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LEGEND MAGAZINE

OCTOBER – 2020

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

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NATIONAL NEWS:

Assam government to provide loan to entrepreneurs for venturing in tourism sector under 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme':

Assam government announced 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme', under which loan, amounting from **Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 20 lakhs** would be given to interested local youths to take up new initiatives so that the tourism sector gets a fresh lease of life. The advances will be provided for a period of **5 years**.

Prakash Javadekar represents India at Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond 2020:

Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Prakash Javadekar** represented India at the virtual Ministerial Round Table Dialogue on Biodiversity. The event was hosted by **China**, ahead of the upcoming United Nation Summit on Biodiversity on **30 September 2020**.

The theme of the Ministerial Dialogue was Biodiversity Beyond 2020: **"Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth"**

India's one of the first medical devices park to come up in Kerala:

Central government approved the setting up four medical device parks in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala** on the lines of **"Make in India"** initiative and to provide world-class products at affordable prices for treatment.

Kerala CM **Pinarayi Vijayan** laid the foundation stone for one of the first medical devices parks in the country **"MedSpark"** at Life Science Park, **Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram**.

Central sanctions 670 electric buses and 241 charging stations under FAME scheme:

Central government has sanctioned **670 electric buses** for **Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Chandigarh** and **241 charging stations** in **Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat and Port Blair** under Phase-II of the **FAME** (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) India Scheme.

ADB approves USD 570 million loans for urban projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh:

The Manila-headquartered **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved two loans totalling **USD 570 million** (about Rs 4, 200 crore) for urban sector projects in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

ADB has approved a **USD 300 million** loan to develop **Rajasthan's** secondary towns and a **USD 270 million** loan for **Madhya Pradesh Urban Services Improvement Project**.

AYUSH Ministry inks MoU with herbal industry bodies for plants cultivation:

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of **AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the major **AYUSH and herbal industry bodies** covering a set of measures to promote medicinal plant cultivation.

'Cable Stayed Bridge' constructed across Durgam Cheruvu Lake inaugurated in Hyderabad:

Minister of State for Home **G. Kishan Reddy** inaugurated the new **'Cable Stayed Bridge'** constructed across **Durgam Cheruvu Lake**

along with four-lane elevated corridor associated with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** connecting it with **Jubilee Hills** in **Hyderabad**.

Assam government develops new mobile app "Visitassam" For air passengers:

Assam government has developed a mobile app "**Visitassam**" through which air passengers can download forms, fill it up, and show it at airports to avoid delay in completing formalities for COVID-19 tests said by Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Himanta Biswa Sarma**.

The government also introduced a change of protocol for the air passengers to take the "**Tatkal RT-PCR**" test with a payment of **Rs.2200** whose result will be given within 24 hours.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurates 'Destination North East-2020':

Union Minister for Home Affairs **Amit Shah** is also the chairman of the North Eastern Council virtually inaugurates "**Destination North East-2020**". It is a four-day event to highlight various potentials of the **Northeast region** of India like **eco-tourism, culture, heritage** and **business**.

Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region **Jetendra Singh** was the guest of honour of the event. The theme for 'Destination North East 2020' is '**The Emerging Delightful Destinations**'.

Odisha Government to launch "Radio Pathshala" program for School Students:

Odisha Government is launching **Radio Pathshala** program for student's upto **class 8**. The program will be broadcast from All India Radio stations in the state for **15**

minutes daily. The audio of the program will also be made available on the online **DIKSHA platform**.

Uttar Pradesh's First Conservation Centre For Vultures To Come Up In Gorakhpur Forest Division:

Uttar Pradesh's first vulture conservation and breeding centre is set to be established at **Bhari Baisi** village in **Farenda** range of **Gorakhpur forest** division. The Jatayu Conservation & Breeding Centre would be set up in the Bhari Baisi village in **Gorakhpur**. Centre will be the 1st in India which will be dedicated to red-headed **king vulture**.

West Bengal Government And UK India Business Council Sign MoU To Strengthen The State's Industrial Development:

UK India Business Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC)**, the premier nodal agency of West Bengal's Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department focused on accelerating industrial development in **west Bengal**.

This collaborative partnership between the UKIBC and Government of West Bengal will help to boost **business and industrial development** in the state by proactively developing the business environment and strengthening collaboration with British businesses in **West Bengal**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches ICMR's vaccine web portal and National Clinical Registry:

Union **Health Ministry** launched a **web portal** that will provide all important information on COVID-19, vaccine

development, ongoing clinical trials and progress made in this area locally and globally.

National Clinical Registry will collect data concerning clinical and laboratory investigations, treatments, management protocols and outcomes of hospitalized COVID patients in India.

Prime Minister Modi to inaugurate 6 mega projects in Uttarakhand under "Namami Gange Mission":

Prime Minister **Modi** will inaugurate 6 mega projects in **Uttarakhand** under **Namami Gange Mission** through video conference. Projects include construction of 68MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), upgradation of the existing 27 MLD at Jagjeetpur & construction of 18 MLD STP at Sarai.

He will also inaugurate '**Ganga Avalokan**', the first museum on Ganga aimed at showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in the river. The museum is located at **Chandi Ghat, Haridwar**.

Andhra Government Launches YSR Jala Kala Scheme To Facilitate Irrigation to Farmers:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched the '**YSR Jala Kala**' **scheme** under which bore wells will be drilled to benefit small and medium farmers who have no open source of water for irrigation. The scheme is estimated to bring in **five lakh acres** under cultivation through groundwater irrigation.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh launches Defence India Startup Challenge-4, releases PMA guidelines for iDEX:

Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** released the **Project Management Approach (PMA)** guidelines for **iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence)** during the launch function of **Defence India Startup Challenge-4 (DISC4)**.

"DISC-4" challenge will surge ahead of its earlier editions and promote **Innovation and Development** in the country. Similarly **iDEX4 Fauji initiative** will ensure the participation of our personnel in this program.

Gujarat government signs MoU with Denmark in water sector:

Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board has signed the MoU with '**Danish Water Forum**' through an online interactive platform. This will help in technology **exchange, training, capacity building, knowledge exchange, cooperation in water supply, wastewater treatment-reuse and water management** between the two organizations.

The MoU has been signed for a **five-year** period in order to set up **Indo-Danish Water Technology Alliance** in **Gujarat** and contribute to the **United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal**.

Maharashtra government launches cancer institute's chemo recovery kits:

Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh** launched the ayurvedic '**chemo recovery kits**' developed by a Pune-based **cancer research institute** and called for joint research by scientists in Ayurveda and modern medicine for **cancer treatment**.

The chemo recovery kits, containing an ayurvedic formulation and developed by the **Integrated Cancer Treatment and Research Centre** of the Bharatiya Sanskriti

Darshan Trust, Pune with financial assistance from the Tata Trusts, were launched by **Koshyari** at the Raj Bhavan.

Nagaland government launches livelihood generation programme for migrant returnees:

Nagaland launched a dedicated online portal **Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers** due to Covid-19. Scheme will provide awareness & **re-orientation programme** re-skilling of identified beneficiaries and **seed money** or **monetary assistance**.

Odisha government Signed MoU with CPR to launch JAGA Mission Stage-II:

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the stage II of **JAGA Mission** (Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission) from **Balasore** under which all slums in the State will be converted into **Adarsh** (ideal) colonies within the **next 3 years**.

Centre for Policy Research (CPR) under its initiative '**Scaling City Institutions for India: Land Planning and Housing (SCI-FI: LPH)**' has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Housing & Urban Development Department** of Odisha as the knowledge partner of **JAGA Mission** in its second phase.

Telangana government to Launch 'Dharani' Portal for Online Land Registration on Dussehra:

Telangana Chief Minister **K. Chandrasekhar Rao** announced that the '**Dharani**' portal for online registration of **land properties** in the state will be launched on **Dussehra**.

The CM said that since people regard **Vijayadasami** as an auspicious day to start

new programmes and activities, he will launch the portal the same day (October 25).

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal presents Anundoram Borooah Award 2020 to meritorious students:

Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** presented "**Anundoram Borooah Award 2020**" to students who secured **75 per cent** or above in HSLC examination 2020 at a programme held at **Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra**.

As part of the award, an amount of **Rs 20,000** each was directly transferred to bank accounts of 16,944 students for **Purchasing Laptops**. A total of **Rs 34 crore** has been released by the government for the purpose.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launches new logo of Sports Authority of India:

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** launched the new logo of **Sports Authority of India's (SAI)** at Delhi's **Major Dhyani Chand Stadium**. The **new logo** of SAI features a flying figure which indicates the freedom an athlete to leapfrog his/her career in SAI.

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches "Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)":

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlote** Virtually launches "**Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission**" (**ASIIM**) under Venture Capital Fund up to **Rs.5 Crore** for **Scheduled Castes** with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

Uttar Pradesh government bags 8 awards for implementation of "Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan":

Uttar Pradesh government has bagged **Eight Awards** in **Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA)** launched by the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation** under the Union Ministry of **Jal Shakti**.

The State has also got overall second rank in implementation of **Gandagi Mukh Bharat scheme**. The awards will be distributed at a virtual ceremony by the Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti on October 2, 2020.

Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) signs MoU with Government of India for 2020-21:

Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Government of India** for the year **2020-21**. The MOU was signed between **S.N. Sahai**, Secretary (Power), Government of India and **Nand Lal Sharma**, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN.

Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurates first Pirul power project:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated a **25-kilowatt** capacity project worth Rs 25 lakhs for generating electricity using **Pirul (dry pine needles)** at **Chakon Dhanari** village in **Dunda** block of **Uttarkashi** district.

Rawat said that about **23 lakh metric tonnes** of Pirul is produced annually in the state, which can be used to generate about **200 megawatt** of electricity.

NCRPB launches Project Management Information System (P-MIS) portal for better transparency and accountability:

To improve transparency & accountability in monitoring progress of projects and administering loans **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)** Project Management Information System (**P-MIS**) launched by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in **New Delhi**.

Project Management Information System (P-MIS) Portal will enhance the transparency and accountability of the project monitoring process and manage the **loans**.

Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh join "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme:

Tamil Nadu and **Arunachal Pradesh** have been integrated with the existing national portability cluster of **26 States/UTs** under the **One Nation One Ration Card**, said Union Ministry of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

Under this, families with Priority Household and **Antodaya Anna Yojana** ration cards from both states can receive their entitlements in other States.

Government to set up panel headed by Ajay Kumar Bhalla to screen Chinese Foreign Investments:

Government is setting up a panel that will be responsible for examining Chinese foreign investment proposals. The panel is headed by the home secretary, **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** and secretary of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** as a member. The panel will reportedly examine proposals from the point of view of ownership, approving only the **"Non-Controversial"** ones.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates "VAIBHAV" 2020 Summit:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)** Summit, organised for the overseas and resident **Indian Researchers and Academicians**. It has been organised to celebrate Science and Innovation from India and the World.

The global virtual summit is being organized from **October 2 to October 31** with the aim of bringing Indian origin luminaries in academic institutes and **Research and Development (R&D)** organizations across the world and resident counterparts on a single platform.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat virtually confers "Swachh Bharat Awards 2020" on 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi:

Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** virtually confers the Swachh Bharat 2020 Awards (**Swachh Bharat Diwas 2020**), on the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**, in New Delhi on October 2, 2020.

Under the **Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya** category **Gujarat** bagged the first position at state level whereas **Tirunelveli** in **Tamil Nadu** got the Award for **cleanliness at District Level**. **Khachrod block** in **Ujjain** district in **Madhya Pradesh** was awarded the first position and **Chinnanur Village** in **Tamil Nadu** bagged the top slot at **Gram Panchayat level**.

Under the **Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan**, **Gujarat** and **Uttar Pradesh** were awarded as the best performing states whereas **Prayagraj** and **Bareilly** got it for

being the best performing districts. Under the **Gandagi Mukth Bharat Mission**, **Haryana** and **Telangana** were awarded the top slot.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Inaugurates Kerala's First Mega Food Park:

Union Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated Kerala's first mega food park that will help generate **5, 000** direct and indirect employments.

"**Kerala's first** and nation's **twentieth mega food park** in **Palakkad** district of Kerala was virtually inaugurated" by the Union Agriculture and Food Processing Industries Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** and Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**.

Government launches 'Sunidhi' project to digitise CMPFO services:

Government announced the launch of an ambitious information technology project '**Sunidhi**' to digitise all provident fund and pension related activities of the **Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO)**.

CMPFO is a statutory body under the **coal ministry**, administers different schemes of **Provident Fund, Pension** and **Deposit** linked insurance for coal mine workers.

Jal Shakti Minister launches 100-day campaign to provide potable piped water in Schools and Anganwadi Centres:

Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched a **100-day** campaign to provide potable piped water supply in **Schools** and **Anganwadi Centres**. This mission was envisaged by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on 29th of last month, while releasing the '**Margdarshika**' for **Gram Panchayats** and **Paani Samitis** for implementation of **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

Under the **Jal Jeevan Mission** States and Union Territories are to ensure that during the campaign, **Gram Sabhas** are convened at the earliest to pass a resolution for providing safe water in all schools, anganwadi centres and other public institutions in the village in the **next 100 days**.

Telangana government undertakes door to door survey to update non-agricultural property details through NAP app:

Telangana government has deployed teams of municipal staff to visit every single household to gather the property details through **NAP(Non Agricultural Property)** app to update them on the **Dharani portal**. The government has decided to issue **Non-Agricultural Property Record (NAGPR)** to the owners as a comprehensive ownership document.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates nation world's longest high altitude Atal Tunnel connecting Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley:

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Atal Tunnel** under the **Rohtang Pass** that connects **Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley** in **Himachal Pradesh**. The **9.02-kilometer-long** path that goes under the Rohtang Pass in the eastern Pir Panjal range at an altitude of **3, 000 metres** is the world's longest high-altitude road tunnel. It is a horseshoe-shaped, single tube double lane tunnel.

Jitendra Singh inaugurates 23 Roads and Bridges projects in Kathua, Doda, Udhampur and Reasi Districts of Jammu and Kashmir:

Union Minister of State and **Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)** **Jitendra Singh**, Personnel, Public Grievances,

Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space inaugurated **23 roads** and bridges projects worth **Rs.73 Crore** in **Kathua, Doda, Udhampur** and **Reasi** of **Jammu** region over a virtual platform. He also informed that around **1150 kilometres** of roads were built in this fiscal till date.

Indian Railways unveils new Tejas Express locomotives, capable to run at 160 kmph:

Indian Railways' electric locomotive manufacturing unit **Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW)** has turned out first batch of **Tejas Express** locomotives amid COVID-19 scare. These locos are made for "**Push-Pull**" operations. CLW is one of the largest Electric Locomotive manufacturers in the world.

Union Minister Arjun Munda to launch largest market of tribal products 'Tribes India E-Marketplace':

Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) will be launched on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2020) in the presence of **Renuka Singh**, Minister of State, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and **Deepak Khandekar**, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Defence Ministry signs contract worth 409 crores for supply of multi-mode hand grenades to Indian Army:

Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth **Rs 409 crore** with a Nagpur-based company **Economic Explosive Ltd (EEL)** for the supply of 10, 00, 000 multi-mode hand grenades to the **Indian Army**. The contract was signed by the Acquisition **Wing of Defence Ministry**.

These grenades have been designed by **Chandigarh based Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratories (TBRL)** of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and are being produced by **EEL**.

Union Minister Smriti Irani Participated in 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women Virtually:

Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) **Smriti Zubin Irani**, addressed the High-level meeting on the **25th anniversary** of the **4th World Conference on Women (FWCW)** held in Beijing. The theme of the event was **"Accelerating the realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls"**.

West Bengal government launches "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme for road repair:

West Bengal government has launched the **"Pathashree Abhijan"** scheme. It is a road repair scheme, where more than **7, 000** stretches of roads comprising **12, 000 kilometers** across the state will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time-bound manner.

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches 'Kritagyata' for online pension submission and tracking:

Chief Minister of Assam **Sarbananda Sonowal** has launched a portal **"Kritagyata"**, an online pension submission and tracking system. It has been launched to lend convenience to the pensioners to dispose of their pension related claims.

The portal has been created in line with the **'Bhabhisya'** portal of Government of India. It has been launched as pilot project for the

teachers and employees under Inspector of Schools of **Kamrup Metropolitan district**.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar Launched One Stop Digital Platform 'Gram Darshan':

Haryana CM **Manohar Lal Khattar** digitally launched **'Gram Darshan'**, which will allow accessibility to data of development projects of 6, 197 gram panchayats of the state. Deputy Chief Minister **Dushyant Chautala** was also present on this occasion.

Gram Darshan is launched to ensure that villagers should have **digital access** to the details of **various development** schemes and projects of their village.

Punjab CM Launches Construction of 750 Rural Stadiums and Flags Off Ambulances:

Punjab Chief Minister **Captain Amarinder Singh** launched several development initiatives including flagging off a **fleet of ambulances**, construction of **750 rural stadiums** or playgrounds and signing of MoU for conferring ownership rights on **Economically Weaker Sections**.

The MoU was signed between the Local Government Department and Centre for Policy Research, while the ambulances were flagged off in **Patiala, Jalandhar and Ludhiana**.

Railway Minister virtually inaugurates Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East West Metro corridor:

Railway Minister virtually inaugurated **Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East-West Metro corridor**, & flagged off 1st train from there to **Salt Lake Sector-V**. Entire stretch of corridor, connecting Sector-V &

Howrah Maidan, is likely to be completed by **2021**.

Arvind Kejriwal launches mega anti-pollution campaign "Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh":

Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign named "**Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh**" in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the campaign, separate plans have been prepared for each of the **13 pollution hotspots** in the city. Kejriwal announced a photo-based complaint lodging App '**Green Delhi App**' will be launched shortly.

Gujarat government to provide subsidised food grain to additional 10 lakh families under NFSA:

Gujarat Government has decided to provide subsidised food grain to additional **10 lakh** families under **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**. The benefits will be available to 50 lakh poor citizens. beneficiaries will get **5-kilogram food grains** per month including **3.5-kilogram wheat** and **1.5-kilogram rice**. **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families that are not covered under NFSA will also get benefits of NFSA.

It has also decided to include **Rickshaw drivers, Chhakdo-mini tempo** drivers and other such daily wagers under this food grain distribution scheme. Registered labourers under **Bandhkam Shramik Kalyan** Board will also get the benefit of food grain distribution

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually attends 42nd GST Council meeting:

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the 42nd **Goods and Services Tax**

(GST) Council meeting. Minister of State (MoS) for Finance **Anurag Thakur** and Finance Ministers of States and Union Territories (UT) will also be present at the meeting.

Puducherry airport becomes Airports Authority of India's first 100% solar-powered airport:

Puducherry airport has become the **Airports Authority of India's (AAI)** first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of **500KWp** ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of **Rs 2.8 crore**. Puducherry airport will be able to meet its entire power requirement through the solar power plant.

PM Modi addresses international webinar on textile traditions organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR):

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the first of its kind **International Webinar on Textile Traditions** organized by **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** and **Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design**. The theme of the International Webinar was "**Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions**".

Rajasthan government launches month long mass awareness campaign on COVID-19:

Rajasthan has launched a **Month-Long Mass Awareness Campaign** on COVID 19. The campaign as part of the state wide mass movement against **Corona virus**. The state will distribute **1crore** masks to protect the public from COVID infection. "Ministers and legislators are organizing programs at different districts to create awareness about **wearing masks** and **maintain social distancing**".

Government removes requirement of Minimum Qualifying Service for Defence personnel for Enhanced Family Pension:

Government scrapped the requirement of **Minimum Qualifying Service** for Enhanced Family Pension with effect from 1st October 2019. As per existing provision, there is a requirement of continuous qualifying service of **7 years** for grant of **Ordinary Family Pension** at enhanced rate to Next of Kin of Defence Forces personnel.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan and Uttar Pradesh CM virtually Inaugurate Super Speciality Block at Prayagraj Medical College:

Union Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** digitally inaugurated the **Super Speciality Block (SSB)** at **Motilal Nehru Medical College, Prayagraj**.

The 220-bedded facility has been dedicated as a COVID Hospital (DCH) to the nation, according to the Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare**. It has been built with an investment of **Rs 150 crores** under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.

West Bengal Government sign MoU with IIM Calcutta to Set up Technology Development Centre:

West Bengal Government has signed an agreement with **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta**-run Entrepreneur and Innovation Park to set up a **Technology Development and Adaptation Centre (TDAC)**. The TDAC will build technologies which will address need-based, location specific problems.

Gujarat government announces "Digital Seva Setu" Programme for rural areas:

Gujarat government has announced **"Digital Seva Setu"** Programme for rural areas in which citizens will be able to get benefit from public welfare services at **Panchayat level**. It has been initiated under the **Bharat Net Project** an initiative to connect the **Village Panchayats** through fibre network. The villages of Gujarat will be connected with a **100 MBPS optical fibre network**. Phase 1 of Digital Seva Setu will start from **8th October**.

Goa government Launches Online E-Learning Platform "DISHTAVO":

Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** launched **DISHTAVO (Digital Integrated System for Holistic Teaching and Virtual Orientations)** an online e-learning platform that is accessible to all. Goa is the **first state** in the country to take the **entire academic syllabus** of higher education to an online platform and first state to offer **online training for teachers**.

Delhi-Mumbai E-way to Have 5 'Animal Bridges' to Provide Safe Passage for Wildlife:

Delhi-Mumbai expressway will have India's first-ever **animal overpass**. These will be on the lines of **"Animal Bridges"** in the **Netherlands** for safe passage of wildlife. These have been planned to ensure there are no disturbances to the **Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor** connecting **Ranthambore** and **Mukundra (Darrah)** wildlife sanctuaries in **Rajasthan**.

Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Renaming of Naugarh

Railway Station to Siddharthnagar Virtually:

Union Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** virtually inaugurates the renaming of **Naugarh railway station** to **Siddharthnagar railway station** situated at Siddharthnagar district in **Uttar Pradesh**.

"Naugarh railway station was named Siddharthnagar in view of public aspirations due to the birth of **Mahatma Buddha** in **Lumbini** near Naugarh and being associated with his life events from this region.

My Ganga My Dolphin campaign launched by NMCG, WII and the Forest Department at six sites across river Ganga:

National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG), **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and the **Forest Department** launched the "**My Ganga My Dolphin campaign**" on the occasion of **Ganga River Dolphin Day**. A Dolphin-based ecotourism programme was launched at various sites along the Ganga River.

The campaign was started in six sites **Kahalgaoon** (Bihar), **Bijnor**, **Brijghat**, **Prayagraj** and **Varanasi** (all in Uttar Pradesh), and **Bandel** (West Bengal).

Google India launches "Make Small Strong" campaign for small businesses:

Google India announced the launch of "**Make Small Strong campaign**" nationwide in order to help support **small businesses** and drive demand through customer support. The aim of the initiative is to help grow small and local businesses such as **local kirana** or **book stores, vegetable and fruit vendors**, etc. that proved to be instrumental during the nationwide lockdown.

NABARD to provide India's first two Organic Spices Seed parks in Gujarat: **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** will provide "**Grant Assistance**" to two first-of-its-kind **Organic Spices Seed Park Cumin** seeds in **Patan** and **Fennel** seeds in **Banaskantha** districts of **Gujarat**. The parks will encourage capacity building and help farmers in adoption of best practices in the production of cumin & fennel seeds.

Assam government launches "Kisan Rath" mobile app to promote buyer seller network:

Assam government has launched a mobile app "**Kisan Rath**" App connects more than **10, 000 farmers, 50 farmer-producer organizations** and **1, 000 verified agricultural traders** on its interface. The app has been customized by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** Assam to suit the requirements of the state. It is available in 3 languages- **Assamese, Hindi and English**.

Smriti Irani launches India's first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on World Cotton Day October 7:

Union Minister of Textiles **Smriti Irani** launched the first ever **Brand and Logo** for **Indian Cotton** on **Second World Cotton Day** on October 7 through video conferencing. India's premium cotton would be known as '**Kasturi Cotton**' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent **Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness** and **Indianness**.

Government of India Launches "Startup India Showcase Platform" to Feature Exceptional Startups:

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade (DPIIT) during the online facilitation ceremony launched an online discovery platform called '**Startup India Showcase**'. The platform will exhibit the details of some of India's most promising and credible startups that are chosen through DPIIT and **various startup India** programs. **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and NITI Aayog Invest India** organized the global symposium '**India PV Edge 2020**': **NITI Aayog** and **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** Invest India together organized a global symposium '**India PV Edge 2020**'. It was one of its kind platform for global **cutting-edge technology providers, equipment makers** and **PV champions** to present their technologies to PV manufacturing plans and collaborate, thus boosting the '**Make in India**' campaign.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman **Launches Indian Bank's Business Mentoring Programme 'MSME Prerana' for MSMEs:**

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** launched '**MSME Prerana**', an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs by state-run **Indian Bank**. The programme to be made available in **local languages**, is aimed at empowering entrepreneurs through **skill development** and capacity **building workshops**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Declares Results of National Startup Awards 2020:

Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** released the result of the **National Startup Awards 2020**. The

first edition of the Awards had applications from 12 sectors, which were further sub-classified into a total of **35 categories**.

The award has been introduced by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment **generation** or **wealth creation**, demonstrating measurable **social impact**.

MoHUA secretary Durga Shanker Mishra **launched API Integration between PM SVANidhi Portal and SBI's eMudra Portal:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Secretary **Shri Durga Shanker Mishra** launched the **Application Programming Interface (API)** integration between the PM SVANidhi Portal and the **State Bank of India (SBI) eMudra portal**.

As a part of Prime Minister Street Vendor's **AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** Scheme will facilitate seamless flow of data between the two portals. It will benefit the street vendors seeking working capital loan under the Scheme.

Telangana Government Signs Tripartite Agreement between DET, GIZ and Siemens India to Implement New Initiative IGnITE:

Telangana Government signed a **tripartite agreement** between **DET, GIZ India** and **Siemens India** to implement a new initiative, **Indo-German Initiative for Technical Education (IGnITE)**, which focuses on the need of the industry, industry practices and training of trainees in the

presence of Labour and Employment Minister **Ch Malla Reddy**.

Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot Virtually Inaugurates International Conference on "Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19":

Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** inaugurated the virtual **"International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19"** through video conferencing. **Prof. Craig Jeffrey**, Director, Australia-India Institute co-chaired the conference.

He also apprised about the recent initiatives of the Government of India such as setting up of **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation** at **Sehore, Madhya Pradesh** and **KIRAN** mental health rehabilitation helpline for addressing mental health issues.

Meghalaya to partner with Israel in establishing "Centre of Excellence" for high value vegetables:

Meghalaya government has entered into a partnership with **Israel** to establish a one of a kind **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** on high-value vegetables in the state to improve and promote the **livelihoods of farmers**. CoE is important for tapping the diverse biodiversity and available resources in the state in terms of its soil and **agro-climatic condition**.

Ladakh sign MoU with NDDB to Conduct Survey for Promotion of Dairying:

National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Union Territory Administration of **Ladakh** inked an agreement to conduct a benchmark survey in the newly formed UT. The survey is aimed at

gathering required details to prepare a roadmap for **development** and **promotion** of **dairying** in the UT.

Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurates Gyan Circle Ventures:

Union Minister for Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** virtually inaugurated the Gyan Circle Ventures; a **MeitY** funded **Technology Business Incubator (TBI)** of **Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City (Chittoor)**, Andhra Pradesh through Video Conference.

He further informed that the incubator would leverage the institutions' entrepreneurial spirit via utilizing its **intellectual capital** and engage in using emerging technologies such as **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Blockchain**, **Cyber Physical Systems (CPS)**, **Cyber Security**, **Internet of Things (IoT)**, **Robotics**, etc.

Uttar Pradesh government signs agreement with Zurich Airport for development of Jewar Airport:

Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) and **Zurich Airport International AG** signed a key agreement to allow the Swiss developer to begin work at the site of the upcoming **Jewar airport**.

The **'Concession Agreement'** for the **Greenfield airport**, estimated to cost **Rs 29,560 crore**, was inked between the **Uttar Pradesh** government's agency and the **Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL)**, a special purpose vehicle floated by the Zurich Airport for the project.

PM Modi launches 'Jan Andolan' campaign for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched a campaign "**Jan Andolan**" for **COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour**. The campaign has been launched in view of the **upcoming festivals** and **winter season** as well as the opening up of the economy.

Mr Modi appealed to the people to unite to fight Corona. He urged the people to always remember to wear a mask, wash hands, follow social distancing and practice '**Do Gaz Ki Doori.**'

Tamil Nadu partners with World Economic Forum to set up Advanced Manufacturing Hub:

Tamil Nadu's Guidance Bureau, the **Nodal Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency** of the state, has partnered with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** to establish an advanced manufacturing hub in the state. The **Advanced Manufacturing HUB (AMHUB)** is one of the **19 platforms** designed by the WEF and focuses on identifying and addressing regional opportunities and challenges brought by the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**.

Centre approves signing Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of Cyber security between India and Japan:

Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** in the field of **Cyber Security** between **India** and **Japan**. The MoC will enhance cooperation in areas of **mutual interest**, which include inter-alia, **capacity building in the area of cyberspace**; protection of **critical infrastructure**; cooperation in emerging technologies; sharing information on cyber security threats/incidents and malicious cyber activities; Developing joint mechanisms for

practical cooperation to mitigate cyber threats to the security of **Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure etc.**

Assam launches "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" scheme to empower economically challenged women:

Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched "**Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom**" scheme to **empower economically disadvantaged women**. The scheme aims to create more than **3.72 lakh** sustainable individuals and over **800 communities**. Further, the scheme will also benefit around 4 lakh families in the first phase of **MGNREGA** with the convergence of schemes of various state government departments and missions.

Andhra Pradesh CM launches 'Jaganna Vidya Kanuka' scheme for students in government schools:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched '**Jaganna Vidya Kanuka**' scheme for students studying in **Government Schools**. The Scheme would help in **improving Government schools' quality** and **enrolments** and would aid in providing kits to Govt school students who are enrolled in class **1 to 10 standards**.

Goa becomes first 'Har Ghar Jal' state by providing tap water connections in rural areas:

Goa has become the first '**Har Ghar Jal**' state in the country by providing **100% tap water connections** in rural areas covering **2.30 lakh households**, the Jal Shakti Ministry Stated. The Government's **Jal Jeevan Mission** aims to provide piped water to all rural households by **2024**. The state

successfully provides 100% **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** in the rural areas covering 2.30 lakh rural households.

Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launches "E-Sanjeevani OPD" Scheme for free online medical consultation:

Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** e-dedicated online **e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme** across Gujarat through videoconferencing in presence of Deputy Chief Minister **Nitinbhai Patel** to provide **medical facility online** to patients for common diseases at their homes with a view to reducing the load on hospitals and OPDs. It is a step ahead of **telemedicine facilities** for diagnosis on the phone.

Jammu and Kashmir Police organises 'Jashn-E-Dal' festival to boost tourism:

Jammu and Kashmir Police have organised a three-day water sports festival '**Jashn-E-Dal**' with an aim to **boost water sports activities** and promote tourism in the valley. The festival was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police under **civic action programme** in collaboration with water sports association after **three years**.

Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board Set Up for Pension and Other Assistance:

Kerala government has decided to form a **Welfare Fund Board** for the uplift of farmers in the state. They decided to set up the board to be known as '**Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board**'. The cabinet also decided that **Dr P Rajendran** would be appointed as the chairman of the Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board.

Uttarakhand government Launches 'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana'

to generate self-employment for youth and migrants:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched "**Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana**". The Yojana aims at creating **self-employment** for nearly **10,000 youths** in the state. **Co-operative banks** will grant loans at interest rate of **8% p.a. for 15 years** to set up the solar plants on **private land** or on land taken on lease.

PM Modi launches physical distribution of property cards under SVAMITVA scheme:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the physical distribution of property cards under **SVAMITVA** scheme. It is a central sector scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj will make rural India "**Self-Reliant**". The beneficiaries now will have a right, a **legal document** of owning their **houses**. The country has taken another major step towards an **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**, as this scheme helps in making rural India self-reliant.

PM Narendra Modi releases commemorative coin of Rs 100 in honour of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a commemorative **coin of Rs 100** in **Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia's** honour. The PM recalled the legacy of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia on her birth centenary.

She proved that for people's representatives not '**Raj Satta**' but '**Jan Seva**' is important. Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindiaji was a witness to every important phase of Indian politics from the independence movement to the decades after independence. Vijaya was elected to **Lok Sabha 7 times** and twice to the Rajya Sabha.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Virtually inaugurates BRO-built 44 major bridges across 7 states/UTs:

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **44 bridges** made by **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** across **seven States/Union Territories**, via video-conferencing. These bridges are built in border areas of **Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir**. The foundation Stone for **Nechiphu Tunnel** on the road to Tawang will also be laid during this event.

Arvind Kejriwal launches first of its kind tree transplantation policy for clean and green Delhi:

Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched the **first of its kind tree transplantation policy** to preserve trees for **clean Delhi**. Kejriwal stated that the **Delhi government** has passed a tree transplantation policy, under which **80 per cent of trees** uprooted for any construction/development project, must be transplanted elsewhere.

AAI to Develop Greenfield Airport in Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi by November 2022:

Airports Authority of India will develop a **greenfield airport** at **Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi**, near **Itanagar**. This airport is expected to be completed by **November 2022**. The estimated cost of the project is **650 crore rupees**. It includes **development work, construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal Building and city side works**.

Nirmala Sitharaman Announces Rs.73,000-Crore Measures to Boost Consumer Demand by March 2021:

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired the **43rd GST Council Meeting** Virtually. India's **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** contracted a record **23.9 per cent** in the **April-June** as the quarter fully captured the damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic-related restrictions, and is expected to shrink an overall **9.5 per cent** in the current financial year by the **Reserve Bank of India**.

Goa government Partners with India Posts to Get Farmers Enrolled in PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme:

Goa Government has tied up with **India Post** to get **11, 000 farmers** enrolled in the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sanman Nidhi scheme**. This is the first such exercise in India to enrol farmers in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, whereby the **postman will be utilised** to benefit farmers. **Kerala Becomes First State in India to Make the Public Education Sector Completely Digital and Hi-tech classrooms:**

Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** has declared the **state public education sector** completely **digital** as Kerala has become the first state in the country to have **high-tech classrooms** in all its public schools.

The high-tech classroom project is being implemented by **Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE)** with financial assistance from **Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KIIFB)**.

Tamil Nadu signs 14 MoUs for industrial investment of Rs 10, 055 crore:

Tamil Nadu government signed **14 MoUs** for **Industrial Investment** worth **Rs 10, 055 crore** with an employment potential of **7, 000 persons**. The MoUs were signed in the presence of Chief Minister **K. Palaniswami** at the state secretariat. Between **April-September 2020**, a total of 42 MoUs were signed involving an investment of Rs 31, 464 crore.

PepsiCo to set up potato chips plant in Uttar Pradesh with Rs.814 crore investment:

Food processing industry in **Uttar Pradesh** is set to get a major boost with **PepsiCo** announcing **Rs 814 crore** green field project for production of **potato chips** in **Mathura**. The unit will be set up in **Kosi area** of the district and will start commercial production by the middle of **2021**.

"Tech for Tribals" Initiative Launched by TRIFED, IIT Kanpur and Chhattisgarh MFP Federation:

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** and **Chhattisgarh MFP (Minor Forest Produce) Federation** virtually launched **"Tech for Tribals"** Initiative.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launches a **Water Testing Lab On Wheels**: **Haryana** Chief Minister **Manohar Lal** launched a **Mobile Water Testing Laboratory Van** equipped with a multi-parameter system containing analysers, sensors, probes, and instruments based on **Colorimetric, Electrochemistry**. This initiative has been launched under the **Jal**

Jeevan Mission for providing tap water connection to **every rural household**.

NITI Aayog Announces Governing Structure of India Energy Modelling Forum:

India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) is jointly launched by **NITI Aayog** and **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**. It is part of the Sustainable Growth pillar of the US-India **Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP)**.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to launch Mission Shakti for women in Navratri:

Uttar Pradesh government will dedicate the upcoming **Navratri festival** to **women's safety, dignity and empowerment** by launching **'Mission Shakti'**. The initiative will begin in **'Shardiya Navratri'** and will continue for the next **six months** till the **'Chaitra Navratri'** in April.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches "Sujal Mission" to Provide Quality Drinking Water in Urban Areas:

Odisha Chief minister **Naveen Patnaik** virtually launched the **"Drink from the tap Mission Sujal"**, an initiative under the **5T model** of governance, that aimed to ensure **24x7 safe and Quality Drinking Water** to the people in urban areas.

Government Sets Up a Panel of Secretaries Headed by Rajiv Gauba to Streamline Telecom Spectrum Allocation:

Government has constituted a panel of secretaries under cabinet secretary **Rajiv Gauba** to streamline the **Spectrum Allocation Process** and examine the possibility of drawing up an annual calendar

for auction of airwaves that will give a clear road map of the quantum as well as the **Frequency of Spectrum** on offer for commercial use.

Odisha government signs agreement with Rugby India to sponsor national team for 3 years:

Odisha government signed an agreement with **Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU)** to sponsor the Indian national rugby teams till **2023** and facilitate high-performance training and conditioning of the players. The agreement was signed at the **Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.**

Exercise "Suraksha Kavach" a Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise held between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar Pune:

Agnibaaz Division (41 Artillery Division) of the **Indian Army** has organized Exercise **"Suraksha Kavach"** (security shield), a joint exercise for both Maharashtra Police and Indian Army at **Lullanagar Pune**. The exercise was an opportunity for both the **Indian Army** and Maharashtra Police to **cooperate, coordinate, co-opt** and streamline their drills and procedures.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches second phase of "Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna" for Thalassemic patients.:

Health and Family Welfare Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** virtually launched the second phase of **"Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna"** for the underprivileged **Thalassemic patients**. The Minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had introduced the **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana** for targeted populace.

AICTE Constituted a Committee to Prepare the Professional Engineers Bill Headed by M.S Ananth:

Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has informed **K. Somaprasad, MP**, that the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has constituted a committee for preparing the Professional Engineers Bill.

Atal Innovation Mission collaborates with CGI to promote innovation in schools across India:

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has collaborated with CGI India which is one among the **largest IT and business consulting services** firms, for creating a successful and innovative workforce from the **Atal Tinkering Lab, ATL** schools. ATLs are accessed by over **2.5 million school kids** in India.

Director General of Shipping notified as National Authority for Recycling of Ships:

Government has notified **Director General of Shipping** as **National Authority for Recycling of Ships**. DG Shipping is designated as apex authority under **Section 3** of the **Recycling of Ships Act, 2019** for the ship recycling industry of India and the office of the national authority will be set up in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

Pernod Ricard India Foundation partners with WWF India to secure future of wild elephants in Assam:

Pernod Ricard India Foundation and **WWF India** announced a partnership to secure the future of **wild elephants** in **Assam**. It aims to conserve the **Asian elephant** through effective **human-elephant conflict management** in **Assam**. The project will work across **150 villages** in

Kamrup, Sonitpur, Biswanath, and Nagaon districts

Arvind Kejriwal Launches 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign to reduce air pollution in Delhi:

Delhi chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** launched '**Red Light On, Gaadi Off**' a new **anti-pollution campaign** under people will be encouraged to switch engines of their **vehicles off** while waiting at traffic signals. It can reduce **PM10 emissions** by **1.5 tonnes** a year and **PM2.5 emissions** by **0.4 tonnes** a year.

"SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for Women Inaugurated in Ramban District of Jammu and Kashmir:

Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated "**SAKHI**" **One-Stop Service Centre** for women in **Ramban district**. It aims to facilitate access to integrated range of services including **medical aid, police assistance, legal aid, psycho-social counselling** and temporary support services to women affected by violence to women affected by **violence**.

Pinarayi Vijayan launches Kerala's first water taxi service in Alappuzha:

Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the first water taxi service of the **State Water Transport Department (SWTD)** in Alappuzha. A **catamaran diesel-powered craft** will be used for the water taxi service. The tariff fixed had been **Rs.750** for **30 minutes** and boat service capable of carrying **10 people**. The state is focusing on the completion of the **Kovalam-Bekal waterway**.

Union Cabinet approves Rs 5, 718 crore World Bank-aided STARS project to boost school education system:

Union Cabinet approved the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project under the new **National Education Policy** to support states in strengthening the **school education system**, Union Minister **Prakash Javadekar** stated. The total project cost is **Rs 5718 crore** with the financial support of **World Bank** amounting to **US \$ 500 million (approximately Rs. 3700 crore)**.

The project will cover **six States** namely **Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha**.

Cabinet approves Rs 520-crore package under National Rural Livelihood Mission for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh:

Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved a special package of **Rs 520 crore** for **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** under the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**. It has been approved for a period of five years till the financial year **2023-24**.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) will ensure sufficient funds to both the Union Territories with the aim to **eliminate rural poverty** and improved access to **financial services**.

Union Education Minister virtually launches 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness Education campaign:

Union Education Minister Shri **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** virtually launched the '**KAPILA**' Kalam Program for **Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign** on the 89th birth anniversary of

former President and Scientist Late **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**.

Punjab Cabinet approves BR Ambedkar SC post Matric scholarship scheme to enable SC students to pursue higher learning:

Punjab Cabinet cleared the decks for the **State Government** to launch its own **SC Post Matric Scholarship Scheme** in place of the Centre's defunct scheme, in order to facilitate SC students to **pursue higher education in government and private institutions**.

MSME Ministry integrates AI and ML on its Single Window portal 'Champions':

Ministry of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** has introduced **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Machine Learning (ML)** powered tools on its single window system '**Champions**' in a bid to take a proactive stance on matters related to the MSMEs. This AI transformation has been enabled by **Intel** over a period of **five months**.

Hiranandani Group Subsidiary GreenBase Signs MoU with Tamil Nadu to Set up Industrial and Logistics Park:

GreenBase a **Hiranandani Group subsidiary** has signed an MoU with **Tamil Nadu** to set up an industrial and logistics park at **Vadakkuppattu, Oragadaman** at an investment of **Rs.750cr**. Park envisages development of built-up area for companies planning to set up **manufacturing & logistics units**.

PM Narendra Modi releases Rs 75 coin to mark 75th year of Food and Agriculture Organisation:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a commemorative coin of **Rs 75** denomination to mark the **75th anniversary** of the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the **United Nations**.

Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation 17 recently **developed biofortified** varieties of **eight crops**. FAO was founded on 16 October 1945.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Virtually Attends 102nd Meeting of the World Bank Development Committee Plenary:

Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** participated in **102nd** meeting of the **World Bank Development Committee Plenary** through video conference. Government has committed **\$2.03 billion** for the strengthening of health infrastructure in the wake of **#COVID19** pandemic. **#Unite2FightCorona #StaySafe"**

Jammu & Kashmir government signs MoU with Flipkart to promote handloom, handicraft products:

To boost the sale of **handicraft and handloom products** in **Jammu and Kashmir**, the union territory government signed a pact with online retailer **Flipkart** for showcasing and facilitating the local artisans and **craftsmen** to reach customers across the globe.

Jammu & Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha launches 'My Town My Pride' Campaign to provide doorstep governance in urban areas:

Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** has announced an initiative called '**My Town My Pride**' to provide governance at the doorstep in urban areas. This programme is in line with

the **"Back to Village programme"** launched for rural population.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari initiates Asia's Longest Bi-directional Road Tunnel ZojiLa Tunnel works:

Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** launched the first blasting for construction related work at the **14.15 km Zojila tunnel**, one of the **longest in Asia**, that will provide all-year connectivity between **Srinagar valley and Leh**.

The project holds strategic significance as Zojila Pass is situated at an altitude of **11,578 feet** on the **Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway** and remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall.

Government Launches Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) Portal Under PM Awas Yojana:

Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** stated that numerous benefits including free **FAR (floor area ratio)**, concessional project Finance, trunk infrastructure facilities free of cost amongst others are a part of a scheme for **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)** for urban migrants under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**.

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates Innovation & Incubation Center and Sports Complex at IIT Jodhpur:

Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** inaugurated two facilities namely **Innovation and Incubation Center** and **Sports Complex** in the Permanent Campus of **IIT Jodhpur**.

Leather Sector Skill Council Launches Mobile App "SCALE India" for quality assurance:

Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) announced the launch of **Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE)** India android app to enhance quality assurance under **Skill India Mission**. It is a single platform to integrate quality assurance across all its services.

Stellapps launches 'mooPay' for dairy farmers in Rajasthan:

Stellapps introduced the launch of a first-of-its-kind, **fully-automated** direct cost platform **'mooPay'** for dairy farmers in Rajasthan. The platform is among the fintech options the corporate has developed for dairies and **dairy farmers**. **Uttar Pradesh government decides to set up women help desk in every police station:**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has decided to establish **women help desks** in each and **every police station** of state. The women police personnel deputed on helpdesk will not only listen to the complaints of women but will always be ready to **help them anytime**. Government had earlier established **pink booths** at various intersections of **Lucknow**.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates India International Food & Agri Week (October 16-22):

Union Minister for **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development** and **Panchayati Raj** **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the **India-International Food & Agri Week (October 16-22)** virtually. The focus of the **Food and Agro Tech** will be on the use and

benefit of the technology in the field of **food and agriculture sector**.

Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand's first wetland to make it to Ramsar list:

Asan Conservation Reserve has become **Uttarakhand's 1st Ramsar site**, making it **Wetland of International Importance**. Reserve is located on the banks of **Yamuna river** and is home to many rare & endangered species like Ruddy Shelduck, **Red Crested Pochard**. India now has **38 wetlands**, the highest in **South Asia**.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari lays the foundation stone for Rs 694 crore first-ever multi modal logistic park in Assam:

Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** will lay the foundation stone for **India's first multi-modal logistics park in Assam** to be constructed at an estimated cost of **Rs 694 crore**. The multi-modal logistic park will be developed under the ambitious **Bharatmala Pariyojna**. Park will provide direct connectivity through **air, road, rail, and waterways** to people.

The event was attended by **Assam** Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Union Minister of the State **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, General (Retd.) **Rameshwar Teli** and **V.K. Singh** and several other ministers of Assam.

Assam Celebrates "Kati Bihu" Festival:

Kati Bihu festival is held at this time of the year since the granaries of the farmers usually remain empty and therefore it is known as **Kongali (poor) Bihu**. On the occasion of **Kati Bihu**, women, both in **Urban and Rural Areas**, try to ward off evil and pray for a rich harvest by **lighting earthen lamps**.

Finance Minister Holds 4th Review Meeting On CAPEX of Central Public Sector Enterprises:

Union Minister for **Finance** and **Corporate Affairs** **Nirmala Sitharaman** held a video conference with secretaries of the **Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Coal**, along with the chairman cum managing directors of 14 **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE)** belonging to these ministries, to review the **Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)** in this financial year. This was 4th in the ongoing series of meetings that the **Finance Minister** is having with **various stakeholders** to accelerate the economic growth in the background of **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Government launches 'Ayushman Sahakar' scheme to fund cooperative healthcare facilities:

Union Minister of State for Agriculture **Parshottam Rupala** launched the scheme, under which the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** would extend term loans of **Rs 10, 000 crore** to cooperatives for creating healthcare infrastructure in **rural India**.

The scheme aims to bring **transformation in rural areas**, to revolutionize comprehensive health care services, through **co-operatives**, due to their strong presence in **rural areas**. NCDC is the **Apex Autonomous Development** finance institution under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju Virtually Attends Youth-20 (Y20) Summit:

Union Minister of Youth and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** attended the **Youth-20 (Y20)** Summit being held virtually in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. The Summit held under the theme of the Summit is '**Government - Youth dialogue on post-COVID-19 opportunities**'.

The Summit concluded with the drafting of the **Y20 Communique** under the three overarching priority areas viz. **Future Fit; Youth Empowerment; and Global Citizenship**.

FSSAI to expand food safety compliance Online platform across India:

FSSAI has announced to extend its **Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS)** across the entire country from **November 1, 2020**. The system is operational in nine States/UTs (**Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Chandigarh, Goa, Manipur, Puducherry and Ladakh**) since **June 2020**. **FoSCoS** is a cloud-based, upgraded new food safety compliance online platform of **FSSAI**. It can be accessed at <https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in>. It will replace the existing online **FLRS (Food Licensing and Registration System)**, which is operational in all the states since **2011** for licensing and registration.

Fino Payments Bank will add another 300 points to BPCL stores in Tamil Nadu:

Fino Payments Bank plans to add another **300 points** at **BPCL** outlets to its existing **1,075 in Tamil Nadu** to help truck drivers recharge fleet cards by **paying equal cash**. **Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) SmartFleet cards** used to pay for fuel has been a challenge for truck drivers for some time, and to alleviate this inconvenience, **Fino** has started such facilities with **BPCL**.

Telangana government signs MoU with BSE, GlobalLinker to help MSMEs in raising equity funds:

Telangana government along with **GlobalLinker** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** to help **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in raising equity funds.

BSE will provide **intellectual** and **manpower** support to create awareness about the importance and benefits of listing on **stock exchanges**.

India takes up first ever cultivation of Heeng in Himachal Pradesh:

CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur has started cultivating **heeng** for the first time in the state as well as in the country. The first seedling of the spice was planted at a farmer's field in **Kwaring** village of **Lahaul valley** in **Himachal Pradesh**. India imports about **1200 tonnes** of raw asafoetida annually.

ADB and India sign \$177 million loan for road projects in Maharashtra:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and **India** signed a **\$177 million** loan to upgrade **450 km** of state highways and major district roads in the state of **Maharashtra**. State government Maharashtra will contribute **\$78.99 million** equivalent toward the **\$255.99 million** total cost of the project.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Electricity Consumer Service Portal 'Mo Bidyut' portal and app:

Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched an electricity consumer service portal "**Mo Bidyut**" and its mobile app to **provide efficient, time-bound** and

transparent online service to the people of the State.

FICCI to be national industry partner of third edition of 'Make in Odisha':

Odisha signed an agreement with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** as its national industry partner for the third edition of **'Make in Odisha'** conclave. The agreement was signed on a virtual platform, in presence of Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** between the state owned **IPICOL**, the **nodal investment promotion and industrial facilitation agency** and **FICCI**.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Pate Launches "Safe City Project" a women's safety campaign in Lucknow:

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the **'Safe City Project'** in Lucknow. Central has approved a total cost of Rs 194 crore. Under this **180-day-long campaign**, the **women police** personnel will work towards strengthening security of women in public places and inculcate a feeling of pride and **safety among women in the city**.

The Governor also flagged off **100 pink scooties** and **10 four-wheeler police vehicles**. These vehicles have **first-aid kit, flashlights** and other facilities.

Railway Protection Force (RPF) launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative on AP Express:

Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam, started implementing **'Meri Saheli'** initiative in **AP Express** (Visakhapatnam to **New Delhi** in order to provide proactive **security to women passengers**. The main motto of **'Meri Saheli'** is to **provide safety and security to**

women passengers travelling in trains throughout their journey.

Mansukh Mandaviya launches "Development of Indigenous Software solution for VTS and VTMS:

Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya** e-launched the development of Indigenous Software solution for **Vessel traffic services (VTS)** and **Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS)** in **New Delhi**.

West Bengal Government Launches Campaign to Curb Elephant Deaths Due to Electrocutation:

West Bengal government launched a campaign in areas adjoining **elephant habitats** in the northern part of the state. This campaign has been launched to prevent **electrocution deaths of elephants**. The campaign will focus on areas adjoining **Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara and Gorumara national parks**.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan Launches CuRED, CSIR Partnered Clinical Trials Website:

Union Health and Science and Technology Minister **Harsh Vardhan** launched **CuRED (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs)** a website that gives comprehensive info about the numerous COVID-19 clinical trials that the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** is engaged in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries.

Surat's BRTS becomes Longest BRTS Network in country with a coverage of 108 kms:

Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** inaugurated the newly expanded **Bus Rapid**

Transit System (BRTS) route from **Kumbhariya to Kadodara, Surat** virtually from **Gandhinagar**. With the opening of this **BRTS corridor**, Surat became the only city in the country to have Longest BRTS network with **108 kms**.

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launches **Life in Miniature** project:

Union Minister of State for **Culture and Tourism** **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel** launched '**Life in Miniature**' project via video conferencing on 22 October 2020. The project is a collaboration between the **National Museum**, New Delhi, **Ministry of Culture**, and the **Google Arts and Culture**.

Rajnath Singh unveils new version of **DRDO's** procurement manual to engage private sector in defence R&D:

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** unveiled a new version of the procurement manual of the premier military research institute **DRDO** featuring simplified procedures for involvement of the private sector in **various research and development projects**.

Andhra Pradesh government launches '**YSR BIMA**' insurance scheme for **BPL families**:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched '**YSR Bima**', a scheme to provide financial assistance through insurance cover to beneficiary in case of death or accident of **their family members**.

Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** Launches '**micro ATM**' Service in Rural Areas:

Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** has launched the '**micro ATM**'

service in rural areas of the state. He distributed handheld devices through which money could be withdrawn to **banking correspondent agents**. Initiative is being promoted by **Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society, MRB & NABARD**.

Third phase of National Supercomputing Mission to start in January 2021:

Department of Science and Technology stated, third phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) will kickstart in January 2021, taking computing speed to around **45 petaflops**.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launches '**e-Dharti Geo portal**':

Union **Housing and Urban Affairs** Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the '**e-Dharti Geo Portal**' that will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system and make it **Geographic Information System (GIS)**-enabled.

AAI Plans to Develop at Least 100 Airports, Waterdromes and Heliports Under UDAN Scheme by 2024:

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to develop at least **100 airports, waterdromes and heliports** across the country by **2024** under the government's regional air connectivity scheme **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)**, **Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola** stated. The fourth anniversary of the **UDAN scheme** was commemorated on **October 21**.

Uttarakhand CM Rawat Launches **Integrated Model Agricultural Village Scheme:**

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated **Integrated**

Model Agricultural Village scheme ("Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana") in the state in partnership with NABARD.

Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme is a concept which will prove to be a **milestone in strengthening** the economy of farmers and doubling their income Rawat stated while launching the scheme at Doiwala.

Tamil Nadu becomes first state to launch Smart Black Board Scheme in India:

Tamil Nadu becomes **first state** to launch **Smart Black Board Scheme** in **India**. Under this **Smart Black Board scheme**, **audio visual teaching material** would be possible, that can even be fed into the **computer screens** in classes using widely available **pen drives**.

The Scheme was implemented more than **80, 000 schools** in the country. Tamil Nadu State government has also decided to reduce be syllabus of **2020-21** by **40 per cent**.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission launches India's first-ever Khadi fabric footwear:

Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari has launched **India's first-ever** high-quality **Khadi Fabric Footwear**, designed by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** through Video Conference. These footwears are made of Khadi fabric like **Silk, Cotton and Wool**.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Addresses First Ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group:

Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** addressed the first ministerial meeting of **G-20 anti-corruption** working group (launched on its **10th anniversary year**). **Saudi Arabia**

became the first country to host the first ever meeting. India is committed to the policy of **zero tolerance against corruption and unaccounted money**.

Karnataka government Approves to switch implementing agency for Bhagyalakshmi scheme through Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:

Karnataka cabinet granted approval to implement the **Bhagyalakshmi scheme**, which provides financial security to girl child of BPL families, through **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** of the **postal department** instead of **LIC**.

Maharashtra's Women & Child welfare department launches initiative to fulfill nutritional requirements of lactating mothers & children:

Maharashtra's Women and Child welfare department has launched a new initiative to fulfill the nutritional requirements of **lactating mothers and children** in the state. After performing the most difficult task of providing **nutritional food** to **74 lakh beneficiaries** during Corona pandemic.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

3-day naval exercise held between India and Japan in Arabian Sea:

4th edition of **India** and **Japan** Maritime bilateral exercise "**JIMEX**" is conducted biennially between the **Indian Navy** and **Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)** is being held in the **North Arabian Sea** in a 'Non-Contact At-Sea-Only Format'.

India provides 1.54 billion rupees to Nepal as post-earthquake reconstruction assistance:

India has provided **1.54 billion** (US\$ 250 million grant and US\$ 750 million concessional Line of Credit) **Nepalese Rupees** (INR nearly 96 crores) to Nepal as part of its commitment towards assistance and rehabilitation after the 2015 earthquake named "**Gorkha earthquake**" which saw the death of over 9, 000 people in the country.

Passage Exercise (PASSEX) Between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in East Indian Ocean Region:

Indian Navy is scheduled to undertake a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX)** with **Royal Australian Navy** (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region. The exercise would involve participation of **HMAS Hobart** from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships **Sahyadri** and **Karmuk**.

And also, India-Australia conducts maritime exercise "**AUSINDEX**" biennially to boost defence cooperation in the maritime domain.

World Bank Approves \$200 mn loan for Bangladesh to ensure safe water in rural areas:

World Bank has approved **\$200 million** to help **Bangladesh** improve access to safe water and sanitation services in rural areas.

The Bangladesh Rural **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** for Human Capital Development Project will help about 600, 000 people avail safe and clean water through large and small piped water schemes in **rural areas**.

India and Denmark sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation:

India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Denmark** in the field of **Intellectual Property (IP)** Cooperation. The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (DPIIT) signed the MoU with the Danish Patent and Trademark Office.

IATA Inked MoU with UNOCT as 1st private partner to Cooperate on India-funded CT Travel Programme:

International Air Transport Association (IATA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism** (UNOCT) as the first non-government partner to strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations (UN) **Countering Terrorist Travel Programme** (CT Travel Programme).

India extends \$15 million grant for promotion of Buddhist ties with Sri Lanka:

India announced a grant assistance of **\$15 million** for the promotion of Buddhist ties with **Sri Lanka** besides affirming to expand defence partnership eyeing to stabilise the **Southern Indian Ocean**.

These decisions were announced at the first ever virtual summit between PM **Narendra Modi** and Sri Lankan Prime Minister **Mahinda Rajapaksa**.

NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands sign Statement of Intent (SoI) on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda':

NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) in **New Delhi** to support the **decarbonization and energy transition agenda** for accommodating cleaner and more energy. The SoI was signed by NITI Aayog CEO **Amitabh Kant** and Ambassador of the Netherlands to India **Marten van den Berg**. **India and Bangladesh virtually conducts 6th Joint Consultative Commission meeting:**

India and Bangladesh held the **6th Joint Consultative Commission (JCC)** meet through a virtual platform. The meeting was co-chaired by External minister of India **Dr. S. Jaishankar** and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh **Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen**.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addresses Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC) Energy Security Conference 2020:

Union Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** addressed the '**GCTC Energy Security Conference 2020**' organized by **Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC)**. The Theme of '**GCTC Energy Security Conference 2020**' is – "**Energy Security Architecture in Post Covid-19 World**".

New Development Bank Approves Loans for Mumbai Metro and Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Rapid Rail:

New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved **USD 241 million** loans for **Mumbai Metro** and **USD**

500 million for the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut** Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Project.

National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) will use the fund for construction of a rapid rail corridor connecting the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** with the cities of **Ghaziabad** and **Meerut** located in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.

India and Australia Strengthens their Partnership on Skilling Agenda:

Union **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and the High Commission of **Australia** conducted meeting for Cooperation in **Vocational Education and Training**. The aim is to support Vocational Education and Training (VET) in India and Australia.

India signs defence deal with US worth 90 million USD to buy spares for C-130J Super Hercules aircraft:

India and the **United States** have entered into a defence deal worth **\$90-million**, wherein US would provide equipment, spare parts and logistical support for India's fleet of **C-130J Super Hercules Cargo Aircraft**.

India and Bangladesh Naval Forces to Hold Exercise Bongosagar in Bay of Bengal:

The 2nd edition of **India-Bangladesh** Bilateral Exercise "**Bongosagar**" is scheduled in the **Bay of Bengal**. The exercise between the two navies aims at fostering inter-operability and **Joint Operational Skills** with both forces conducting a wide spectrum of joint maritime exercises.

India and Myanmar Agree to Target Operationalisation of Strategic Sittwe Port in first quarter of 2021:

Indian army chief General **M.M. Naravane** and foreign secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** travelled to **Myanmar** on a two-day visit. They called on State Counsellor **Aung San Suu Kyi** and Myanmar's Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General **Min Aung Hlaing**.

Foreign ministers of India, Japan, US and Australia attend QUAD meeting in Tokyo:

Foreign ministers of all four **Quad countries** – the **United States, Japan, India and Australia** in **Tokyo, Japan** to hold bilateral discussions over “**Free and Open Indo-Pacific**” (**FOIP**) initiative amid coronavirus pandemic.

Foreign ministers of all four Quad countries are were Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo**, Indian External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar**, Australian Foreign Minister **Marise Payne**, Japanese Foreign Minister **Toshimitsu Motegi** will be present for the face to face meeting, a first amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

12th Virtual BRICS Summit to be held on 17 November 2020:

12th Virtual **BRICS** Summit is scheduled to be held on **17th November** 2020. The Summit is being held under the Chairmanship of **Russia**. Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries held under the theme of “**BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth**”.

Avaada Energy receives USD 15 million fund from ADB to Expand Renewable Energy Capacity in India:

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to invest **\$15 million** equivalent in **Avaada Energy Private Limited** (AEPL) to help the company to scale up photovoltaic solar energy generation capacity in India. This is ADB's second investment in AEPL after a first round of \$50 million invested in **April 2019**.

India's First Business-To-Business (B2B) Crypto Exchange 'DigitX' Launched:

DigitX is India's first **Business-to-Business (B2B) Crypto** trading exchange has commenced its trading operations. In a highly potential yet challenging market, DigitX aims to deliver **transparency** and **security** with its Platform armed with features to bring about a much-needed trust and confidence for the investors and **traders of Crypto**.

NABARD signs 3 MoUs with SBI to extend credit support for various projects in Gujarat:

NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) has inked **three** Memoranda of Understanding with **State Bank of India** to extend credit support for various projects in **Gujarat**. The MoUs were signed for financing joint **liability groups** and **Self-Help Groups**-support credit inflows to **Farmer Producers** Organizations and economic support for **watershed development projects**.

Chqbook launches India's first 'Financial Control Center' on mobile to empower 60 million small business owners:

Chqbook is India's first **Neobank** for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships announced the launch of its new mobile platform '**Financial Control Center**'. With

this launch, Chqbook brings world-class financial services to a massive underserved segment.

India to surpass Japan to become the third largest economy by 2050:

Indian economy is set to become the **third largest** in the world behind **China** and the **US** by **2050** and retain the same position in **2100**, a study published in the **medical journal Lancet** found by translating working age population of countries into scenarios for total GDP.

Taking **2017** as the base year when India was the **seventh-largest** economy, the Lancet paper said India will move up to become the **Fourth** largest economy behind the US, China and Japan by 2030 and subsequently will **overtake Japan** in **2050**. India is currently the **5th largest economy** in the world.

Argentina Becomes First Country to Approve Genetically Modified Wheat:

Argentina became the first country in the world to approve the use of drought-resistant **Genetically Modified (GMO) Wheat**, prompting fierce criticism by the country's massive export agriculture industry.

The country has approved **HB4** drought-resistant GMO wheat by biotechnology firm **Bioceres**, making it to approve a strain of GMO wheat. Argentina said HB4 tech provides seeds that are more **tolerant** to **drought & minimize** production losses.

Seventh round of military level talks between India & China underway to de-escalate tension along LAC:

India and **China** is underway to resolve the border issues on **Line of Actual Control**. The Commander level talks between both the countries began at the **Chushul border**

personnel meeting point on Indian side. The Military commanders are meeting for the seventh time to work out the measures to preserve the peace and **tranquility** at the Line of Actual Control in **Eastern Ladakh region**.

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad Virtually Host SCO Meeting of Law and Justice Ministers:

Union Minister of Law and Justice **Ravi Shankar Prasad** will host the seventh meeting of Ministers of Justice of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. **India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** will participate in the meeting.

16-year-old Aava Murto assumes Finland's PM post for a day Under 'Girls Takeover' Programme:

A 16-year-old girl ceremoniously assumed the post of Finnish prime minister for one day for the **"Girls Takeover"** program — part of the United Nations **International Day of the Girl** to raise more awareness of gender equality.

18-year-old Indian girl Chaitanya Venkateswaran becomes British High Commissioner for a day:

Delhi girl **Chaitanya Venkateswaran** became the **British high commissioner** to **India** for a day. The 18-year-old won the **'High Commissioner for the Day'** contest organised by the mission in the run-up to the International Day of the Girl Child (October 11).

Exim Bank provides USD 310 million line of credit to Zimbabwe for thermal and river projects:

Exim Bank has provided **USD 42.5 million** (about Rs 310 crore) **line of credit (LOC)** to **Zimbabwe** for upgradation of a thermal power plant and river project. Under the LOCs, the terminal utilization period is **60 months** after the scheduled completion date of the project.

Exim Bank extends USD 400 million soft loan to Maldives for financing connectivity project:

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on behalf of the Government of **India** has extended a **USD 400 million** (about Rs 2, 932 crore) soft loan to **Maldives** through the Exim Bank to finance a connectivity project in the nation of islands.

India and Taiwan Think Tanks join hands for Indo-Pacific Cooperation:

Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF), a leading think tank from **Taiwan** has signed a memorandum with India's **National Maritime Foundation (NMF)** in order to foster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as part of **Taiwan's South bound policy**.

World Economic Forum shifts annual meeting 2021 from Davos to Lucerne:

World Economic Forum (WEF) will hold its Annual Meeting **2021** in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**, from May 18 to 21, as against the traditional venue of ski resort town **Davos** in **January 2021**. The theme "**The Great Reset**", it will be held both in physical and digital modes.

Pakistan and Nepal re-elected to UN Human Rights Council:

Pakistan and **Nepal** have been re-elected to the **UN Human Rights Council**, while China won a seat by the smallest margin showing a

drastic drop in standing. Established by the **UN General Assembly** in **2006** as the principal United Nations entity dealing with human rights, the Human Rights Council consists of **47 elected Member**.

World Bank approves USD 12 billion to help developing countries finance coronavirus vaccines:

World Bank has approved **USD 12 billion** in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to **1 billion** people. The **USD 12 billion "Envelop"** is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to **USD 160 billion** to help developing countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

India and France re-elected as President and Co-President of International Solar Alliance:

India and **France** were re-elected as the **President** and **Co-President** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly, informed the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**.

India signed MoU with Australia to promote cooperation in sustainable groundwater management:

Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Australia** to promote cooperation in **surface and groundwater training, education and research** to achieve water security for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental purposes.

6th Edition of Joint Commission meeting held between India and Norway to

establish global facility 'COVAX' to combat COVID-19:

India and **Norway** held a virtual joint commission. The Indian delegation was led by **S. Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister of India and the Norwegian delegation was led by **Ine Eriksen Soreide**, Foreign Minister of Norway. Both countries decided to hold the next round of Joint Commission Meeting in **Oslo, Norway**.

India among high-burden TB nations to register 25-30 pc drop in Tuberculosis case notifications; WHO report:

According to **WHO** report, a drop of around **25-30 per cent** in **Tuberculosis case notifications** was reported in **three high-burden** countries **India, Indonesia** and **Philippines** between **January and June 2020**, compared to the corresponding period in **2019**.

India provides USD 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestinian refugees:

India contributed **USD one million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)** in the **Near East** to support **Palestinian refugees** who have been facing extreme challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a move hailed by the UN body as "**Timely Help**".

India hosts 7th meeting of Ministers of Justice of SCO member states:

India hosted the **Seventh Meeting** of Ministers of Justice of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** which is a permanent intergovernmental international organization. India was represented by Law Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

India designated as Vice-Chair of OECD Working Group on Good Laboratory Practice (GLP):

India has been designated the **Vice-Chair** of **Good Laboratory Practice**, GLP Working Group of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, recognising the contribution of the Indian GLP programme.

OECD also appointed **Dr. Ekta Kapoor**, Scientist 'E', **National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA)**, Department of Science & Technology (DST) as Vice-Chair of OECD Working Group on GLP for **2021 and 2022**.

India and Chile Hold First Joint Commission Virtual Meeting:

India and **Chile** held their **first joint commission meeting** and agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including **trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space**.

The meeting held virtually was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and his Chilean counterpart **Andres Allamand Zavala**.

India joins hands with Netherlands for its ehealth initiative "eHealth Magazine":

India and **Netherlands** discussed a joint thrust in **e-health sector** to provide digital health facilities and **security to Indians** and helping Netherlands accelerate **digital transformation of health**. It is Part of India's ambitious **National Digital Health Mission**.

This collaboration will see the two countries work closely to create **capacities** and put in

place the **requisite technology** backbone to enable this **revolutionary initiative**.

Indian and Sri Lankan navies to conduct maritime exercise SLINEX-20:

The **8th** edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise **SLINEX-20** between the **Indian Navy** and **Sri Lanka Navy** is scheduled off **Trincomalee** in **Sri Lanka**. It aims to enhance inter-operability & improve mutual understanding for multi-faceted maritime operations.

The **Sri Lanka Navy** will be represented by **SLN Ships Sayura** (Offshore Patrol Vessel) and **Gajabahu** (Training Ship) led by **Rear Admiral Bandara Jayathilaka**. **Indian Navy** will be Represented by Indigenously built **Kamorta** and **Kiltan** will represent.

Australia to join India, US, Japan in large naval exercises:

Australia will join **3-way naval exercises** involving **US, Japan & India**. India, holds annual drills called **Malabar** with the **U.S. & Japanese** navies each year, agreed to invite Australia for exercise in **Bay of Bengal** in a sign of co-operation between **Quad countries**.

The participation of **Australia** means that all four members of the so-called Quad will be participating in the exercises for the **first time since 2007**.

Singapore Becomes First Country to Use Facial Recognition to Pay Taxes:

Singapore became the **World's First Country** to attach **Facial verification** in the National Identification Database. This technology is being rolled out to the city-state's **SingPass digital identity scheme**, offering access to no less than **400 online services**, including **tax declarations** and

public housing applications. Facial recognition is also increasingly being used to access other online services

9th Session of India-Oman Joint Commission Virtual Meeting held to improve Trade & Investment:

9th Session of the **India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting** was held virtually. It was co-chaired by **Hardeep Singh Puri** and **Qais bin Mohammed** of **Oman**. The meeting was attended by representatives of various government **departments/ministries** from both sides.

Both sides agreed to cooperate in areas of **Agriculture & Food Security, Standards & Metrology, Tourism, Information Technology, Health & Pharmaceuticals, MSMEs, Space, Civil Aviation, Energy including renewable energy, Culture, Mining, and Higher Education**.

Israeli Embassy to Have 'Water Attache' in India from January:

Israel Embassy will have a separate '**Water Attache**' from **January 2021** to help share their country's best practices and technologies for advancements in India's **water management** and **agriculture sectors** stated by **Israeli Ambassador** to India **Ron Malka**.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta participates in 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO:

India was represented by the **Solicitor General Tushar Mehta** in **18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO**. Prosecutors agreed to **strengthen cooperation** in preventing and **combating corruption, mutual legal assistance** and **exchange of regulatory legal acts**.

India to host the SCO Prosecutors General Meeting in **2021**. India will host the **SCO Council of Heads of Government 2020** on **November 30th**.

India and Kazakhstan explores co-production and co-development of defence products:

India and Central Asia's biggest state **Kazakhstan** are exploring widening defence partnership including **joint production** as well as opening a new chapter in the **heavy engineering sector**.

A **two-day** virtual expo jointly organized by **FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry)** and **Ministry of Defence** with **Kazakhstan** defence industries for **co-production and co-development** in **defence production**.

5th Joint Working Group on Coal between India and Indonesia to be held in November 2020:

India will host **5th Joint Working Group (JWG)** on coal with **Indonesia** and the meeting will be on **November 5** through video conference.

The meeting will be co-chaired from the Indian side by **Vinod Kumar Tiwari**, Additional Secretary, **Ministry of Coal** and by **Dr Ir. Ridwan Djamaluddin**, Director General of **Mineral and Coal Ministry of Energy** and Mineral Resources from the Indonesian side.

6th India International Science Festival to be held in Virtual format from December 2020:

The 6th edition of **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020** will be held from **22nd to 25th December, 2020**. The Union Minister for Science & Technology,

Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** announced this at a review meeting in **New Delhi**.

India recorded highest infant deaths due to air pollution in 2019:

India recorded the highest annual average **PM 2.5** concentration exposure in the world last year, according to the **State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report**. India was followed by **Nepal, Niger, Qatar and Nigeria** in high **PM 2.5 exposures**.

More than **1, 16, 000 infants** in **India** did not survive their first month due to **air pollution** in 2019, according to the **State of Global Air 2020 report**.

UNDP and EIF partner to develop initiatives for implementation of SDGs and sustainable finance:

United Nations Development Programme and **European Investment Fund** signed an MOU to develop joint initiatives for sustainable **finance** and implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals, risk management, socio-economic and environmental impact assessments**.

Cabinet Approves MoU Between ICAI and CPAs, Papua New Guinea:

Central Cabinet chaired by the **PM Narendra Modi** has approved a MoU between the **Institute of Chartered Accounts of India (ICAI)** and also the **Certified Practising Accountants, Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG)** to figure together in **capacity building and strengthening the Accounting**.

Andorra becomes IMF's 190th member of International Monetary Fund:

European country **Andorra** formally joined the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** as

190th Member state as the tourism and trade-dependent principality struggles with the coronavirus pandemic. Ambassador of Andorra, **Elisenda Vives Balmana** signed IMF's **Articles of Agreement** at IMF Headquarters in Washington D.C., USA.

India gets chairmanship of ILO governing body after a gap of 35 years:

After a gap **35 years**, **India** has assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of **International Labour Organization (ILO)**. **Apurva Chandra**, Secretary, **Labour and Employment**, has been elected as the Chairperson of Governing Body of ILO for the period **October 2020- June 2021**.

NATO to set up new Space Centre in Ramstein, Germany:

North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a **new Space Centre** in **Ramstein, Germany**. The centre is to serve as a co-ordination Centre for **space observation**. **NATO** leaders declared that Space will be the alliance's "**Fifth Domain**" of operations after **land, sea, air and cyberspace**.

BANKING AND ECONOMY:

Fino Payments Bank with Fintech Partners Introduced NFC-based Contactless Payments Solution for Mass Transport:

Fino Payments Bank along with **fintech partners** has introduced **NFC-based contactless payments** solution for mass transit systems, especially state bus **Transport Services** in India. It was developed by **Fino Payments Bank** in partnership with **fintech firms** like City Cash. **SBI Card launches new brand campaign 'contactless connections':**

India's second largest credit card issuer **SBI Card** has announced the launch of its new brand campaign, "**Contactless Connections**" that spreads the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm. This campaign is in continuation of the SBI card's brand campaign "**Ghar Mein Khushiyaan**".

Axis Bank partners with Bayer's Better Life Farming initiative in India:

Axis Bank has joined **Bayer's Better Life Farming** initiative in India to provide enhanced and holistic **financial solutions** to smallholder farmers and rural farming communities. Axis Bank will offer a wide range of **end-to-end financial solutions** and services like affordably priced **loans, deposits, withdrawals, payments etc.**

These solutions will be offered through Bayer's Better Life Farming centers which are owned and operated either by a **Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)**, Federation, agri-graduate or a local farmer/entrepreneur.

Vakrangee gets RBI nod to set up Bharat Bill Payment unit:

Vakrangee Limited has been granted in-principle authorization to set-up and operates **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit** (BBPOU) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 from **Reserve Bank of India**.

RBI approves 3-member committee of directors Headed by Meeta Makhan to manage Lakshmi Vilas Bank:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a **three-member committee** of directors to run the day-to-day functioning of **cash strapped** Lakshmi Vilas Bank. RBI approved 3 independent directors namely, **Meeta Makhan**, Chairperson of the CoD, **Shakti Sinha**, Member and **Satish Kumar Kalra**, Member. Meeta Makhan is the head of this Committee of Directors (CoD).

RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit for banks under MSF till March 31, 2021:

RBI had increased the borrowing limit for scheduled banks under the **Marginal Standing Facility** (MSF) scheme from **2 per cent** to **3 per cent** of their **Net Demand and Time Liabilities** (NDTL) with effect from March 27, 2020.

Normally, banks are allowed to avail maximum funds under MSF from RBI at **2%** of its net demand and time liabilities (NDTL). After COVID-19, RBI had allowed banks to dip **1%** extra to this limit that is now banks could borrow money from RBI under MSF, at **3%**.

RBI to launch "Positive Pay System" for Cheque Truncation System from January, 2021:

Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will launch **"Positive Pay System"** for

Cheque Truncation System from 01st January, 2021. The "Positive Pay System" will be developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and make it available to participant banks.

Banks will be required to enable the system for all account holders issuing cheques for amounts of **Rs 50, 000** and above.

India's GDP to contract 11% in FY21: ICRA

Rating Agency **ICRA** has revised its FY21 forecast for the contraction in India's GDP downwards to **11 per cent** from its earlier projection of **9.5 per cent** due to fresh Covid-19 infections remaining elevated at the end of Q2 (July-September) FY21.

HDFC Bank launches India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App:

HDFC Bank launched a **Warehouse Commodity Finance App**. This will enable customers in drawing down and managing the loan against pledge of commodities online without physical intervention or multiple visits to a Bank branch.

The new app will greatly benefit agri processors, traders and farmers who are primary beneficiaries of **WHR loans** (Warehouse Receipt Loans).

SEBI eases norms for REITs and InvITs to raise fund in institutional placement:

Markets regulator **SEBI** provided relaxations to **REITs** and **InvITs** for preferential and institutional placement of their respective units.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** can now raise equity capital through institutional placement route two weeks after a previous such exercise. Earlier

the allowed time gap was **six months** between two institutional placements.

IDBI Bank becomes first bank to enable document embedding feature on SFMS:

IDBI Bank has become the first lender to enable document embedding feature on a **Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS)** managed by **Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)**.

This new feature of **"Document Embedding"** provides banks with the functionality of transmitting a **"PDF"** document up to **1MB size** along with the **Letter of Credit (LC) / Bank Guarantee (BG)** messages.

IRDAI identifies LIC, GIC, New India Assurance systemically important insurers 2020-21:

IRDAI has identified **Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC)**, **General Insurance Corporation of India(GIC)** and **New India Assurance Co. Ltd.(New India Assurance)** as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** and subsequently decided to subject them to enhanced regulatory supervision.

RBI Sets Centre's Ways and Means advances limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for second half of FY 2020-21:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set the **Ways and Means Advances (WMAS)** limit at **Rs 1.25 lakh crore** for the central government for the second half of the fiscal year. WMAS are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in **Receipts and Payments**.

RBI may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the government utilises **75 per cent** of the WMA limit.

American Express and SBI Card join hands to leverage scale and differentiated offerings for premium customers:

SBI Card has joined hands with **American Express** to leverage scale and differentiated offerings for its **premium customers** in **India**. SBI Card's top-end premium products **'SBI Card ELITE'** and **'SBI Card PRIME'** will be available on American Express' global network.

Indian Bank launched Green-Tech Initiative "IB-eNote":

Indian Bank has launched a green initiative named **"IB-eNote"** to enable a total **Paperless Working Environment**. This tool enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally.

The bank for this initiative has customized SharePoint, one of the features of **Microsoft Office**. The Bank also launched **'Ind Guru'**, an e-learning platform for its employees.

RBI excludes six public sector banks from Second Schedule of RBI Act:

Reserve Bank of India has excluded **six public sector banks** from the Second Schedule of the **RBI Act** following their merger with other banks. The six banks are **Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank**.

A bank mentioned in the Second Schedule of the **Reserve Bank of India Act** is known as **'Scheduled Commercial Bank'**.

State Bank of India joins hands with HUL to offer digital payment solutions to retailers and distributors:

State Bank of India (SBI) and **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), under which the bank will provide its **digital payment** and **financing solutions** to the **FMCG** company's retailers and distributors. It also aims to make availing of credit easy for channel partners, provides **UPI** based payment solutions & **PoS** terminals to retailers & distributors.

Government keeps interest rates unchanged on PPF, NSC and other small savings schemes for Third quarter:

Government kept the interest rates on **Small Savings Schemes**, including PPF and NSC, unchanged for **third quarter** (October-December) amid moderating bank deposit rates. **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** and **National Savings Certificate (NSC)** will continue to carry an annual interest rate of **7.1 per cent** and **6.8 per cent**, respectively. Five-year **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)** has been retained at **7.4 per cent**. The interest on the senior citizen scheme is paid quarterly. Interest rate on **Savings Deposits** has been retained at **4 per cent** annually.

The girl child savings scheme **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana(SSY)** will offer **7.6 per cent** rate during the third quarter of the current fiscal. The annual interest rate on **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** has been retained at **6.9 per cent**.

SEBI fines NSE Rs 6 crore for buying stakes in CAMS and others without its approval:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs 6 crore** on **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** for

buying stakes in unrelated businesses without its approval.

The country's largest stock exchange has invested in companies including **Power Exchange India (PXIL)**, **Computer Age Management Systems (CAMS)**, **NSEIT**, **NSDL E-Governance Infrastructure (NEIL)**, **Market Simplified India (MSIL)** and **Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL)**.

Indian Bank launches Rupay Kisan credit card scheme for Tamil Nadu fishermen:

Indian Bank has launched **Rupay Kisan credit card** scheme for **Tamil Nadu fishermen**, where working capital loan up to **Rs 2 lakh** can be availed at **7% interest** under **MUDRA Scheme**. Interest subvention of **3%** would be provided for **Repayment of Loan** within a year. The fishermen can submit their loan applications through the **Department of Fisheries**.

Punjab National Bank launches financial inclusion initiative "Gram Sampark Abhiyan":

State-owned **Punjab National Bank** launched a financial inclusion and literacy initiative '**Gram Sampark Abhiyan**' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The nationwide campaign was launched by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar**. The campaign is based on four key themes **Digital, Credit, Social Security** and **Financial Literacy**.

SEBI Introduces 'Very High Risk Category' in Mutual Fund Schemes:

Markets regulator **SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)** revamped the product labelling on **Mutual Fund** schemes under the **risk-o-meter** by introducing "**very**

high risk" category to warn investors. The existing five categories to measure risks are - **low, low to moderate, moderate, moderately high and high.**

Axis Bank and Vistara strengthen partnership to launch a co-branded forex card:

India's third largest private sector bank **Axis Bank** strengthens partnership with **Vistara** to launch a co-branded forex card - '**Axis Bank Club Vistara Forex Card**'. This is also the first-ever collaboration by a bank and an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card.

The card can load up to **16 currencies** & has emergency assistance services like loss of passport assistance through **Trip-Assist & insurance cover** of up to **Rs 3 lakhs.**

Indian Bank launches its first Customer Acquisition and Processing Centre in Chennai:

Chennai-headquartered public sector lender **Indian Bank** opened its first centralised **Customer Acquisition & Processing Centre (CAPC)** in Chennai. **Tamil Nadu** and **Puducherry** branches will be brought under CAPC before December 2020 and other branches across the country will be brought under the CAPCs in a phased manner.

ICICI becomes the first Bank to offer debit card to customers availing Loan Against Securities (LAS):

ICICI Bank partnership with **Visa** to introduced a **Debit Card** facility for customers availing the **Loan Against Securities (LAS)** from the Bank. The card is available on the Visa platform. The card offers a maximum daily transaction limit of **Rs. 3**

lakhs each for **POS** and **online transactions.**

BFSL partners with ICSI to launch co-branded credit card for Company Secretaries:

BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** partners with **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** to launch an exclusive co-branded credit card for **Company Secretaries (CS).**

The **BoB-ICSI Diamond credit card** will bring exclusive benefits and conveniences to Company Secretaries, who are influencers and opinion leaders in their own right, and are contributing in building a **modern and Atmanirbhar (self-reliant) India.**

RBI Monetary Policy: Repo rate unchanged at 4%; GDP to contract by 9.5% in current FY21:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep key lending rate **unchanged** in its October policy review meeting. The **six-member** monetary policy committee (MPC), headed by RBI governor **Shaktikanta Das**, kept **Repo Rate** untouched at **4 per cent**; and **Reverse Repo** rate at **3.35 per cent** while maintaining accommodative stance.

Shaktikanta also stated that real GDP expected to contract by **9.5 per cent** in the current fiscal (**2020-21**). RBI will extend the scheme for **co-lending** to all **NBFC, HFC.**

RBI extends interest subvention scheme for MSMEs till 31st March 2021:

Reserve Bank of India stated that the two per cent interest subvention scheme for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** on loans offered by co-operative

banks has been extended till **31st of March 2021**.

RBI has further informed that the scheme, initially announced for just **two years**, has been extended for the financial year **2020-2021**.

World Bank expects India's GDP to contract by 9.6% For FY21:

World Bank expects **India's GDP** is expected to contract by **9.6 percent** this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the country's economic situation is much worse than ever seen before.

HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals join hands to provide access to quality healthcare and easy finance at scale:

HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals have joined hands to launch The **Healthy Life Programme**, a holistic healthcare solution which makes healthy life accessible and affordable on Apollo's digital platform, **Apollo 24/7**. The programme is created exclusively for **HDFC customers** who will get round the clock access to emergency Apollo Doctor at No Cost on Apollo 24/7 along with a **plethora of benefits** such as **choice of payment options** and ease of finance for treatments at Apollo Hospitals.

RTGS payment system will be available 24x7 from December 2020:

Reserve Bank of India Governor **Shaktikanta Das** announced that **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** payment system will be available round the clock from **December 2020** to make online fund transfer smooth. As of now, RTGS is not a

24x7 system. The RTGS service window for customer transactions is available to banks from **7am to 6pm** on a working day, for settlement at the RBI end.

LIC Housing launches 'Project RED' to improve efficiencies:

LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL) launched "**Project RED**" (**Reimagining Excellence through Digital transformation**) to improve efficiencies at every level of the organisation. **Project RED** aims to create value across the **entire spectrum of stakeholders** that includes employees, shareholders, business associates, existing and potential customers of **LICHFL**, as per the housing finance company's statement.

IRDAI to launch 'Colour Codes' for health insurance policies:

Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDAI) has introduced '**Colour Coding**' for individual health products. This move will enable policyholders to understand the level of complexity while buying health insurance products.

Every health insurance product offered by general and health insurance companies will use **green, orange, & red colours** to indicate the complexity of the products. **Green** will signify that the **product offered** is a simple one, easy to understand & comprehend. **Red**- Product is **complex** and needs to be understood properly.

RBI to move Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) to manage Forex and Gold Reserves:

RBI has decided to move towards the **Next Generation Treasury Application(NGTA)**. This decision has been taken by the Reserve

Bank of India for managing the country's **Foreign Exchange** and **Gold Reserves**. The Next Generation Treasury Application (NGTA) application will help improve the **functioning** of the RBI.

International Monetary Fund projects India's GDP to contract 10.3% in 2020:

International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected **India's gross domestic product (GDP)** to plunge in **FY21** by **10.3%**, from its earlier prediction of **4.5% drop**, reflecting a severe-than-anticipated contraction in economic activities in the **first quarter** as a result of the nationwide lockdown as well as the rapidly spreading pandemic.

IMF estimates the GDP of India to grow at **8.8 per cent** in **2021-22**, as compared to **6 per cent** predicted earlier.

RBI Increases Banks Aggregate Exposure Limit for Small Businesses to Rs 7.5 crore:

Reserve Bank (RBI) has raised the banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to **Rs 50 crore** to **Rs 7.5 crore**. Earlier this limit was **Rs 5 crore**.

Axis Bank collaborates with Google Pay and Visa to launch a new ACE Credit card:

Axis Bank launches **ACE Credit Card** in India in collaboration with **Google Pay** and **Visa**. The card meant to help with **digital payments**. From application to issuance, with the entire user journey for the credit card application will be done digitally.

Indian Bank inks MoU with SIDBI and Housing Ministry for street vendors:

Indian Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** and

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for payment of subsidy to street vendors under **SVANidhi Scheme**. Government introduced the **Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi Scheme)** to provide loans to vendors and hawkers, among others.

Hyderabad Based Finance Platform Vivifi Launches "FlexPay" to Offer Credit on UPI:

Hyderabad based Vivifi India Finance Private Limited had earlier launched an emergency personal line of credit product **FlexSalary**, has launched **"FlexPay"**, a payment option offering credit on **Unified Payments Interface(UPI)**.

IRDAI to offer a standard term life policy, 'Saral Jeevan Bima' from January 2021:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has come out with a standard, individual term life insurance product called **"Saral Jeevan Bima"**. This will be mandatorily offered by all life insurance companies from **January 1, 2021**, onwards. Insurers have to file the product with the regulator latest by **December 1**.

IKEA partners with Mastercard and Citi bank India to launch "IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi":

Swedish home furnishings major **IKEA** has joined hands with the **Citibank India** and **Mastercard** to launch **'IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi'**. This card provides instant in-store card bookings, direct payments via **Bharat QR**, accelerated reward points and attractive EMIs. It offers customers an affordable **EMI (Equated Monthly Installments)** option for **3 to 48 months**.

RBI to conduct first-ever OMO purchase of State Developments Loans (SDLs):

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct first-ever **open market operation (OMO)** purchase of **State Developments Loans (SDLs)** for **Rs 10, 000 crore** on October 22, 2020. The Reserve Bank had announced about the **OMOs** in the statement on **Developmental and Regulatory Policies** after the monetary policy meeting.

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis Banking ETF':

Axis Mutual Fund has launched a new fund offer of '**Axis Banking ETF**'. It is an **Exchange Traded Fund** that offers investors an opportunity to invest in the biggest banks in India at their own pace as it gives exposure to them all in a neatly packed bite-sized **exchange traded fund**.

Jana Small Finance Bank Becomes First SFB to Go Live Under Sponsor Bank Program:

Jana Small Finance Bank has joined hands with **Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited** under the Bank Sponsorship Program. Jana Bank becomes the first **Small Finance Bank** to go live under this Program.

IDBI Bank Launches Banking Services 24X7 on WhatsApp:

IDBI Bank Limited announced the launch of banking services on **WhatsApp** for its customers. **WhatsApp Banking facility**, shall enable IDBI Bank customers to avail various essential banking services such as **account balance information, last 5 transactions etc.,**

This launch is a part of **sustained initiatives** the Bank has taken to enable the customers

to **access banking services** remotely at their convenience.

Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Launches New "INVEST 4G" Plan for Individual Life Insurance Savings Plan:

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance announces launch of new **"INVEST4G"** – A Unit Linked **Individual Life Insurance Savings Plan** which can be customized as per the goals and changing requirements of the customer.

New **"Invest4G"** offers three options to the customers: **Life Option, Care Option and Century Option.**

- **Life option** ensures financial protection to a family in case of the **customer's unfortunate demise.**
- **Care Option** provides life coverage along with **Premium Funding Benefit.**
- **Century Option** is a whole life option available for the policyholder till the **age of 100 years.**

Bank of Baroda inks pact with Mahindra & Mahindra for tractor finance:

State-owned **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has entered into a pact with **Mahindra and Mahindra** for tractor finance business. The lender, through its over **5, 000 rural and semi-urban branch network**, will provide **Tractor Loan Facility** to customers of Mahindra and Mahindra.

The MoU will give a boost to **agri business** and will help farmers in availing **hassle-free credit** facilities for **buying tractors.**

Paytm to introduce co-branded credit cards in India:

Paytm announced that it will be partnering with **Various Card Issuers** to introduce **Co-**

Branded Credit Cards for consumers. The company is aiming to issue two million cards in the next **12-18 months**.

Indian Bank partners with IIT Madras to launch credit scheme "IND Spring Board" for start-ups:

Indian Bank has collaborated with **IIT Madras** Incubation cell to launch '**IND Spring Board**', an initiative for funding start-ups. The Bank will extend loans of up to **Rs 50 crore** to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment.

ACQUISITIONS AND MERGERS:

Facebook partners with Matrix Partners India to scale Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs):

Facebook has joined hands with early stage venture capital fund **Matrix** Partners to scale small businesses in India by providing them with timely **digital skilling** support. The partnership with Matrix Partners is a part of **Facebook's VC Brand Incubator Programme**, that associates with VC funds to help early-stage **Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs)** to increase their digital potential.

Epic Games acquires Microsoft-backed kidtech platform SuperAwesome:

Epic Games has acquired London-based kidtech platform **SuperAwesome** to build a wide range of **kid-safe services**. SuperAwesome gives developers the tools to create safer digital experiences for younger audiences.

Power Finance Corporation signs MoU with Ministry of Power detailing targets for FY 2020-21:

Power Finance Corporation Ltd has signed a performance-based MoU with the **Ministry of Power** detailing various targets to be achieved by PFC during **FY 2020-21**. The MoU was signed by Power Secretary **Sanjiv Nandan Sahai** and CMD of PFC **R.S. Dhillon**. **Bombay Stock Exchange joins hands with Yes Bank to Empower SMEs:**

Leading stock exchange **BSE** (Bombay Stock Exchange) has signed a pact with private sector lender **Yes Bank** to empower the **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** listed on the platform. The pact aims at empowering the SME segment through awareness and **knowledge-sharing programmes**.

Flipkart Partners with Bajaj Allianz to launch Cyber Insurance to cover Online Financial Frauds:

India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace **Flipkart** and India's leading private general insurer **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company** have come together to offer '**Digital Suraksha Group Insurance**' for customers who want to cover themselves against financial losses caused as a result of **cyber-attacks, cyber frauds** or **other such malicious activities** across various online platforms.

CSIR sign MoU with Tata Steel to collaborate in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS): **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Tata Steel** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to working together in the areas of **Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS)**. India's growing energy demands and to build

a strong ecosystem to meet commitments under the **Paris Agreement**.

CSC partners with HelpAge India to impart digital literacy to elderly citizens:

IT Ministry's e-governance services arm **Common Services Centre (CSC)** and **HelpAge India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the project of "**Aalambana**" of HelpAge India which will be implemented for a period of **1 year**, to offer **digital literacy** to the **rural elderly citizens** (above the age of 55) of India.

It will provide three "**Aspirational Districts**" of Karauli in **Rajasthan**, Birbhum in **West Bengal** and Ramanathapuram in **Tamil Nadu**.

Reliance General partners with SatSure Analytics for crop insurance business:

Reliance General Insurance has partnered with **SatSure** for satellite-based **crop monitoring** and **predictive analytics support** to better risk management and **improve efficiency** of its crop insurance business operations. It will help address the key areas of **crop health, soil moisture, crop sown area, crop yield estimation** and **crop loss estimation**.

Prasar Bharati and IFFCO sign MoU to broadcast and promote Agri technology and innovations for growth of Indian agriculture:

World's biggest fertiliser cooperative, **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** and **Prasar Bharati** signed a MoU to broadcast and promote new agriculture technology and innovations. The agreement was signed at a program organised in **Prithvi Bhavan, New Delhi**. **DD Kisan** will broadcast various innovative technology

being adopted in **agriculture field** through **30minutes** program series for the benefit of farmers.

NSDC signed MoU with FLO to create employability and promote entrepreneurship:

Empowering women through **Skill Training** in order to enhance their **employability** and **promote entrepreneurship**, FLO, the Women's Wing of **FICCI** signed an MoU with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**. This MoU will be under the auspices of the FLO's **3Cs (Competency, Capacity and Confidence)** initiative.

Amazon India partners with IRCTC to offer train ticket bookings:

Amazon India had partnered with **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to provide their customers with the facility to book **reserved train tickets** on its platform. Customers will be able to check **PNR status** for ticket booked through its platform.

Infosys to acquire US-based Blue Acorn iCi for \$125 million:

Infosys announced to acquire US-based **Blue Acorn iCi**, an Adobe Platinum partner, provider of digital customer experience, commerce and analytics solutions for **\$125 million**. Acquisition will add to company's capabilities in digital commerce marketplace.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corp Ltd inks MoUs with corporate companies to develop metro stations:

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has signed MoUs with the corporate companies to develop upcoming metro stations under their **CSR funds**. The proposed metro line between **Electronic city**

and **Bangalore International airport** will now get CSR funds for the development and maintenance of metro stations.

Infosys foundation has come forward to pay **Rs. 200 crores** for the construction of **Konappana Agrahara metro station** near the Electronic city. Biocon Foundation will be funding **Rs. 65 crores** for the construction of **Hebbagodi Metro station**.

MCGM and Google collaborate to mark Containment Zones in Mumbai on Google Maps:

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and **Google** have collaborated to mark **Containment Zones** in the city on **Google Maps**. Availability of this information on Google Maps will further make it easy to access for **Mumbaikars** while on the move.

Amazon Pay join hands with Uber to push digital payment service system in India:

Amazon Pay and **Uber** technology announced a partnership that will integrate the **digital payment platform** as a payment option on the ride hailing service app. This partnership with Uber will allow customers to complete their transaction in a **contactless manner**, especially during the pandemic.

Microsoft Partners with AICTE to skill students and educators in next generation technologies:

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has partnered with **Microsoft** to provide uninterrupted online learning to millions of **students** across the country and empower learners and educators in new-age technologies, including **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, **Internet of Things (IoT)**, **data science**, and **cloud computing**.

Mastercard partners with Indian start-up Signzy for global rollout of Video KYC:

Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, has partnered with **Signzy**, a RegTech startup based in India, for global rollout of Signzy's video-based **KYC (Know Your Customer)** solution for its banking customers.

EarlySalary Launches "Salary Card" a Zero-Touch Digital card Powered by RuPay:

India's largest consumer lending platform **EarlySalary** launches '**Salary Card**' a **zero-touch digital card** that provides instant access for salaried professionals, enabling them to make instant purchases across thousands of merchants across India.

CCI Approves Acquisition of Shares and Solar Energy in CG Power and Adani Green Energy Ten Limited:

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shares in **CG Power and Industrial Solutions** by **Tube Investment India (TII)**. Under the Swiss Challenge method, the company did not find any new suitors until the deadline. As a result, TII remained the sole bidder.

Gujarat government partnered with Hindustan Zinc to set up world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada:

Vedanta Group firm **Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL)** has signed a pact with **Gujarat** government to set up a **greenfield zinc smelter** in the state. The project will entail an investment of up to **Rs 10, 000 crore**.

Flipkart-owned PhonePe Partners with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to Launch Car and Bike Insurance Products:

Flipkart-owned PhonePe launched Car and Bike Insurance products on its platform in association with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.

With this launch, over **230 million** registered **PhonePe** users to insure their vehicles **under 2 minutes**, without the need for any documents to be uploaded before the purchase, and also view their **policy documents instantly** on the app.

NTPC Partners with cement manufacturers across country to supply fly ash:

NTPC Limited has started to collaborate with **Cement Manufacturers** across the country to **supply fly ash** as part of its endeavour to achieve **100 per cent** utilization of the by-product produced during power generation.

Tata Motors partners with HDFC to provide financing offers for passenger vehicles:

Tata Motors has partnered with **HDFC Bank** for financing of its **passenger vehicles**. Through the partnership Tata has introduced two new schemes '**Gradual Step Up Scheme**' and '**TML Flexi Drive Scheme**' with an eye on making its products more accessible and driving up sales in the festive season.

NITI Aayog collaborates with Amazon Web Services to establish Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre:

NITI Aayog announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies **Cloud Innovation Centre (CIC)** with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** the first of its kind in India.

The CIC Programme provides an opportunity for **non-profits, education institutions** and government agencies to collaborate with

other public sector organizations on their most **pressing challenges, innovate** and **test new ideas** and access the technology expertise of AWS.

Tech Mahindra enters into joint venture agreement with Japan's Sumitomo:

Tech Mahindra Limited informed the exchanges that the Company has executed a Joint Venture Agreement with **Sumitomo Corporation, Japan**. The agreement will be to **provide engineering services** to the **automotive sector**.

Bank of Baroda Partners with Toyota Kirloskar Motor for easy auto finance:

State-owned **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** announced a tie up with **Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM)** to enable finance options for the **automaker's customers and dealers**. BoB will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by **TKM**.

The new service facilitates customers to avail customised solutions such as high on-road funding of **90 per cent**, long repayment **period of 84 months**, no prepayment or foreclosure charges.

SpaceX tie up with Microsoft to woo space customers:

Microsoft Corp is partnering with billionaire entrepreneur **Elon Musk-led SpaceX** and others as it expands its cloud-computing platform into space, the **software giant**.

The partnership would allow **Microsoft** to connect its **Azure cloud computing** platform to **SpaceX's** network of **Low-Earth orbiting satellites**, offering the software company an edge in its battle with the rival cloud platform from **Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com Inc**.

RBL Bank Join Hands with Zenpay to Digitalize Salary Accounts for SMEs and MSMEs:

Zenpay Solutions is one of the fastest growing **Fintech company** in the **digital banking industry** announced partnership with **RBL bank** and **YAP** to drive financial inclusion to issue **salary cards** to its customers across India.

Bengaluru Airport signs MoU with BMRCL and South Western Railways for airport metro, railway station:

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has signed two MoUs- one with **South Western Railways** for the construction of the **Kempegowda International Airport Railway Station** (Halt), and the other with **Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited** (BMRCL) to establish the **4.95 km** airport section of the **ORR-Airport Metro** which would see the establishment of two metro stations.

ACKO Partners with Finserv MARKETS to Offer Car and Bike Insurance:

India's first and fastest-growing wholly digital general insurance provider, **ACKO** has partnered with **Finserv MARKETS**, a leading fintech aggregator, for offering **two** and **four-wheeler insurance policies**. Customers can now buy **ACKO Insurance** for their car or bike on the Finserv MARKETS platform by **providing basic details**.

Mastercard Partners with Atlantis to Expand Digital First Program in India:

Mastercard has entered into partnership with **Atlantis** to expand the **Digital First Program in India**. In order to address the increasing demand for **digital payment solutions** for everything.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

IIT Madras Developed an Indigenous Microprocessor "MOUSHIK" For IoT Devices:

Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have developed an indigenously Microprocessor '**MOUSHIK**' can cater to the rapidly-growing **IoT devices**, an integral part of **Smart Cities** of a **Digital India**. The processor can be used in smart cards, **Electronic Voting Machines** (EVMs) and office management systems.

Virgin Hyperloop and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) sign MoU to study feasibility of highspeed corridor:

Virgin Hyperloop and **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** have signed a MoU to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed Hyperloop corridor from the **Kempegowda International Airport**. A hyperloop have speeds of up to **1,080 kmph**. **India's first RRTS train with design speed of 180 kmph unveiled:**

Centre unveiled the first look of the **Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** train that can attain a top speed of **180 kilometres** per hour on the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor**. The design is inspired by Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple and is aligned with PM Narendra Modi's '**Make in India**' policy. First RRTS project of India while the train sets are being manufactured by **Bombardier Transportation** India Private Limited at their **Savli plant** in **Gujarat** under the government's **Make in India** policy and **AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.

South Eastern Railway launches 'Operation My Saheli' to enhance security of women passengers:

South Eastern Railway has launched a project "**Operation My Saheli**" (friend) to boost the **security of women passengers** from the originating point to the destination. it has been introduced in **three trains** **Howrah-Yeshvantpur Durgam Special**, **Howrah- Ahmedabad Special** and **Howrah-Mumbai Special**.

Project has been executed under the framework of the **Nirbhaya Fund** and does not involve **any additional expenditure** under the head of Railways.

India successfully test fires over 400 km strike range "BrahMos" supersonic cruise missile in Odisha:

India successfully test fired a new version of the **surface to surface** supersonic cruise missile "**BrahMos**" having a range of around **400 km** from an integrated test range at **Balasore in Odisha**.

BrahMos surface to **surface supersonic cruise missile** featuring indigenous booster and airframe section along with many other '**Made in India**' sub-systems were successfully flight tested.

ISRO to carry first ever French payload abroad Venus mission scheduled for 2025:

ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in **2025** and **French space agency CNES (National Centre for Space Studies)** will participate in it. The **VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker)** instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency **Roscosmos** and the **LATMOS atmospheres**, environments and space

observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre **Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)** has been selected by the **ISRO**.

Indian Coast Guard Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua' commissioned in Kolkata:

Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS '**Kanaklata Barua**' of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** Limited. The commissioning was done through video conferencing by **Jiwesh Nandan**, additional secretary, Ministry of Defence and was attended by Indian Coast Guard and GRSE including its chairman and managing director Rear Admiral **V K Saxena (retd)**.

Indian Space Startup Agnikul Cosmos Signs Deal with Alaska Aerospace for Test Launch of 'Agnibaan' Rocket:

Chennai based small rocket maker **Agnikul Cosmos Private Ltd** has signed an agreement with the **Alaska Aerospace Corporation**. Agnikul Cosmos will test-launch its '**Agnibaan**' rocket from Alaska Aerospace's Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaskar on **Kodiak Island** in the **US**.

Indian Navy Helicopters Along with GVMC Undertake Aerial Seeding Initiative at Visakhapatnam:

Indian Navy has partnered with **Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC)** to undertake Aerial Seeding at **Visakhapatnam**. Rajya Sabha MP **V Vijayasai Reddy** and Vice Admiral **Atul Kumar Jain** flagged off aerial seeding at Visakhapatnam at **INS Dega**. This initiative

of GVMC aims to enhance the green cover in and around Visakhapatnam.

Naval helicopters will be airdropping **50, 000 seed balls** weighing approx. **6.25 tonnes** in five locations around **Visakhapatnam** covering an area of nearly 200 acres.

Biological E and ICMR Develop Purified "Equine Antiserum":

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Hyderabad-based **Biological E** have developed purified **"Equine Antiserum"**, raised in animals, as a prophylaxis and treatment for Covid-19. It was isolated by the ICMR-led **National Institute of Virology, Pune** (Maharashtra). Antiserum is **blood-based serum** containing antibodies against viruses. It is prepared by injecting inactivated Severe acute respiratory **syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)** in 10 healthy horses.

India successfully test fires new version of nuclear capable "Shaurya Missile":

India successfully test-fired a new version of Nuclear Capable **"Shaurya missile"** off the coast of **Odisha**. The **Nuclear Capable missile** can strike targets at around **800 kms**. It would be **lighter** and **easier** to operate in comparison with the existing missile.

NASA launches SS Kalpana Chawla Cygnus spacecraft to International Space station:

Northrop Grumman launched their next **Cygnus vehicle**, the **S.S. Kalpana Chawla**, and their Antares rocket for the **NG-14** mission to the **International Space Station**. The flight will deliver thousands of kilograms/pounds of equipment, crew supplies, and science to the orbital outpost.

The Vehicle will deliver a cargo of **1, 217 kg** of science experiments, personal items and **850 kg** of crew equipment.

DRDO successfully flight tests 'Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo' (SMART) Off Odisha Coast:

India successfully flight tested the **Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** from Wheeler Island off the coast of **Odisha**. SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** operations for far beyond **torpedo range**. Earlier, this month DRDO had successfully tested Laser-Guided **Anti-Tank Guided Missile**.

NCERT sign MoU with ISLRTC for Converting Educational Materials into Indian Sign Language:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between **ISLRTC** (Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center) and **NCERT** (National Council of Educational Research and Training) to make education materials accessible for **Deaf children** in their preferred format of communication via **Indian Sign Language**.

Indo-French Satellites to Trace Illegal Spillage of Oil by Ships in Indian Ocean Region:

India and **France** are set to jointly launch a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites for the **Indian Ocean Region**. These satellites will be able to **Trace Illegal Spillage of Oil** by ships. French Space Agency, **National Centre for Space Studies (CNES)** and **ISRO** committed to developing and building a constellation of **satellites**

carrying telecommunications, radar and optical remote-sensing instruments.

IIT Madras Partners with MIT to develop Productive Usage for Agricultural and Industrial By-products:

Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) Researchers are working with **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, U.S to develop a novel framework for **high volume usage of by-products** in structural materials. Industrial by-products are generated in huge quantities across the world and are now going into waste. This will be a major step forward towards a **sustainable future**.

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to commission India's fastest HPC-AI Supercomputer 'PARAM Siddhi – AI' with NVIDIA:

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will be commissioning India's **largest HPC-AI** supercomputer **'PARAM Siddhi – AI.'** This initiative will place India among the top countries in global **AI supercomputing research and innovation**. This high-performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer is a machine with **210 AI Petaflops** (6.5 Petaflops Peak DP).

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kozhikode to launch e-learning hub for villagers:

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode will launch an **e-learning hub** and library as a pilot project for villagers in **Mavoor**. Mavoor village is one of the five villages that has been adopted by the institute under **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)**.

The programme aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and academic system by providing **knowledge and practices** for the **emerging professions**.

IIT Kharagpur Launches Telemedicine Technology IMedX for Homecare:

IIT Kharagpur researchers have launched a telemedicine system **'iMediX'** to help patients receive assistance from **doctors** without having to go to hospitals or clinics. The system has been **conceptualized and designed** by researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of **Computer Science and Engineering**.

Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' launched to enhance coastal security:

The **seventh** offshore patrol vessel of the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, **'Vigraha'** was formally unveiled at **Kattupalli**, Chennai. The vessel was designed and built exclusively for the Coast Guard by **Larsen and Toubro (L&T)** Shipbuilding as a part of the **'Make in India'** initiative.

Russia Successfully Test Fires New Hypersonic Cruise Missile "Tsirkon":

Russia has successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called **"Tsirkon"** in the waters of **north-western Russia**. The test was carried out from Frigate Admiral **Gorshkov** Vessel located in White Sea, Northern Russia. Tsirkon test-fired from the White Sea at a target **450 kilometers** away in the **Barents Sea**.

AYUSH ministry signs MoU with Amity University to promote research in Ayurvedic sciences:

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) under the **AYUSH ministry** has inked an MoU

with the **Amity University** for promoting research in **Ayurvedic sciences** for promoting and developing the AYUSH systems of **healthcare**.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) of the AIIA is with the Amity Institute of Indian System of Medicine, which was established in **2018** by the **Amity University**.

IIT Delhi-incubated Startup Launches Antimicrobial Water Storage Containers 'AqCure':

IIT Delhi-incubated startup Nanosafe Solutions has developed a range of **antimicrobial mixing traditional science** with nanotechnology i.e. antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal water storage containers and launched it as **"AqCure"**, which is based on the inherent antimicrobial properties of **copper**.

IIT Kharagpur Develops Robotic Solution for Plant Disease Identification and Pesticide Use:

IIT Kharagpur has designed robotic system capable of identifying plant diseases through camera-captured image **analysis & spraying pesticide**. It is a **tracked mobile manipulator** aims to achieve conflicting objectives of **increased productivity, improved quality**.

IIT Guwahati Startup Sahara develops mobile App for Offline to Online Biz Services:

Sahara is a hyperlocal-tech startup of the students of the **Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**, has developed a mobile application that lets offline business owners create synergy with customers and potential business partners on a global platform.

The features on this app will also guarantee accurate navigating experience, **especially to travellers**, in the form of **local language translation service**, security for travellers by providing assistance in establishing contact with respective traveller's embassy in **case of emergency**, emergency and **SOS service** especially for **women** etc.

India successfully test-fires DRDO's 'Rudram-1' Anti-Radiation Missile from a Sukhoi-30:

India successfully test fired its first tactical anti-radiation missile **"Rudram 1"**. The supersonic-capable missile can be launched at speeds ranging from **0.6 mach to 2 mach**, i.e., twice the speed of sound. IT can be launched from a height of **500m to 15 km**. Rudram-1 is **India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile**.

IIT Guwahati sign MoU with C-DAC for supercomputing facility across India:

Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has signed an MoU with the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune** to set up a **Rs 17-crore** supercomputing facility. The MoU was signed by IIT-G Director **T G Sitharam** and C-DAC Director General **Hemant Darbari** during a virtual event in the presence of Union ministers.

Defence Research and Development Organisation launches Nirbhay Cruise Missile into Sea:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched **800-km** range **Nirbhay** cruise missile from **Odisha's** test facility but aborted eight minutes later. Nirbhay is a subsonic missile, which can fly at

a speed of **0.7 Mach**, with capabilities to stay under enemy radar to avoid detection.

Rare day-flying moth "Achelura Bifasciata" sighted in Uttarakhand after over 125 years:

A rare day-flying moth "**Achelura bifasciata**" was spotted in **Uttarakhand's Garhwal Himalayas**. There are old records of the insect to have been spotted in Nainital by GF Hampson, a Britisher, who had compiled a book on moths in 1893. The experts also spotted a rare butterfly called "**Tawny Rajah**".

IIT Madras researchers develop sustainable antimicrobial food wrapper:

IIT Madras claims to have developed a **Sustainable Antimicrobial Wrapping Material** that can prevent packaged food contamination by **bacteria** and is **biodegradable**. The wrapper's anti-bacterial compound has been approved by authorities and doesn't cause **any toxicity**.

India Meteorological Department Launches Impact-Based Cyclone Warning System:

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a dynamic, impact-based cyclone warning system aimed at **minimising economic losses and damage** to property from cyclones that hit the country's coasts every year. The system will help minimise economic losses and damages due to property in the intense weather system.

NASA to Launch three Nano Satellite Developed by Tamil Nadu Students into Sub-orbit:

An experimental satellite by three students from **Tamil Nadu's Karur** district will be

launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Agency into the sub orbit in **June 2021**. The three students **M. Adnaan of Thanthonrimalai, M. Kesavan of Nagampalli and V. Arun of Thennilai** started with their experimental model when they were in their high school.

India to deliver kilo-class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar for training purpose:

India will deliver **INS Sindhuvir** to **Myanmar** as part of **defence cooperation**. This will be 1st submarine of Myanmar Navy. It is in accordance with India's vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** and in line with build capacities and self-reliance in neighbouring countries.

Japan Coast Guard Tests Unmanned Aircraft "SeaGuardian":

Japan Coast Guard began test flights of an **unmanned aerial vehicle "SeaGuardian"** to learn whether it can be utilised to carry out the coast guard's key duties, including search and rescue and maritime surveillance. SeaGuardian will be based at the **Maritime Self-Defence Force's base** in Aomori Prefecture, **northern Japan**.

India Conducts Successful Night Trial of Nuclear-Capable Prithvi-2 Missile from Odisha Coast:

India successfully conducted the night trial of its nuclear-capable **Prithvi-2 missile** as part of a user trial by the **Army** from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at **Chandipur near Balasore, off Odisha coast**.

The state-of-the-art missile is **India's first indigenous Surface-To-Surface** strategic missile, developed by **DRDO** under the Integrated Guided Missile Development

Programme. The **9-metre tall liquid-propelled Prithvi-2** has a range of **250 km** and can carry a **1 tonne warhead**.

India successfully test-fires naval version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from INS Chennai:

India successfully test fired the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from the **Indian Navy's** indigenously-built stealth destroyer **INS Chennai**.

The missile was fired from **INS Chennai**, a stealth destroyer, and it hit the target in the **Arabian Sea** with pin-point accuracy after performing **"Extremely Complex"** manoeuvres. The highly versatile BrahMos has been jointly designed, developed and produced by **India and Russia** under the joint venture, **BrahMos Aerospace**.

India successfully test-fires SANT missile with 'Lock-on After Launch' & 'Lock-on Before Launch' capabilities:

India test-fired the **Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT)** missile off the coast of **Odisha**. **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is developing the missile for the **Indian Air Force** and it will have both **"Lock-on After Launch"** and **"Lock-on Before Launch"** capabilities.

The missile hit the target with **Pin-Point Accuracy** and also performed **"Extremely Complex"** manoeuvres.

IIT Kharagpur's Covid-19 Test Kit 'COVIRAP' Gets ICMR Certification to Cost Less Than Rs 500:

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has validated the efficacy of **'COVIRAP'**, a diagnostic machine developed by **IIT Kharagpur** researchers to **detect coronavirus** within **one hour**. With ICMR's

approval, several business houses have approached the institute for technology licensing.

Nokia Selected by NASA to Build 4G LTE Mobile Network on the Moon:

Nokia has been selected by **NASA** to build the **first cellular network on the moon**. US space agency plans for a future where humans return there and establish lunar settlements.

NASA aims to return humans to the moon by **2024** and dig in for a long-term presence there under its **Artemis programme**. Nokia said the **first wireless broadband communications** system in space would be built on the **lunar surface** in late **2022**, before humans make it back there.

Indian Navy's indigenously built ASW stealth corvette INS Kavaratti commissioned:

Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane commissioned the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette **INS Kavaratti** into the **Indian Navy** at the **Naval Dockyard**. **INS Kavaratti** is the last of the four indigenously-built **ASW stealth corvettes** under **Project 28 (Kamorta class)** and has been designed by the Directorate of **Naval Design**, the Indian Navy's in-house wing.

DRDO successfully conducts final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile in Pokhran range:

India successfully carried out the final trial of the **third generation**, anti-tank guided missile **'NAG'** from the Pokhran field firing ranges in **Rajasthan**. The Nag anti-tank guided missile has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**, to engage highly

fortified enemy tanks in day and night conditions.

CBSE introduces 'Facial Recognition System' to access digital documents:

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced the '**Facial Recognition System**' to access the **digital documents**. This system has been launched for classes **10th and 12th**. The system has been launched amid the Covid-19 situation in order to make things **easier for students**.

Indian Navy Missile Corvette INS Prabal Launches Anti-Ship Missile:

Indian Navy shared a video showing an **Anti-Ship Missile (ASHM)** launched by its **Missile Corvette INS Prabal** with deadly accuracy at maximum range and sinking the target ship. The missile launched from the **Arabian Sea** homed in on its target - **an old ship** - and hit it with deadly accuracy at its **maximum range**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS:

Star & Disney India's K. Madhavan Elected as Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) President:

Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) Board has elected Star & Disney India's Managing Director **Mr. K. Madhavan** as the Foundation's new President. Mr. Madhavan will succeed Mr. **NP Singh**, India MD and CEO, Sony Pictures Networks, who held the position for **two years**.

Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh appointed as brand ambassador of Aakash Educational Services:

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), which provides comprehensive test preparatory services, has announced the

appointment of cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** as its brand ambassador. He will lead the "**Success is waiting**", a multi-channel campaign of **Aakash Digital**.

CEAT Tyres appoints Aamir Khan as brand ambassador:

Tyre manufacturer **CEAT Tyres** has signed Bollywood actor **Aamir Khan** as its brand ambassador for **two years**. As part of an integrated marketing campaign he will feature in 2 commercials during the on-going **Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020** in Dubai to promote CEAT's SecuraDrive, a range of mass premium tyres.

Former India cricketer Neetu David appointed as the head of BCCI's All-India Women's Selection Committee:

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the appointment of former India Women's cricketer **Neetu David** as the head of the new **All-India Women's Selection Committee**. The women's selection committee will comprise of 5 members.

The other member of the newly-elected panel includes **Mithu Mukherjee, Renu Margrate, Arati Vaidya and V Kalpana**.

Reserve Bank ropes in Amitabh Bachchan for customer awareness campaign:

RBI has roped in Bollywood megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** for the **client consciousness** marketing campaign to forestall gullible account holders from being duped by **fraudsters**. As a part of the general public consciousness initiative of RBI, the regulator retains informing about **do's and don'ts** that should be adopted by clients to transact safely and securely.

Online tutoring platform Vedantu ropes in Aamir Khan as brand ambassador:

India's second most valued **EdTech** start-up **Vedantu** and a pioneer in LIVE online tutoring has named Bollywood actor, director & filmmaker **Aamir Khan** for its new ad campaigns. With a simple tagline, "**Samaj Aayega toh Maza Ayega, Maza Ayega toh Samajh Ayega**", the 6-ad film series conceptualized by The Script Room.

Kerala startup Entri signs up Robin Uthappa as brand ambassador:

A local language learning app **Entri** has signed up Rajasthan Royals cricketer **Robin Uthappa** as its brand ambassador and has also partnered with Hotstar to run ad campaigns in five different languages throughout the IPL 2020.

Alapan Bandyopadhyay appointed as New Chief Secretary of West Bengal:

Alapan Bandyopadhyay will take over as West Bengal Chief Secretary succeeding **Rajiva Sinha**. He is currently in charge of the State's Home and Hill Affairs Department. **H.K. Dwivedi** will be the new Home Secretary of West Bengal.

Twitter Appoints Rinki Sethi as New Information Security Head:

Social media company **Twitter** has appointed **Rinki Sethi**, a former information security executive at **IBM**, as its chief information security officer. She had previously worked as VP of information security at cyber-security firm **Palo Alto Networks**.

Mali's Former Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane appointed as new Prime Minister:

Mali's transitional president has appointed former minister of foreign affairs, Moctar Ouane, as the **West African nation's** prime

minister days after being sworn into office. He served as foreign minister between 2004 and 2011 during **Amadou Toumani Toure's** presidency.

Senior bureaucrat PD Vaghela appointed new TRAI chairman:

Government has appointed **PD Vaghela**, secretary, department of pharmaceuticals, as the new **TRAI chairman** for a period of three years or until he attains the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier. Vaghela is an IAS officer of 1986 batch from **Gujarat cadre**.

Shekhar Kapur appointed president of FTII Society & chairman of FTII Governing Council:

Ministry of **Information and Broadcasting** announced **Shekhar Kapur** as the new President of **Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)** Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council. His tenure will be till March 3, 2023. He has directed many critically acclaimed films. The Movies include **Masoom**, **Mr. India**, **Bandit Queen** and **Elizabeth**.

RBI appoints D K Kashyap Additional Director on Dhanlaxmi Bank board:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **D K Kashyap** from its Bengaluru Regional Office as Additional Director on the board of **Dhanlaxmi Bank** for **2 years**. In February 2020, **G Jagan Mohan**, General Manager, RBI, Bengaluru Regional Office, was appointed as Additional Director on the board of the bank for a period of **two years**.

Bandhan Bank appointed Former Bajaj Capital CEO Rahul Parikh as digital head:

Bandhan Bank has appointed former Bajaj Capital chief executive **Rahul Parikh** as the **Bank's Digital Head** as the bank broadens its digital presence to improve customer

services. Parikh will be responsible for the digital banking business and for building a strong digital backbone to support the **bank's growth**.

ITBP chief S S Deswal given additional charge of National Security Guard Director General:

ITBP Director General **S S Deswal** has been given the additional charge of counter-terrorism force **National Security Guard (NSG)** as its incumbent chief **A K Singh** is going to retire, according to a government order. Anup Kumar Singh, a 1985-batch **Indian Police Service** officer of the Gujarat cadre, was appointed the NSG Director General in October 2019.

Bengal Peerless appoints BCCI President Sourav Ganguly as brand ambassador:

One of the leading real estate developers of India, **Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited** appoints **Sourav Ganguly** as the Brand Ambassador for the company. The former national cricket team captain & current president of the BCCI, Ganguly will primarily lead the campaign of the company's residential project Avidipta II on EM Bypass.

Toyota appoints Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador for Urban Cruiser SUV:

Toyota Kirloskar Motor has announced leading Bollywood actor, singer and youth icon **Ayushmann Khurrana** as the Brand Ambassador for the all-new Toyota Urban Cruiser. The Urban Cruiser sub-compact **SUV** will be Toyota's second spin-off of a Maruti car, the first one being the **Baleno** hatchback which is sold as the Glanza in the Indian market.

KVIC appoints Fashion Design Council Chairman Sunil Sethi as advisor:

Khadi and Village Industries Commission have appointed **Sunil Sethi** as its Advisor. Sunil Sethi is the Chairman of the Fashion Design Council of India. He has been appointed for a period of **one year**. He will succeed fashion designer **Ritu Beri**.

Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) appoints Purnachandra Rao as National President:

Hyderabad Industrialist **Purnachandra Rao Surapaneni** was elected as National President of **Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)**, the apex bi-lateral body synergizing India-US business relations. Rao was elected unanimously in a Board Meeting of IACC at the first meeting of the newly elected **National Governing Board** for the Year **2020-2021**.

IAS officer Vijai Vardhan appointed as Chief Secretary of Haryana:

Vijai Vardhan, a 1985-batch IAS officer was appointed **Haryana's** chief secretary replacing **Keshni Anand Arora**. With Vardhan taking over as state's top bureaucrat, a number of senior IAS officers were transferred and given **additional charge** to their existing duties. His tenure as the **Chief Secretary** is till his superannuation date **30th November 2021**.

State Bank India appoints former EY Partner Charanjit Attra as CFO:

State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed **Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra**, former Partner at **EY India**, as its **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**. He has also served as CFO at **ICICI Securities**. The post fell vacant after **Prashant Kumar** was appointed Yes Bank

CEO. C Venkat Nageshwar was serving the post on interim capacity.

RBI approves appointment of interim committee of directors (CoD) headed by G Subramonia Iyer to run Dhanlaxmi Bank:

Reserve Bank of India has approved a three-member interim committee of directors, headed by **G Subramonia Iyer**, to run the private sector bank after the shareholders voted out its MD and CEO **Sunil Gurbaxani**. **G. Rajagopalan Nair** and **P.K Vijayakumar** will serve as its members.

S Aparna IAS takes charge as new Union Pharma Secretary:

S Aparna IAS (Gujarat 1988), has assumed charge as **Secretary** in the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. Ms Aparna has replaced **Dr PD Vaghela** who superannuated on 30 September 2020.

IAS officer Apurva Chandra takes charge as Secretary at Ministry of Labour and Employment:

Apurva Chandra (IAS) has assumed charge as new **Secretary** of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**. Chandra is a 1988 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer of **Maharashtra cadre**. Prior to this, he was serving as Special Director General, **Defence Acquisition** and **Ministry of Defence**.

IFS Officer Devyani Khobragade Appointed India's Next Ambassador to Cambodia:

Indian Foreign Service officer **Devyani Uttam Khobragade** has been appointed as India's next ambassador to **Cambodia**. Khobragade, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a **joint**

secretary in the ministry at its headquarters in Delhi. Khobragade has served in Indian missions in **Berlin, Islamabad, Rome, and New York**.

Election Commission appoints Madhu Mahajan and B. R Balakrishnan as Special Expenditure Observers:

Election Commission has appointed two former Indian Revenue Service officers **Madhu Mahajan** and **B. R Balakrishnan** as special expenditure observers for the **Bihar Assembly polls** to oversee efforts by the enforcement machinery to check attempts to induce voters with **cash, liquor and freebies**.

They will ensure stringent and effective enforcement action based on **Intelligence Inputs** and **Complaints** received through **C-VIGIL**. They will supervise and monitor the work being done by the **electoral machinery**.

Government extends appointment of Madhabi Puri Buch as a Whole Time Member of SEBI:

Government has extended the appointment of **Madhabi Puri Buch** as a **whole time member (WTM)** of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** by a period of **one year**. Puri Buch, the **only female board member** at SEBI, oversees portfolios such as surveillance, collective investment schemes and investment management. An alumna of **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad**.

Arvind Hali appointed as new MD and CEO of Motilal Oswal Home Finance:

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) has appointed **Arvind Hali** as the new Managing Director & Chief Executive

Officer of its housing finance company **Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL)**. It has also appointed Amar Bahl as the Deputy Managing Director & COO of the company.

Government appoints Ashima Goyal, Jayanth Varma and Shashanka Bhide as Monetary Policy Committee members:

Government has appointed three external members **Ashima Goyal**, member of Economic Advisory Council of Prime Minister, **Shashanka Bhide**, senior advisor at **National Council for Applied Economic Research** and **Jayanth Varma** who is a professor in Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad to the central bank's panel that decides interest rates.

Senior IPS officer M A Ganapathy appointed Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security:

Senior IPS officer **M A Ganapathy** has been appointed as director-general of the Bureau of **Civil Aviation Security**. The 1986 batch, **Uttarakhand** cadre IPS officer is currently CISF special director-general and head of the airport sector. The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after **Rakesh Asthana** was appointed as the Director General of **Border Security Force** in August.

Sports tech start-up HUDLE ropes in Ajinkya Rahane as brand ambassador and advisor:

Delhi based sports tech & events startup **HUDLE** has announced the appointment of current Indian Test cricket vice-captain **Ajinkya Rahane** as brand **ambassador & advisor**. Rahane will also be able to guide the team with strategic inputs through his wealth of experience in **professional sport**.

M Rajeshwar Rao appointed as RBI Deputy Governor:

Government of India has appointed **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** executive director **M Rajeshwar Rao** as the **Deputy Governor** of the central bank. The position had been lying vacant for more than six months after **N.S. Vishwanathan** retired on March 31.

Jordan's king Abdullah appoints veteran diplomat Bisher Al-Khasawneh as prime minister:

Jordan's King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein appointed veteran diplomat and palace aide **Bisher Al-Khasawneh** as the new prime minister, days after accepting the resignation of **Omar Al-Razzaz**. Khasawneh has a PhD in law from London School, is a veteran **diplomat and politician**, who held several official posts.

J Venkatramu appointed as MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank:

J Venkatramu has been appointed the managing director and chief executive officer of **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** for a period of **three years**. He is presently working as the chief digital officer in **Equitas Small Finance Bank**. India Post Payments Bank was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in 2018 under **Section 22 (1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Government appoints Dinesh Kumar Khara as SBI chairman for 3 years:

Government appoints **Dinesh Kumar Khara** as chairman of **State Bank of India (SBI)** for a period of **three years** with effect from the date of his taking over charge of the post on or after October 7, 2020 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Khara will replace SBI Chairman **Rajnish Kumar**, whose three-year term comes to an end on October 7. Khara was appointed as managing director of SBI in **August 2016** for a three-year term.

Myntra Appoints Bhuvan Bam as its first digital brand ambassador:

Myntra roped in **Bhuvan Bam** as its 1st **digital brand ambassador** to engage with tech-savvy customers. Myntra & Bhuvan will co-ideate & create content that effectively communicates brand's proposition that goes beyond the **traditional forms** of communication.

Nilesh Shah re-elected as chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India:

Nilesh Shah has been re-elected as the Chairman of **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**, at the recently concluded Board Meeting of AMFI. He was the **AMFI chairman** in **2019-20**. Shah would also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of **AMFI Financial Literacy Committee**.

RBI extends CMD R. K. Chhibber's tenure by further six months at Jammu & Kashmir Bank:

RBI has extended term of **R. K. Chhibber**, Chairman and MD of Bank by a further period of 6 months w.e.f. 10th Oct 2020 or till appointment of MD & CEO, whichever is earlier. In June 2019, RBI had appointed Chhibber as interim CMD on removal of **Parvez Ahmed**.

Kyrgyzstan's Parliament Elected Sadyr Zhaparov as Acting PM After the Resignation of Former PM Kubatbek Boronov:

Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan **Kubatbek Boronov** and Speaker of the Parliament

Dastan Dzhumabekov resigned recently for amid protests in the country. Member of the parliament **Myktybek Abdyldaev** was elected as speaker of the parliament and opposition leader **Sadyr Zhaparov** became the acting **prime minister**.

CWG medallist shuttler Chetan Anand named brand ambassador of homegrown brand 'Transform':

Commonwealth Games medallist shuttler **Chetan Anand**, a former world no.10 and the men's singles **bronze medal winner** at the 2006 Melbourne CWG, was roped in as the face of the homegrown equipment brand **'Transform'** along with his academy in Hyderabad. He was honoured with the **Arjuna Award** in **2006**.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal gets additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs:

Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has been assigned the **additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** on 9th October 2020 in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister **Ram Vilas Paswan**. Goyal is currently serving as the Union **Minister of Railways** and **Minister of Commerce and Industry**.

Amit Banerjee is appointed as the New Director at BEML:

Amit Banerjee assumed charge as the **Director** (Rail and Metro Business) and Member on the Board of **BEML Limited**. A graduate in Mechanical Engineering from **IIT (BHU), Varanasi**, Banerjee had joined BEML as an assistant engineer in 1984.

Indian-origin Srikant Datar named Dean of Harvard Business School:

Srikant Datar, the Arthur Lowes Dickinson Professor of Business Administration at **Harvard Business School**, will become the School's next dean, Harvard University President **Larry Bacow**.

Srikant M Datar is an alumnus of **Mumbai University & IIM Ahmedabad**. He Succeeds **Nitin Nohria** to become the second Indian origin person to head HBS

GRAAM Founder and Chairman R. Balasubramaniam appointed to SEBI committee:

SEBI has inducted **R. Balasubramaniam**, founder and chairman of **GRAAM, Mysuru**, as a member of the Technical Group on **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)**. The committee has been formed to develop guidelines for setting up the Social Stock Exchange in India. The committee is chaired by **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**.

ICICI Securities appoints Subhash Kelkar as Chief Technology & Digital Officer:

India's leading retail-led equity franchise **ICICI Securities**, stated that following the superannuation of **Mr. Yagnesh Parikh** has appointed **Subhash Kelkar** as the Chief Technology & Digital Officer.

Subhash Kelkar comes with close to **three decades of technology** and services industry experience in various strategic and leadership roles. He has worked in multiple geographies including **USA, Europe, Japan** and **New Zealand** and has anchored many digital / technology led transformations.

BharatPe Launches Brand Campaign with Record 11 Cricket Stars as Brand Ambassadors:

BharatPe has announced the launch of its high impact TV campaign starring '**Team BharatPe**' with **11 Cricket stars** as its brand ambassadors. Campaign communicates the message '**Hum Hai Team BharatPe – Jo Desh Ke Har Dukandaar Ke Saath Hai Khade**'.

This is the first time that a new age **FinTech company** has rolled out a TV campaign with 11 top cricket stars as its brand ambassadors. Team BharatPe includes **Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Suresh Raina, Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal,** and **Shubhman Gill**.

Suresh Sethi appointed as MD and CEO of NSDL e-Governance Infra Ltd:

Former founder **CEO** and **MD** of **India Post Payments Bank Suresh Sethi** is appointed as MD & CEO designate of **NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Ltd**. Suresh Sethi will succeed **Gagan Rai**. Prior to India Post Payments Bank, he was associated with **Citigroup, Yes Bank, Vodafone M-Pesa** (across India, Kenya, UK, Argentina and USA).

East Bengal appoint Liverpool legend Robbie Fowler as head coach:

Former **England** and **Liverpool** legend **Robbie Fowler** has been appointed the head coach of **East Bengal** for the **next two years**. He has been the **third-highest goal scorer** for the Reds where he played till **2001** before switching allegiance to arch-rivals **Leeds United** and then **Manchester City**. **Karnataka Bank appoints former RBI Executive Director Uma Shankar as additional director:**

Private Sector lender **Karnataka Bank Limited** has appointed **Mrs. Uma Shankar** as Additional Director (Non-Executive, Independent) and the appointment will be effective from **November 1, 2020**. She is a former **Executive Director** of **Reserve Bank of India**.

Constantina Dita Named Ambassador for World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Gdynia, Poland 2020:

Romania's 2008 Olympic champion **Constantina Dita** has been named an ambassador for the **World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Gdynia, Poland 2020**.

Cello Group signs Amitabh Bachchan as brand ambassador:

A household product manufacturer **Cello Group** has roped in Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as its brand ambassador. Bachchan will endorse the brand's range of products across **social media platforms**.

Pradeep Kumar Rawat Appointed as Next Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Netherlands:

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) appointed **Pradeep Kumar Rawat** as the next Ambassador of **India** to the **Kingdom of Netherlands**. Pradeep Kumar Rawat was a **Indian Foreign Service** in 1990 Batch. He is the Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Indonesia**.

President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbai Jeenbekov steps down:

Kyrgyzstan President **Sooronbai Jeenbekov** announced his resignation in a bid to end the turmoil that has engulfed the **Central Asian** nation after a **disputed parliamentary election**. He was also the

Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan from **2016 to 2017**.

Government extends the tenure of NTPC, CMD Gurdeep Singh till July 2025:

Government of India has extended the tenure of **Shri Gurdeep Singh, Chief Managing Director (CMD)** of **NTPC** till **July 2025**. The extension will be effective from **Feb 4, 2021**. Gurdeep Singh completed mechanical engineer from **NIT Kurukshetra** and has undergone Management Education Program from **IIM Ahmedabad (India)**.

Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary K Shanmugam gets three month's extension:

Centre approves the extension of service for **three months** to **Tamil Nadu** Chief Secretary **K Shanmugam** in view of the COVID-19 situation. This is the **second extension** for Shanmugam who was to retire from service on July 31 2020. He is a **1985-batch** Indian Administrative Service(IAS) officer.

Vishal Sharma appointed as India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO:

Shri Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as the next **Permanent Representative of India** to the Permanent Delegation of India to **UNESCO**, Paris. Sharma has succeeded **Jawed Ashraf**. He will be 3rd political appointee among **Indian ambassadors** around the world.

International Weightlifting Federation appoint Michael Irani as interim president:

International Weightlifting Federation announced the appointment of **Michael Irani** as its **interim president**. Irani is chair of the IWF Medical Committee and a former chair of

the IWF Anti-Doping Commission. Britain's Michael Irani taking over from **Thailand's Intarat Yodbangtoey**.

Jacinda Ardern wins second term as New Zealand's Prime Minister:

Jacinda Ardern has won a **second consecutive three-years** term in office after her rival conceded in **New Zealand's** general election. Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won **49.2%** of the total 83.7% votes counted in the **120-member parliament**.

The 40-year-old is serving as the **40th Prime Minister** of the country since **26 October 2017**.

Supreme Court Appoints Justice Madan B. Lokur as One-Man Panel to Help Prevent Stubble Burning:

Supreme Court appointed retired apex court judge **Justice Madan B. Lokur** as a one-man committee to take steps for preventing stubble burning in **Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh** which is a source of pollution in **Delhi-national capital region (NCR)**.

Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai is new chairman of Indian Banks Association:

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Union Bank of India's MD and CEO **Rajkiran Rai G** has been elected as the association's chairman for the term 2020-21. Rai succeeds **Rajnish Kumar** as the IBA Chairman after Kumar recently retired as SBI Chief.

State Bank of India's Chairman **Dinesh Kumar Khara** has been elected as the **Deputy Chairman** of the association.

Rohan Jaitley unanimously elected **Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)** president:

Advocate **Rohan Jaitley**, son of late Union Minister **Arun Jaitley** was elected unopposed president of the **Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)** after the lone candidate who had filed his nomination against him withdrew his candidature. Elections for **six posts** are to be held between November 5 and 8.

Ashwani Kumar Appointed Group Chief Executive Officer of Suzlon Group:

One of **India's largest renewable energy** solutions provider **Suzlon Group** has announced that it has appointed **Ashwani Kumar** as its Group CEO. Kumar has over 3 decades of experience in projects, business development & finance at leading **Indian power/Infra companies**.

RBI appoints Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC new MD and CEO:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as Managing Director and CEO of **HDFC Bank**. The appointment is for a period of **3 years** beginning **October 27, 2020** and is subject to the approval of the Bank's board and shareholders.

Jagdishan was appointed as Chief Financial Officer in the year 2008. He will replace its Founder/CEO **Aditya Puri**.

F1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton appointed as global Brand ambassador for LG SIGNATURE:

LG Electronics (LG) announced that **Six-Time** Formula One World Champion **Lewis Hamilton** has been signed to be the global ambassador for its **LG SIGNATURE**. Hamilton will initially star in a new campaign to communicate the brand's philosophy, "**Art**

Inspires Technology, Technology Completes Art."

Government extends Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla's tenure till August 22, 2021:

Government approved extension in service of home secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** in the same post beyond the date of his superannuation on **November 30, 2020** until **August 22, 2021**. He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of **Assam-Meghalaya cadre**, was appointed as **Home Secretary** in August 2019.

IL&FS Group Executive Vice-Chairman Vineet Nayyar Resigns:

Vineet Nayyar has resigned as **Executive Vice-Chairman** of **IL&FS Group** citing **medical reasons**. Nayyar has requested the board to relieve him of his duties with effect from **October 31** on the grounds of indifferent health

Parle Agro appoints Priyanka Chopra Jonas as brand ambassador for B-Fizz:

Parle Agro's bold new drink, **B-Fizz** gets a befitting brand ambassador in global icon and superstar **Priyanka Chopra Jonas**. B-Fizz is a unique and refreshing **apple juice** based **malt flavored carbonated drink** that is set to revolutionize the taste experience of consumers across age groups.

Indian diplomat Dr Neena Malhotra appointed as next Ambassador to Republic of San Marino:

Indian diplomat **Dr Neena Malhotra** has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of San Marino**.

According to an official statement issued by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, Dr

Malhotra, 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will have the residence in **Rome**. Presently, she is serving as the Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Italy**.

IRDAI Sets Up Panel to Examine Need for Standard Cyber Insurance Product headed by P Umesh:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up **9-member** panel headed by **P Umesh** to explore possibility of a basic standard product structure to **provide insurance cover** for individuals and establishments to manage **cyber risks**.

Ghanshyam Jha appointed Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority:

Government of **Jammu and Kashmir** Union Territory has appointed **Ghanshyam Jha** as Chairperson of the **Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority**. Jha has formerly been the Chairman of **Central Water Commission** and **Ganga Flood Control Committee**.

ECI constitutes 2-member committee to examine issues concerning expenditure limits:

Election Commission of India has set up a **2-member committee** to examine the issue of revising the **expenditure limit for candidates** for **Lok Sabha** and assembly polls. The committee will comprise of **Harish Kumar**, Ex. IRS and DG (Investigation), **Umesh Sinha**, Secretary General and DG (Expenditure).

Bimal Julka appointed as the Chairman of Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports:

Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) has appointed former **Chief**

Information Commissioner (CIC) of India, Bimal Julka, as its Chairman. He will take over from **John Loffhagen**, who served as the chairman of FIFS for over **three years**.

Indian diplomat Sushil Kumar Singhal appointed as next Ambassador to Solomon Islands:

Sushil Kumar Singhal, a 2000-batch IFS officer, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of **India to Solomon Islands**. He is presently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Independent **State of Papua New Guinea**.

Dabur Honey appoints Ritabhari Chakraborty as its Brand Ambassador:

Dabur India Ltd announced the signing of Tollywood **Diva Ritabhari Chakraborty** as the new Regional **Brand Ambassador** for its iconic brand Dabur Honey. It has unveiled a new campaign "**Aaj theke shudhu, chini noy, madhu**", featuring Ritabhari Chakraborty with famous Bengali song by Asha Bhonsle "**Jaabo ki jaabo na**".

NITI Aayog sets up panel headed by Rajiv Kumar for reforms in urban planning education:

The policy think tank **NITI Aayog** has constituted a **14-member** advisory committee to look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system. The panel will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman **Rajiv Kumar**.

Saad al-Hariri Renamed Lebanon Prime Minister a Year After Stepping Down Amid Protests:

Lebanon's President **Michel Aoun** designated Sunni Muslim politician **Saad al-Hariri** as prime minister to form a new

government to tackle the worst crisis since the country's **1975-1990 civil war**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Kerala wins UN award for 'outstanding contribution' towards prevention, control of non-communicable diseases:

Kerala bagged a United Nations award for its "**Outstanding Contribution**" towards the **Non-Communicable Diseases** related sustainable development goals. **Kerala** is among the seven ministries of health across the world to receive the award.

The Award is presented to recognize the achievements during 2019 on multi-sectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs, mental health and the wider NCD-related **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Magawa the "HeroRAT" was recently awarded the PDSA gold medal for his life-saving work in Cambodia:

Magawa, the HeroRAT is an African giant pouched rat was awarded a **gold medal** for his gallantry contribution in detecting land mines in **Cambodia**. For the first time a rat has won a British charity's top civilian award for animal bravery.

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sanju Yadav Receive AIFF Player of the Year Awards:

Indian football team goalkeeper **Gurpreet Singh Sandhu** and midfielder of the women's national team **Sanju Yadav** have been awarded the **AIFF (All India Football Federation)** Women's Footballer of the Year and Women's Footballer of the Year Award respectively for 2019-20 season. **Sandhu** became the **second goalkeeper** after **Subrata Paul** to be receiving the prestigious award.

Usha Mangeshkar Gets Lata Mangeshkar Award for 2020-21 by Maharashtra Government:

Maharashtra announced the **Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award** for the year **2020-21** to veteran female playback singer **Usha Mangeshkar**. Award is given by cultural dept of the state government She has sung songs in **Marathi, Hindi** & several Indian language films.

Mukesh Ambani tops Hurun India Rich List for 9th consecutive year:

Reliance Industries Chairman and Asia's richest man **Mukesh Ambani** has topped the IIFL Wealth **Hurun India Rich List 2020** for the ninth consecutive year. He has a total net worth of **Rs 6, 58, 400 crore**.

London-based **Hinduja brothers** (SP Hinduja, along with his three brothers) is at second position with combined net worth of Rs 1, 43, 700 crore followed by HCL's **Shiv Nadar** at third spot with net worth of Rs 1, 41, 700 crore.

Smita V Crishna has been named as **India's richest woman** with a wealth of **Rs.32, 400cr**, according to IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020. Biocon Chairperson **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** was named **India's richest self-made woman** with a wealth of Rs.31, 600cr.

'Messiah of Migrants' Sonu Sood honoured with Special Humanitarian Action Award by UNDP:

Bollywood actor **Sonu Sood** has been conferred the prestigious **SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award** by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** during a virtual ceremony. He has been dubbed a **"Messiah Of Migrants"** for

his philanthropic work during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

Sonu Sood joins the likes of **Angelina Jolie, David Beckham, Leonardo DiCaprio, Emma Watson, Liam Neeson, Cate Blanchett, Antonio Banderas, Nicole Kidman** and **Priyanka Chopra** who have been similarly honoured by different UN bodies.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award 2020; Scientists from IIT Kanpur, Kharagpur honoured by CSIR:

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has announced the names of **14 scientists** who have been chosen as Recipients of the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020**. Two Professors, one from IIT Kharagpur, **Dr Abhijit Mukherjee** and **Dr Bushra Ateeq** from IIT Kanpur are among the recipients of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize.

The award is presented in following 7 Category: **Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Medical Sciences** and **Physical Sciences**.

Dr Shubhadeep Chatterjee from Centre for DNA fingerprinting and diagnostics, **Dr Vatsala Thirumalai** from National Centre for Biological Sciences, **Dr Jyotirmayee Dash** from Indian Association for the cultivation of science, **Dr Suryendu Dutta** from IIT Bombay, **Dr Subi Jacob George** from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific, **Dr Kinshuk Dasgupta** from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, **Dr Ritesh Agarwal** from PGIMER Chandigarh, **Dr Amol**

Arvindrao Kulkarni, Dr Surajit Dhara from the University of Hyderabad.

Kerala tourism's campaign bags prestigious PATA Grand award:

Kerala Tourism's "**Human by Nature**" campaign won the prestigious **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)** Grand Award 2020. The campaign got this award for Marketing, giving a boost to the state's tourism industry, which has been affected by coronavirus pandemic.

Three categories of awards were **Marketing, Sustainability** and **Human Capital Development**. It was for the first time that this year's PATA Gold Awards, supported and sponsored by the **Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO)**.

Modern Family Star Sofia Vergara Tops Forbes List of Highest Paid Actresses:

Modern Family star **Sofia Vergara** has scored the top spot with earnings of **\$43 million** in list of Highest Paid Actresses report released by **Forbes**. Second on the list is Hollywood star **Angelina Jolie** with \$35.5 million. **Sofia** and **Angelina** are followed by Wonder Woman Star **Gal Gadot** with \$31.5 million.

The fourth, fifth and sixth spots on Forbes list of Highest Paid Actresses have been occupied by **Melissa McCarthy** (\$25 million), **Meryl Streep** (\$24 million) and **Emily Blunt** (\$22.5 million) respectively.

CII Foundation Receives the UNSDG Action Award for its work on Crop Residue Management:

CII Foundation's work on crop residue management has been awarded the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)** Action Award by UNDP in partnership with the **Government of Punjab**

under the category '**Integration, Convergence, Joint Action and Holistic Solution Approach – Industry**'.

Special Humanitarian Action Award was conferred upon Action **Sonu Sood** and SPS Oberoi, Dubai based businessman and philanthropist over a virtual ceremony presided by **Vini Mahajan**, Chief Minister of Punjab.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)'s underground pipeline(UGPL) project for improving irrigation system, the rural education through value based system initiative of the **Kalgidhar Trust** and **Sewa Bharat's** Punjab team for empowering women by securing employment and self-reliance also won the award under the same category.

HDFC Bank's Ravi Santhanam in Forbes list of world's most influential CMOs:

CMO of **HDFC Bank Ravi Santhanam** has been recognized in the Forbes list of '**The World's Most Influential CMOs**'. Ranked at No. 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of **Apple, BMW, etc.**

Belarus, Iran, US, Nicaragua activists win "Alternate Nobel Prize" in Right Livelihood Award 2020:

A **Belarusian** pro-democracy campaigner, an imprisoned **Iranian** human rights lawyer, a **US** civil rights attorney, and a **Nicaraguan** activist on Thursday won a top Swedish honour sometimes called "**The Alternative Nobel Prize**".

Ales Bialiatski of Belarus and his NGO Viasna, **Nasrin Sotoudeh** of Iran, **Bryan Stevenson** of the United States and

indigenous rights and environmental activist **Lottie Cunningham Wren** of Nicaragua share the Right Livelihood Award.

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce presents lifetime achievement award to Ratan Tata:

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon **Ratan Tata** as part of its recent global leadership awards.

Tata has accepted fewer awards over the last few years, received the honour as he believed that these awards inspire **Future Global Leaders** and strengthen bilateral economic ties between **India** and **USA**.

Nobel Prize in Medicine Awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton & Charles M. Rice for Discovery of Hepatitis C Virus:

The Nobel Prize in **Physiology or Medicine** has jointly been awarded to **Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton** and **Charles M. Rice** for the discovery of "**Hepatitis C virus**". They made decisive contribution to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, a major **Global Health Problem** that causes **cirrhosis** and **liver cancer** in people around the world.

Prior to their work, the discovery of **Hepatitis A** and **B viruses** had been critical steps forward, but the majority of **blood-borne hepatitis** cases remained unexplained.

Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I.S. Chahal Honoured with Global 'Covid Crusader Award-2020':

Municipal Commissioner of the **Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai Iqbal Singh Chahal** has become the **first Indian bureaucrat** to be recognised and receive

global acknowledgment for **his contribution** in **controlling the novel coronavirus** infection in India's financial capital and for working to '**Flatten The Curve**' in congested areas of the city, including **Asia's biggest slum Dharavi**.

Sikkim's Spiciest Chilly "dalle Khursani" earns GI Tag:

Dalle Khursani, the famous red hot cherry pepper of **Sikkim**, has earned a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag from the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** Considered one of the world's hottest chillies, it has a range of **1, 00, 000 to 3, 50, 000 SHU (Scoville Heat Units)**.

Two female Scientists Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna wins Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 for Genome Editing Discovery:

Nobel Prize in Chemistry was jointly awarded to **Emmanuelle Charpentier** and **Jennifer A Doudna** for their 2012 work on **CRISPR-CAS9**, a method to edit DNA. **Jennifer A. Doudna** is a Professor at the **University of California**, Berkeley, USA and Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute. **Emmanuelle Charpentier** is a Director of the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens, Berlin, Germany.

Andrea Ghez, Roger Penrose and Reinhard Genzel Won Nobel Prize 2020 in Physics for their Discoveries about Black Holes:

Andrea Ghez, Roger Penrose and **Reinhard Genzel** have been awarded the 2020 **Nobel Prize in Physics** for their pioneering work on space involving the **Black Holes** and the **Milky Way's darkest secret**.

Roger Penrose (United Kingdom) won half of prize for discovery that **Black Hole Formation** is robust prediction of general theory of relativity, **Reinhard Genzel (German)** and **Andrea Ghez (America)** received second half of prize for discovery of supermassive compact object at **Center of Our Galaxy**.

TCS becomes second Indian company after RIL to cross Rs 10 lakh crore market capitalisation:

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the second Indian company to have a market capitalisation of over **Rs 10 lakh crore** after Reliance Industries. TCS shares traded 7.16% higher at Rs 2,704.05. At this price, TCS' market capitalisation comes to **Rs 10.15 lakh crore**.

American poet Louise Gluck awarded 2020 Nobel Literature prize:

Louise Gluck has won **2020 Nobel Prize in Literature** for her "**Unmistakable Poetic Voice**" that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal. **Prof at Yale University, Glück** made her debut in 1968 with her collection titled '**Firstborn**'.

They include "**The Wild Iris**," for which she won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993, and "**Faithful and Virtuous Night**," about mortality and grief, from 2014. She was named the United States' poet laureate in 2003.

The **Nobel Prize for Literature** has been awarded after **several years of controversy** and scandal for the world's pre-eminent literary accolade. The prize was announced in Stockholm by **Mats Malm**, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy.

Eminent Poet Nityananda Nayak to receive Sarala Puraskar:

Eminent **Odia poet, Nityanand Nayak** will be conferred the prestigious **Sarala Puraskar** for his poetry work '**Setebelaku Nathiba**', published in 2017. The poet will be felicitated with a cash award of `5 lakh and a citation.

Two other eminent personalities from the State **Ranjit Kumar Nag** and **Shyamsundar Pattanaik** will be felicitated for their contribution to fields of music and art respectively. While Nag will be awarded the **Ila Panda Sangeet Samman**, **Pattanaik** would be felicitated with **Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman**.

Forbes India Rich List 2020: Mukesh Ambani remains India's richest man for 13th consecutive year:

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of **Reliance Industries (RIL)** emerged as **India's wealthiest** for the 13th straight year as his net worth swelled to **\$88.7 billion** (around Rs 6.65 lakh crore) while the wealth of 100 richest rose by **14 per cent** to **\$517.5 billion**.

It has also noted the entry of **Pune-based Serum Institute of India**, which is the **world's largest vaccine** producer by the number of doses produced, in top 10.

World Food Programme awarded 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for 'combating hunger':

Nobel Committee has awarded **2020 Nobel Peace Prize** to **World Food Programme** for its efforts to **combat hunger, contribution to bettering conditions** for peace in conflict-affected areas & for efforts to prevent use of hunger as weapon of **war & conflict**.

Indian Navy Ships Sahyadri and Kora Adjudged 'Best Ships' in Fleet Award Function 2020:

Indian Navy organised the **Fleet Award Function (FAF)** at **Visakhapatnam** to mark the successful performance of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet. Best Ship were awarded to **INS Sahyadri** amongst Capital ships and **INS Kora** amongst Corvettes ships. **INS Airavat** and **Kiltan** jointly bagged '**Best Spirited Ship**'. Fleet Award Function (FAF) 2020 was hosted by Rear Admiral **Sanjay Vatsayan**.

India becomes first nation to be awarded Blue Flag certification for 8 beaches in a single attempt:

India received the prestigious '**Blue Flag**' certification for all its **eight beaches** that it recommended. India is now in the league of **50 'BLUE FLAG'** countries.

Eight of India's beaches including **Shivrajpur (Dwarka-Gujarat)**, **Ghoghla (Diu)**, **Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka)**, **Kappad (Kerala)**, **Rushikonda (AP)**, **Golden Beach (Odisha)** and **Radhanagar (A&N Islands)** got the eco-label of Blue Flag in a row.

Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson Wins Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their work on auction theory:

U.S. economists **Paul Milgrom** and **Robert Wilson** won the Nobel **Economics Prize** for work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as **radio frequencies**. The winners were announced in **Stockholm** by **Goran Hansson**, secretary-general of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

Prince William and Sir David Attenborough Launched "Earthshot Prize" to Support Climate Change:

Prince William has joined with renowned British broadcaster and Naturalist **David Attenborough** to launch a **new environmental award, "Earthshot Prize"**, which has grand ambitions to incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years. The prize comprises **5 prizes of 1 million pounds** each.

TCS surpasses Accenture to Become Most Valuable IT services Firm Globally:

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the most-valuable information technology (IT) company globally, surpassing rival Accenture for the first time. At the last closing price of **Rs 2, 825**, **TCS** was valued at \$144.73 billion (Rs 10.6 trillion). **Accenture** is currently valued at \$142.4 billion, while **IBM's** market cap is \$110.5 billion.

Bank of Ghana Named Central Bank of the Year 2020:

Bank of Ghana has been recognised by the **Central Banking Awards** as the **Central Bank of the Year 2020** following measures it pursued in a bid to ensure a strong financial sector via a raft of reforms implemented over the past two years. Bank of Ghana takes over from the **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** which was last year's overall winner. And also, Governor of the **Bank of England Mark Carney** has won the Governor of the year at the **Central bank of the year award 2020**.

Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha wins lifetime achievement award in US:

Indian-origin philanthropist **Harish Kotecha** has been awarded the prestigious **Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of **children** and **youth** experiencing homelessness.

Chandigarh University bags first rank in India for filling highest number of patents in a year:

According to India's Intellectual Property Annual Report 2018-19 **Chandigarh University Gharuan** has emerged as Top Stand-Alone University in India for filling **highest number (336) of patents** in a year.

Seema Gupta wins 2020 STEVIE Awards for Women in Business:

Power Grid Corporation Director **Seema Gupta** has been named winner of **GOLD Stevie Award in Lifetime Achievement-Business category** in 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. Stevie Awards have been hailed as the world's premier business awards.

Aishwarya Sridhar becomes first Indian woman to win at Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards:

Aishwarya Sridhar's photo titled '**Lights of Passion**' has won the '**Highly Commended**' award at the **Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020**. She became the **first Indian Woman** to win this award. The announcement was made in **56th year** of the prestigious award at the **Natural History Museum in London**. She won among **50,000 entries** from over **80 countries** across the world.

India-US Patents for Electric Vehicle Technology Awarded to Devansh Manoj Jalan:

Devansh Manoj Jalan has received **Indian & US** Patents for '**Method and System for Managing the Usage of a Plurality of Battery Units to Power an Electric Vehicle**'. Technology aims to make usage of EVs more **practical, flexible & economical** in **India**. He worked on developing this technology for a while and in July 2019, filed for a provisional patent with the **Indian Patent Office**.

ISA Confers First ever ISA Solar Awards at Third Assembly:

Solar Awards were presented during the third Assembly of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** to the countries of the region as well as institutions working for solar.

List of Winners:

Visvesvaraya award: **Japan** for the Asia Pacific region and the **Netherlands for Europe** and Others region.

Kalpana Chawla awards: **Dr Bhim Singh** from **IIT Delhi (India)** and **Dr Aesha Alnuaimi** from **Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (United Arab Emirates)**.

Diwakar award: **Arpan Institute** (Haryana) and **Arushi Society**.

Three categories of awards were conferred:

Diwakar award recognizes organisations & institutions that have been working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have maximised the use of solar energy in the host country.

Kalpana Chawla awards recognise the outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers working in the field of solar energy.

Visvesvaraya award recognises the countries with a maximum floating solar capacity in each of the four regions of ISA.

Founder of The Social Corporate Sana Hazari wins Young Achievers Award 2020:

Sana Hazari, who founded **The Social Corporate (TSC)** a new-age **Digital platform** that partners with **SMEs, NGOs, Impact Funds**, and **Social Enterprises** (both for-profit and non-profit) across **India, Nigeria and Ghana** to offer Consultancy & Staffing Solutions.

Indian Achievers Award, presented to only **4 individuals** in India each year under the '**Young Achievers**' category, is one of most coveted Awards across the country recognizing individuals with **proven track-record** of trailblazing efforts in a particular sector.

14-year-old Indian American Anika Chebrolu wins America's Young Scientist Challenge:

A **14-year-old Indian-American** teen **Anika Chebrolu** from **Texas** has been awarded the **2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge**, regarded as the **US premier middle school science competition**, and a **\$25,000 prize** for her research that could provide a potential therapy to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Uttar Pradesh emerged as top destination in 2019 attracting over 53 crore tourists:

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the **top destination** for attracting the highest number of **Domestic Tourists in 2019**. The Indian Tourism Statistics has announced that as many as **53.6 crore** domestic tourists visited **Uttar Pradesh (23.1%)** in 2019.

Tamil Nadu (21.3%) came second followed by **Andhra Pradesh (10.2%)**.

In terms of Foreign tourists, **Tamil Nadu** has topped the list with nearly **68 lakh foreigners** visiting the state in 2019. **Uttar Pradesh** secured the **third position** with a record footfall of nearly **47 lakh foreigners** visiting last year.

Rakayet UI Karim Rakim of Bangladesh wins the Greenstorm International Nature Photography Contest:

Rakayet UI Karim Rakim native of **Chittagong, Bangladesh**, has won the 12th edition of the **Greenstorm International Nature Photography Contest** conducted in association with **UNEP** in connection with the **World Environment Day**.

Mohamed Noufal from **Sharjah, UAE**, and **Kartikya Grover** from **Ghaziabad, India** bagged the **second** and **third** prizes respectively. The photographs of **Vladlena Lapshina** from **Russia**, **Abdul Momin** from **Bangladesh** and **Sreedharan Wadakkanchery** from **Kerala** have bagged the **consolation prizes**.

Managing Director of TRIFED Pravir Krishna bags CEO of the year and visionary leadership award:

Pravir Krishna (IAS) Managing Director of **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** has been awarded **CEO of the Year** and **Visionary Leadership Award** in National Awards for **Excellence in PSU** for Investment in **Start-UPS**.

The team of **TRIFED Warriors** led by **Krishna** has **won three awards**. One of the award is a **collective award** in the **Investment in Start-Ups Category**. He

was included in the list of the **50 most influential Indians** in May 2020, for his contribution towards changing the **lives of the tribals**.

Indian-origin plastic surgeon Jajini Varghese named JC 'Outstanding Young Person 2020':

UK based Indian origin plastic surgeon Dr Jajini Varghese has been named one of the **'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020'** by **NGO Junior Chamber International**. She is one among the 10 persons who bagged the title and Dr Jajini is facilitated for her **"Incredible"** scientific contributions in diagnosing and **treating breast cancer**.

India-assisted Mangdechhu hydroelectric project in Bhutan wins prestigious award:

India-assisted Mangdechhu hydroelectric project in Bhutan has been awarded the prestigious **Brunel Medal for excellence** in civil engineering by the UK-based **Institute of Civil Engineers**.

Delhi's IGI Airport emerges world's 2nd safest airport on Covid-related safety protocols:

Delhi's **Indira Gandhi International Airport** has emerged as the **world's second safest aerodrome** for effective implementation of novel coronavirus-related health as well as safety protocols, said the airport operator **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)**.

Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh bags top position for implementing PMGSY:

Himachal Pradesh's Mandi has bagged the **first position** among **30 districts** nationwide for successfully implementing the

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Total **8 district** from Himachal Pradesh have figured in the list. The other districts are **Chamba, Shimla, Kangra, Una, Sirmour, Hamirpur and Solan**.

Haryana tops Anemia Mukht Bharat Index among 29 states; Anemia Mukht Bharat Index:

Haryana has been ranked at the top with a score of **46.7** in the **Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index** among the **29 states** in India. The news was shared during the State Health Society of the **National Health Mission's 8th Governing Body Meeting in Chandigarh**. The meeting was presided over by the Haryana chief secretary, **Vijai Vardhan**.

Bengaluru airport becomes first metro airport in India to record positive growth in cargo volumes:

The **Kempe Gowda international airport**, operated by the **Bangalore International Airport (BIAL)** has become the first metro airport in India to **record growth in freight** in September 2020, compared to the same period last year.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS:

A book titled "A Crown of Thorns – The Coronavirus and Us" authored by Ishrat Syed and Kalpana Swaminathan:

Authors **Ishrat Syed** and **Kalpana Swaminathan** joined KLF Bhava Samvad to speak about their latest book **'Crown of Thorns'** which is based on the Covid 19 pandemic. Speaking about the vision of the book Kalpana said, the purpose of our book is to shift the **focus from Covid 19** statistics to self.

Rajnath Singh launches a book titled "A bouquet of flowers" authored by Dr Krishna Saksena:

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched a book "**A bouquet of flowers**" written by **Dr Krishna Saksena** the first lady to get PhD, way back in 1955 from **Lucknow** in **Uttar Pradesh**. It is the ninth book authored by the senior English Professor Krishna Saksena was launched at the **New Delhi**.

Manish Sisodia Launches Book "Bapu - The Unforgettable" On Gandhi Jayanti:

Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi **Manish Sisodia** launched a coffee-table book "**Bapu - The unforgettable**" on the occasion of the 151st birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**. The book can certainly make us think, give us ideas, give us a glimpse of his philosophy.

There are several untouched aspects of history in this book, a lot of **photographs**, **epigraphs** and several other details about **Delhi** which we usually do not get to see.

Union minister Jitendra singh releases coffee table book Discovering the Heritage of Assam authored by Padampani Bora:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), **Dr Jitendra Singh** released a **Coffee Table** Book on "**Discovering the Heritage of Assam**", written by **Padampani Bora** and having foreword by **Amitabh Bachchan**. It has been published by **Penguin**.

Padampani Bora is the author of the book. He was an officer of the **Indian Revenue Service** (IRS-2009 batch).

'Baahubali' author Anand Neelakantan pens debut kids' book titled "The Very,

Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids":

"Baahubali" series author **Anand Neelakantan** has written his debut book in the children's space which tells some of the most hilarious stories about child asuras and their antics. Puffin has published "**The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids**", which has full-colour illustrations accompanying the narrative.

Former RAW officer GBS Sidhu unravels the path to 1984 in his book 'The Khalistan Conspiracy':

A former intelligence officer with the RAW, **GBS Sidhu** has written how pro-Khalistan sentiments and Sikh extremism were deliberately encouraged and then crushed with a heavy hand to draw political mileage', in his upcoming book "**The Khalistan Conspiracy: A Former R&aw Officer Unravels The Path To 1984**".

PM Narendra Modi releases a Book titled 'Deh Vechava Karani' autobiography of Balasaheb Vikhe Patil:

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released the autobiography of late multiple term Lok Sabha MP **Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil**. The autobiography is titled '**Deh Vechava Karani**' means dedicating **one's life for a noble cause**.

A Book titled "Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon" authored by Pradeep Goorha:

Pradeep Goorha, is all set for the release of his second book "**Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon**". The book will be published by **Partridge Publishing India**. The Fiction book is based on the reality around the issues along the Northern borders

of India and the illegal occupation of **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Gilgit-Baltistan** by **Pakistan**.

A New Book Titled "The Battle of Belonging" authored by Shashi Tharoor: Author and **MP Shashi Tharoor** is set to release his book titled **"The Battle of Belonging"**. It is published by **Aleph Book Company**. The book appears to be an extension of his book **"Why I Am a Hindu"**. He is the longest-serving member of the Lok Sabha from **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** since 2009.

Author Deepankar Aron's new book titled "On the Trails of Buddha: A Journey to the East" released by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar:

Governor of West Bengal Jagdeep Dhankar released the book **"On the Trails of Buddha: A Journey to the East"** authored by **Deepankar Aron**, IRS (Indian Revenue Service) Officer. The book was published by **Niyogi Books Private limited**.

Autobiography of Finance Commissioner N K Singh "Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside":

Veteran Economist and bureaucrat **N K (Nand Kishore) Singh** released his autobiography titled **"Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside"**. The book portrays the life of **NK Singh** who played an active role in the **development of the Indian economy**. He is currently serving as the **Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission**. The book is published by **Rupa Publications India**.

RANKINGS:

India ranked 89th among 181 countries in World Risk Report 2020; Vanuatu Tops:

According to the **World Risk Index (WRI) 2020**, India has been ranked at the **89th** spot among 181 Countries. India was **'poorly prepared'** to deal with **'climate reality'**, due to which it was more vulnerable to extreme natural disasters. It is calculated by the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)**.

Vanuatu tops the list. **Qatar** (0.31) had the lowest risk followed by **Malta** (0.66) and **St. Vincent** and the Grenadines (0.81).

Department of Fertilizers headed by Sadananda Gowda ranks third in implementing Central schemes; DMEO Survey:

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) was conducted a Survey to assess **Ministries /Departments'** performance on implementation of **Central Sector Schemes** and **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**.

India Ranks 129 in Oxfam's CRI Index 2020; Norway Topped:

India has been ranked **129** among **158 countries** in **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020**. The **3rd edition** of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19. The index was topped by **Norway** followed by **Denmark** and **Germany** **2nd** and **3rd** Place respectively. South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at **158th** position.

India ranks 58th in Global Passport Index report by Arton Capital's Passport Index; New Zealand Topped:

India has been ranked **58th** in the list of **World's Most Powerful Passports** by **Arton Capital's Passport Index**. **New Zealand** was the strongest passport in the world followed by **Japan, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland, South Korea and Australia**. The **US** passport ranked **21**.

India ranks 94 among 107 Countries in Global Hunger Index 2020:

India has been ranked at **94** among **107** countries in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020** report released. With a score of 27.2, India has been placed in the "**Serious**" category in the GHI scale.

Last year, India's rank was **102 out of 117** countries. The index is published jointly by **Welthungerhilfe (WHH)** and **Concern Worldwide**, to measure and track hunger at global, regional, and national levels.

17 nations, including **China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait** bagged the top rank with GHI scores of less than five.

India 4th most powerful country in Asia Power Index 2020; US Topped:

India has been ranked at **4th position** (39.7 out of 100) in **Asia Power Index 2020**, released by the Sydney-based **Lowy Institute**.

The **United States** has retained its position as the most powerful country influencing the Asia-Pacific with a score of 81.6. It is followed by **China (76.1)** and **Japan (41)** at **second** and **third spot** respectively.

India Ranked World No. 2 in Migrations to OECD nations; China Topped:

India has acquired the second rank in terms of number of **migrants** going to the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries.

The data was released by the **OECD** in its 2020 edition of the annual **International Migration Outlook report**, which analyses the recent developments in migration movements and policies in its countries. This is the **44th edition** of the annual report. **China** top the list, while **Romania** stood at **3rd place**.

NTPC ranks first among Indian PSUs in Forbes' 'World's Best Employer 2020':

State-run power giant **NTPC** has featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under '**World's Best Employer 2020**' published by **Forbes**. The employers were judged based on their **COVID-19 responses, image, economic footprint, talent development, gender equality** and **social responsibility**.

OBITUARY NEWS:

Legendary singer SP Balasubramanyam passes away at 74:

Legendary singer **SP Balasubramanyam** has passed away. He is known to have recorded over **40, 000 songs** in 16 Indian languages including **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi**, and **Malayalam** and holds the Guinness World Record for recording the highest number of songs by a singer.

SP Balasubramanyam was honored with a **Padma Shri** (fourth-highest civilian award) in 2001 and **Padma Bhushan** (third-highest civilian award) in 2011 for his contribution to cinema.

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh Passes Away at 82:

Former Union Minister **Jaswant Singh** has passed away after a prolonged illness. He had served as the **external affairs minister, defense minister** and **finance minister** of India, during the then Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's** Cabinet.

Padma Bhushan awardee and Economist Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia passed away at 74:

Renowned **economist** and **Padma Bhushan** awardee **Isher Judge Ahluwalia** passed away. She had served on several national and international committees and boards over her career, including as chairperson of the board of trustees of **IFPRI** and **ICRIER**.

Veteran Lyricist Abhilash passes away at 74:

Veteran songwriter **Abhilash**, who penned down the song '**Itni shakti hame dena daata**' from the 1986 film '**Ankush**' passed away at 74 due to stomach illness. He had ghazals and stories published under this name before starting his career in the music industry.

Noted writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Dr GS Amur passes away at 95:

Veteran critic and versatile writer **Dr G S Amur** died due to age-related ailments. The literateur, known for his proficiency in both **Kannada** and **English**, was a recipient of several prestigious honours, including the **Sahitya Akademi Award, Rajyotsava Award** and **Bharatiya Bhasha Award**.

Assam's only woman CM Syeda Anwara Taimur passes away at 84:

Syeda Anwara Taimur, the only woman to have become the Chief Minister of **Assam** till

now, passed away in **Australia**. Taimur had been the Chief Minister of Assam from **December 6, 1980 to June 30, 1981**. She was nominated to the **Rajya Sabha** from Congress in 1988.

Kuwait Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Sabah Passed away at 91:

Kuwait's emir, **Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah**, the architect of the nation's modern foreign policy & one of the region's most influential voices, passed away. His brother, Crown Prince **Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah**, will be sworn in as his successor.

Ambulimama artist KC Sivasankar, illustrator of famous Vikram and Vetala series passed away at 97:

KC Sivasankar who had contributed over **5 decades** in creating cartoons, passed away. He primarily contributed to the magazine, **Chandamama**. **Sankar** is the artist behind the signature painting of the **Vikram & Vetala** series.

Former Indian Bank Chairman Gopalakrishnan passes away at 86:

Former **Indian Bank Chairman** and **Tamilnadu Yadava Mahasabai** president **M Gopalakrishnan** passed away. Gopalakrishnan joined Indian Bank as an unpaid officer in 1958. He went on to become its CMD in 1988 and continued in the post till December 1995.

Veteran social activist and scholar Pushpa Bhave passed away at 81:

Veteran **social activist, scholar, rationalist**, and a **stalwart** of Marathi literature and theatre **Pushpa Bhave** passed away. She had taken part in the **Samyukta**

Maharashtra movement and the **Goa liberation** movement.

Bollywood Actress Mishti Mukherjee passes away at 27:

Bollywood actress **Mishti Mukherjee**, who has featured in many Hindi, Bengali and Telugu films, and music videos has passed away due to kidney failure. He was only **27** years old.

Besides featuring in major Bengali projects, Mishti made her debut in Bollywood with the film **Life Ki Toh lag Gayi** in 2012 and worked as the lead actress in Subhash Ghai's 2014 film "**Kaanchi: The Unbreakable**".

Veteran BJD Leader and Seven Time Odisha MLA Pradeep Maharathy Passed away at 65:

Former **Odisha minister** and **Biju Janata Dal** legislator from Pipili constituency, **Pradeep Maharathy** passed away due to the novel Coronavirus infection.

Maharathy was elected as a MLA seven times from **Pipili constituency**. He had served as Minister of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Supply, Agriculture and Fisheries during his terms in **Odisha**.

Jharkhand Minority Welfare Minister Haji Hussain Ansari passed away at 73:

Jharkhand Minority Welfare Minister **Haji Hussain Ansari** passed away at the **Medanta Hospital**. Ansari was made Minister for the second time in January this year in the **Hemant Soren's** government. He was elected legislator for the first time in 1995. Later, he was re-elected in **2000, 2009** and **2019**.

Former acting Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, AS Dave passed away at 62:

Former Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court Justice **Anantkumar Surendraray Dave** passed away. Justice Dave was appointed as a **Gujarat High Court Judge** in 2004 and was made permanent in 2006.

Veteran Samajwadi Party Leader and Former MLC Mulayam Singh Yadav Passes Away at 92:

Veteran **Samajwadi Party** leader and former MLC **Mulayam Singh Yadav** passed away after a prolonged illness. Mulayam Singh Yadav became a sarpanch in 1949 and emerged victorious on the post five times consecutively. From **1973** to **1988**, he was block chief of **Bhagya Nagar** and was then elected to the member of the Legislative Council for the first time in 1990.

Veteran Bollywood Actor Vishal Anand Passes Away:

Bollywood's veteran actor **Vishal Anand** who is known for his role in 1976's **Chalte Chalte**, passed away due to prolonged illness. Vishal's real name was Bishmam Kohli. A few of Vishal Anand's films are **Hamara Adhikar, Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa, Taxi Driver** and **Intezaar**.

Afghanistan cricketer Najeed Tarakai Passed away at 29:

Afghanistan's top-order batsman **Najeed Tarakai** has died from injuries sustained in a road accident. Tarakai played **12 Twenty20** Internationals (T20Is) for Afghanistan, after making his international debut in the **2014 T20 World Cup**. He played his only one-day international against **Ireland** in **2017**.

Rock Legend and Guitarist Eddie Van Halen passes away at 65:

Eddie Van Halen, considered one of **rock music's greatest guitar players**, passed away. He is among the top **20 best-selling artists** of all time and his band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in **2007**.

Former Union Minister Rasheed Masood passes away at 73:

Former **Union minister** and veteran leader **Qazi Rasheed Masood** passed away. He had been an **MP nine times** while he was associated with different political parties. He had also served as the Union minister of state for health (IC) in the **VP Singh government**.

Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar passes away:

Former Governor of **Manipur** and **Nagaland** and ex-**Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** Director **Ashwani Kumar** passed away. He joined the Indian Police Service in 1973. He was sworn-in as the Governor of Nagaland, and as Governor of Manipur in 2013.

Union minister and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan passes away at 74:

Union minister for **Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** and founder of **Lok Janshakti Party** **Ram Vilas Paswan** passed away. He was elected to Lok Sabha **eight times** and also held the record of winning his constituency, Hajipur, with the highest margin for several years.

Mexican Scientist and Nobel winner Mario Molina Passed away at 77:

Mario Molina, only Mexican scientist to be honored with **Nobel Prize in chemistry**, **1995** passed away. He won prize along with **F.S. Rowland** of US & **P. Crutzen** of the Netherlands for their research into climate change.

Veteran Marathi actor Avinash Kharshikar passes away:

Veteran Marathi actor **Avinash Kharshikar** died. He was a well-known for his comic acting in the **Marathi industry** and he worked with other well-known names in the Marathi industry like Ashok Saraf and the late Laxmikanth Berde.

Kannada Veteran Director Vijay passes away at 84:

Veteran film maker **B. Vijaya Reddy** of the **Kannada film** industry passed away. He is most remembered for his collaboration with **Dr. Rajkumar** to deliver some of his super-hit films. He has directed several films including Naa Ninna Bidalare, Auto Raja, Deva.

Former India football captain Carlton Chapman passes away at 49:

Former **India football captain Carlton Chapman**, who had formed a deadly trio in club football with **Bhaichung Bhutia** and **IM Vijayan** in the 1990s, died in Bengaluru. A creative midfielder, Chapman played for India between 1995 and 2001. India won the 1997 SAFF Cup under his captaincy.

Justice KK Usha, first woman chief justice of Kerala HC from the bar, passes away at 81:

Justice K K Usha, former **Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court**, passed away. She served as a judge from 1991 to 2000. And when she was appointed Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court from **2000 to 2001**, Justice Usha became the **first woman** to join the **High Court Judiciary** from the Bar and became a Chief Justice.

Renowned Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer Priscilla Jana passes away at 76:

Renowned **Indian-origin South African** human rights lawyer **Priscilla Jana** who represented many anti-apartheid political leaders, including **Nelson Mandela**, has passed away. He had played a significant role against **apartheid**, was the Deputy Chairperson of the **South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)**.

Nagaland's Environment Minister C M Chang passes away at 78:

Nagaland's environment minister, **C M Chang** passed away due to COVID-19. He was a **retired IAS officer** and former Member of Parliament, **Lok Sabha (2009-13)**.

Former Karnataka Bank Chairman Ananthakrishna passes away at 74:

Former **Chairman** and **Chief Executive Officer** of **Karnataka Bank Limited Ananthakrishna** passed away. He was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the bank from **2000 to 2009** and thereafter had continued as Non-Executive Chairman of the Bank.

Former Odisha Assembly speaker Sarat Kar Passed away at 81:

Former **Odisha** Assembly Speaker **Sarat Kumar Kar** passed away. He is a veteran leader and **eminent writer**. He was elected to State Legislative Assembly thrice from **Mahanga**. He was Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly from **2000 to 2004**.

'Nightingale of Gujarat' Kaumudi Munshi passes away at 93:

Leading singer of **Gujarati** Sugam Sangeet **Kaumudi Munshi**, known as the

"Nightingale of Gujarat", passed away. She was trained under legendary thumri exponent, Siddheshwari Devi. For 5 years, she trained for ghazals under Taj Khan.

Bihar Minister Vinod Kumar Singh passes away at 50:

Minister for **Backward and Extremely Backward Classes** in **Bihar**, **Vinod Kumar Singh** passed away due to COVID-19. He was a **BJP** MLA from Pranpur Assembly constituency of Katihar district in northeast Bihar and has been elected **MLA thrice** from the constituency.

Former 400m Hurdles Olympic Champion Charlie Moore passed away at 91:

American Athlete **Charlie Moore**, 1952 Olympic **400 metre(m) Hurdles Champion** passed away due to pancreatic cancer at the age of 91. He was born in August 1929 in Pennsylvania, United States of America(USA).

Former New Zealand all-rounder John R Reid passes away at 92:

John Richard Reid, former New Zealand great and their **oldest surviving Test player**, has died at the age of **92 in Auckland**. he scored **3428 runs in 58 Test matches** with an **average of 33.28**, hitting 22 half-centuries and six centuries in a career that spanned over 16 years. His maiden Test century, a **knock of 135**, came against South Africa in Cape Town in 1954.

Padma Shri awardee and renowned Kuchipudi dancer Shobha Naidu passes away at 64:

Padma Shri awardee and renowned **Kuchipudi** dancer **Shobha Naidu** passes away due to prolonged illness. She extensively toured the US, UK, Dubai, Turley, Hongkong, Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba to

give stage performances of Kuchipudi dance. She won **Padma Shri in 2001** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1991**.

India's First Oscar winning costume designer Bhanu Athaiya passes away at 91:

Bhanu Athaiya, the costume designer who became the **first Indian to win an Oscar**, for Richard Attenborough's "**Gandhi**" (1982), died at her home in Mumbai after a prolonged illness. She also designed costumes for over **100 Bollywood movies**.

Veteran cricket journalist and commentator Kishore Bhimani passes away at 80:

Veteran **cricket journalist and commentator Kishore Bhimani** passed away on at the age of 80. He was considered an **encyclopaedia** of the game, is best remembered for being on air during the tied Test of 1986 between **India and Australia** in Chepauk. He had received a **lifetime achievement award** for his decades long contribution in the fields of media and commentary in **2013**.

Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passes away at 94:

Padma Shri awardee **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri** is also known for his **critical essays, short stories** and other **literary works**. His works have been translated into **multiple languages**. He is a recipient of **Jnanpith Award (2019)**, India's highest literary honour and **Padma Shri (2017)**.

Veteran Bengali Vocal Artist Pradip Ghosh passes away at 78:

Noted Bengali elocutionist Pradip Ghosh has passed away at his residence in **Kolkata**.

He tested coronavirus positive, in a swab test which was taken after his death. Ghosh was a **prominent recitor** and renowned **vocal artist**, who was well-known for his inimitable style of recitation.

Freedom Fighter and 'Maddale' Artist Hiriadka Gopal Rao passes away at 100:

Yakshagana artist and freedom fighter **Hiriyadka Gopal Rao**, popularly known as '**Maddale Mantrika**', a maestro in playing the maddale, a percussion instrument, passed away at his residence in Ontibetti near Hiriyadka in **Udupi**.

Bihar Minister Kapil Dev Kamat passes away at 69:

Prominent Janata Dal-United leader **Kapil Dev Kamat**, Minister of **Panchayati Raj**, passed away. Before joining the JD-U, he was in the Congress party where he became a convenor in 1990 when **Jagannath Mishra** was the Chief Minister of Bihar.

Kumkum Bhagya Actor Zarina Roshan Khan passed away at 54:

Renowned TV actress, **Zarina Roshan Khan** passed away. She is fondly remembered for her role in the television show '**Kumkum Bhagya**' as **Indu Dadi**, has passed away due to sudden cardiac arrest.

First Woman Officer of Indian Air Force Vijayalakshmi Ramanan Passes Away at 96:

First woman officer of **Indian Air Force**, Wing Commander (retd) **Dr Vijaylakshmi Ramanan** passed away at 96. Also a renowned **gynaecologist**, Dr Vijaylakshmi Ramanan had served in the **Army Medical Corps** in 1955. She was awarded the **Vishisht Seva Medal** in 1977.

Renowned economist Dr Jayanta Madhab passes away

Renowned economist from **Assam**, **Dr Jayanta Madhab** passed away. He worked as financial adviser to **Calcutta Metropolitan Development Corporation** and has served as director at the ADB. He was the founder chairman of **North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.**

First woman IAF Officer Vijayalakshmi Ramanan (retd) passes away at 96:

Wing Commander **Vijayalakshmi Ramanan**, the first woman officer to be commissioned in the **Indian Air Force**, has passed away. Dr Ramanan served as an obstetrician and **gynaecologist** at various **Air Force Hospitals**. She was honoured with the Vishist Seva Medal five years later.

Eminent economist Dr. Jayanta Madhab passes away at 91:

A renowned economist, **Dr. Jayanta Madhab** passed away. Madhab graduated in economics from JB College, Jorhat and pursued his masters from **Gauhati University**. He earned his doctorate degree in financial management from the **London School of Economics**.

Veteran TRS leader and Telangana's first home minister Nayani Narsimha Reddy passes away at 86:

Former **Telangana home minister** and senior TRS leader **Nayini Narsimha Reddy** passed away. He served as MLA from Musheerabad assembly constituency thrice and was **Member of Legislative Council**. He was the first home minister of Telangana.

Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Awardee Zero Babu passes away at 80:

Playback **singer, music director** and actor **K J Mohammed Babu**, popularly known as 'Zero' Babu passed away. Babu was a recipient of the **Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award**. He has sung in nearly 90 films and various plays. His first movie was the 1964 film '**Kudumbini**'.

SPORTS NEWS:

Valtteri Bottas wins Russian GP after Lewis Hamilton is handed 10-second penalty:

Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) won his second Formula One race of the 2020 season. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by the 6-time world champion **Lewis Hamilton** (Mercedes-Great Britain), who stood third because of two separate five-second penalties.

Australia's Alyssa Healy Breaks MS Dhoni's Record of Most Dismissals by Wicket-Keeper in T20Is:

Australia's wicket-keeper bat **Alyssa Healy** broke **MS Dhoni's** record of having most dismissals as a wicket-keeper in **Twenty20 Internationals** (T20Is). Healy now has **92 dismissals** in the shortest format of the game, while Dhoni had held the record previously with **91 dismissals** in T20 internationals. Dhoni played **98 T20Is** for India.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins 10-meter air rifle gold at 5th International Online Shooting Championship:

India's 16-year-old **Visnu Shivaraj Pandian** has won the **10m air rifle** event at the fifth edition of the **International Online Shooting Championship**. Visnu win the title by a clear margin of two points.

The second place was won by world no. 27 **Etienne Germond** of France while Olympic quota winner **Martin Strempl** of Austria took the third place. Shooters from 15 countries are participating in the two-day competition.

MS Dhoni becomes the only Indian to play 100 consecutive T20 innings without scoring a duck:

MS Dhoni became the **first Indian** to play **100 consecutive T20 innings** without getting out on a **duck**. The last time Dhoni scored a duck in T20 cricket was in 2015.

Chris Gayle holds the record for the most innings (145) without a duck in T20 cricket.

Iga Swiatek wins French Open, becomes first Pole to win Grand Slam singles title:

Iga Swiatek crowned an extraordinary fortnight to win the **French Open** in a blaze of winners crushing **Sofia Kenin** 6-4, 6-1. Swiatek, who had dropped only 23 games en route to the final, produced another audacious display as she became the **first Polish player** to win a Grand Slam singles title. In Women's doubles, **Timea Babos & Kristina Mladenovic** retained their French Open title defeating **Alexa Guarachi & Desirae Krawczyk**.

Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win his 13th French Open Men's Singles title and claims his 20th Grand Slam title:

Rafael Nadal's 100th match win at the **French Open** earned him his **20th Grand Slam** title and rival **Roger Federer** for the men's singles record. To add even more of a shine to the achievement, the victory was perhaps one of Nadal's best efforts 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 drubbing of Novak Djokovic played under

the brand-new roof on **Court Philippe Chatrier**.

Indian teenager Nihal Sarin Wins Junior Speed Chess Championship:

Indian teenager created history by winning the **Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship**, defeating Russia's **Alexey Sarana** 18-7 in the final.

He also qualified for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature the **world's best players**. **Magnus Carlsen** (2017) and **Hikaru Nakamura** (2018, 2019) have won the Speed Chess Championship in the past.

Lewis Hamilton equals Michael Schumacher's 91 race wins at Eifel F1 Grand Prix:

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the **2020 Eifel Grand Prix**, held at the Nürburgring in **Nürburg, Germany**. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) came second followed by **Daniel Ricciardo** (Renault, Australia) at third position. This is Hamilton's **7th win** of the season and 91st career race victory, which was till now achieved only by **Michael Schumacher**.

Los Angeles Lakers beat Miami Heat to clinch 17th Title in NBA finals 2020:

Los Angeles Lakers defeated the **Miami Heat** to win the **National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020**. This is the **17th NBA title** win for LA Lakers and also their first since 2010, after late Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago. **LeBron James of the Lakers'** was named the NBA Finals **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** for the fourth time in his career.

All India Football Federation announces 'Indian Football – Forward Together' as its new motto:

All India Football Federation, the apex body for the sport of football in the country, announced the launch of their new motto '**Indian Football- Forward Together**'. India with the support of the **football community**, and **creates synergy** with the core values of the organization - **passion, respect, leadership, teamwork, integrity, professionalism and inclusivity.**

Pakistan Pace bowler Umar Gul announces retirement from all forms of cricket:

Pakistan pacer **Umar Gul** has announced he is retiring from all forms of cricket after his domestic team Balochistan failed to make the semifinals of the ongoing **National T20 Cup**. Gul brought an end to a **17-year** international career that began with an ODI against Zimbabwe in **April 2003**. He played **47 Tests, 130 ODIs and 60 T20Is** and took a combined **427 wickets** across formats.

Nozomi Okuhara clinches Women's Singles title at Denmark Open:

Former World Champion **Nozomi Okuhara** clinched the **Denmark Open title** beating **three-time** world champion **Carolina Marin** in women's singles. The Japanese star took 56 minutes to get the better of the Olympic gold medallist Spaniard in two games 21-19, 21-17, at Odense.

In the **Men's Singles Final**, world number seven **Anders Antonsen** of Denmark defeated his compatriot **Rasmus Gemke** by 18-21, 21-19, 21-12.

Indian Shooters Elavenil and Shahu Mane wins' gold, silver in Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship:

World number one Indian **Elavenil Valarivan** won a gold medal and **Shahu Tushar Mane** bagged a silver in the **Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship**, held virtually. The championship was organised by **Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF).**

IMPORTANT DAYS:

DATE	DAY	THEME
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	-
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	"Leave No One Behind"
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	"Shaping Peace Together"
October 2	World Day for Farmed Animals	-
October (2-8)	Wildlife Week	"Roar (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships"
October (4-10)	World Space Week	"Satellites Improve Life"
October 5	World Teachers' Day	"Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future"
October 5	World Habitat Day	"Housing For All – A Better Urban Future"
October 7	World Cotton Day	"Cotton: The Fibre that Moves Me"

October 8	Air Force Day	-	October 16	World Food Day	"Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together. Our actions are our future"
October 8	World Sight Day	"Hope In Sight"	October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	"Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all"
October 9	World Post Day	"We Have Always Delivered"	October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	"THAT'S OSTEOPOROSIS"
October 9	World Egg Day(second Friday of October)	"Eat Your Egg Today And Every Day"	October 20	World Statistics Day	"Connecting the world with data we can trust"
October 10	World Mental Health Day	"Mental Health for All: Greater Investment - Greater"	October 20	International Chefs Day	'Healthy Food for the Future!'
October 10	World Migratory Bird Day	"Birds Connect Our World"	October 21	Police Commemoration Day	-
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	"My Voice, Our Equal Future"	October 21	World Iodine Deficiency Day	-
October 12	World Arthritis Day	"Time2Work"	October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	"Journey of Words - Resilience and Bouncing Back"
October 13	International Day for Disaster Reduction	"Disaster Risk Governance"	October 23	International Snow Leopard Day	-
October 14	World Standards Day	"Protecting the planet with standards"	October 24	United Nations Day	"The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism"
October 14	International E-Waste Day	-	October 24	World Development Information Day	-
October 15	World Students Day	"Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace"	October 24	World Polio Day	"A Win Against Polio is a Win for Global Health"
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	"Rural women and girls building resilience"			
October 15	Global Handwashing Day	"Hand Hygiene for All"			

October 30	World Thrift Day	-
October 31	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day	-

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ:

Q.1) Name the first women airborne tacticians in India to operate from the deck of warships despite being employed in different ranks in Indian Navy.

- a) Rashi Thakur and Kumudini Tyagi
- b) Kumudini Tyagi and Riti Singh
- c) Anandi Rathi and Kumudini Tyagi
- d) Riti Singh and Anandi Rathi
- e) Rashi Thakur and Riti Singh

Q.2) Who has been elected as the new president of Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF)?

- a) Manish Pandey
- b) Shashi Shekhar
- c) K Madhavan
- d) Venkatesh Nair
- e) Keshava Kumar

Q.3) Who among the following has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly a Rafale?

- a) Samyuktha Hedge
- b) Shivangi Singh
- c) Malvika Menon
- d) Harini Singh
- e) Sagundhala Devi

Q.4) Who has recently been signed as its brand ambassador by CEAT Tyres?

- a) Varun Dhawan
- b) Sonu Sood
- c) Amir Khan
- d) Akshay Kumar
- e) Shahid Kapoor

Q.5) EESL has appointed _____ as its new Managing Director from immediate effect.

- a) Varan Deepak
- b) Rajat Sud
- c) Malini Ravichandran
- d) Shiva Shankar
- e) Nanda Krishna

Q.6) Who has been awarded the AIFF (All India Football Federation) Men's Footballer of the Year Award?

- a) Sunil Chhetri
- b) Baichung Bhutia
- c) Vikram Singh
- d) Udanta Singh
- e) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

Q.7) Which state government has decided to provide loans to entrepreneurs to revive the tourism sector under the 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme'?

- a) Assam
- b) Bihar
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Nagaland
- e) Uttarakhand

Q.8) ADB has approved a \$300 million loan to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of which state?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Gujarat
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) West Bengal

Q.9) Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the new 'Cable Stayed Bridge' constructed across Durgam Cheruvu Lake in which of the following cities?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Kochi

c) Jaipur

d) Chennai

e) Mumbai

Q.10) 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from January 2021 in ____.

a) Tamil Nadu

b) Manipur

c) Goa

d) Maharashtra

e) Karnataka

Q.11) Name the Indian Cricketer who has been appointed brand ambassador of Aakash Educational Services Limited.

a) Suresh Raina

b) Virat Kohli

c) M S Dhoni

d) Yuvraj Singh

e) Rohit Sharma

Q.12) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the BCCI's women's national selection panel?

a) Anju Jain

b) Shubhangi Kulkarni

c) Maheshwari

d) Neetu David

e) Purnima Rau

Q.13) Who is the winner of the F1 Russian Grand Prix 2020?

a) Max Verstappen

b) Lewis Hamilton

c) Charles Leclerc

d) Sebastian Vettel

e) Valtteri Bottas

Q.14) Where will the Uttar Pradesh's first vulture conservation and breeding centre be established?

a) Aligarh

b) Gorakhpur

c) Shamli

d) Meerut

e) Lucknow

Q.15) Under Phase-II of FAME India Scheme, in which of the following states did the government did not sanction electric buses?

a) Maharashtra

b) Karnataka

c) Gujarat

d) Rajasthan

e) Assam

Q.16) RBI has roped in _____ for customer awareness campaign to prevent gullible account holders from being duped.

a) Salman Khan

b) Amitabh Bachchan

c) Sonu Sood

d) Ayushmann Khurrana

e) Amir Khan

Q.17) Which state has launched Radio Pathshala program for students up to class 8?

a) Chhattisgarh

b) Odisha

c) Jharkhand

d) Telangana

e) Rajasthan

Q.18) World Bank has approved a \$200mn loan for which country to improve access to safe water & sanitation services in rural areas?

a) Maldives

b) Nepal

c) Bangladesh

d) Bhutan

e) Myanmar

Q.19) Name the Union Home Minister who has virtually inaugurates 'Destination North East-2020'.

a) Sadananda Gowda

- b) Jitendra Singh
- c) Ramesh Pokhriyal
- d) Amit Shah
- e) Rajnath Singh

Q.20) Which state government develops new mobile app "Visitassam" For air passengers from Other state?

- a) Assam
- b) Bihar
- c) Karnataka
- d) Gujarat
- e) Maharashtra

Q.21) Moctar Ouane has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- a) Malawi
- b) Kenya
- c) Senegal
- d) Mali
- e) Nigeria

Q.22) India's 1st Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will provide its services to Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS by which year?

- a) 2030
- b) 2025
- c) 2023
- d) 2027
- e) 2022

Q.23) Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of the online tutor company Vedantu?

- a) Ayushmann khurrana
- b) Sonu Sood
- c) Aamir Khan
- d) Shahrukh Khan
- e) Amitab Bhachhan

Q.24) Name the person Who Headed 3-member Committee of Directors (CoD)

formed by RBI to look after the affairs of Lakshmi Vilas Bank?

- a) Satish Kumar Kalra
- b) Injeti Srinivasan
- c) Shakti Sinha
- d) Meeta Makhan
- e) Jai Shankar

Q.25) Name the Indian cricketer who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Kerala based start-up 'Entri'?

- a) Suresh Raina
- b) Robin Uthappa
- c) Rishab Pant
- d) KL Rahul
- e) Nitish Rana

Q.26) Alapan Bandopadhyay has been appointed as the chief secretary of which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) Maharashtra
- d) West Bengal
- e) Andhra Pradesh

Q.27) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India?

- a) P. D. Vaghela
- b) K Kapil Sharma
- c) S Praveen Kumar
- d) R.S. Sharma
- e) P Hari Krishna

Q.28) Which minister has launched Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)'s Vaccine Web Portal and National Clinical Registry for COVID-19?

- a) Nitin Gadkari
- b) Rajnath Singh
- c) Amit Shah
- d) Harsh Vardhan

e) Prakash Javadekar

Q.29) Which of the following state has announced the Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for the year 2020-21?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh
- e) Karnataka

Q.30) Which of the following company appoints Rinki Sethi as New Information Security Head?

- a) Infosys
- b) Twitter
- c) Microsoft
- d) Facebook
- e) Wipro

Q.31) How much was extended as financial assistance by India to Sri Lanka for promotion of Buddhist ties between two countries?

- a) USD 25 million
- b) USD 15 million
- c) USD 20 million
- d) USD 35 million
- e) USD 10 million

Q.32) Which state government is set to launch the web portal named "Dharani" for integrated land record management?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Bihar
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Telangana
- e) Karnataka

Q.33) PM Modi has inaugurated the first-of-its-kind "Ganga Avalokan" museum on river Ganga at which city?

- a) Jaipur
- b) Haridware
- c) Varanasi

d) Patna

e) Lucknow

Q.34) Virgin Hyperloop has signed an MoU with which of the following airports in order to conduct a feasibility study of high-speed corridor?

- a) Cochin International Airport
- b) Bangalore International Airport
- c) Indira Gandhi International Airport
- d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- e) Chennai International Airport

Q.35) Who is the author of the book 'A bouquet of flowers'?

- a) Vijay Singh
- b) Ramakrishna
- c) Krishna Saksena
- d) Kalpana Singh
- e) Varun Sharma

Q.36) Which state government has launched Jala Kala Scheme for small and marginal farmers?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Telangana

Q.37) Name the Bollywood actor Who has been honored with the SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by UNDP?

- a) Ayushmann khurrana
- b) Varun Dhawan
- c) Akshay Kumar
- d) Sonu Sood
- e) Amitabh Bachchan

Q.38) Who has been appointed as additional Director on Dhanlaxmi Bank board?

- a) D K Kashyap
- b) H Pradeep Rao
- c) Nitin Kumar Kohli

d) Sunil K. Gupta

e) P Harichandran

Q.39) Who has been appointed as President of Film & Television Institute of India Society?

a) Ranjith Shetty

b) Shekhar Kapur

c) Manohar Raj

d) Anupam Kher

e) Paresh Rawal

Q.40) Which of the following Railway zone has launched "Operation My Saheli" to enhance security of women passengers?

a) North Eastern Railway

b) South Eastern Railway

c) Eastern Railway

d) South Central Railway

e) East Central Railway

Q.41) Who has been named as India's richest woman according to IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020?

a) Ronnie Screwvala

b) Indra K Nooyi

c) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

d) Smita V Crishna

e) Roshini Nadar

Q.42) Which of the following state has launched a dedicated online portal Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers due to Covid-19?

a) Kerala

b) Tripura

c) Nagaland

d) Mizoram

e) Assam

Q.43) Syeda Anwara Taimur who passed away recently is the 1st and only women chief minister of which state?

a) Maharashtra

b) Karnataka

c) Tripura

d) Assam

e) Meghalaya

Q.44) Which state government has signed an MoU with Denmark in the water sector?

a) Karnataka

b) Gujarat

c) Maharashtra

d) Nagaland

e) Rajasthan

Q.45) Who has been given the additional charge of National Security Guard (NSG)?

a) P Rajesh Kumar

b) Surjeet Singh Deswal

c) Sunil Sethi

d) A K Singh

e) Naresh Singh

Q.46) Which of the following state has won the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Grand Award 2020 for its Tourism Campaign?

a) Maharashtra

b) Uttar Pradesh

c) Kerala

d) Gujarat

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.47) Name the state which bags eight awards for implementation of 'Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA)' for the benefit of labourers?

a) Karnataka

b) Uttar Pradesh

c) Andhra Pradesh

d) Gujarat

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.48) Toyota has appointed whom as the brand ambassador for the soon-to-be launched SUV model Urban Cruiser?

a) Amir Khan

b) Akshay Kumar

c) Ayushmann Khurrana
d) Salman Khan
e) Amitabh Bachchan
Q.49) Which of the following country has signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with NITI Aayog for 'Decarbonization and energy transition agenda'?

A) Singapore
B) Nepal
C) Denmark
D) Indonesia
e) Netherlands
Q.50) Which Indian state has presented the Anundoram Borooah Award 2020?

a) Assam
b) Manipur
c) Nagaland
d) Sikkim
e) Mizoram
Q.51) Name the former Indian cricketer who has appointed as brand ambassador of Bengal Peerless?

a) MS Dhoni
b) Sourav Ganguly
c) Gautam Gambir
d) Sachin Tendulkar
e) Kapil Dev
Q.52) DRDO conducted successful test flight of its BrahMos supersonic cruise missile recently. It is a _____ type of missile

a) Air to Surface
b) Surface to Air
c) Surface to Surface
d) Air to Air
e) None of the Above
Q.53) Which of the following organizations has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Power detailing targets to be achieved by the company for FY 2020-21?

a) NHPC
b) NPCI
c) PFC
d) NTPC
e) BHEL
Q.54) Who has been appointed as advisor of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)?

a) Dhanalakshmi
b) Jagdeesh Singh
c) Sunil Sethi
d) Ravi Varma
e) Mohan Kumar
Q.55) Who has contributed the most number of dismissals in T20 Internationals as wicket keeper?

a) Rishab Pant
b) Adam Gilchrist
c) Quinton de Kock
d) Alyssa Healy
e) MS Dhoni
Q. 56) Name the Minister who has launched the new logo of the Sports Authority of India (SAI)?

a) Harsha Vardhan
b) Kiren Rijiju
c) Rajnath Singh
d) Prahlad Patel
e) Amit Shah
Q.57) Which of the following state government has inaugurated its first Pirul power project?

a) Karnataka
b) Uttarakhand
c) Meghalaya
d) Telangana
e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.58) Who among the following has become the new National President of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)?

- a) Arujun Chandraseker
- b) Purnachandra Rao Surapaneni
- c) Kirloskar kawaskoi
- d) Venkat Arunachalam
- e) Manohar Manoj

Q.59) Who heads the panel constituted by government of India to examine Chinese foreign investment proposals?

- a) Anurag Sinha
- b) Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- c) Akash Chaturvedi
- d) Rajiv Gauba
- e) Ajay Tyagi

Q.60) Who has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Haryana (September 2020)?

- a) Ramesh Sobti
- b) Panner Selvam
- c) Vijai Vardhan
- d) Chandra Mohan
- e) Arun Prasad

Q.61) Who among the following has represented India at UN Summit on Biodiversity?

- a) Nitin Gadkari
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Amit Shah
- e) Ram Nath Kovind

Q.62) India has inked USD 90 million defence deal with which country to buy spare parts for its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft?

- a) Iran
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) United States

e) China

Q.63) Who has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India?

- a) Prashant Kumar
- b) Venkat Nageshwar
- c) Charanjit Singh Attra
- d) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- e) Swaminathan Janakiraman

Q.64) Who among the following has assumed charge as the new Union Pharma Secretary?

- a) Nitish Kumar
- b) S Aparna
- c) Ankit Tiwari
- d) Om Prakash
- e) Lalit Gupta

Q.65) Who among the following launched the Book title 'Bapu - The Unforgettable' On Gandhi Jayanti?

- a) Venkaiah Naidu
- b) Narendra Modi
- c) Arvind Kejriwal
- d) Manish Sisodia
- e) Ramnath Kovind

Q.66) Name the project which has been launched to digitize provident fund, pension services of CMPFO?

- a) Smiriti
- b) Sunidhi
- c) Utkarsh
- d) Sanjeevani
- e) Sankalp

Q.67) Who among the following has assumed charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment?

- a) Karanjith Singh
- b) Manoj Kumar
- c) Om Prakash
- d) Apurva Chandra

e) Rajiv Singh

Q.68) Who has been appointed as India's Next Ambassador To Cambodia?

- a) Surendra Singh
- b) Vasudev Krishna
- c) Sunil Menon
- d) Devyani Uttam Khobragade
- e) Vibhas Pande

Q.69) Name the Bilateral Exercise held between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy?

- a) Khanjar
- b) Bongosagar
- c) Shakti
- d) Surya Kiran
- e) Garuda

Q.70) Who among the following will inaugurate the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik, VAIBHAV Summit via video conferencing?

- a) Amit Shah
- b) Harsha Vardhan
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Rajnath Singh
- e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Q.71) Which state government is undertaking a door-to-door survey to update non-agricultural property details through the NAP (Non Agricultural Property) app?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu
- e) Telangana

Q.72) Which Indian state has bagged Top position under the Swachh Sundar Samudayak Shouchalaya category of Swachh Bharat Awards-2020?

- a) Punjab
- b) Karnataka
- c) Haryana

d) Gujarat

e) Chhattisgarh

Q.73) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates nation world's longest high altitude Atal Tunnel in which State/UT?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Andaman and Nicobar
- e) Tripura

Q.74) Name the India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace launched by Arjun Munda on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

- a) Handicraft E-place
- b) Bidriware handicrafts
- c) Handicraft Exports
- d) Tribes India E-Marketplace
- e) Tribes Organic India marketplace

Q.75) Which state government launches "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme for road repair?

- a) Telangana
- b) Karnataka
- c) West Bengal
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Manipur

Q.76) Who has been appointed as the fourth Deputy Governor of RBI?

- a) Anil Sabharwal
- b) Sachin Chaturvedi
- c) Shatrughan Sinha
- d) M Rajeshwar Rao
- e) Debashish Mohanty

Q.77) Who has been appointed the MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)?

- a) Suresh Sethi
- b) J Venkatramu
- c) K.G. Karmakar
- d) Anubrata Biswas

e) Satish Kumar Gupta

Q.78) RBI approves appointment of interim committee of directors (CoD) headed by whom to run Dhanlaxmi Bank?

- a) Ram Chandra
- b) G Subramonia Iyer
- c) Sunil Gurbaxani
- d) P.K Vijayakumar
- e) G Rajagopalan Nair

Q.79) Which Indian state has launched a portal called 'Kritagyata', an online pension submission and tracking system?

- a) Assam
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tripura
- e) Jharkhand

Q.80) Which of the following actress has topped the Forbes' Highest-Paid Actresses 2020 list?

- a) Scarlett Johansson
- b) Angelina Jolie
- c) Sophia Turner
- d) Elizabeth Olsen
- e) Sofia Vergara

Q.81) Which state government has launched construction of 750 rural stadiums and playgrounds under 'Rural Transformation Strategy'?

- a) Bihar
- b) Haryana
- c) Assam
- d) Punjab
- e) Manipur

Q.82) Name the Indian Company's Only CMO who has been featured in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs' 2020?

- a) Nikhil Sharma
- b) Sunil Mehta

c) Ravi Santhanam

d) Aditya Puri

e) Dinesh Sharma

Q.83) Name the author of the Coffee Table Book titled "Discovering the Heritage of Assam" released by DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

- a) Dipankar Dutta
- b) Alok Sharma
- c) Padmapani Bora
- d) Aditya Roy

e) Purnendu Kant

Q.84) Name the Indian shooter who won 10-meter air rifle gold at 5th International Online Shooting Championship?

- a) Saurabh Chaudhary
- b) Abhinav Bindra
- c) Visnu Shivaraj Pandian
- d) Aprajita Singh
- e) Jitu Rai

Q.85) Which of the following organization has partnered with HelpAge India to afford digital literacy to rural elderly citizens under "Aalambana" project?

- a) National e-Governance Division (NeGD)
- b) Cascading Style Sheets(CSS)
- c) Common Services Centre (CSC)
- d) Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
- e) None of the Above

Q.86) Who has been honoured with the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce's lifetime achievement and Global Excellence award 2020?

- a) Narayana Murthy
- b) Vikram Singh
- c) Ratan Tata
- d) Harini Sekar
- e) Azim Premji

Q.87) Name the foundation which has received the UNSDG Action Award 2020 for its work on crop residue management?

- a) Biocon Foundation
- b) CII Foundation
- c) Adani Foundation
- d) Bosch Foundation
- e) Reliance Foundation

Q.88) Who is the author of the book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids"?

- a) Purnendu Kant
- b) Sudha Murthy
- c) Anand Neelakantan
- d) Shanker Ram
- e) Arundhati Roy

Q.89) Name the spacecraft of Northrop Grumman Cygnus (NG-14 Cygnus) which was launched by NASA recently.

- a) Isaac Newton
- b) SS Kalpana Chawla
- c) APJ Abdul Kalam
- d) Albert Einstein
- e) Sunita Williams

Q.90) Name the state government which has launched 'Gram Darshan' platform to enable the digital accessibility of data of gram panchayats?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Haryana
- c) Mizoram
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Gujarat

Q.91) which of the following state/UT has first ever airport of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to become entirely solar-powered?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Puducherry
- c) Gujarat

d) Chhattisgarh

e) Telangana

Q.92) Name the missile successfully test fired by India at the APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

- a) Agni
- b) Shaurya
- c) Akash
- d) Indra
- e) Shakti

Q.93) Famous chilli "Dalle Khursani" recently got GI tag based on which state?

- a) Manipur
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura
- d) Gujarat
- e) Kerala

Q.94) India has Partnered with which country to launch the constellation of maritime surveillance satellites to trace illegal spillage of oil by ships?

- a) China
- b) Germany
- c) France
- d) Russia
- e) Japan

Q.95) Who among the following has awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology 2020 for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus?

- a) M. Houghton
- b) Harvey J Alter
- c) Charles M Rice
- d) Both a and b
- e) All of the above

Q.96) Which of the following state/UT has launched anti-pollution campaign named "Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh"?

- a) Jammu & Kashmir

- b) Manipur
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Delhi
e) Chhattisgarh
Q.97) Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a Super Speciality Block (SSB) at Motilal Nehru Medical College in which city?
a) Surat
b) Prayagraj
c) Hyderabad
d) Lucknow
e) Jaipur
Q.98) Name the cricketer who has become the first Indian to play 100 consecutive T20 innings without getting out on a duck?
a) Suresh Raina
b) Virat Kohli
c) MS Dhoni
d) Shikhar Dhawan
e) Rohit Sharma
Q.99) Indian Navy Helicopters has partnered with which of the following municipal corporations to undertake the process of aerial seeding?
a) Lucknow Municipal Corporation
b) Chennai Municipal Corporation
c) Vijayawada Municipal Corporation
d) Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation
e) Mumbai Municipal Corporation
Q.100) Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited?
a) Ganesh Jadhav
b) Arvind Hali
c) Shreyas Goyal
d) Amar Singh
e) Bala Krishnan

- Q.101) Which of the following institution Partners with MIT to develop Productive Usage for Agricultural and Industrial By-products?
a) IIT- Kanpur
b) IIT-Madras
c) IIT-Bombay
d) IIT-Kharagpur
e) IIT- Roorkee
Q.102) Who is the 1st Indian bureaucrat to be honoured with Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)'s "Covid Crusader Award-2020"?
a) Ajit Doval
b) Karan Singh
c) Nripendra Misra
d) Iqbal Singh Chahal
e) Ashok Lavasa
Q.103) Who among the following addressed the International Webinar on Textile Traditions which was organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)?
a) Venkaiah Naidu
b) Ram Nath Kovind
c) Harsha Vardhan
d) Narendra Modi
e) Nitin Gadkari
Q.104) Who has been appointed as the Special Expenditure Observers by the Election Commission for the General Election of Bihar, 2020?
a) B. R Balakrishnan
b) Rajiv Singh
c) Madhu Mahajan
d) Sushil Modi
e) Both A and C
Q.105) Which of the following Station of Kolkata's East-West Metro corridor has been inaugurated by the Railway Minister by

flagging off 1st train from there to Salt Lake Sector-V?

- a) Bengal Chemical Station
- b) Phoolbagan Station
- c) Howrah Maidan Metro
- d) Sealdah metro station
- e) Barun Sengupta Metro Station

Q.106) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has partnered with which foodtech company to take street vendors online?

- a) Fast Food
- b) Zomato
- c) Swiggy
- d) FoodPanda
- e) UberEats

Q.107) Naugarh railway station was renamed as Siddharthnagar railway station is located at which of the following state?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Uttar Pradesh
- e) Assam

Q.108) Name the whole time SEBI member who has received an extension in tenure for a year (October 2020)?

- a) Sanjay Bajaj
- b) Madhabi Puri Buch
- c) Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
- d) Dinesh Kumar
- e) SK Mohanty

Q.109) Which Indian state has announced the 'Digital Seva Setu' Programme for its rural areas?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Haryana
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Gujarat
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.110) The Sittwe port, which is scheduled to be operational in first quarter of 2021, has been built by India in which country?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Nepal
- c) Thailand
- d) Myanmar
- e) Bhutan

Q.111) Name the Indian cricketer who has been appointed as the brand ambassador and advisor of Sports tech start-up HUDLE?

- a) Ajinkya Rahane
- b) MS Dhoni
- c) Bhuvanesh Kumar
- d) Virat Kohli
- e) Rohit Sharma

Q.112) India's 1st ever organic spices seed park will be set up in which state?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Karnataka
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Gujarat
- e) Meghalaya

Q.113) Who has been appointed as the Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security?

- a) Ajit Deswal
- b) M A Ganapathy
- c) Surjeet Singh
- d) A P Maheshwari
- e) Rakesh Asthana

Q.114) Which of the following Institution has developed 'iMediX' telemedicine homecare technology for COVID-19?

- a) IIT Mandi
- b) IIT Bombay
- c) IIT Kharagpur
- d) IIT Madras
- e) IIT Kanpur

Q.115) Which of the following State has launched a mobile app 'Kisan Rath' to promote the buyer-seller network?

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Tripura
- d) Mizoram
- e) Gujarat

Q.116) Which state has launched the 'DISHTAVO' online e-learning platform for higher education?

- a) Haryana
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Goa
- d) Uttar Pradesh
- e) Chhattisgarh

Q.117) Who has been recently appointed as Chairman of the State Bank of India?

- a) Rajeev Setty
- b) Dinesh Kumar Khara
- c) Amarnath Singh
- d) Vineet Sharma
- e) Arijit Basu

Q.118) Who have won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of a method for genome editing?

- a) Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel
- b) George Smith and Sir Gregory Winter
- c) Roger Penrose and M. Stanley Whittingham
- d) Andrea Ghez and Akira Yoshino
- e) Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna

Q.119) Which state government signed MoU with DET, GIZ India and Siemens India to implement Indo-German Initiative for Technical Education (IGNITE)?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra

d) Telangana

e) Karnataka

Q.120) Who among the following has won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics for their pioneering work on space involving the black holes?

- a) Emmanuelle Charpentier, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz
- b) John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino
- c) Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez
- d) Jennifer A. Doudna, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg Didier Queloz
- e) James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Reinhard Genzel

Q.121) Name the country which was successfully tested a new hypersonic cruise missile 'Tsirkon (Zircon)'.

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) Russia
- d) France
- e) China

Q.122) NABARD has inked 3 MoUs with State Bank of India to extend credit support for various projects in which state?

- a) Bihar
- b) Gujarat
- c) Assam
- d) Kerala
- e) Maharashtra

Q.123) Name India's first Business-to-Business (B2B) Crypto trading exchange which has recently commenced operations.

- a) CoinDCX
- b) DigitX
- c) Unocoin
- d) Coinswitch

e) Cryptos

Q.124) Who has been awarded Nobel Prize 2020 in Literature?

- a) Louise Gluck
- b) Patrick Modiano
- c) Mats Malm
- d) Peter Handke
- e) Sadyr Zhaparov

Q.125) Which of the following institutions has developed Sahara, a mobile application that lets offline business owners create synergy with customers?

- a) IIT Delhi
- b) IIT Roorkee
- c) IIT Guwahati
- d) IIT Madras
- e) IIT Kanpur

Q.126) Which of the following state has partnered with the World Economic Forum to establish India's first advanced manufacturing hub?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Karnataka

Q.127) Name the Institute which has Developed Robotic Solution for Plant Disease Identification and Pesticide Use.

- a) IIT Gandhinagar
- b) IIT Varanasi
- c) IIT Madras
- d) IIT Kharagpur
- e) IIT Kanpur

Q.128) Who among the following has launched the 'Jan Andolan' campaign for ensuring COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour?

- a) Rajnath Sing
- b) Narendra Modi

c) Harsh Vardhan

d) Narendra Singh Tomar

e) Prahlad Patel

Q.129) Who has been given as the additional charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution?

- a) Dharmendra Pradhan
- b) Nitin Gadkari
- c) Harsha Vardhan
- d) Piyush Goyal
- e) Nirmala Sitharaman

Q.130) Who has been conferred with the prestigious Sarala Puraskar 2020?

- a) Nityanand Nayak
- b) Gayatri Saraf
- c) Tarun Mishra
- d) Paramita Satpathy
- e) Bibhuti Patnaik

Q.131) Which Indian state has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal' state in the country?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Gujarat
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand
- e) Goa

Q.132) Name the India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile, which was flight testes recently by DRDO

- a) RUDRAM
- b) DHRUVA
- c) AKASH
- d) SURYA
- e) SUNAN

Q.133) Which organization has won Nobel Peace Prize 2020?

- a) World Environment Programme (WEP)
- b) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- c) World Food Programme (WFP)

d) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

e) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Q.134) Ashwani Kumar, who has passed away recently, was the former Chief of which organisation?

a) National Investigation Agency

b) Central Bureau of Investigation

c) Narcotics Control Bureau

d) Central Vigilance Commission

e) Reserve Bank of India

Q.135) The government of which state has decided to set up a Welfare Fund Board for the uplift of farmers in the state?

a) Karnataka

b) Andhra Pradesh

c) Kerala

d) Haryana

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.136) Name the shuttler who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of India's 1st badminton brand named 'Transform'?

a) P.V. Sindhu

b) Pullela Gopichand

c) Chetan Anand

d) Saina Nehwal

e) Prakash Padukone

Q.137) Name the state government which has launched Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana to generate self-employment for youth and migrants.

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Maharashtra

d) Uttarakhand

e) Gujarat

Q.138) Which state/UT Police has decided to organise the 'Jashn-E-Dal' festival to boost

water sports activities and tourism in the area?

a) Haryana

b) Jammu & Kashmir

c) Karnataka

d) Chhattisgarh

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.139) Which state government has launched 'Jagananna Vidya Kanuka Scheme' to provide free kits to government school students?

a) Telangana

b) Karnataka

c) Tamil Nadu

d) Andhra Pradesh

e) Mizoram

Q.140) Which of the following state has dedicated an online e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme for free online medical consultation?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Chhattisgarh

c) Gujarat

d) Haryana

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.141) Which state government has launched "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" for empowerment of the economically disadvantaged women?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Assam

c) Maharashtra

d) Uttarakhand

e) Gujarat

Q.142) Who has inaugurated the Gyan circle ventures of IIIT Sri City, Andhra Pradesh?

a) Nirmala Sitharaman

b) Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

c) Harsh Vardhan

d) Nitin Gadkari

e) Prakash Javadekar

Q.143) Which of the following country becomes the 1st nation to approve genetically modified wheat?

- a) Brazil
- b) Argentina
- c) France
- d) Italy
- e) India

Q.144) Who is the winner of French Open Men's Tennis Championship 2020?

- a) Roger Federer
- b) Novak Djokovic
- c) Denis Shapovalov
- d) Rafael Nadal
- e) Diego Schwartzman

Q.145) Justice K K Usha, who has passed away recently, was the first women Chief Justice of which High Court?

- a) Allahabad
- b) Chennai
- c) Bombay
- d) Kerala
- e) Mumbai

Q.146) SEBI has inducted whom as a member of the Technical Group on Social Stock Exchange (SSE)?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) R. Balasubramaniam
- c) Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- d) Suresh Sethi
- e) Injeti Srinivas

Q.147) Name the state/UT which has launched the first-of-its-kind tree transplantation policy.

- a) Manipur
- b) New Delhi
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

e) Maharashtra

Q.148) Who among the following won Women's Singles French Open title 2020?

- a) Kristina Mladenovic
- b) Alexa Guarachi
- c) Sofia Kenin
- d) Iga Swiatek
- e) Serena Williams

Q.149) India becomes first nation to be awarded Blue Flag certification for How many Indian beaches in a single attempt?

- a) 15
- b) 9
- c) 8
- d) 11
- e) 13

Q.150) Srikant Datar has been named as the second Indian-descent dean of which institute?

- a) Harvard Business School
- b) Stanford Graduate School of Business
- c) London Business School
- d) Esade Business School
- e) University of Pennsylvania

Q.151) Who has won the Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship?

- a) Andrew Tang
- b) Haik Martirosyan
- c) Alexey Sarana
- d) Nihal Sarin
- e) Anton Smirnov

Q.152) Which of the following FinTech company has launched a Brand Campaign with Record 11 Cricket Stars as Brand Ambassadors?

- a) Paytm
- b) MobiKwik
- c) Google Pay
- d) BharatPe

e) PhonePe

Q.153) Sadyr Japarov appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Turkmenistan
- c) Kyrgyzstan
- d) Cuba
- e) Mauritania

Q.154) Which player has claimed the Formula One Eifel Grand Prix 2020 and equals Michael Schumacher's record?

- a) Sebastian Vettel
- b) Lewis Hamilton
- c) Max Verstappen
- d) Charles Leclerc
- e) Daniel Ricciardo

Q.155) Who among the following assumed charge as the Director (Rail and Metro Business) and Member on the Board of BEML Limited?

- a) Ranjith Kumar
- b) Amit Banerjee
- c) Haik Martirosyan
- d) Raman Singh
- e) Kedhar Jadhav

Q.156) Who has been appointed as Chief Technology & Digital Officer of ICICI Securities?

- a) Yagnesh Parikh
- b) Subhash Kelkar
- c) Bala Subramaniam
- d) Amit Singh
- e) Manish Sharma

Q.157) Which of the following state partners with India Posts to get farmers enrolled in PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Kerala
- c) Mizoram

d) Gujarat

e) Goa

Q.158) Name the team which has won the National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship 2020?

- a) Los Angeles Lakers
- b) Miami Heat
- c) California Rangers
- d) Milwaukee Bucks
- e) Houston Rockets

Q.159) Name the Author of the book "The Khalistan Conspiracy: A Former RAW Officer Unravels The Path To 1984".

- a) Dániel Torres
- b) GBS Sidhu
- c) Pal Tamas
- d) Anna Vari
- e) Pflum Orsi

Q.160) What is the rank of India in Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020 (where Norway Tops)?

- a) 144th
- b) 132nd
- c) 118th
- d) 129th
- e) 105th

Q.161) Who has been awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020?

- a) Robert Wilson
- b) Paul Milgrom
- c) Esther Duflo
- d) Both a and b
- e) All of the Above

Q.162) The 16-year-old Aava Murto was recently appointed as the Prime Minister of which country for a day?

- a) France
- b) Iceland

c) Netherlands

d) Finland

e) Mexico

Q.163) Which of the following State/UTs has introduced high-tech digital classrooms in all its public schools?

a) Andhra Pradesh

b) Jammu and Kashmir

c) Kerala

d) Chhattisgarh

e) Karnataka

Q.164) According to a recent study by Lancet Journal, India is set to become the third-largest economy by surpassing Japan by which year?

a) 2023

b) 2030

c) 2045

d) 2050

e) 2027

Q.165) Airports Authority of India recently announced that it will develop a greenfield airport at Hollongi by November 2022. Hollongi is located in which state?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Tripura

c) Arunachal Pradesh

d) Assam

e) Nagaland

Q.166) Which of the Following bank provides USD 310 million line of credit to Zimbabwe for thermal and river projects?

a) NBFC

b) EXIM

c) NABARD

d) RBI

e) SBI

Q.167) Rare Day Flying Moth 'Achelura Bifasciata' was sighted After Nearly 125 Years in which of the following State?

a) Himachal Pradesh

b) Uttar Pradesh

c) Andhra Pradesh

d) Uttarakhand

e) Karnataka

Q.168) Which of the following state have signed MoUs with 14 investors to invest over Rs 10, 055 Crores in various industrial projects?

a) Rajasthan

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Chhattisgarh

d) Haryana

e) Himachal Pradesh

Q.169) Which of the following entity has become the world's most valuable IT services company?

a) Wipro

b) Infosys

c) TCS

d) Accenture

e) IBM

Q.170) Which of the following state has launched MobileWater Testing Laboratory on Wheels to test the aquality of water at doorstep?

a) Maharashtra

b) Himachal Pradesh

c) Uttar Pradesh

d) Haryana

e) Karnataka

Q.171) Defence minister Rajnath Singh laid foundation stone for 450m long 'Nechiphu tunnel' in which Indian state?

a) Arunachal Pradesh

b) Uttarakhand

- c) Sikkim
d) Himachal Pradesh
e) Tripura
Q.172) TRIFED along with Chhattisgarh MFP and which Educational Institute has launched the "Tech for Tribals" initiative?
a) IIT Hyderabad
b) IIT Guwahati
c) IIT Madras
d) IIT Kanpur
e) IIT Mandi
Q.173) According to the report, IMF has projected India's GDP at what percent in FY21?
a) -13.2%
b) -8.8%
c) -10.3%
d) -7.7%
e) -8.4%
Q.174) Which of the following Bank has extended a USD 400 million soft loan to Maldives for undertaking the Greater Male's connectivity project?
a) ADB
b) EXIM
c) NDB
d) WB
e) NABARD
Q.175) India's National Maritime Foundation (NMF) signed MoU with which country's TAEF to foster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region?
a) Maldives
b) China
c) Hong Kong
d) Taiwan
e) Thailand

- Q.176) Food and beverage major PepsiCo will set up a greenfield potato chips production unit in which of the following state?
a) Maharashtra
b) Uttar Pradesh
c) Rajasthan
d) Haryana
e) Gujarat
Q.177) Who has launched an environmental award to support climate change named "Earthshot Prize"?
a) Prince William
b) David Attenborough
c) Prince Charles
d) Both b) and c)
e) Both a) and b)
Q.178) Name the bank which has partnered with Apollo to launch 1st of its kind initiative "HealthyLifeProgramme".
a) Federal Bank
b) ICICI Bank
c) HDFC Bank
d) IndusInd Bank
e) Axis Bank
Q.179) PM Narendra Modi has released "Deh Vechwa Karani" the autobiography of which former Union Minister?
a) Sardar Chavan
b) Himesh Sharma
c) Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
d) Sujay Vikhe-Patil
e) Ashok Shankarrao
Q.180) Which state government to launch 'Mission Shakti' for Women under which various programmes to be organized from the Gram Panchayats to industrial units?
a) Maharashtra
b) Madhya Pradesh
c) Uttar Pradesh

d) Karnataka

e) Haryana

Q.181) World Economic Forum has shifted annually meeting 2021 from Davos to which of the following city?

a) Zurich

b) Geneva

c) Lucerne

d) Brussels

e) Tokyo

Q.182) Who has been appointed as the head of the panel of secretaries to streamline the spectrum allocation process?

a) Rajiv Gauba

b) Injet Srinivas

c) Kasthuri Rajan

d) Rajiv Mehrishi

e) Pradeep Kumar Sinha

Q.183) Which state government launches "Sujal Mission" to Provide Quality Drinking Water in Urban Areas?

a) Manipur

b) Assam

c) Jharkhand

d) Odisha

e) Meghalaya

Q.184) Who among the following has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Netherlands?

a) Suresh Sethi

b) Sardar Singh

c) Vivek Mohanty

d) Pradeep Kumar Rawat

e) Aron Menon

Q.185) Which of the following countries has been re-Elected as Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (where India re-elected as President of ISA)?

a) Colombia

b) France

c) Taiwan

d) Germany

e) Japan

Q.186) Which of the following bank has won the 2020 Central bank of the year award?

a) Reserve Bank of India

b) Bank of Ghana

c) Central Bank of Kenya

d) Bank of Mauritius

e) Central bank of Lesotho

Q.187) Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between India and which country to promote cooperation in sustainable groundwater management?

a) France

b) Bhutan

c) Australia

d) Sri Lanka

e) Maldives

Q.188) Former cricket player John Richard Reid who has passed away recently played for which country?

a) South Africa

b) Australia

c) Netherland

d) West Indies

e) New Zealand

Q.189) Who has been appointed as the head of the committee constituted by AICTE to formulate the professional Engineers Bill?

a) Brajesh Mishra

b) Natwar Singh

c) M.S. Ananth

d) Sanjaya Baru

e) Kamal Pande

Q.190) Which of the following state to set up the world's biggest Zinc Smelter project?

a) Karnataka

b) Chhattisgarh

c) Gujarat

d) Tamil Nadu

e) Jharkhand

Q.191) Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Gdynia 2020?

a) Catherine Ndereba

b) Mo Farah

c) Constantina Dita

d) Mizuki Noguchi

e) Almaz Ayana

Q.192) Atal Innovation Mission collaborates with which of the following companies to promote innovation across schools?

a) L&T

b) Infosys

c) TCS

d) Wipro

e) CGI India

Q.193) Name the Bollywood actor who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Cello Group?

a) Ajay Devgn

b) Shah Rukh Khan

c) Akshay Kumar

d) Amitabh Bachchan

e) Salman Khan

Q.194) What is India's rank in Arton Capital's world's most powerful passports index (New Zealand tops)?

a) 34th

b) 73rd

c) 58th

d) 81st

e) 42nd

Q.195) 'Suraksha Kavach' is the joint anti-terrorist exercise between Indian army and which state's police?

a) Karnataka

b) Gujarat

c) Odisha

d) Maharashtra

e) Manipur

Q.196) Who among the following has been appointed as the new additional director of Karnataka Bank?

a) P Jayaram Bhat

b) L Dhanasekaran

c) Keshava Kumar

d) P Uma Shankar

e) K Ramohan Rao

Q.197) Sooronbai Jeenbekov has recently resigned as the President of which country?

a) Israel

b) Turkmenistan

c) Uzbekistan

d) Kyrgyzstan

e) Turkey

Q.198) Which of the following company has launched a UPI-based credit option known as FlexPay?

a) American Express

b) Master Card

c) Vivifi India Finance

d) PNB Finance

e) Visa Card

Q.199) Which Indian state launches its first Water taxi service with a seating capacity for 10 passengers?

a) Madhya Pradesh

b) Tamil Nadu

c) Kerala

d) West Bengal

e) Gujarat

Q.200) Who is the author of the book "Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon"?

a) Arundhati Roy

b) Pradeep Goorha

c) Sudha Murthy

d) Shashi Tharoor

e) Ruskin Bond

Q.201) Which of the following states will sponsor the national rugby teams till 2023 to facilitate high performance training and conditioning of the players?

a) Uttarakhand

b) Madhya Pradesh

c) Odisha

d) Gujarat

e) Uttar Pradesh

Q.202) Which of the following States/UTs launched a campaign 'Red light on, Gaadi off' to tackle air pollution?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) New Delhi

c) Maharashtra

d) Chhattisgarh

e) Jammu & Kashmir

Q.203) Cabinet has approved the STARS project supported by which institution in order to boost the school education system in India?

a) World Bank

b) AIIB

c) ADB

d) NDB

e) IMF

Q.204) Which of the following states/UT has launched the "SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for women?

a) Maharashtra

b) Chhattisgarh

c) Haryana

d) Delhi

e) Jammu & Kashmir

Q.205) Which of the following Ministries launches 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness Education campaign

a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

b) Ministry of Agriculture

c) Ministry of Civil Aviation

d) Ministry of Education

e) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Q.206) Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri who passed away. He was a renowned _____.

a) Cricketer

b) Poet

c) Theatre Artist

d) Pioneer

e) Actor

Q.207) Which of the following University bags first rank in India for filling highest number (336) of patents in a year?

a) Indian Institute of Technology Indore

b) University of Madras

c) Chandigarh University

d) Nalanda University

e) Banaras Hindu University

Q.208) Government of India has extended the term of _____ as Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC.

a) Sanjiv Puri

b) Rajendra Kumar

c) Gurdeep Singh

d) Dara Singh

e) Arvind Trivedi

Q.209) PM Modi to release a commemorative coin on the 75th anniversary of which of the following international organizations?

a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

d) World Bank (WB)

e) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Q.210) Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates Innovation & Incubation Center and Sports Complex at which institute?

- a) IIT Bombay
- b) IIIT Kanpur
- c) IIT Jodhpur
- d) IIT Madras
- e) IIT Delhi

Q.211) National Authority of Ship Recycling will be set up in which place?

- a) Cuttack, Odisha
- b) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- c) Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- d) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- e) Mumbai, Maharashtra

Q.212) India to deliver Kilo class submarine INS Sindhuvir, to which country for training purpose?

- a) Malaysia
- b) Bhutan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Myanmar
- e) Nepal

Q.213) The Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) provides all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and which city?

- a) Baramulla
- b) Leh
- c) Anantnag
- d) Manali
- e) Budgam

Q.214) Which Country tested Unmanned Aircraft "SeaGuardian" for search and rescue operations, and maritime surveillance?

- a) France
- b) Germany
- c) Japan
- d) Australia

e) India

Q.215) Name the country which appointed as the 'Vice-Chair' of OECD Working Group on Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)?

- a) Japan
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Brazil
- d) India
- e) Maldives

Q.216) Who has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO?

- a) Indra Mani Pandey
- b) Jawed Ashraf
- c) Vishal V. Sharma
- d) Indrajit Chakraborty
- e) Rhea Chakraborty

Q.217) Which of the following countries hosts 7th meeting of Ministers of Justice of SCO member states?

- a) Australia
- b) India
- c) Japan
- d) Russia
- e) Kazakhstan

Q.218) Which state/UT launches 'My Town My Pride' Campaign to provide doorstep governance in urban areas?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Arunachal Pradesh
- e) Chhattisgarh

Q.219) Who has been appointed as the Interim President of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)?

- a) Narinder Batra
- b) Vishal Singh
- c) Michael Irani

d) Sunil Sharma

e) Jawed Khan

Q.220) Who is the author of the Book titled, "The Battle of Belonging"?

a) Shashi Tharoor

b) Sudha Murthy

c) Arundhati Roy

d) Romila Thapar

e) Ruskin Bond

Q.221) Name the Prime Minister of New Zealand who has been elected for a second term in the Parliamentary election recently?

a) Sanna Marin

b) Ross Ardern

c) Jacinda Ardern

d) Scott Morrison

e) Ashley Bloomfield

Q.222) What is the rank of India in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020?

a) 57th

b) 66th

c) 94th

d) 75th

e) 86th

Q.223) Who has become the first ever Indian women to win the 2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award?

a) Neelam Goswami

b) Aishwarya Sridhar

c) Dayanita Singh

d) Kavitha Devi

e) Monisha Nihal

Q.224) Who has been appointed by Supreme Court to Monitor Prevention of Stubble Burning?

a) Ranjan Gogoi

b) Sanjay Sharma

c) Dipak Mishra

d) Madan Bhimarao Lokur

e) Arjan Kumar Sikri

Q.225) Name the India's first indigenous surface-to-surface strategic missile, which has been developed by DRDO?

a) Gagan-1

b) Agni-3

c) Prithvi-2

d) Akash-2

e) Pragathi-3

Q.226) Asan Conservation Reserve has become a Ramsar site making it a Wetland of International Importance. It is located in which state?

a) Uttar Pradesh

b) Himachal Pradesh

c) Arunachal Pradesh

d) Uttarakhand

e) Sikkim

Q.227) Who has been appointed by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) new Chairman for 2020-21?

a) Rajkiran Rai G

b) Karnam Sekar

c) Nanda Kumar

d) Rajnish Kumar

e) Dinesh Kumar Khara

Q.228) Who is the author of the book "On the Trails of Buddha: A Journey to the East" released by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar?

a) Shashi Tharoor

b) Subramanian Swamy

c) Deepankar Aron

d) Arundhati Roy

e) Sudha Murthy

Q.229) Who among the following has won the Women's Singles title at Denmark Open 2020?

a) Saina Nehwal

b) Nozomi Okuhara

c) Tai Tzu-ying

d) Carolina Marin

e) PV Sindhu

Q.230) Who has been chosen as the new President of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)?

a) Ranjan Shukla

b) Rohan Jaitley

c) Arvind SKumar

d) Rajesh Khanna

e) Vinod Sharma

Q.231) Who among the following has won the 2020 Stevie Awards for Women in Business?

a) Kunal Kamra

b) Seema Gupta

c) Arnab Goswami

d) Sunita Reddy

e) Rajdeep Sardesai

Q.232) India has collaborated with which country for its ehealth initiative "eHealth Magazine"?

a) France

b) Maldives

c) Netherlands

d) Germany

e) Russia

Q.233) Who has received Indian & US Patents for Method and System for Managing the Usage of a Plurality of Battery Units to Power an Electric Vehicle?

a) Madhavan Nair

b) Vignesh Kumar

c) Kailasavadivoo Sivan

d) Devansh Manoj Jalan

e) Anil Kapoor

Q.234) Name the Home Secretary of India, whose term has been extended till August 2021?

a) Kishan Reddy

b) Pradeep Kumar Sinha

c) Ajay Kumar Bhalla

d) Rajiv Gauba

e) Rajnath Singh

Q.235) Stellapps has launched a fully-automated direct payment platform, 'mooPay', for dairy farmers of which state?

a) Rajasthan

b) Haryana

c) Punjab

d) Gujarat

e) Karnataka

Q.236) Name the country which has won the Visvesvaraya award of the ISA Solar Awards 2020 from the Asia Pacific region?

a) Australia

b) Maldives

c) India

d) Japan

e) Singapore

Q.237) India's First ever plantation of Heeng (Asafoetida) cultivation is located in which Indian state?

a) Gujarat

b) Uttar Pradesh

c) Himachal Pradesh

d) Karnataka

e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.238) India's first-ever multi-modal logistics park in _____ was laid foundation stone by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

a) Assam

b) Bihar

c) Maharashtra

d) Gujarat

e) West Bengal

Q.239) What is India's rank in 2020 Asia Power Index?

- a) 7th
- b) 3rd
- c) 4th
- d) 2nd
- e) 8th

Q.240) Who among the following has won gold at the 2020 Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF)?

- a) Apurvi Chandela
- b) Shahu Tushar Mane
- c) Anjum Chopra
- d) Mehuli Ghosh
- e) Elavenil Valarivan

Q.241) Who among the following has recently won the Young Achievers Award 2020?

- a) Urmila Sharma
- b) Sana Hazari
- c) Sunil Yadav
- d) Satbir Bedi
- e) Anandita Das

Q.242) Who wins men's singles category in Denmark Open 2020 (Badminton tournament)?

- a) Yuki Fukushima
- b) Nozomi Okuhara
- c) Anders Antonsen
- d) Kidambi Srikanth
- e) Marcus Ellis

Q.243) Who has won the Silver Medal in the Men's event in Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship 2020?

- a) Shahu Tushar Mane
- b) Baki Abdullah Hel
- c) Naoya Okada
- d) Divyansh Singh
- e) Manu Bhaker

Q.244) Which country has been invited to join the trilateral naval exercise "Malabar-2020", which is conducted annually between India, US and Japan?

- a) Russia
- b) Germany
- c) Australia
- d) France
- e) Israel

Q.245) Which Indian state launched women's safety campaign named "Safe City Project"?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh
- e) Telangana

Q.246) Which country Becomes World's First to attach Facial verification in the National Identification Database?

- a) Malaysia
- b) France
- c) Singapore
- d) Germany
- e) Australia

Q.247) Which of the following states has launched a campaign to Curb Elephant Deaths Due to Electrocution?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) West Bengal
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Karnataka
- e) Haryana

Q.248) ADB and which state Government has signed a loan agreement worth USD 177 million for road improvement?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Maharashtra

e) Haryana

Q.249) Name the air-to-surface anti-tank missile, which was tested successfully by the DRDO recently?

- a) SUMITRA
- b) SANT
- c) AGNI
- d) NAAG
- e) SRINITI

Q.250) Which Indian state has launched Electricity Consumer Service Portal 'Mo Bidyut'?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Bihar
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Jharkhand
- e) Odisha

Q.251) Recently, Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside is the autobiography of which famous personality released?

- a) N K Singh
- b) Ajay Tyagi
- c) Sunil Arora
- d) Harsh Vardhan
- e) Karan Sharma

Q.252) Which of the following paramilitary organizations has launched the 'Meri Saheli' initiative on AP Express for women passengers?

- a) CISF
- b) RPF
- c) BSF
- d) ITBP
- e) CRPF

Q.253) Which of the following Countries will have its first separate 'Water Attache' in India from January 2021?

- a) Germany

b) Israel

c) Norway

d) Denmark

e) France

Q.254) Who is the head of Market Data Advisory Committee constituted by SEBI?

- a) Sunil Mehta
- b) Rajnish Kumar
- c) Sunil Yadav
- d) Madhabi Puri Buch
- e) Ajay Tyagi

Q.255) Who among the following has recently won America's Young Scientist Challenge?

- a) Sudha Singh
- b) Anika Chebrolu
- c) Vijaya Raghav
- d) Anjali Sharma
- e) Parvathi Nair

Q.256) Who among the following Minister represented India in the Y20 Global Summit?

- a) Rajnath Singh
- b) Piyush Goyal
- c) Nitin Gadkari
- d) Prahlad Patel
- e) Kiren Rijiju

Q.257) What is the rank of India in the International Migration Outlook survey of OECD according to the 44th edition of "International Migration Outlook 2020" (China tops)?

- a) 6th
- b) 9th
- c) 2nd
- d) 5th
- e) 3rd

Q.258) which company has Partnered with NITI Aayog to launch Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC)?

- a) IBM

- b) Oracle
c) Amazon web services
d) Microsoft
e) American Express
Q.259) Who among the following has resigned as the Executive Vice-Chairman of IL&FS Group?
a) Ranveer Singh
b) Vineet Nayyar
c) Naresh Gupta
d) Akshay Seker
e) Ranjit Aggarwal
Q.260) As per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, which state has tops (68 lakh) foreign tourists in 2019 released by the Ministry of Tourism?
a) Assam
b) Karnataka
c) Tamil Nadu
d) Madhya Pradesh
e) Goa
Q.261) Who among the following has e-launched an indigenous software solution for Vessel traffic services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS)?
a) Prahlad Singh Patel
b) Amit Shah
c) Nitin Gadkari
d) Mansukh Mandaviya
e) Anurag Thakur
Q.262) Which is the only city in India to have longest Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) network?
a) Patna
b) Mumbai
c) Kolkata
d) Surat
e) Lucknow

- Q.263) Which of the following countries won the Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya award in International Solar Alliance (ISA) Awards?
a) Vietnam
b) Sweden
c) Germany
d) Japan
e) France
Q.264) Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador to Republic of San Marino?
a) Harsh Kumar Shringla
b) Neena Malhotra
c) Taranjit Singh Sandhu
d) Navtej Sarna
e) S. K. Mohanty
Q.265) India and which country explores co-production and co-development in defence production?
a) Turkmenistan
b) Kazakhstan
c) Bangladesh
d) Azerbaijan
e) Afghanistan
Q.266) 5th Joint Working Group on Coal held between India and which country (October 22)?
a) Maldives
b) Indonesia
c) Germany
d) Japan
e) France
Q.267) Indian Bank in collaboration with which IIT Incubation Cell has launched an exclusive credit facility of up to Rs 50 crore for start-ups namely "IND Spring Board"?
a) IIT Kanpur
b) IIT Madras
c) IIT Guwahati
d) IIT Mandi

e) IIT Bombay

Q.268) Which of the following companies has been picked by NASA to build the first cellular network on the Moon?

- a) Samsung
- b) Motorola
- c) Nokia
- d) Xiaomi
- e) Siemens

Q.269) Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority?

- a) Ananta Barua
- b) Ghanshyam Jha
- c) Ajay Malhotra
- d) G. Mahalingam
- e) Suresh Sethi

Q.270) Which of the following Educational institute has developed the diagnostic technology 'COVIRAP'?

- a) IIT-Madras
- b) IIT-Bombay
- c) IIT-Kharagpur
- d) IIT-Delhi
- e) IIT-Kanpur

Q.271) Who has received CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership Award at National Awards for Excellence?

- a) Debasish Panda
- b) Pravir Krishna
- c) Sarath Sarin
- d) Ananth Kumar
- e) Prasanth Sharma

Q.272) Who heads the 9-member panel constituted by IRDAI to Examine Need for Standard Cyber Insurance Product?

- a) Akash Chaturvedi
- b) P Umesh
- c) Sunil Gurbaxani

d) Rajiv Gauba

e) Dinesh Sharma

Q.273) Who among the following has won the Greenstorm International Nature Photography Contest?

- a) Anil Vyas
- b) Kartikeya Grover
- c) Dileep Narayanan
- d) Mohamed Noufal
- e) Rakayet Ul Karim Rakim

Q.274) Name the first state in India to implement the Smart Black Board scheme in its 80, 000 government schools to ensure better teaching environment?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Gujarat
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.275) Election Commission has constituted 2-member committee to examine the issue of revising the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha and assembly polls. Name the members of this committee?

- a) Kushal Kumar Pathak and Mukesh Meena
- b) Ashish Kundra and Dharmendra Sharma
- c) Harish Kumar and Umesh Sinha
- d) Sudeep Jain and Chandra Bhushan Kumar
- e) Ashish Kundra and Bhushan Kumar

Q.276) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is planning to develop at least 100 Airports, Waterdromes, and Heliports by 'which' year under UDAN ("Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik") – Regional Air Connectivity Scheme?

- a) 2023
- b) 2021
- c) 2022
- d) 2030
- e) 2024

Q.277) According to the State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report which country has recorded the highest air pollution exposure globally in 2019?

- a) France
- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) India
- e) Malaysia

Q.278) Which Indian state government launched the 'micro ATM' service in rural areas of the state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Nagaland

Q.279) The project 'Life in Miniature' has been launched by the Tourism Ministry in collaboration with which Company?

- a) Microsoft
- b) Apple
- c) Facebook
- d) Google
- e) Samsung

Q.280) Name the airport which secured 2nd place in the Safest Aerodrome Globally for effective implementation of Coronavirus-related health and safety protocols.

- a) Dubai International Airport
- b) Changi Airport, Singapore
- c) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, Delhi
- d) Shanghai Pudong International Airport
- e) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport

Q.281) Who has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Solomon Islands?

- a) Atanu Chakraborty

b) Naveen Chawla

c) Sushil Kumar Singhal

d) Showik Singh

e) Mahesh Kumar Jain

Q.282) Which state has launched Integrated Model Agricultural Village Scheme in partnership with which NABARD?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Nagaland

Q.283) Name the portal which has launched by Housing and Urban Ministry to integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system?

- a) E-Map Geo Portal
- b) GIS-enabled Po
- c) e-Dharti Geo Portal
- d) MIS-Dharti Portal
- e) House Geo Portal

Q.284) Who has been appointed as the chairman of the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports?

- a) Pradip Shah
- b) Bimal Julka
- c) Tapan Roy
- d) Sudhir Bhargava
- e) Vinay Sharma

Q.285) Which Project has won 2020 Brunel Medal for excellence in civil engineering at the Annual Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) Awards 2020?

- a) Xiluodu hydropower plant, China
- b) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project, Bhutan
- c) Sayano-Shushenskaya hydropower plant, Russia
- d) Grand Coulee hydropower project, United States

e) NTPC Thermal power project, India
Q.286) Name the first woman officer to be commissioned in the Indian Air Force, who has passed away recently?

- a) Divya Ranjani
- b) Vijayalakshmi Ramanan
- c) Padma Kashthuri
- d) Gursharan Kaur
- e) Poornima Ashok

Q.287) Which of the following Public Sector Undertakings has been ranked first among Indian PSUs in Forbes' 'World's Best Employer 2020'?

- a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- c) National Thermal Power Corporation
- d) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- e) Steel Authority of India Limited

Q.288) How much amount given as an immediate financial aid by Andhra Pradesh government under "YSR Bima" scheme for families of accident victims?

- a) Rs 25, 000
- b) Rs 10, 000
- c) Rs 20, 000
- d) Rs 15, 000
- e) Rs 30, 000

Q.289) Name the country which has appointed as the Chair of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO) for a period till June 2021?

- a) Italy
- b) France
- c) India
- d) Russia
- e) Japan

Q.290) Which Indian state is planning to implement Bhagyalakshmi scheme under the

Sukanya Samriddhi Account scheme of India Post?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh
- e) Meghalaya

Q.291) Who has been appointed as the head formed by NITI Aayog to look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system?

- a) Injeti Srinivas
- b) Rajiv Kumar
- c) Suresh Sethi
- d) Bibek Debroy
- e) Amitabh Kant

Q.292) Who has been Appointed as the Prime minister of Lebanon (October 2020)?

- a) Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- b) Mustafa Adib
- c) Saad El-Din Hariri
- d) Denys Shmyhal
- e) Hassan Diab

Q.293) Name the district which has topped the list of top 30 districts for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

- a) Shilong
- b) Dehradun
- c) Shimla
- d) Mandi
- e) Lucknow

Q.294) South Western Railway signed an MoU with Which of the following Metro Rail Corporation to provide multi-transit integration facilities?

- a) Chennai
- b) Mumbai
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Kochi

e) Bengaluru

Q.295) Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)?

- a) Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- b) Rajiv Kumar
- c) Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
- d) Apurva Chandra
- e) Shivaraj Singh

Q.296) Which of the following states has topped Anemia Mukht Bharat Index released by Union Ministry of Health and Welfare?

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Gujarat
- d) Haryana
- e) Bihar

Q.297) Which country has recently joined the IMF as its 190th member?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Armenia
- c) Timor-Leste
- d) Andorra
- e) Madagascar

Q.298) Women & Child welfare Department of which state has launched an initiative to fulfill nutritional requirements of lactating mothers & children?

- a) Telangana
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Haryana
- d) Chhattisgarh
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Q.299) Who among the following has launched India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear?

- a) Prahlad Patel
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Narendra Modi

d) Piyush Goyal

e) Nitin Gadkari

Q.300) North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a new Space Centre in which place?

- a) Bern, Switzerland
- b) Brussels Belgium
- c) Ramstein, Germany
- d) Tokyo, Japan
- e) Paris, France

BANKING AWARENESS QUIZ:

Q.1) Which of the following bank has joined Bayer's Better Life Farming initiative to provide holistic financial solutions to smallholder farmers and rural farming communities?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) IDFC Bank
- d) UCO Bank
- e) Axis Bank

Q.2) What is the projected GDP growth of India in 2020-21 as per ICRA?

- a) -11%
- b) -13%
- c) -10%
- d) -12%
- e) -9%

Q.3) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced Positive Pay System for Cheque Truncation System (CTS) above _____ from January 1, 2021.

- a) Rs 10, 000
- b) Rs 50, 000
- c) Rs 75, 000
- d) Rs 25, 000
- e) Rs 30, 000

Q.4) 'Contactless Connections' is a new brand campaign launched by which company?

a) PayU

b) SBI Card

c) BOB Finance

d) PayPal

e) Razorpay

Q.5) Which of the following bank has launched India's 1st Warehouse Commodity Finance App?

a) IDBI Bank

b) Axis Bank

c) ICICI Bank

d) Federal Bank

e) HDFC Bank

Q.6) Name the bank which has signed MoU with BSE to empower Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)?

a) Federal Bank

b) HDFC Bank

c) ICICI Bank

d) Yes Bank

e) Axis Bank

Q.7) Which Company has partnered with Bajaj Allianz to launch Cyber Insurance for Online Financial Frauds and to offer 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance' for customers?

a) Shopclues

b) Flipkart

c) Snapdeal

d) Myntra

e) Amazon

Q.8) Which is the first bank to enable document embedding feature on Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS)?

a) Federal Bank

b) HDFC Bank

c) ICICI Bank

d) IDBI Bank

e) Yes Bank

Q.9) Which among the following organizations has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the 'positive pay system' for cheque?

a) SIDBI

b) RBI

c) SEBI

d) NABARD

e) SBI

Q.10) Which of the following bank has unveiled its "eNote" facility for paperless working environment and to improve the turnaround time considerably?

a) Bank of India

b) Indian Bank

c) ICICI Bank

d) Bank of Baroda

e) Federal Bank

Q.11) What is the limit of Ways and Means Advances (WMA) set by RBI for the second half of the financial year 2020-21 for Central Government?

a) Rs. 3 lakh crore

b) Rs. 2.5 lakh crore

c) Rs. 1.75 lakh crore

d) Rs. 1.25 lakh crore

e) Rs. 2 lakh crore

Q.12) American Express has joined hands with which of the following organization to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India?

a) SBI Card

b) Visa

c) Mastercard

d) BOB Finance

e) Paytm

Q.13) Which bank has signed MoU with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) to provide digital payment solutions to retailers and distributors?

- a) Bank of India
- b) Punjab National Bank
- c) Canara Bank
- d) State Bank of India
- e) UCO Bank

Q.14) Interest rate on Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) remains unchanged for quarter three of 2020-21. What is the interest rate?

- a) 7.3%
- b) 6.9%
- c) 7.4%
- d) 6.0%
- e) 7.6%

Q.15) Which of the following bank has introduced a Kisan credit card loan scheme for fishermen in Tamil Nadu?

- A) Indian Overseas Bank
- B) Bank of India
- C) United Bank of India
- D) HDFC Bank
- e) Indian Bank

Q.16) Which of the following bank launches financial inclusion initiative "Gram Sampark Abhiyan" presented by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar?

- a) Union Bank of India
- b) Canara Bank
- c) Punjab National Bank
- d) Bank of Maharashtra
- e) State Bank of India

Q.17) Which Private bank has launched a co-branded forex card Partnered with Vistara that can load up to 16 currencies?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Axis Bank
- d) Federal Bank
- e) Bandhan Bank

Q.18) Which bank has partnered with Visa to launch the first of its kind debit card facility for availing Loan Against Securities (LAS)?

- a) HDFC Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) Punjab National Bank
- d) RBL Bank
- e) Federal Bank

Q.19) Which of the following companies has launched an exclusive co-branded credit card for Company Secretaries (CS)?

- a) Bajaj Finance Services
- b) SBI Card
- c) BOB Financial Solutions
- d) Mahindra Financial Services
- e) Muthoot Fincorp

Q.20) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the business mentoring programme 'MSME Prerana' of which bank?

- a) Bank of India
- b) Indian Bank
- c) Canara Bank
- d) ICICI Bank
- e) Punjab National Bank

Q.21) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) integrated the Application Programming Interface (API) of the PM SVANidhi portal and which bank portal to enable speedy loan sanctioning and disbursement process?

- a) Canara Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) State Bank of India
- d) Union Bank of India
- e) Punjab National Bank

Q.22) Which of the following banks has partnered with Apollo Hospitals for offering a holistic healthcare solution to patients?

- a) UCO Bank

- b) HDFC Bank
c) Axis Bank
d) State Bank of India
e) ICICI Bank
Q.23) RBI has extended the term of _____ as Chairman and Managing Director of the Jammu & Kashmir bank.
a) Atul Kumar Goel
b) J Packirisamy
c) RK Chhibber
d) Rajkiran Rai G
e) P V Bharathi
Q.24) RBI has raised the banks maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to Rs 50 crore to Rs _____. (Earlier limit was Rs 5 crore)
a) Rs 2 crore
b) Rs 3.5 crore
c) Rs 4.5 crore
d) Rs 7.5 crore
e) Rs 6.5 crore
Q.25) Axis bank has Partnered with which company to launch the Axis ACE Credit Card?
a) Myntra
b) Amazon Pay
c) Master Card
d) Google Pay
e) Phone Pe
Q.26) Which bank has signed an MoU with SIDBI and Housing Ministry for payment of subsidy to street vendors under Centre's SVANidhi Scheme?
a) Bank of Baroda
b) State Bank of India
c) Indian Bank
d) ICICI Bank
e) Union Bank of India
Q.27) Which Small Finance Bank becomes first SFB to go live under the bank

- sponsorship programme (Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank)?
a) AU Small Finance Bank
b) Equitas Small Finance Bank
c) ESFA Small Finance Bank
d) Jana Small Finance Bank
e) Fincare Small Finance Bank
Q.28) Name the Life Insurance Product which was launched by IRDAI and made it mandatory to All Life Insurance Companies?
a) Jal Jeevan Bima
b) Sruthi Jeevan Bima
c) Saral Jeevan Bima
d) Suraksha Jeevan Bima
e) Umang Jeevan Bima
Q.29) PhonePe has collaborated with which Insurance Company to launch car and bike insurance products on its platform?
a) HDFC ERGO General Insurance
b) Kotak Mahindra General Insurance
c) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
d) ICICI LOMBARD General Insurance
e) Bharti AXA General Insurance
Q.30) RBI to conduct the first-ever Open Market Operations (OMOs) in State Developments Loans (SDLs) for _____.
a) Rs 25, 000 crores
b) Rs 20, 000 crores
c) Rs 15, 000 crores
d) Rs 10, 000 crores
e) Rs 30, 000 crores
Q.31) Tata Motors has collaborated with which bank for financing of its passenger vehicles through "Gradual Step Up Scheme" and "TML Flexi Drive Scheme"?
a) Axis Bank
b) Canara Bank
c) HDFC Bank
d) Union Bank

e) Yes Bank

Q.32) Which Insurance Company has launched Individual Life Insurance cum Savings Plan named 'Invest 4G'?

- a) United India Insurance Company
- b) Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- c) Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance
- d) New India Assurance
- e) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company

Q.33) Which Payments Bank planned to add an additional 300 points at the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) outlet in Tamil Nadu?

- a) Airtel Payments Bank
- b) Jio Payments Bank
- c) Fino Payments Bank
- d) Paytm Payments Bank
- e) India Post Payments Bank

Q.34) Name the Bank which has signed a MoU with Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) for tractor finance business?

- a) Canara Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) Indian Bank
- e) Punjab National Bank

Q.35) Name the company which is all set to introduce co-branded credit cards in India (October 2020)?

- a) Money Craft
- b) PayU
- c) Amazon
- d) Paytm
- e) Flipkart

Q.36) which Private bank has partnered with YAP and Zenpay Solutions to issue salary cards to its customers?

- a) CSB Bank

b) Axis Bank

c) RBL Bank

d) HDFC Bank

e) ICICI Bank

Q.37) Which of the following banks has tied up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor to be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) Bank of Baroda
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Indian Bank
- e) Axis Bank

Q.38) RBI has suggested a five pillar strategic approach 'Guard' to deal with cyber security threats related to which of the following banks?

- a) Private Banks
- b) Urban Cooperative Banks
- c) Public sector Banks
- d) Small Finance Banks
- e) Payment Banks

Q.39) CRIF India credit bureau has joined hands with which of the following Organisation to launch sector based insight reports titled 'Industry Spotlight'?

- a) FICCI
- b) SIDBI
- c) NABARD
- d) SEBI
- e) NCLAT

Q.40) SEBI has eased the norms for REITs and InvITs to raise equity capital through the institutional placement route, by bringing down the minimum time gap to _____, instead of previous duration of 6 months?

- a) 5 weeks
- b) 7 weeks
- c) 3 weeks

d) 2 weeks

e) 4 weeks

Q.41) Which of the following organisation has approve loan USD 241 million for the Mumbai Metro Rail II Project?

a) Asian Development Bank

b) International Monetary Fund

c) World Bank

d) New Development Bank

e) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Q.42) How much amount of loan has been approved by the New Development Bank (NDB) for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Project?

a) USD 100 million

b) USD 250 million

c) USD 500 million

d) USD 400 million

e) USD 350 million

Q.43) Which Organisation has introduced a "very high risk" category on its Mutual Funds (MF) risk-o-meter tool to determine the level of risk on each mutual fund schemes?

a) SIDBI

b) RBI

c) BSE

d) SEBI

e) NPCI

Q.44) Reliance General has partnered with which company for satellite-based crop monitoring and predictive analytics support to better manage risk and improve efficiency?

a) UST Global

b) SatSure Analytics

c) Latent View

d) Convergitycs

e) Fractal Analytics

Q.45) According to the World Bank, India's GDP is expected to contract by how much percent for the FY21?

a) 7.8%

b) 9.6%

c) 8.6%

d) 7.9%

e) 8.3%

Q.46) RBI has recently extended the Interest subvention on MSME loans till which of the following date?

a) 31 March, 2021

b) 1 July, 2021

c) 31 December, 2021

d) 1 April, 2021

e) 1 January, 2021

Q.47) Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India?

a) Vishal Singh

b) Nirmal Kumar

c) Sanjay Gupta

d) Nilesh Shah

e) Arman Kapoor

Q.48) Name the company which has launched India's first 'Financial Control Center' on mobile to empower 60 million small business owners.

a) G-Pay

b) Paytm

c) Chqbook

d) PhonePe

e) Myntra

Q.49) RBI has proposed to make the RTGS mode of fund transfer 24X7 from _____.

a) January 2021

b) March 2020

c) December 2020

d) March 2021

e) April 2022

Q.50) Which company has entered into partnership with Atlantis to expand the Digital First Program in India?

- a) American Express
- b) RuPay
- c) PayTm
- d) MasterCard
- e) Visa

CA ANSWER KEY

1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. e, 7. a, 8. b, 9. a, 10. c, 11. d, 12. d, 13. e, 14. b, 15. d, 16. b, 17. b, 18. c, 19. d, 20. a, 21. d, 22. e, 23. c, 24. d, 25. b, 26. d, 27. a, 28. d, 29. c, 30. b, 31. b, 32. d, 33. b, 34. b, 35. c, 36. b, 37. d, 38. a, 39. b, 40. b, 41. d, 42. c, 43. d, 44. b, 45. b, 46. c, 47. b, 48. c, 49. e, 50. a, 51. b, 52. c, 53. c, 54. c, 55. d, 56. b, 57. b, 58. b, 59. b, 60. c, 61. b, 62. d, 63. c, 64. b, 65. d, 66. b, 67. d, 68. d, 69. b, 70. c, 71. e, 72. d, 73. a, 74. d, 75. c, 76. d, 77. b, 78. b, 79. a, 80. c, 81. d, 82. c, 83. c, 84. c, 85. c, 86. c, 87. b, 88. c, 89. b, 90. b, 91. b, 92. b, 93. b, 94. c, 95. e, 96. d, 97. b, 98. c, 99. d, 100. b, 101. b, 102. d, 103. d, 104. e, 105. b, 106. c, 107. d, 108. b, 109. d, 110. d, 111. a, 112. d, 113. b, 114. c, 115. a, 116. c, 117. b, 118. e, 119. d, 120. c, 121. c, 122. b, 123. b, 124. a, 125. c, 126. b, 127. d, 128. b, 129. d, 130. a, 131. e, 132. a, 133. c, 134. b, 135. c, 136. c, 137. d, 138. b, 139. d, 140. c, 141. b, 142. b, 143. b, 144. d, 145. d, 146. b, 147. b, 148. d, 149. c, 150. a, 151. d, 152. d, 153. c, 154. b, 155. b, 156. b, 157. e, 158. a, 159. b, 160. d, 161. d, 162. d, 163. c, 164. d, 165. c, 166. b, 167. d, 168. b, 169. c, 170. d, 171. a, 172. d, 173. c, 174. b, 175. d, 176. b, 177. e, 178. c, 179. c, 180. c, 181. c, 182. a, 183. d, 184. d, 185. b, 186. b, 187. c, 188. e, 189. c, 190.

c, 191. c, 192. e, 193. d, 194. c, 195. d, 196. d, 197. d, 198. c, 199. c, 200. b, 201. c, 202. b, 203. a, 204. e, 205. d, 206. b, 207. c, 208. c, 209. c, 210. c, 211. d, 212. d, 213. b, 214. c, 215. d, 216. c, 217. b, 218. b, 219. c, 220. a, 221. c, 222. c, 223. b, 224. d, 225. c, 226. d, 227. a, 228. c, 229. b, 230. b, 231. b, 232. c, 233. d, 234. c, 235. a, 236. d, 237. c, 238. a, 239. c, 240. e, 241. b, 242. c, 243. a, 244. c, 245. d, 246. c, 247. b, 248. d, 249. b, 250. e, 251. a, 252. b, 253. b, 254. d, 255. b, 256. e, 257. c, 258. c, 259. b, 260. c, 261. d, 262. d, 263. d, 264. b, 265. b, 266. b, 267. b, 268. c, 269. b, 270. c, 271. b, 272. b, 273. e, 274. b, 275. c, 276. e, 277. d, 278. d, 279. d, 280. c, 281. c, 282. c, 283. c, 284. b, 285. b, 286. b, 287. c, 288. b, 289. c, 290. a, 291. b, 292. c, 293. d, 294. e, 295. d, 296. d, 297. d, 298. b, 299. e, 300. c.

BANKING ANSWER KEY

1. e, 2. a, 3. b, 4. b, 5. e, 6. d, 7. b, 8. d, 9. b, 10. b, 11. d, 12. a, 13. d, 14. c, 15. e, 16. c, 17. c, 18. b, 19. c, 20. b, 21. c, 22. b, 23. c, 24. d, 25. d, 26. c, 27. d, 28. c, 29. c, 30. d, 31. c, 32. c, 33. c, 34. c, 35. d, 36. c, 37. b, 38. b, 39. b, 40. d, 41. d, 42. c, 43. d, 44. b, 45. b, 46. a, 47. d, 48. c, 49. c, 50. d.