors?

a) Nicaragua

**b) Uzbekistan**

c) Tanzania

d) Turkey

e) Mozambique

Q.195) Who is the winner of Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020?

a) Sebastian Vettel

b) Lewis Hamilton

**c) Max Verstappen**

d) Charles Leclerc

e) Valtteri Bottas

Q.196) Ola company to set up world's largest scooter manufacturing facility in which State of India?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Karnataka

c) West Bengal

d) Assam

**e) Tamil Nadu**

Q.197) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) planned to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) for Receipt, Storage & Dispatch of bank notes in which city?

a) Gurugram

b) Hyderabad

**c) Jaipur**

d) Indore

e) Lucknow

Q.198) Which organization announced an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

a) World Bank

b) UNDP

c) WEF

d) UNICEF

**e) UNESCO**

Q.199) Who among the following Indian tennis player won the ITF doubles title along with Georgia's Ekaterine Gorgodze held in Dubai?

a) Rajan Negi

b) Rajni Kothari

c) Sukriti Singh

**d) Ankita Raina**

e) Akriti Chauhan

Q.200) Who has been appointed as Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of HDFC bank?

a) Vignesh Rajan

b) Sashidhar Jagdishan

c) Ratan Tata

**d) Sanmoy Chakrabarti**

e) Sunil Mehta

Q.201) The 9th edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was hosted by which city?

a) Lucknow

**b) Dehradun**

c) Kutch

d) Shimla

e) Itanagar

Q.202) Ambrose Dlamini who has passed away recently was the Prime Minister of which country?

a) Lesotho

b) Sierra Leone

**c) Eswatini**

d) Malawi

e) Suriname

Q.203) Name the Indian-origin scientists, who discovered a new machine-learning method to filter fake news on social media?

**a) Anshumali Shrivastava**

- b) Pankaj Mishra
- c) Tariq Ali
- d) Lawrence Rinder
- e) David Barsamian

Q.204) Who has been invited as the Chief Guest for the 2021 Republic Day of India?

- a) Joe Bidden

**b) Boris Johnson**

- c) Kamala Harris
- d) Jair Bolsonaro
- e) Cyril Ramaphosa

Q.205) Name the State which becomes the first in India to modernize the fire safety certification process completely through its portal "Fire Safety COP"?

- a) Karnataka

**b) Gujarat**

- c) Assam
- d) Sikkim
- e) Punjab

Q.206) Name the deputy Governor of Kabul, who was recently killed in a bomb blast attack.

- a) Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani
- b) Jassim bin Mohammed
- c) Ahmad bin Ali Al Thani

**d) Mahbubullah Muhibbi**

- e) Hamad bin Khalifa

Q.207) What is the projected growth rate of India's GDP in FY21 as per the latest report of S&P Global Ratings?

- a) -14.1%
- b) -8.9%
- c) -7.5%
- d) -9.5%

**e) -7.7%**

Q.208) Name the digital payment app, which is launched by IPPB and DoP to offer digital banking and postal services for its customers?

**a) DakPay**

- b) PostPay
- c) DigiPay
- d) IPPBPay
- e) mPost

Q.209) A book titled 'The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force' was launched by whom?

- a) Venkaiah Naidu
- b) Rajnath Singh
- c) Amit Shah
- d) Amish Tripathi

**e) Om Birla**

Q.210) IFSCA has notified the IFSC Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020 for setting up an International Financial Services Centre in which city?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Pune
- c) Delhi

**d) Gandhinagar**

- e) Mumbai

Q.211) Former Test cricket all-rounder Eric Freeman has passed away. He played for which country?

**a) Australia**

- b) England
- c) South Africa
- d) Zimbabwe
- e) New Zealand

Q.212) Which country has inked an MoU with cGanga of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to develop a sludge management framework in India?

- a) Germany
- b) Singapore



c) Finland

**d) Norway**

e) Netherland

Q.213) Which organisation has set up a new department, CFID (Corporation Finance Investigation Department), headed by Nagendraa Parakh to tackle Promoters' Fraud?

a) Reserve Bank of India

**b) Securities and Exchange Board of India**

c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

d) Small Industries Development Bank of India

e) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q.214) Who won the Gold medal in the 10 m air rifle event at the 6th International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC)?

**a) Yash Vardhan**

b) Elavenil Valarivan

c) Abhinav Bindra

d) Oleksandr Halkin

e) Nihal Serin

Q.215) Who has been appointed as the Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)?

a) Rajkumar Mohan

b) Alok Sharma

**c) Shashi Shekhar Vempati**

d) Rajeev Singh

e) Karan Sharma

Q.216) Who among the following has been selected By NASA for SpaceX Crew-3 Mission?

a) Nitin Sharma

**b) Raja Chari**

c) Sanjay Gupta

d) Rajeev Bhandari

e) Vimal Singh

Q.217) UNEP has given Frank Bainimarama the 2020 Champions of the Earth Award under the 'Policy Leadership' category. He is the prime minister of which country?

a) Germany

**b) Fiji**

c) Tanzania

d) Zambia

e) Malta

Q.218) Which institution has approved a USD 400 million projects to protect the poor from COVID impact:

a) Asian Development Bank

b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

**c) World Bank**

d) European Investment Bank

e) New Development Bank

Q.219) Who won the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2020?

a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

c) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited

**d) Steel Authority of India**

e) Power Grid Corporation of India

Q.220) What is the rank of India in the Human Development Index (HDI) for the year 2019?

a) 174

b) 129

**c) 131**

d) 135

e) 144

Q.221) As per the SBI Ecowrap report, what is the projected GDP of India in FY21?

a) -11.5%

b) -6.4%

c) -9.7%

d) -10.2%

**e) -7.4%**

Q.222) According to ECA's International Cost of Living Report 2020, which is the most expensive city in the world?

a) New York

**b) Hong Kong**

c) Geneva

d) Mumbai

e) Zurich

Q.223) What is the name of the dedicated Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Control Centre, launched by ISRO?

a) SUJEET

**b) NETRA**

c) SMIT

d) VIRAT

e) HOPE

Q.224) Nehru Zoological Park becomes the first zoo in India to get ISO Quality Management Standards certification. It is located in which State?

a) Maharashtra

b) Tamil Nadu

**c) Telangana**

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Karnataka

Q.225) How much has been extended by the New Development Bank (NDB) to India to support the COVID-19 pandemic and enable economic recovery?

a) 20 million

b) 5 billion

c) 40 million

**d) 1 billion**

e) 30 million

Q.226) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has launched its Project 17A stealth frigate named what?

a) Sarat

**b) Himgiri**

c) Nilgiri

d) Taragiri

e) Rajat

Q.227) Nana Akufo-Addo won a second term as the President of which country?

a) Sudan

b) Kenya

**c) Ghana**

d) Uganda

e) Nigeria

Q.228) Who among the following tops the Forbes' highest-paid celebrities list of 2020?

a) Cristiano Ronaldo

**b) Kylie Jenner**

c) Roger Federer

d) Kanye West

e) Lionel Messi

Q.229) Name the satellite, which is India's 42nd communication satellite launched by ISRO from Sriharikota.

**a) CMS-01**

b) CMS-A1

c) CMS-X2

d) CMS-5E

e) CMS-C3

Q.230) What is the theme of International Migrants Day 2020?

a) Post Pandemic Migration

b) Internal Displacement Post Pandemic

**c) Reimagining Human Mobility**

d) Social Cohesion

e) Rethinking Jobs for Migrants

Q.231) Which state government has launched the 'Free Crop Insurance Scheme' for farmers?

a) Maharashtra

b) Gujarat

c) Telangana

d) Karnataka

**e) Andhra Pradesh**

Q.232) Name the Indian entrepreneur who was named as one of the 'Young Champions of the Earth' winners by the UN environment agency.

a) Santhosh Gupta

**b) Vidyut Mohan**

c) Arvind Kumar

d) Subrata Roy

e) Vinay Shankar

Q.233) What is the rank of India in the Human Freedom Index 2020 (New Zealand Tops)?

a) 168

**b) 111**

c) 105

d) 134

e) 122

Q.234) Which organisation has conducted Meghdoot Award Function 2020?

**a) Department of Posts**

b) National Informatics Centre

c) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team

d) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

e) Department of Telecommunications

Q.235) Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Saksham' was launched in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Kochi

**b) Goa**

c) Hyderabad

d) Mumbai

e) Kolkata

Q.236) How much amount has been pledged by India to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for scientific research for Clean Sport globally?

a) USD 2 million

b) USD 7 million

**c) USD 1 million**

d) USD 3 million

e) USD 5 million

Q.237) Prime Minister Modi has inaugurated the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link, which will connect India with which country?

**a) Bangladesh**

b) Myanmar

c) Nepal

d) Thailand

e) Bhutan

Q.238) Which of the following country will host the Asian Games 2034?

a) Nepal

**b) Saudi Arabia**

c) India

d) Qatar

e) Australia

Q.239) Three-day long Migratory Birds Festival organized by Bihar state forestry department in which district of the State?

a) Jamui

b) Bhojpur

c) Aurangabad

**d) Bhagalpur**

e) Nawada

Q.240) Name the State, which has launched the 'PARESHRAM' portal to boost industrial development in the State.

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Karnataka

c) Tamil Nadu

d) Telangana

**e) Odisha**

Q.241) India partners with which country to establish Skill India's first Centre of Excellence?

a) Japan

b) Germany

c) China

**d) France**

e) Switzerland

Q.242) India successfully test-fired two Nuclear-Capable Prithvi-2 Surface-to-Surface Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) from \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Visakhapatnam, Odisha

**b) Balasore, Odisha**

c) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

d) Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha

e) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

Q.243) Who is the winner of "The Best FIFA Men's Player" for 2020?

a) Serge Gnabry

b) Lionel Messi

**c) Robert Lewandowski**

d) Neymar

e) Cristiano Ronaldo

Q.244) The Indian Navy recently conducted a Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) exercise with which country?

a) Sri Lanka

b) Mauritius

c) Singapore

**d) Indonesia**

e) Bangladesh

Q.245) Kate Foo Kune was banned for two years by the World Badminton Federation's doping tribunal. He played for which country?

a) China

b) Taiwan

c) Mauritius

**d) Indonesia**

e) Malaysia

Q.246) As per ICRA Ratings, what is the estimated GDP growth of India for FY21?

a) -6.2%

B) -8.6%

C) -9.4%

D) -8.9%

**e) -7.8%**

Q.247) Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 33 highway projects worth Rs.11, 000 crores in which Indian State?

a) Uttar Pradesh

**b) Karnataka**

c) Meghalaya

d) Tripura

e) Maharashtra

Q.248) Which institution has approved USD 300 million for the up-gradation of rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh?

a) IMF

**b) ADB**

c) World Bank

d) NDB

e) ECB

Q.249) India and ADB sign a 4.21-million-dollar project readiness financing (PRF) facility for the preparation of infrastructure development projects in which State?

a) Assam

b) Nagaland

c) Karnataka

d) Meghalaya

**e) Tripura**

Q.250) Prafull Vijayakar passed away recently. He was associated with which field?

a) Siddha

b) Unani

**c) Homoeopathy**

d) Ayurveda

e) Amchi

Q.251) Whose tenure has been extended for six months for the Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), till July 2021?

- a) Arvind Kumar
- b) Ranjit Bhullar
- c) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu**
- d) Manohar Singh
- e) Ajay Tyagi

Q.252) Which company won the 'Exemplary Business Adaptation Through COVID' category award at SABERA 2020 Awards?

- a) Maruti**
- b) Unilever
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) Tata Power
- e) Cipla

Q.253) Name the female player who has bagged "The Best FIFA Women's Player" for 2020?

- a) Simona Halep
- b) Lucy Bronze**
- c) Jill Scott
- d) Toni Duggan
- e) Ellen White

Q.254) IndiGrid collaborates with which company for digital transformation of critical power infrastructure?

- a) TCS
- b) Wipro
- c) IBM**
- d) Mindtree
- e) L&T

Q.255) Who has been conferred with the 'ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award' 2020?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Ratan Tata**
- c) Uday Kotak

- d) Mukesh Ambani
- e) Suresh Malhotra

Q.256) Name the new international airport, which was approved by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath?

- a) Ghaziabad International Greenfield Airport
- b) Sardar Sarovar International Airport
- c) Prayagraj International Greenfield Airport
- d) Noida International Greenfield Airport**
- e) Jewar International Airport

Q.257) UNESCO recognises which country's 'Hawker' Culture serving as its 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'?

- a) Malaysia
- b) Thailand
- c) Singapore**
- d) Indonesia
- e) Mexico

Q.258) Who is the winner of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Award?

- a) Subrat Kar
- b) Sreelakshmi Suresh
- c) Nandha Sekar
- d) Sreenivas Karanam**
- e) Ranjith Kumar

Q.259) MG Vaidya has passed away recently was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Actor
- b) Economist
- c) Journalist**
- d) Cricketer
- e) Freedom fighter

Q.260) Amar Singh College received the 'Award of Merit' in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for "Cultural Heritage Conservation 2020. The college is located in which city?

a) Lucknow

b) Allahabad

**c) Srinagar**

d) Hyderabad

e) Bhopal

Q.261) India's first hypersonic wind tunnel test facility was inaugurated by union defence minister Rajnath Singh in which city?

a) Kochi

**b) Hyderabad**

c) Visakhapatnam

d) Mumbai

e) Chennai

Q.262) As per the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data report, what is India's Retail inflation in November?

a) -7.7 %

**b) -6.93 %**

c) -10.9 %

d) -9.7%

e) -11.8%

Q.263) Which state government has introduced a new brand named 'Raag-Bhopali' to give a new international identity to its handicrafts?

a) West Bengal

**b) Madhya Pradesh**

c) Karnataka

d) Gujarat

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.264) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which state government of MSME Ecosystem?

a) Tripura

b) Manipur

**c) Assam**

d) Bihar

e) Sikkim

Q.265) Who among the following won gold medals at Cologne Boxing World Cup held in Germany?

a) Simranjit Kaur

b) Amit Panghal

c) Manisha Moun

d) Both a and b

**e) All of the Above**

Q.266) Which state government has launched the 'Varasat' campaign to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas?

a) West Bengal

b) Madhya Pradesh

**c) Uttar Pradesh**

d) Gujarat

e) Karnataka

Q.267) The 20<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting was hosted by UAE. which country joined as the 23<sup>rd</sup> member of IORA?

a) Bhutan

b) Turkey

c) Myanmar

**d) France**

e) Egypt

Q.268) As per the 'Status of Leopard in India 2018' report, which among the following State has the highest population of leopards in India?

a) Maharashtra

b) Kerala

**c) Madhya Pradesh**

d) Karnataka

e) Arunachal Pradesh

Q.269) The first-ever Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 'skill development in the power sector' has been launched in which city of India?

a) Kanpur



b) Lucknow

c) Hyderabad

**d) Gurugram**

e) Noida

Q.270) Which state government will set up India's first Gender Data Hub in collaboration with United Nations Women?

a) Tripura

**b) Kerala**

c) Meghalaya

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Telangana

Q.271) Who has been awarded as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020?

a) Novak Djokovic

b) Jordan Henderson

**c) Lewis Hamilton**

d) Cristiano Ronaldo

e) Daniel Ricciardo

Q.272) ADB approves USD 231 million loans to construct the Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power plant in which State?

**a) Assam**

b) Bihar

c) Haryana

d) Gujarat

e) Karnataka

Q.273) Who has won the first-ever medal (Silver) for India in the Wrestling Individual World Cup 2020 held at Belgrade, Serbia?

a) Sunil Kumar

**b) Anshu Malik**

c) Sajitha Begum

d) Parisingh Yadav

e) Deepika Punia

Q.274) Venkaiah Naidu Released "Oh, Mizoram, " Book of English Poems by \_\_\_\_\_.

a) B. D. Mishra

b) Jagdish Mukhi

c) Kalraj Mishra

**d) Sreedharan Pillai**

e) Najma Heptulla

Q.275) Four Indigenous games (Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, and Mallakhamba) to be included in the Khelo India Youth Games 2021. Which State will host the 2021 edition?

**a) Haryana**

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Gujarat

d) Telangana

e) Maharashtra

Q.276) What is the rank of India in the Ease of Doing Business Survey 2020 (New Zealand topped)?

a) 78<sup>th</sup>

**b) 63<sup>rd</sup>**

c) 45<sup>th</sup>

d) 85<sup>th</sup>

e) 59<sup>th</sup>

Q.277) 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the two-day North East Festival held in \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Kohima, Nagaland

b) Gangtok, Sikkim

**c) Guwahati, Assam**

d) Agartala, Tripura

e) Shillong, Meghalaya

Q.278) Which State has launched India and South-Asia's first blockchain-enabled 'peer to peer' (P2P) trading platform for rooftop solar power?

a) Haryana

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Gujarat

**d) Uttar Pradesh**

e) Maharashtra

Q.279) Motilal Vora, who has passed away recently, was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Actor
- b) Freedom Fighter
- c) Economist

**d) Politician**

- e) Cricketer

Q.280) Who has been honored with the 'The Legion of Merit' was presented by US President Donald Trump?

- a) Shaktikanta Das
- b) Barack Obama
- c) Cyril Ramaphosa
- d) Jacob Zuma

**e) Narendra Modi**

Q.281) Which organisation has approved a \$40-million loan to Northern Arc Capital (NACL) to support microfinance borrowers and MSMEs in India?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) New Development Bank
- d) European Central Bank

**e) Asian Development Bank**

Q.282) Sugathakumari passed away recently was \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ Eminent Malayalam \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) Dancer
- b) Actress
- c) Politician
- d) Musician

**e) Poet**

Q.283) Which organisation signed an MoU with the Indian Navy to share information on Ocean services and field expertise?

- a) National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research

**b) Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services**

- c) National Institute of Ocean Technology
- d) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

e) National Institute of Disaster Management  
Q.284) As per the NCAER report, what is the projected GDP of India in the financial year 2020-21?

- a) -7.9%

- b) -8.6%

**c) -7.3%**

- d) -9.1%

- e) -8.3%

Q.285) Indian government and the World Bank signed a \_\_\_\_\_ project to build safe and green national highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.

- a) \$700 million

- b) \$300 million

- c) \$400 million

**d) \$500 million**

- e) \$600 million

Q.286) Which state government has signed an MoU with India Accelerator to build a startup ecosystem?

- a) Gujarat

**b) Haryana**

- c) Meghalaya

- d) Mizoram

- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.287) Name the Indian bowler who announced retirement from all forms of Cricket recently (December 2020)?

- a) Narayan Jagadeesan

**b) Vijaykumar Yo Mahesh**

- c) Karan Singh

- d) Abhinav Mukund

- e) Munaf Patel

Q.288) Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Launched India's First Aquafarmers Call Centre in which city?

- a) Surat

b) Cuttack

**c) Vijayawada**

d) Kochi

e) Hyderabad

Q.289) Which state government signed MoU with Cerestra Group to establish Special Education Region at Dholera?

**a) Gujarat**

b) Haryana

c) Meghalaya

d) Mizoram

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.290) Former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis released a book titled 'Ayodhya' authored by \_\_\_\_\_.

a) P S Sridhar Pillai

b) Arundhati Roy

**c) Madhav Bhandari**

d) Sudha Murthy

e) Ruskin Bond

Q.291) Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched West Bengal's first oil and gas reserve basin named\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Kolkata Basin

**b) Bengal Basin**

c) Durgapur Basin

d) Siliguri Basin

e) Howrah Basin

Q.292) South India's first rehabilitation centre for monkeys to set up in which Indian State?

a) Kerala

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Karnataka

d) Maharashtra

**e) Telangana**

Q.293) Who has launched a new Tribes India Outlet "TRIFED-DIVINITY Premium Range" at

the Departure Lounge of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordolai International Airport?

a) Narender Singh Tomar

**b) Arjun Munda**

c) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

d) Gajendra Singh Shekawat

e) Narender Singh Tomar

Q.294) India and which country signed an agreement to cooperate in the field of Health and Medicine & support 'Green Healthcare'.

**a) Isreal**

b) Saudi Arabia

c) UAE

d) Iran

e) Cambodia

Q.295) Which digital Payment operator's money transfer service Xoom has added the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to its platform to enable instant money transfers to India.

a) Lazypay

b) Mobikwik

c) Phone pe

**d) Paypal**

e) Paytm

Q.296) Which country's new space carrier rocket "Long March-8" made its maiden flight, sending five satellites successfully into planned orbit?

a) Russia

b) India

**c) China**

d) North Korea

e) Japan

Q.297) Aditya Nath Das has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. He will take over from whom?

a) Anjum Chopra

**b) Nilam Sawhney**

- c) Suresh Gopi  
d) Nandha Kumar  
e) Chandra Kanth  
Q.298) A Book titled 'The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha' authored by Whom?  
a) Sushil Kumar  
b) Shivraj Patil  
c) Rajeev Kumar  
d) Nitin Jairam  
**e) Jairam Ramesh**  
Q.299) Who has equaled Brazilian legend Pele's record goals (643) for a single club?  
**a) Lionel Messi**  
b) Neymar  
c) Cristiano Ronaldo  
d) Luca Modric  
e) Robert Lewandowski  
Q.300) Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju virtually inaugurated 8 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence across India. Which one of the following not one among these?  
a) Nagaland  
b) Mizoram  
**c) Meghalaya**  
d) Odisha  
e) Manipur

**BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ:**

- Q.1) Government has approved the merger of crisis-ridden Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB), with which bank?  
a) HSBC Bank India  
**b) DBS Bank India**  
c) Standard Chartered Bank India  
d) Deutsche Bank India  
e) ICICI Bank  
Q.2) ESIC has extended the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana scheme to which date?  
a) July 1, 2021  
b) December 1, 2020  
**c) June 30, 2021**  
d) April 30, 2021  
e) February 28, 2021  
Q.3) Which bank has signed an MoU with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce & Industries (ICCI) to support SMEs and Start-ups?  
**a) HDFC Bank**  
b) Indian Bank  
c) ICICI Bank  
d) Axis Bank  
e) Union Bank of India  
Q.4) Name the bank which is in partnership with Worldline introduces SMS Pay on POS terminals for Remote Payments.  
a) Indian Bank  
b) Axis Bank  
**c) YES Bank**  
d) ICICI Bank  
e) HDFC Bank  
Q.5) IRDAI has approved the merger of ICICI Lombard with which insurance company?  
a) New India Assurance  
b) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance  
**c) Bharti AXA General Insurance**

d) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

e) General Insurance Corporation of India

Q.6) Name the bank which partners with SIDBI for Asset Restructuring Module for MSMEs.

a) HDFC Bank

**b) Indian Bank**

c) ICICI Bank

d) Axis Bank

e) Union Bank of India

Q.7) Name the bank which Launches loan management solution 'LenS-The Lending Solution' to speed up delivery.

a) HDFC Bank

b) Indian Bank

**c) Punjab National Bank**

d) Axis Bank

e) Union Bank of India

Q.8) which bank has partnered with NPCI and JCB to launch the dual interface featured card that supports both contact & contactless transactions?

a) HDFC Bank

**b) State Bank of India**

c) SBM Bank

d) ICICI Bank

e) Bank of Baroda

Q.9) RBI has stopped which Private bank from issuing new credit cards to its customers (December 2020)?

a) Axis Bank

**b) HDFC Bank**

c) ICICI Bank

d) Yes Bank

e) Federal Bank

Q.10) Which bank signs MoU with NABARD to extend concessional refinance facility to the watershed and tribal development projects?

a) Union Bank of India

b) Punjab National Bank

**c) State Bank of India**

d) Bank of Baroda

e) Indian Bank

Q.11) Paytm partners with which Small Finance Bank to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans?

a) Jana Small Finance Bank

b) ESAF Small Finance Bank

**c) Suryoday Small Finance Bank**

d) AU Small Finance Bank

e) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Q.12) Digital 2.0 program has been proposed by which bank as a part of its Digital Business generating activities?

a) Axis Bank

b) RBL Bank

c) ICICI Bank

**d) HDFC Bank**

e) SBI

Q.13) PayNearby Technologies launched the "PayNearby shopping card" powered by RuPay Partners with NPCI and which Bank?

a) HDFC Bank

b) Federal Bank

c) Axis Bank

d) ICICI Bank

**e) YES Bank**

Q.14) Name the Insurance Company which launched the upgraded Mobile application 'USGI PULZ' to enhance its service delivery?

**a) Universal Sampo General Insurance Company**

b) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

c) Bharti AXA General Insurance

d) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

e) General Insurance Corporation of India

Q.15) Which bank has partnered with Rupifi and Visa to launch Business Credit Card for MSMEs?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) Indian Bank

**c) Axis Bank**

- d) ICICI Bank
- e) Canara Bank

Q.16) The RTGS system of transaction will be made available 24X7 basis with effect from?

- a) January 01, 2021

**b) December 14, 2020**

- c) March 31, 2020
- d) April 1, 2020
- e) February 1, 2020

Q.17) RBI has increased the limit for Contactless Card Transactions from 2000 to Rs \_\_\_\_\_ without the need of an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) from January 1, 2021.

- a) Rs 4000

**b) Rs 5000**

- c) Rs 7000
- d) Rs 3000
- e) Rs 8000

Q.18) Which of the following banks has Launched 'Kirishi OD' facility scheme for Farmers?

- a) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank
- b) Prathama Bank

**c) Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank**

- d) Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank
- e) Madhyanchal Gramin Bank

Q.19) Which Indian AMC has launched India's first International REIT Fund of Funds?

- a) ICICI Prudential AMC
- b) SBI Mutual Fund

**c) Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company**

d) UTI Asset Management Company

e) Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund

Q.20) Which Private bank has launched the India's first App 'iMobile Pay' to Provide Payments and Banking Services for All?

**a) ICICI Bank**

- b) HDFC Bank
- c) IDBI Bank
- d) Yes Bank
- e) Axis Bank

Q.21) Reserve Bank of India cancelled the licence of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank. Where is the bank located?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Himachal Pradesh

**c) Maharashtra**

- d) Gujarat
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.22) Which of the Public Sector banks has launched Atmanirbhar Women Gold Scheme (December 2020)?

- a) State Bank of India

**b) Bank of Baroda**

- c) Union Bank of India
- d) Canara Bank
- e) Indian Bank

Q.23) Which Small finance bank has Launched 'Money Mitra' a Neighbourhood Banking Channel?

- a) Jio Small Finance Bank

**b) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**

- c) Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank
- d) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- e) Capital Small Finance Bank

Q.24) Which bank partners with Orbit Remit Limited to offer money transfer facility from New Zealand to India?

- a) HSBC Bank India
- b) DBS Bank India



**c) Federal Bank**

d) Deutsche Bank India

e) ICICI Bank

Q.25) ICICI Prudential partners with which bank to make a bancassurance partnership?

a) HDFC Bank

**b) RBL Bank**

c) Axis Bank

d) Yes Bank

e) UCO Bank

Q.26) Which small finance bank introduced a 3-in-1 account on Dec 10?

a) Jana Small Finance Bank

b) ESAF Small Finance Bank

c) Suryoday Small Finance Bank

**d) Equitas Small Finance Bank**

e) Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Q.27) Which of the following banks provided a 2.7-million-rupee grant to Haqdarshak to boost MSME recovery in India?

a) Bank of China

b) Standard Chartered

**c) DBS Bank India**

d) Bank of America

e) State Bank of India

Q.28) Which of the following banks launched "FX 4 U" for forex remittance via Internet Banking?

a) HDFC Bank

b) ICICI Bank

**c) Canara Bank**

d) Axis Bank

e) Yes Bank

Q.29) RBI has re-appointment of Uday Kotak as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank. Who was re-appointed as the bank's joint MD?

a) Sunil Khambata

b) Gaurang Singh

**c) Dipak Gupta**

d) Vinoth Malhotra

e) Prakash Apte

Q.30) Which insurance company was launched the '#GotYouCovered Campaign' to appreciate frontline workers?

a) General Insurance Corporation of India

b) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

**c) Bharti AXA General Insurance**

d) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

e) New India Assurance

Q.31) Aceware has partnered with Which Bank to launch 'AceMoney Micro ATM service' to enables money withdrawal from home?

a) Yes Bank

**b) ICICI Bank**

c) Citibank

d) HDFC Bank

e) Axis Bank

Q.32) Ewire Softech launched a prepaid card in partnership with which private bank?

a) Axis Bank

b) HDFC Bank

c) ICICI Bank

**d) Yes Bank**

e) Federal Bank

Q.33) Which Insurance company has launched India's first Open API Gateway for Insurance products?

**a) Edelweiss General Insurance**

b) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

c) Bharti AXA General Insurance

d) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance

e) General Insurance Corporation of India

Q.34) Which Insurance has partnered with IntrCity RailYatri to offer Rs.5 Lakh domestic travel insurance?

**a) SBI General Insurance**

b) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

c) Bharti AXA General Insurance

d) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance  
 e) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance  
 Q.35) BPCL and which company jointly launch credit card offering benefits to high fuel spending customers?

- a) Master Card
- b) VISA
- c) American Express

**d) SBI Card**

e) Standard Chartered  
 Q.36) Which bank partners with the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) to Offer Hindustani Music Scholarships to Young Musicians?

- a) Axis bank
- b) Yes bank

**c) Citi bank**

- d) ICICI bank
- e) HDFC bank

Q.37) Which bank has launched its first metal credit card, 'PIONEER Heritage, ' in partnership with Master Card?

- a) Axis bank

**b) IndusInd bank**

- c) Citi bank
- d) ICICI bank
- e) HDFC bank

Q.38) Ian De Souza appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of which bank?

- a) Union Bank of India
- b) Canara Bank

**c) Bank of Baroda**

- d) State Bank of India
- e) Indian Bank

Q.39) What is the theme of the 2nd Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) testing environment by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- a) Banking Regularities
- b) Credit Limit

**c) Cross Border Payments**

- d) Retail Payments
- e) MSME Lending Rate

Q.40) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with which company to enable doorstep QR Code payments for orders?

- a) Flipkart

**b) Snapdeal**

- c) Amazon
- d) Paytm
- e) Myntra

Q.41) Which company has collaborated with Google Pay to offer Tokenised payment flow for its merchants?

- a) Paytm
- b) Phone Pe
- c) Paypal
- d) Razorpay

**e) PayU**

Q.42) Which bank has partnered with IIFL Finance subsidiary to provide affordable housing and MSME loans?

- a) State Bank of India
- b) Axis Bank
- c) HDFC Bank

**d) ICICI Bank**

- e) YES Bank

Q.43) RBI extended CKYCR to legal entities from individual accounts. What does 'R' denote in CKYCR?

- a) Response
- b) Registry**
- c) Revises
- d) Regulation
- e) Rules

Q.44) Name the bank which has launched the 'RuPay Select' contactless debit card in collaboration with NPCI (National Payment Corporation of India)?

- a) Union Bank of India
- b) Indian Bank
- c) Punjab National Bank
- d) State Bank of India

**e) Central Bank of India**

Q.45) Which cardholders will be benefited from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Pilot program on the Contactless (Offline) feature for retail payments?

- a) Paytm
- b) RuPay**
- c) MasterCard
- d) Paypal
- e) Visa

Q.46) Which bank signed an MoU with Defence Forces (Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Coast Guard) for its newly launched 'Military Salary Package'?

- a) State Bank of India
- b) Punjab National Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda**
- d) Indian Bank
- e) Union Bank of India

Q.47) Which bank launched an online portal, 'Infinite India, ' for foreign companies to expand their business in India?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank**
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- e) Standard Chartered

Q.48) What does 'L' in MCLR stand for?

- a) Letter
- b) Labor
- c) Lending**

d) Lender

e) London

Q.49) According to the recent report by the NPCI, the State bank of India topped in UPI Transaction among UPI remitter banks. Which bank ranked second in the report with 241 million transactions?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank

**c) Axis Bank**

- d) YES Bank
- e) IDBI Bank

Q.50) Which Bank announced a collaboration with Salesforce to build a next-generation technology platform to power the retail lending business?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Axis Bank
- d) YES Bank**
- e) IDBI Bank