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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

CABINET APPROVALS

Cabinet approves Rs 1810 crore Investment Proposal of 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project on November 4, 2020

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the following proposal which was detailed by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

- Cabinet approves Rs 1810 crore Investment Proposal of 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project
- Read More Details Here: [Cabinet approves Rs 1810 crore Investment Proposal of 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project on November 4, 2020](#)

Cabinet Approvals with Foreign Countries on November 4, 2020

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals:

- Cabinet approved signing of Indo-Spain MoU to develop scientific and technical collaborations in astronomy
- Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and UK on cooperation in the field of Telecommunication/ICTs
- Cabinet approves Indo-Israel MoU on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine

Read More Details Here: [Cabinet Approvals with Foreign Countries on November 4, 2020](#)

Cabinet Approval on November 11, 2020

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals which were detailed by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance.

Cabinet approves PLI Scheme worth Rs 1,45,980 cr for Enhancing 10 key Sectors

- This decision has been taken to attract investments, boost manufacturing and enhance exports on the lines of the Atmanirbhar Bharat. India is expected to have a USD 1 trillion digital economy by 2025....[click here for complete detail](#)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved continuation and revamping of the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme under the public private partnership (PPP) model till 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs 8,100 crore.

Cabinet Approvals on November 25, 2020

i. The Central government has approved the draft scheme of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for amalgamation of the capital starved Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB) with DBS Bank India Ltd. (DBIL) headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra. This decision has been taken on RBI's application under section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to protect the interest of 20 lakh depositors.

ii. As a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 package, the Union Cabinet has approved the infusion of Rs 6,000 crore equity in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF's) Debt Financing platform in the next two years i.e., 2020-21 and 2021-22. This financial aid will help the entity to raise Rs 1.10 lakh crore by 2025.

iii. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the 2,480.92 crore foreign direct investment (FDI) in ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Ltd. (ATC India) by M/s. ATC Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd (ATC Singapore)...[Click here for complete detail](#)

Cabinet Approvals with Foreign Countries on November 25, 2020

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the following approvals on November 25, 2020, which were detailed by Union Minister Prakash Keshav Javadekar during a press conference.

- i. Central Government has approved MoU signed between BRICS countries on cooperation in the field of physical culture and sports for strengthening of bilateral relations with BRICS member countries.
- ii. Union Cabinet also approved the MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Vereniging van Register controllers (VRC), the Netherlands for strengthening and development of the Accounting, Financial and Audit Knowledge Base between the Netherlands and India...[Click here for complete detail](#)

PARLIAMENT NEWS

President Kovind Promulgates Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

President Ram Nath Kovind in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Indian Constitution promulgated the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The provision will come into effect retrospectively from October 23, 2015. The amendment will be made in Section 36 (3) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act retrospectively from October 23, 2015 in order to address concerns raised by stakeholders. It should be noted that Section 36 deals with the enforcement of arbitral awards. The objective is to enable all stakeholder parties to seek an unconditional stay on enforcement of arbitral awards where the arbitration agreement is induced by fraud or corruption.

Home Ministry Notified New Rules under FCRA, 2010 by Amending FCRA Rules, 2011

On November 11, 2020, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Rules, 2011 by notifying new rules under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010. Under clause (b) of sub-section (4) of section 12 of the Act, The NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) that intend to receive foreign funding must have existed for at least three years and spent Rs 15 lakh in voluntary activities to be eligible to receive money from abroad.

President gives nod for renaming Shipping Ministry as Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

President of India has gave his assent for renaming Shipping Ministry as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways by exercising of the powers conferred by clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution and by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

STATEWISE NATIONAL NEWS

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

A & N Administration signs Tripartite Agreement with USOF, BSNL for Operation & Management of CANI-SMC Project

On November 13, 2020, A Tripartite Agreement was signed between Andaman & Nicobar Administration (A & N), Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd) for operation and management of Chennai-Andaman & Nicobar Islands Submarine Cable (CANI-SMC) Project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the INR 1224 Crore worth Submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Chennai and Port Blair in August, 2020.

Andhra Pradesh

AP Government plans to set up 400 EV Charging Stations across the State

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) Government has decided to set up 400 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations across the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles. The EV stations will be built under the first

phase of the “Go Electric” Campaign. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched the ‘Go Electric’ campaign in AP in coordination with APSECM (Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission). The Union government is aiming to make electric three-wheelers operational in the country by 2023 and electric two-wheelers by 2025.

AP CM, Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy Launched Interest Free Loan scheme “Jagananna Thodu”

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy launched a flagship scheme “Jagananna Thodu” aimed to benefit several small traders and street vendors. The Scheme is allocated with a fund of 905 Crores to benefit 9.05 lakh street vendors and traders, also to Provide Interest Free loan upto Rs. 10,000 to street vendors and marginal traders.

Assam

Jishnu Baruah Appointed as New Assam chief secretary; Succeeds Kumar Sanjay Krishna

Jishnu Baruah, 1998 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer took charge as the new chief secretary of Assam Government. He succeeds Kumar Sanjay Krishna.

Assam CM Laid Foundation Stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at Kehtri

Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal and Ambassador of Israel to India Ron Malka laid the foundation stone of Rs. 10.33 crore Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at Kehtri on the outskirts of Guwahati.

Chhattisgarh

C’garh CM Launched Fortified Rice Distribution & English Medium School Schemes during Rajyotsav on Nov 1, 2020

On the occasion of statehood day of Chhattisgarh i.e. on November 1, 2020, the state’s Chief Minister (CM) Bhupesh Baghel virtually launched welfare initiatives for their people which include two key schemes viz. distribution of fortified rice through Public Distribution System (PDS) and Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School Scheme. The fortified rice distribution scheme will be launched on pilot basis in Kondagaon district of the state which will aid in checking malnutrition and anemia. The Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School Scheme was launched for setting up of English medium schools which aims at providing education in English to the children.

Haryana

Haryana CM Launches ‘Project Air Care’ in Gurgaon to fight Air Pollution

On November 11, 2020, Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar virtually unveiled ‘Project Air Care’ to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon. 65 Wing Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) would be set up at areas with high Air Quality Indices (AQI) in Gurgaon to improve the air quality. The Air Purifiers have been developed by CSIR-NEERI and IIT Bombay.

Himachal Pradesh

Govt of Himachal Pradesh Partners with ADB to Improve the Infrastructure in Mandi District

On 22nd November 2020, The Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) partnered with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve the infrastructure in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of HP virtually inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various development programs worth Rs.15 crores in Mandi district of HP. Rs. 9 Crores out of the estimated cost of Rs.15 Crores required for the constitution of the facilities will be provided by ADB and the balance will be spared by the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Himachal Pradesh CM Launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan', a Campaign for People's Safety Against COVID-19

On November 24, 2020 Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister(CM) of Himachal Pradesh(HP) launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' a door-to-door campaign in the state to ensure safety of the people against Covid-19 and to screen people for symptoms of COVID-19. The campaign will be from November 25 to December 27, 2020.

Jammu & Kashmir

Jitendra Singh laid Foundation Stone Virtually for the Comprehensive Mansar Lake Development Plan, Jammu

Jitendra Singh, Union MoS (Minister of State) PMO (Prime Minister's Office), Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space laid foundation stone of 'Comprehensive Mansar Rejuvenation/Development Plan' in Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) worth Rs.198.37 Crores through virtual mode. The plan aims to boost the socio-economic development of Jammu region.

Jharkhand

Jharkhand Assembly passes resolution on 'Sarna Code'

On November 11, 2020, Jharkhand Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on 'Sarna Code' during a special one-day assembly session on November 11, 2020 for the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 census and bill will now be sent to the Central Government for approval. The resolution seeks Sarna Followers are worshippers of nature and they do not consider themselves as Hindus. If the Central Government approves the Sarna code, the 2021 census will have a column for a new religion for tribal.

Kerala

Dr. Thomas Isaac Launches 'Green Innovation Fund', Accelerator Program for Social Impact Startups in Kerala

Dr. Thomas Isaac, Kerala Finance Minister launched Green Innovation Fund (GIF), a six-month-long, cohort-based fund-linked accelerator program for social impact startups. The fund is a joint initiative of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), Haritha Keralam Mission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India. GIF is part of the GoI(Government of India)-GEF(Global Environmental Facility)-UNDP India High Range Mountain Landscape project (IHRML).

'Parivarthanam' scheme Launched for fishers in Kerala; ICAR-CIBA, ADAK sign MoU to Increase Brackish Water Fish Production

Kerala Fisheries Minister, J. Mercykutty Amma inaugurated 'Parivarthanam' scheme which aims to improve the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline and improve their socio-economic condition of fishers. ICAR-CIBA (Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agency for Development of Aquaculture Kerala (ADAK) to set up a multi-species fish hatchery at Odayam in Thiruvananthapuram district to increase brackish water fish production in Kerala.

Ladakh

UT of Ladakh gets the Largest Solar Power Project at the Highest Altitude at Leh IAF Station

Leh, in the Union Territory(UT) of Ladakh, gets the largest Solar Power Project at the highest altitude. The project has been established at the Leh Indian Air Force(IAF) Station. This Solar power project was inaugurated by Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, Commander-in-chief, Western Air Command. The Rs.122 crores worth Project named "Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Powerplant 1.5 MW" was conceptualised under the Make in India initiative of the Government of India.

Madhya Pradesh

Tribal Pride Day 2020 in Madhya Pradesh – November 15

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister(CM) of Madhya Pradesh(MP) has decided to celebrate the Tribal Pride Day in Madhya Pradesh(MP) on 15th November 2020 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Freedom fighter and martyr Birsa Munda. He also stated that starting from 2020 every year the 15th November will be celebrated as Tribal Pride Day.

MP CM launches 3-year roadmap for Aatmanirbhar MP; Becomes first state to release roadmap for Self-Reliance

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually launched a Three-year roadmap “Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023” to make MP self-reliant. MP became the first state to release a roadmap for self-reliance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The roadmap focuses on Transparent governance, farm welfare, job creation and booster shots for industry and healthcare.

Madhya Pradesh Government sets up ‘Gau Cabinet’ for Cow Protection; NE’s 1st Cow Hospital inaugurated at Dibrugarh, Assam

On November 18, 2020, Madhya Pradesh (MP) Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan established the First of its kind ‘Gau Cabinet’ in the country for the protection and promotion of cattle in the state. 6 Departments – Animal Husbandry, Forest, Panchayat and Rural Development, Revenue, Home and Farmers Welfare Departments will be part of the ‘Gau Cabinet’. The State Government also decided to form the ‘Mantri Parishad Samiti’ to work for protection and promotion of cows. On November 22, 2020, A cow shelter in Assam’s Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast’s First-ever cow hospital ‘Surbhi Aarogyashala’ on the occasion of Gopashtami.

Odisha

Odisha Government adds Fish Nutrition to Anganwadi Diet Chat

On November 10, 2020, Odisha Government with the support of Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti (WCD&MS), and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had introduced fish and fish-based products in the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) for a five-year period. This new program tends to improve health and nutritional status among people belonging to the lower-income group in Odisha.

Punjab

Punjab Cabinet approves a new scheme to Empower Persons with disabilities

On November 18, 2020, The Punjab Cabinet headed by Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh approved the ‘Punjab Divyangjan Shaktikaran Yojana’ to empower persons with disabilities in a virtual meeting. The Scheme will be implemented in Two Phases.

Rajasthan

Child Rights Week observed in Rajasthan from Nov 14 – 20, 2020: “Vastsalya Yojna” & “Samarth Yojna” Launched

The state government of Rajasthan is observing child rights week from November 14 to 20, 2020 through skill development activities, awareness programmes and new welfare schemes. The initiatives were taken from the Nehru Child Protection Fund, which was announced in the 2020-21 State Budget. The week was virtually inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister (CM) Ashok Gehlot.

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

On 24th November 2020, The United Nations (UN)'s World Food Programme(WFP) signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the Government of Rajasthan for the proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals. Based on the MoU between the Civil Supply Department and the UN WFP, the WFP authorities signed the LoU with various government departments of Rajasthan to develop the partnership with them.

Telangana

Telangana govt's 1st Rythu Vedika Inaugurated by K Chandrashekhar Rao to Address Farmers' Issues

Chief Minister (CM) of Telangana, Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhar Rao, inaugurated the state's first Rythu Vedika at Kondakandla village in Jangaon district of Telangana. Rythu Vedika is Telangana government's initiative to address the issues faced by farmers by bringing them under one platform and help them to attain higher returns. The state has earmarked Rs 572.22 crores towards the total construction cost at Rs 22 lakh per Rythu Vedika.

Tripura

Govt of Tripura Launched "Mukhyamantri Unnoto Godhan Prakalp" to Make Tripura Self Sufficient in Milk Production

The Government of Tripura contemplated a 3-year plan to introduce sex-sorted artificial insemination of cattle under the Mukhyamantri Unnoto(Unnat) Godhan Prakalpa(MUGP) scheme to make Tripura self-sufficient in milk production by ensuring that more cows are born through selective chromosome selection. The MUGP scheme was launched by the Animal Resources Development Department, Government of Tripura, in October 2020 at Pragna Bhavan, Agartala. Under this scheme, the sex sorted artificial insemination of the livestock will be adopted till 2023.

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh ranks fifth in MSME employment generators during Pandemic: RBI report

According to a recent Nov. 2020 report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been ranked fifth by providing employment under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during Corona pandemic. Top five states are Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

UP Governor Anandiben Patel gives assent to Ordinance on "Unlawful Conversions"

On November 28, 2020, Uttar Pradesh(UP) Governor Anandiben Patel gave assent to "Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020" (Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Viruddh Dharm Samparivartan Pratishedh Adhyadesh 2020) which aims to curb forcible or "dishonest" religious conversion including those for the sake of marriage. The ordinance states that a marriage will be declared "shunya" or null and void if the main intention of the marriage was to "change a girl's religion".

LAUNCHES & INAUGURATION

CJI SA Bobde Inaugurates India's First-ever e-resource center 'Nyay Kaushal' & Virtual Court in Nagpur

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Arvind Bobde inaugurated 'Nyay Kaushal' – India's first ever E-resource centre and a virtual court for the Maharashtra Transport and Traffic Department at Judicial Officers Training Institute in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Nyay Kaushal will facilitate electronic-filing of cases in Supreme Court, High Court and district courts across the country.

Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri launches Three Initiatives

Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri launched Three Initiatives Namely Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge, Data Maturity Assessment Framework Cycle 2 & On-line training programme for City Data Officers (CDO) during an event.

NMDC Ltd & IIT-Hyderabad Launched NICE Program to Support Deep-Tech Startups

NMDC Ltd under the Ministry of Steel, in association Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad launched NICE (NMDC Innovation and Incubation Centre) Program a deep technology start-up support system at IIT Hyderabad. NICE Program is a joint initiative of NMDC and i-TIC Foundation, Technology Business Incubator(TBI) at IIT Hyderabad.

NSDC Launched "Project Future Ready" to Impart Career Skills to 1 lakh students

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with American India Foundation, Dell Technologies and University of Mumbai has launched" Project Future Ready" to equip students with career skills. The project will cover over 1 lakh students in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR, of which 60 per cent are females.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Inaugurated India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project in Arunachal Pradesh

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Lower Dibang Valley district in north-eastern Arunachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore.

PM Inaugurated Hazir-Ghogha Ferry service in Gujarat; Renamed Ministry of Shipping

On November 8, 2020, the Government of India renamed the Ministry of Shipping to Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways during the Prime Minister's virtual inauguration event of Ro-Pax Ferry service between Hazira in Surat district in south Gujarat and Ghogha in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat.

Uttarakhand CM Inaugurates 'Dobra-Chanthi' in Tehri-Garhwal & 1st state to provide free Wifi to Govt Institutes

On November 8, 2020, Uttarakhand CM, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the India's longest motorable single lane suspension bridge of 725-metre-long Dobra-Chanti suspension bridge in Tehri-Garhwal district over the Tehri Lake with a total cost of INR 2.96 Crore (approximately).Also became first state to provide free high-speed WiFi services for all government colleges and universities.

Prime Minister virtually Inaugurates & lays foundation stone Multiple projects in Varanasi

On November 9, 2020, Prime Minister virtually inaugurated & Laid the Foundation Stone Multiple development projects for Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, related to Agriculture, Tourism and Infrastructure. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) the Total cost implication of these projects is INR 614 crore. He highlighted the newly launch of 'Swamitva Yojana'.

PM Modi Inaugurated Office-cum-Residential Complex of Cuttack Bench of ITAT in Odisha

On November 11, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Office-cum-Residential Complex of Cuttack Bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) in Odisha to provide modern tax services. This bench will also provide services to Northeast and East India as it will help the Kolkata bench (West Bengal).

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat virtually Inaugurates Australia-India Water Centre

Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat virtually inaugurated the Australia-India Water Centre (AIWC) on November 6, 2020. The Centre will be led by IIT (Indian Institute of Technology)

Guwahati & University of Western Sydney along with another 21 partners from India & Australia. AIWC will promote water-related research, teaching and training between India and Australia.

MoHFW Launches 3-Month accelerated SAANS Campaign to Reduce Childhood Pneumonia Deaths

On November 12, 2020 The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched a 3-month accelerated SAANS (Social Action and Awareness to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully) campaign to reduce childhood pneumonia deaths and to raise awareness regarding childhood pneumonia. Set target to reduce less than 5 pneumonia deaths, per a 1000 live births, to less than 3 deaths by 2025 through the accelerated SAANS (Social Action and Awareness to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully) initiative.

Union Minister of Education Virtually Launched AICTE's Lilavati Award 2020

On 17th November 2020, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education virtually launched the Lilavati Award 2020, an initiative by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to promote women empowerment in India. The Theme of the Lilavati Award 2020 is "women empowerment".

L&T delivers India's first launch hardware for Gaganyaan Mission to ISRO

On November 17, 2020, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) delivered First Hardware – a Booster Segment – 'S-200' for Gaganyaan Launch Vehicle to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) in a virtual flag-off ceremony. The Virtual flag-off ceremony was presided over by Dr K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO. The Booster segment was produced at L&T's Powai Aerospace Manufacturing Facility, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Narendra Singh Tomar Virtually Inaugurated Capacity Building Component of PM-FME & launched GIS ODOP Digital Map of India

On November 18, 2020, Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) virtually inaugurated the capacity building component of the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME Scheme). He also launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) One District One Product (ODOP) or GIS ODOP Digital Map of India. GIS ODOP Digital Map of India provides details of ODOP products of all the states and facilitates the stakeholders to make concerted efforts for its value chain development. [Click here for complete detail of the two inaugurations](#)

Modi, PM Bhutan PM Tshering e-launched RuPay card Phase-II; MoU signed for cooperation in space sector

On November 20, 2020 Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering jointly e-launched RuPay card Phase-II which will allow Bhutanese card holders to access RuPay network in India. Through this initiative, Bhutanese people can access around one lakh ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) and 20 Lakh Point-of-Sale terminals (PoS) across India. Bhutan's Capital – Thimphu and Currency – Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN).

Hardeep Singh Puri Launched Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge; Conferral of Swachhata Awards 2020 held on World Toilet Day

During the occasion of World Toilet Day i.e. on November 19, 2020, Minister of State (MoS), Independent Charge (I/C) Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched a Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge at a webinar in New Delhi where pledge has been taken by senior officials representing 243 cities to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021.

On the same occasion Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat along with the Minister of State (MoS) Rattan Lal Kataria felicitated top districts with 'Swachhata Puraskar' through a virtual

event from New Delhi amid COVID-19. The awards recognized their significant contribution towards Open Defecation Free (ODF) Sustainability and ODF Plus goals.

NASSCOM Launched FutureSkills PRIME Beta Platform to Enhance India's Digital Talent

On 18th November 2020, Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and Debjani Ghosh, President of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) unveiled the FutureSkills PRIME Beta Platform, a digital learning platform to enhance India's digital talents. It to benefit the aspirants from Tier II and Tier III cities. NASSCOM launched this Beta Platform, as a part of its endeavours to create an ecosystem to enhance the digital talents of India with required skill sets. ISB Signed MoU with ICWA for Collaborative Research in the Areas of International Relation.

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

On November 19, 2020, Union Minister of Communications, Ravi Shankar Prasad released a "My Stamp on Chhath Puja". He also released a Special cover on the theme 'Chhath – A symbol of Simplicity and Cleanliness'. On Chhath Puja, devotees offer prayers to the God of Light i.e Sun as he is considered the life force that binds the universe and gives energy to all living things.

IOCL Successfully Tests "zero-emission e-mobility"; Oil India Launched Seismic Survey in Mahanadi onland basin in Odisha

On November 20, 2020, the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) successfully conducted a 'Proof of Concept' feasibility study on 'zero-emission electric mobility' at one of its fuel stations in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This study will help in promoting electric mobility in the country. This concept allows the electric vehicle (EV) to charge using solar power and ensuring zero emissions. Oil India Limited (OIL) launched the Rs 220 crore seismic survey programme at Kakatpur in Puri District, Odisha in the Mahanadi Basin (Onland) as a part of the National Seismic Programme (NSP).

UNDP and Invest India Launched the SDG Investor Map Report for India

On 20th November 2020, SDG Finance Facility platform at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with Invest India launched the SDG Investor Map Report for India, which presents 18 investment opportunities areas (IOAs) in 6 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) enabling sectors that will support India to advance in sustainable development. The 6 SDG sectors include education, healthcare, agriculture & allied activities, financial services, renewable energy & alternatives and sustainable environment.

PM Modi launched "Har Ghar Nal Yojna" drinking water projects in UP's Mirzapur, Sonbhadra

On November 22, 2020, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched "Har Ghar Nal Yojna" (tap water to every household) worth Rs 5,555.38 crore for drinking water projects in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts in Vindhyaachal region of Uttar Pradesh (UP). The scheme will be completed within the next two years. Rs 3212.18 crore will be spent in Sonbhadra and Rs 2343.20 crore will be utilized in Mirzapur.

MoSJE E-Launches 'National Portal for Transgender Persons' and E-Inaugurated Garima Greh in Vadodara, Gujarat

On November 25, 2020, Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) has e-launched a "National Portal for Transgender Persons" and e-inaugurated a "Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons" in Vadodara, Gujarat. Portal has been launched on the lines of Notification of Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020 released on September, 29 2020. Garima Greh is launched by MoSJE and will be run in association with Lakshya Trust.

MoES to Launch Deep Ocean Mission in 3-4 months for Underwater Exploration in Indian Ocean

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is all set to launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission' in the next 3-4 months that envisages underwater exploration of minerals, energy and marine diversity and also enhance India's presence in the Indian Ocean. Its expected outlay is over Rs 4,000 crore. The information regarding the mission was provided by MoES secretary, Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan. The main aspects of the mission will be design, development and demonstration of human submersibles.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Launched Nafed's Honey FPO Programs In 5 States

On 26th November 2020, Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare virtually inaugurated the Honey Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) Programs of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) under the "Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs" Scheme in 5 states. The areas covered under the Honey FPO programme are, Sundarbans in West Bengal, East Champaran in Bihar, Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Morena in Madhya Pradesh and Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

Accelerator lab of UNDP, India Launches GRID for Inclusive Development at Community Level

On November 27, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Accelerator lab in India launched a first of its kind Grassroot Innovation Database (GRID) to promote inclusive development at the community level. Created by GRID is co-created by GIAN [Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network], Honey Bee Network Institution and UNDP Accelerator Lab-India.

FESTIVALS

UP's Gorakhpur is Set to Host the International Bird Festival

On 9th November 2020, Dara Singh Chauhan, Uttar Pradesh Minister of Forest and Environment announced that the International Bird Festival will be organized in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) in February 2021.

OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

Indian Railways Launches 'Meri Saheli' Initiative for Safety of Women Train Passengers

Indian Railways launched the 'Meri Saheli' initiative to ensure safety of women passengers on trains across all zones. Under the initiative, women passengers will be provided safety and security during their entire journey, i.e., from originating station till destination station. Meri Saheli is an initiative of Railway Protection Force (RPF). The initiative will also provide them mental peace and a comfortable & happy travelling experience.

Government extends Deadline to Make Payment under Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme till March 31, 2021

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Government of India has notified extension of payment deadline for direct tax legacy dispute resolution scheme (Vivad Se Vishwas) from 31st December, 2020 to 31st March 2021. The deadline is an incentive for taxpayers as those who make declaration before the deadlines will have to pay at concessional rates.

NITI Aayog Released a Draft Model Act and Rules for States on Conclusive Land Titling

NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog released a draft model Act and rules for states on conclusive land titling. It was released to minimise litigation and ease the land acquisition process for infrastructure projects. As per the Act, if any person is distressed by an entry in the Record of Titles notified under Section 11, may file an objection before the Title Registration Officer within three years

from the date of such notification. Note: A Land title is a document that determines the ownership of land or an immovable property.

Government revises PLI scheme Guidelines to boost local production of bulk drugs, medical devices

Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has revised guidelines of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for promotion of domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices. Replacement of Criteria of 'Minimum threshold' investment with 'Committed Investment' by the selected applicant. Change has been made in Minimum annual production capacity for 10 products. These suggestions and inputs were examined by Technical Committees and their recommendations were placed before the Empowered Committee chaired by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant.

Ayush Ministry Ties Up with Invest India to Setup Strategic Policy Unit

The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) and Invest India will collaborate to set up a strategic policy unit called "Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)" to facilitate planned and systematic growth of AYUSH Sector means SPFB Bureau will support the AYUSH ministry in strategic and policy making initiatives.

India's First Solar-Powered Miniature Train Launched at Veli Tourist Village, Kerala by CM Pinarayi Vijayan

India's first solar energy-driven miniature train was virtually inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village in Kerala by state's Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan. Developed with an outlay of Rs 10 crore, this train is a part of Rs 60 crore projects undertaken to make facilities of the Veli tourist village at par with international standards. Apart from this, he also dedicated Rs 5 crore Urban Park and Rs 2.5 crore swimming pool at the Veli tourist village which is located on the outskirts of the capital Thiruvananthapuram.

Indian Railways ties up with Indian School of Business to improve Operational Efficiency

Indian Railways (IR) has tied up with Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad to improve its operational efficiency using digital tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Analytics. Indian School of Business will analyse the data generated by the Indian Railways. After analysis, it will be used by IR in the Passenger Reservation System (PRS), introduction of new trains, and predictive asset maintenance.

NMCG organised three-day virtual 'Ganga Utsav 2020'; Chacha Chaudhary Named as Brand Ambassador of Namami Gange

A three-day long Ganga Utsav 2020 from November 2-4, 2020 was virtually organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) amid COVID-19 to spread awareness about river Ganga and the need to keep the river clean and rejuvenated. The 2020 edition marks the 12th anniversary of Ganga being accorded the status of National River, on 4th November 2008. The event was attended by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The German development agency (GIZ) has collaborated with NMCG for a project, 'Support to Ganga Rejuvenation'. The iconic Indian comic character, Chacha Chaudhary, whose brain works faster than a computer has been named as the brand ambassador of Namami Gange Programme.

International Centre for Clean Water at IIT-M set to Collaborate with DG TAKANO to Introduce New Clean Water Technologies in India

International Centre for Clean Water (ICCW), an initiative by IITM (Indian Institute of Technology Madras) to collaborate with DG TAKANO, Japanese firm. Aim- To introduce new clean water technologies in India. Recently, ICCW and DG TAKANO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on projects on clean water.

Virtual India CEO forum on Climate Change Chaired by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar

The India CEO Forum on Climate Change was held virtually on November 5 which was chaired by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC). It focuses on sustainable partnership between the Government and private sector in the field of climate change. The forum saw the participation of key industry leaders from the steel, cement, power, pharmaceuticals etc. sectors who shared their vision for climate action in the post-2020 period. Note: India aims to achieve 100 GW (Gigawatt) Solar Power and 175 GW renewable energy by 2022 and production of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

Kottor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Kerala is Set to Become World's Largest Care & Cure Centre

Kottor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala is being upgraded to International standard and is set to become the world's largest care and cure centre for elephants. The upgradation of the centre is a part of the special program of the government of Kerala for the protection and conservation of elephants. The project is implemented at a cost of Rs.108 crore funded from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board(KIIFB). This move aims to provide a rehabilitation centre for elephants in a natural ecosystem.

Assam's Tezpur Litchi Gets GI Tag

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Union ministry of commerce and industry, confirmed that Tezpur Litchi of Assam has received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. Tezpur Litchi was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag certification on 27th March 2015.

Labour Ministry notifies Draft rules for Industrial Relations Code, aims for April 2021 implementation

The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 in the Official Gazette of India on September 29, 2020. The ministry sought comments from various stakeholders within 30 days for finalizing the rules. Government aims to implement the four labour codes from April 1, 2021.

Indian Astronomers Collaborate with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Professor Andrea Ghez on Thirty Meter Telescope Project

Indian Astronomers had worked closely with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Professor Andrea Ghez for designing of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project which is being installed at Maunakea in Hawaii. The project will revolutionize the understanding of the universe and mysteries surrounding it.

GoI Issues Orders to bring Digital News Portals, Online Films, Content Providers under Purview of I&B Ministry

On November 11, 2020, Government of India issued an order to bring digital or online Media, films and audio-visual programmes, news and current affairs content under the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting (Ministry of I&B). This will include OTT (over-the-top) platforms such as Netflix, Hotstar, Prime Video & Online News Portal. In order to do bring this under Ministry of I&B President amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

Mumbai Metro to have vibration-absorbing tracks at first time in India

For the first time in India, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., MMRCL will lay vibration-absorbing tracks on the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro Line-3 with an estimated outlay of Rs.23,000-cr. It will have 27 underground stations en route and is expected to be operational in 2021.

Finance Ministry Approved the 1st ever National Database of Unorganised Labour

On November 10, 2020, the Ministry of Finance gave its nod for the creation of the first ever “National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)” with an expected outlay of Rs 650 crore. In this regard, Ministry of Labour & Employment has envisaged development of NDUW seeded with Aadhaar.

Nirmala Sitharaman Detailed ‘Aatmanirbhar’ Package 3.0 worth Rs 2,65,080 cr; 12 schemes Announced

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Finance has announced the “Aatmanirbhar Package 3.0” covering following 12 schemes as a stimulus measure of additional Rs 2,65,080 crores to boost economic growth. It should be noted that as of November 12, 2020, the Central Government has provided an economic stimulus of Rs 29,87,641 crore amid COVID-19. [Click here to read the details of 12 schemes](#)

L&T Emerges as Lowest Bidder for the India’s Longest River Bridge in Northeast

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has emerged as the lowest bidder with Rs.3166 crores for the construction of the India’s longest Bridge over a River in the northeast 20 kilometer(km) 4 lane road bridge across River Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri of Assam to Phulbair of Meghalaya on National Highway(NH) 127B. National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) is the executing agency and is expected to be completed by 2026-27 and financed by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar in UP Added to Ramsar sites

On November 15, 2020 Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced that Sur Sarovar also known as Keetham Lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh and Lonar Lake in Maharashtra, the only crater lake of Country has been added to the ‘Ramsar Sites’. These 2 wetlands have been included in the ‘List of Wetlands of International Importance’ established by Article 2.1 of the convention.

MNRE expands scope of PM-KUSUM Scheme to enable greater solar energy generation in farm sector

On November 13, 2020, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched the PM KUSUM Scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in India during 2019 and now Guidelines of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (PM-KUSUM) scheme has been amended to encourage greater solar energy generation in the farm sector. It aimed to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25, 750 MW by 2022.

Finance Ministry allocated Rs 39,097 cr for MEIS benefits for 2019-20; Rs 15,555 crore for Apr-Dec 2020

In accordance with the notification by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) under Department of Revenue, the Finance Ministry has approved the allocation of Rs 39,097 crore under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for the exports made during FY 2019-20. It also

approved an allocation of Rs 15,555 crore for MEIS benefits for exports made during the period April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

PM Modi unveils 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st Birth Anniversary of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace' to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan. Vijay Vallabh is a Jain Saint who lived from 1870-1954.

Asia's First Solar Power-Enabled Textile Mill to come up at Parbhani, Maharashtra

Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill is set to be come up at Parbhani, Maharashtra, the first Textile Mill in Asia that will operate on Solar Power. It is being set up at a cost of INR 100 Crores and will add momentum to the industrial sector in the district.

PM Modi Virtually Addressed the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2020

The 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2020 was held virtually where India was represented by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. The focus of the forum was to restore the economy and to chart a course for the future amid COVID-19 pandemic. The forum was held from November 16 to 19, 2020. It should be noted that the inaugural Forum was held in Singapore, and the second annual Forum was hosted in Beijing, China.

INTERPOL-WCO's Operation Thunder 2020 Concluded; India Customs intercepts 18 tonnes Red Sandalwood

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) conducted Operation Thunder in 103 countries between September 14, 2020, and October 11, 2020, against environmental crimes. During the Operation, India Customs along with INTERPOL and WCO intercepted an 18-tonne shipment of red sandalwood destined for the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Indian Railways Assigns RailTel to implement Hospital Management Information System

On November 10, 2020 Indian Railways (IR) assigned RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) to implement the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), an integrated clinical information system in its 125 health facilities and 650 polyclinics across India. This is to improve hospital administration and patient healthcare.

Digital Media Outlets must bring down FDI to 26 % by Oct 2021; I&B Ministry asked Details by Dec 16, 2020

On November 16, 2020, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has issued a notice asking all eligible news websites, portals, aggregators and agencies which are uploading or streaming news and current affairs through digital media to comply with the 26% foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for digital news media. They need to share suitable details within one month i.e. by December 16, 2020. Digital Media Groups which have more than 26% FDI need to take suitable steps to bring down the FDI to 26% in one year i.e. by 15th October, 2021 and seek approval of the Ministry of I&B.

Bhubaneswar Becomes 1st City in India to get ISO Certification for FSSM services

Bhubaneswar, Capital of Odisha became the First City in the Country to get ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 Certification for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) services. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) was the first civic body to implement

FSSM regulations in Odisha. Jenaidah is the first city in the world to get ISO certification for FSSM. Bhubaneswar is 2nd in the world and 1st city in India in this regard.

Mumbai Became the 1st Indian city to Have an Urban Plan with Gender-Specific Focus

The financial capital of India, Mumbai (Maharashtra) has become the first city in the country with a gender-specific city's urban plan which has provisions for designated spaces for the needs of women. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has added a chapter titled 'Gender, Special Groups and Social Equity' under the Revised Draft Development Plan (RDDP) 2034. The plan proposed "departure from gender blindness to gender mainstreaming".

15th Finance Commission headed by NK Singh recommends PPP to increase Health Infrastructure Spending in India

Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) led by Chairman Nand Kishore (NK) Singh has recommended for reprioritising Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to increase Health Infrastructure Spending, and Public spending on Health in India. The PPP will increase India's spending on Health Infrastructure from 0.95% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) to 2.5% GDP by 2024. On November 9, 2020, The 15th Finance Commission headed by NK Singh submitted its report titled "Finance Commission in COVID Time" to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman.

Govt Provide 50% Subsidy for Air Transportation of Fruits, Vegetables from NE, Himalayan states

As a part of "Operation Green Scheme TOP to TOTAL", the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has announced a 50% air transportation subsidy for 41 notified fruits and vegetables from North East and Himalayan states to any place in the country. In this regard, Airlines will provide the transport subsidy directly to the supplier/ consignor/ consignee/ agent by charging only 50% of the freight charges and will claim the balance 50% from MoFPI as subsidy.

L&T Construction bags order to build 87.56 kms of India's first Bullet Train Project

The Transportation Infrastructure business of L&T (Larsen & Toubro) Construction, the construction arm of L&T secured the contract to build 87.569 Kms of India's first high-speed rail corridor or Bullet Train Project - 'Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR)' from the National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL). The project is valued more than INR 7, 000 Crores and funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is expected to be completed by 2023.

Solar Capacity Addition falls 80% in Q2FY21; MNRE Proposed Wind-Solar Hybrid Park Scheme in States

As per the report by Mercom Communications India, the solar capacity of India was decreased in Q2 FY21 (July to September) as it added just 438 megawatt (MW) solar capacity, a down of 80% from 2,177 MW the same period in 2019. As of September 30, 2020, India's total solar installed capacity was at 37.4 Gigawatt (GW). The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has proposed the "Development of Wind Parks/Wind-Solar Hybrid Park" scheme with proper infrastructure including evacuation facilities in place.

Govt Approved Subsidized Loans worth Rs 3,971.31 cr for Micro-Irrigation Projects; Tamil Nadu received highest loan approval

On November 21, 2020, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) has approved subsidized loans worth Rs 3,971.31 crore under Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) for implementing micro-irrigation projects. Of the total amount, NABARD has so far released an amount of Rs 1,754.60 crore to the states. The maximum loan worth Rs 1,357.93 crore has been approved for the state of Tamil Nadu.

India's First Moss Garden comes up at Khurpatal, Nainital District of Uttarakhand

On November 20, 2020 India's First Moss Garden was inaugurated at Khurpatal, Nainital District of Uttarakhand by renowned Water Conservation Activist of India, Rajendra Singh (also known as Water Man of India). The park was approved by the Research Advisory Committee of Uttarakhand Forest Department under the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme in July, 2019.

Govt of Karnataka issued notification to rename Haveri Railway station as Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station

On 20th November 2020, the Government of Karnataka issued a notification to rename the Haveri Railway station as Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station, after Mahadevappa Mailara, a freedom fighter from Haveri district, Karnataka. The notification was issued by S Veena, Under-secretary to Government. The government has issued a gazette notification for the name change with the spelling of the new name in Devnagri(Hindi), Roman(English) and Regional Language(Kannada).

ESIC Extended ABVKY scheme by one year i.e. up to June 2021

The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has extended the "Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY)" by another one year i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30th June, 2021 amid COVID-19. It has also relaxed the eligibility conditions for the period between March 24, 2020 and December 31, 2020. The rates of unemployment relief under the scheme has also been enhanced to 50% of wages from earlier rate of 25%.

India, US Extended Nuclear Energy Partnership "GCNEP" by 10 more years

On November 24, 2020, India and the United States of America (USA) extended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning cooperation with the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) India, for 10 more years. This MoU, inked on November 7, 2010 in New Delhi also marked the 10 years of partnership on nuclear energy cooperation. Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership is World's first nuclear energy partnership centre.

MEITY issues order for blocking 43 Mobile apps under Section 69A of Information Technology Act

On November 24, 2020, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), Government of India issued orders to block 43 mobile apps from accessing by users in India, under section 69A of the Information Technology Act. This is the Third time that India has blocked apps for engaging in activities prejudicial to India's Sovereignty, Integrity, Defence, Security and Public Order. The apps have been blocked based on reports received from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Indian Railways Collaborates with ISB for a Study to Increase Network Throughput

On November 24, 2020 Indian Railways(IR) collaborated with Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad for a study on 'An Integrated Coal-Freight Optimization Model' to increase network throughput and optimize freight transportation over Indian Railways. After the introduction of Freight Operations Information System (FOIS), the entire data of freight services is available in digital format.

PM Narendra Modi Chaired 33rd PRAGATI interaction

On November 25, 2020, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi chaired the 33rd PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) meeting which reviewed the multiple projects, grievances and programmes in the presence of concerned Secretaries of the Union Government and Chief Secretaries of the State Governments. The projects that reviewed were of the Ministry of Railways,

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Power.

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

On November 25, 2020, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released a compendium titled "Mitigation & Management of Covid-19- Practices from India's States & Union Territories". It was released by NITI Aayog Member Dr Vinod K Paul, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant and Additional Secretary Dr Rakesh Sarwal. The report contains information about various initiatives implemented by states, districts, and cities in India for containing and managing the Covid-19 outbreak.

Ministry of Environment Approves Rs. 1100 crore for Song Dam drinking water project

On 26th November, The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has announced a Fund allocation of Rs. 1100 crore towards the construction of Song Dam drinking water project in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This project is aimed at providing 24 hours drinking water to the city of Dehradun and will help the revival of River Rispana a tributary of River Song. The dam is about 148 m high and has the capability to generate power up to 6 MW.

Israel Committed its Partnership with India for future with Low Carbon, Pollution Levels

A digital conference of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held on November 27, 2020 where Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has committed his partnership with India for lowering carbon and pollution levels in future. He expressed his confidence that in Israel solar energy would constitute over 25% of energy supply by 2030.

PM Narendra Modi Unveiled the Rs.100 Commemorative Coin & Postal Stamp to Mark Centennial Foundation Day of University of Lucknow

On 25th November 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, unveiled the University of Lucknow's centennial commemorative coin of Rs.100 over a virtual platform. He also released the commemorative stamp issued by the India Post and its cover at the event organised for the celebration of the 100th Foundation day of the University of Lucknow, Uttarpradesh.

MEITY and IBM India collaborate to upskill members of CSC ecosystem in AI & Cloud

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) and IBM (International Business Machines) India have collaborated to establish an education & Skilling ecosystem through Common Services Centre (CSC) Academy (part of the Common Services Centre scheme) to upskill members of the CSC ecosystem in new age technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Cloud. It will focus on skill upgradation through experiential learning which are aimed at enhancing employability.

GOVT SCHEMES

Government Extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by One Month to November 30, 2020

Government of India extended Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by one month (i.e.) 30th of November or till an amount of INR Three Lakh Crore (Target Credit of ECLGS) is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier. The previous Deadline was October 31, 2020. According to Members Lending Institutions on ECLGS Portal, Loans of INR 2.03 Lakh Crore have been sanctioned and an amount of INR 1.48 Lakh crore has been disbursed. The number of beneficiaries under the scheme are 60.67 lakh

borrowers so far. Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed a committee headed by Rajnath Singh to solve the difficulties faced in the implementation of Rs.3 Lakh crore collateral-free loan for MSME.

Govt plans to Set Up 14 More Water Aerodromes for Seaplane Services Under RCS UDAN Scheme

Government of India plans to set up 14 more water aerodromes across India under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) **UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (**MoCA**) following the launch of the first seaplane service between the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya of Narmada Gujarat and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. These 14 aerodromes will enable seaplane services on multiple routes.

MNRE scales up PM-KUSUM scheme goal to 30.8 GW of solar capacity by 2022

On November 9, 2020, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) issued an order for scale-up and expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme for farmers for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants in India.. It had set a target of the enhanced solar capacity of 30.8 GigaWatt (GW) by 2022 with revised Central Financial Support of INR 34, 035 crores.

MoYAS Introduced an Incentivisation Structure to Fund 500 Private Academies Through Khelo India Scheme for Next 4 years

On November 13, 2020 The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), Government of India introduced an incentivisation structure to fund 500 private academies, through the Khelo India Scheme over the next four years starting 2020-21. Under the scheme, SAI (Sports Authority of India) and NSFs (National Sports Federations) will work together to encourage all academies, particularly the private academies to continue to improve the level of infrastructure, resources and sports science support, thus athletes can get best in class training.

FIGO, UNICEF India, FOGSI & 3 other organizations partner to strengthen POSHAN Abhiyaan

6 Organizations – International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) India, Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), Pregnancy and Obesity Nutrition Initiative (PONI), Alive & Thrive, Nutrition International and ARTIST for Her (Asian Research & Training Institute for Skill Transfer) have partnered to strengthen the implementation of the POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyaan. It aims to bring stunting of children in age groups of 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

Puducherry launches Free Breakfast Scheme for Government School Students

On November 12, 2020 Puducherry Government formally launched a free breakfast scheme "Dr Kalaignar Mu Karunanidhi Kaalai Sitrundi Thittam" (Dr Kalaignar M Karunanidhi breakfast scheme) named after Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr Kalaignar M Karunanidhi for Government and Government aided school's students. Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy inaugurated the scheme at Jeevanandam Government Higher Secondary School, Puducherry.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee announces 'Duare Duare Paschim Banga Sarkar Scheme' & "Karma Dharma" scheme

On November 22, 2020, West Bengal (WB) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced two schemes "Duare Duare Paschim Banga Sarkar Scheme" (West Bengal government at every doorstep) To address the grievances of the people starting from the block level & "Karma Dharma" (Work is Worship) scheme - Providing Motorbikes for the youth to enable them to do small scale businesses. at a programme held at Sidhu Kanhu Indoor Stadium, Durgapur.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

New building of Bhimsen Adarsha Higher Secondary School, built with Indian Assistance of NRs 25.83 Million E-Inaugurated in Nepal

The new building of Bhimsen Adarsha Higher Secondary School, Nawalpur District, Nepal constructed with the Government of India's financial assistance of NPRs (Nepalese Rupees) 25.83 million, under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Cooperation has been virtually inaugurated. The project was implemented by the District Coordination Committee(DCC), Nawalparasi, Nepal.

India & GCC Troika Held the Annual Political Dialogue in Virtual Mode

India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika held their annual political dialogue in Virtual mode. The leaders discussed the detailed review of India-GCC ties and highlighted the progress in ties in the past years. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Union Minister of External Affairs led the Indian delegation. External Affairs Minister (EAM) urged the members of GCC to ease the return of Indian workers and professionals through sustainable travel arrangements.

India provides NPR 1 Billion Tranche to Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project

Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Vinay Mohan Kwatra handed over a cheque of NPR (Nepalese Rupee) 1 Billion (~ INR 62.5 Crores) to Bishnu Prasad Paudel, Finance Minister of Nepal as reimbursement of Nepal Housing Reconstruction Project.

1st Committee of UNGA under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver adopts Two India-sponsored Nuclear Disarmament Resolutions

The First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) also known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee adopted two India-sponsored resolutions on Nuclear Disarmament which aims to reduce risk of nuclear accidents and calls for prohibition on use of nuclear weapons. The two adopted Resolutions are: (i) 'Convention on Prohibition of Use of Nuclear Weapons'. (ii) 'Reducing Nuclear Danger' under 'Nuclear Weapons' cluster.

United States formally exits Paris Climate Agreement to curb climate change

United States (US) became the first country to formally exit the Paris Climate Agreement. The formal exit from the agreement happened over a period of three years, after President Donald Trump declared pull-out from the climate accord in June 2017. US is the second largest emitter of Greenhouse gases in the world (1st – China), accounting for a total of 25 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. US had promised to reduce its emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent by the year 2025 from 2005 levels.

5th Joint Working Group on Coal held virtually between India and Indonesia

India successfully hosted the 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Coal between India and Indonesia via Video conference from New Delhi due to Pandemic. The JWG was co-chaired from Indian side by Vinod Kumar Tiwari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India and by Jonson Pakpahan, Director for Mineral and Coal, Non Tax State Revenue of Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia.

India-Nordic -Baltic CII Conclave 2020 held Virtually; Attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) virtually organized an India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave on the theme "An Innovation-driven Partnership for Growth in a New World". It was sponsored by Denmark's shipping company MAERSK. The Indian side was represented by

Union Minister S Jaishankar, MEA along with participation of Secretary West, Vikas Swarup, Secretary Economic Relations (ER) Rahul Chhabra and Joint Secretary Central Europe Neeta Bhushan. This conclave was the outcome of the India-Denmark virtual summit that took place earlier in 2020.

INTERPOL Created Two Cybercrime-related Communication Services

The Lyon, France based International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) has created two secure and flexible services (Cybercrime Knowledge Exchange (CKE) workspace & Cybercrime Collaborative Platform-Operation) to facilitate cybercrime related communication among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to ensure more effective and coordinated action based on timely intelligence.

Virgin Hyperloop completes First-ever Human Trial in Hyperloop Pod in US

Virgin Hyperloop successfully completed the first-ever human trial in the hyperloop pod at the 500 metre DevLoop test facility in the Las Vegas, United States (US) on November 8, 2020. Josh Giegel, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Virgin Hyperloop and Sara Luchian, Director of Passenger Experience of Virgin Hyperloop, were the first people in the world to ride on Hyperloop. Hyperloop in India: Maharashtra Government recognized hyperloop as a public infrastructure project and approved the Virgin Hyperloop-DP World Consortium as Original Project Proponent (OPP) for the Mumbai-Pune hyperloop project.

India, Nepal Launch construction of 3rd Integrated Check Post to boost Trade

On 12th November, 2020, India and Nepal launched the construction of 3rd Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Nepalgunj, Nepal at a cost of INR 147.12 Crores (Nepalese Rupee ~NRs2354). It will bring customs and immigration facilities under one roof to smoothen cross-border movement of cargo trucks. The Portion on Indian side will be built at Rupaidiha (Uttar Pradesh).

India's Renewable Energy Sector to see the Largest Growth after COVID-19: IEA

According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) report, Renewables 2020 – Analysis and Forecast to 2025, India's Renewable Energy sector will see the largest growth after COVID-19. India will double its green energy capacity addition in 2021 compared to 2020 levels. Driven by China and the United States, new additions of renewable power capacity worldwide are expected to a record level of almost 200 Gigawatts (GW) in 2020. Total Installed Wind and Solar PV capacity will surpass natural gas in 2023 and coal in 2024.

15 Asia-Pacific Nations sign World's Biggest Free Trade Pact 'RCEP' in 37th ASEAN virtual Summit 2020

On 15th November, 2020, 15 Asia-Pacific countries including 10 members of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and their 5 Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia signed the World's largest regional free-trade agreement "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership – RCEP" on the side-lines of the 37th ASEAN virtual Summit 2020 hosted by Vietnam. India had pulled out of RCEP in 2019 over concerns on Imports.

nOPV2 vaccine for Polio becomes the 1st Ever Vaccine to be listed under WHO's EUL

World Health Organization (WHO) listed nOPV2 (novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2) Polio vaccine produced by Indonesia's Bio Farma PT for Emergency Use Listing (EUL), this is the first approval by WHO of its kind amidst several outbreaks in several parts of the world. The nOPV2 vaccine is aimed at containing outbreaks of circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Virus (cVDPVs) in African Countries, Mediterranean countries as well as Western Pacific and Southeast Asian Region.

First-Ever Global commits by WHO to eliminate cervical cancer globally

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally. During the close of the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA), World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the first-ever “Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer”. The event will be held virtually and hosted by WHO leadership. As per the WHO’s above strategy, WHO implementing the three important steps such as 90% HPV vaccination coverage, 70% screening coverage, and 90% access to treatment.

UK Government announces First sponsors for 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

On November 16, 2020, the UK (United Kingdom) Government announced SSE, ScottishPower, NatWest Group and National Grid as the first Principal Partners for the 2021 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference also known as COP26. COP26 is scheduled to take place on November 1-12, 2021 at SEC Centre, Glasgow, Scotland (UK). ScottishPower, SSE and National Grid are part of the UK’s drive for a decarbonised economy by 2050.

India, Kazakhstan hold 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) Virtually

On 17th November, 2020, India and Kazakhstan held their 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) through video-conference. The Indian side was led by Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West), and Kazakh side was led by Shakhmat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The two sides signed a MoU on “Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects in Kazakhstan”.

4 Indian Cities among 36 Global Cities selected by WEF to pioneer roadmap for Smart Cities

4 Indian Cities namely Bengaluru, Faridabad, Indore and Hyderabad feature among the 36 global cities selected by World Economic Forum (WEF) for pioneering a new global policy roadmap for smart cities. They will be developed by G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance. The WEF’s Inaugural “Pioneer of Change Summit” is taking place virtually on 16-20 November, 2020.

UN ESCAP Report cites the role of ISRO’s ‘BHUVAN’ in assisting Indian Government to contain COVID-19

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific’s (ESCAP) report ‘Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020: A Compendium’ has cited the role of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)’s developed ‘BHUVAN’ Geo-Portal in combating COVID-19 in India. BHUVAN provided services in six aspects – Tracking, identifying hotspots, vegetable markets, food needed, home isolation and pollution.

UN with over 100 scientists to build public confidence in COVID-19 vaccines through Team Halo

On November 17, 2020, the United Nations (UN) has collaborated with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London’s School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to undertake Team Halo. It is an initiative which aims to counter the misinformation around COVID-19 vaccines. Team Halo provides a platform to scientists to connect with general public for responding their queries for countering vaccine misinformation.

UAE: First Arab Country to generate electricity from coal

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is all set to become the first Arab Gulf country, and probably the last, to generate electricity from coal, as; the Acwa Power of Saudi Arabia is developing a \$3.4 billion Hassyan coal plant in Dubai. The company has already inked a long time agreement with Japan’s Jera Co under which the latter will supply coal.

The capacity of the plant will be 600 megawatts (MW) initially which will be increased to 2,400 MW by 2023.

3 Global Organizations FAO, OIE, & WHO launch Global Group to Tackle AMR

3 Global Organizations Namely Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global group called 'One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance' to tackle the rising AntiMicrobial resistance (AMR). The Group will have 20 members and will be co-chaired by Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley & Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

VISITS

INDIAN VISIT

Overview of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Two-day visit to Gujarat from October 30-31, 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a two-day visit to Gujarat from October 30-31, 2020. He inaugurated 17 projects around the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat laid the foundation stone for 4 new projects. He paid homage to Sardar Vallabhai Patel at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat on National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) i.e October 31, 2020. National Unity Day is celebrated to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Prime Minister also launched India's First Seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadia in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad.

Read More Details Here: [Overview of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Two-day visit to Gujarat from October 30-31, 2020](#)

FOREIGN VISIT

Overview of Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane's Three-day visit to Nepal from November 4-6, 2020

Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane visited Nepal from November 4-6, 2020 to strengthen overall ties including in areas of defence and security between India and Nepal. He visited Nepal at the official invitation of Nepal Army Chief Purna Chandra Thapa.

Read More Details Here: [Overview of Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane's Three-day visit to Nepal from November 4-6, 2020](#)

India's Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla Concludes Two-day visit to Maldives

India's Foreign Secretary (FS) Harsh Vardhan Shringla concluded a Two-day visit to Maldives on November 9-10, 2020. The Two Countries signed 4 MoUs during the meeting. They are MoU on Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP), Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs and Two MoU for "High Impact" Community Development Project. FS reviewed the progress of ongoing development projects under USD 1.3 Billion (~ INR 9704.50 crores) Financial Package. The Capital and Currency are Male and Maldivian rufiyaa (MVR).

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI IN NEWS

RBI Announced "Co-Lending Model (CLM)" for Banks, NBFCs for Priority Sector Lending

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the loan scheme of the Co-Originiation Model between Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies – Non-Deposit taking – Systemically Important (NBFC-ND-SIs) launched in September 2018 with the improved "Co-Lending Model (CLM)". The Scheme CLM helps banks to provide loans along with NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) including HFCs (Housing Finance Companies) for priority sector borrowers based on a prior agreement.

RBI to Evaluate Impact of 'RBI Kehta Hai' Campaign

Reserve Bank is all set to evaluate the impact of multi-media public awareness campaign 'RBI Kehta Hai', which was launched in 14 languages to educate public about good practices, regulations and initiatives in banking and financial sector. RBI Kehta Hai' was the first even 360 degree campaign initiated by the central bank. RBI formed in 1 April 1935 and currently four Deputy Governors are there.

RBI Commenced 1st Test Phase of Regulatory Sandbox retail payments with Two Entities via 'eRupaya' & 'PaySe'

On November 4, 2019, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the opening of the first cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) with "Retail Payments", as its theme. In this regard, Reserve Bank received applications from 32 entities of which six have been selected for the 'Test Phase'. Therefore, as of November 16, 2020, two sandbox entities viz. Natural Support Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. of Jaipur, Rajasthan and Nucleus Software Exports Ltd. of New Delhi have started the first test phase of their products viz. "eRupaya" and "PaySe" respectively.

RBI placed LVB under 1-month moratorium & announced Draft Scheme to amalgamate LVB with DBIL

On November 17, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a draft scheme of amalgamation of the capital starved Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB) with DBS Bank India Ltd. (DBIL). This decision has been taken after the Central Government has imposed a one-month moratorium on LVB on November 17, 2020 that temporarily capped withdrawals at Rs 25,000. The moratorium will be effective upto December 16, 2020. LVB was imposed with 1 month moratorium under under Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

RBI restricts withdrawals from Mantha Urban Coop Bank; Cancels CoAs of 5 PSOs & Imposed Rs 1 crore penalty on PNB

In exercise of powers vested in it under sub section (1) of Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on withdrawals from Jalna, Maharashtra-based Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank for six months from November 17, 2020.

- RBI cancels Certificate of Authorisation of five PSOs such as Pyro Networks Private Limited , Card Pro Solutions Private Limited , Aircel Smart Money Limited , InCashMe Mobile Wallet Services Private Limited ,and Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Limited in exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- RBI imposes Rs 1 crore penalty on Punjab National Bank; 5 non-bank PPI issuers also penalized

RBI's IWG Recommended to Raise Promoters Cap to 26% from 15% in Private Banks

The Internal Working Group (IWG) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which was formulated on June 12, 2020 to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks has submitted its report on November 20, 2020. It has recommended an increase in the promoters' stake to 26% from 15% of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank in 15 years. Large non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of Rs 50,000 crore and above, and completed 10 years of operations can be considered for conversion into banks.

RBI Advises LVB to Write Off Tier-2 bonds worth Rs 318.20 Crore Debt; 1st time a Tier-2 bond is written off

On November 26, 2020 Reserve Bank of India(RBI) advised Lakshmi Vilas Bank(LVB) to fully write off the Series VIII, Series IX and Series X Basel-III complaint tier -2 bonds worth Rs 318.20 crore, before its

amalgamation with DBS Bank India Ltd(DBIL) comes into effect from the appointed date i.e., 27th November 2020. It is to be noted that it is the 1st time a Tier II bond is being written off and so RBI has set a priority to the proposed write off.

BANKING TECHNOLOGY

Karnataka Bank Launches its 1st Contactless, RuPay Debit Card, 'National Common Mobility Debit Card'

On November 9, 2020 In accordance with the vision of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA),Karnataka Bank Limited, headquartered at Mangaluru(Mangalore), Karnataka launched its 1st ever contactless RuPay debit Card -National Common Mobility Card(NCMC).It is an international Contact-less, debit cum prepaid and interoperable transport card, a 'One Nation One Card i.e., a card with many benefits'.

HDFC Bank in Partnership with Visa Launches 'SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0'

On November 11, 2020 HDFC Bank in Partnership with Visa launched 'SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0', India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants. This first-of-its-kind solution offers the ideal platform for merchants and self-employed professionals to open a current account instantly and to accept payments in-store and online.

YES Bank in Partnership with Neokred Technologies Launched 'YES BANK Neokred Card'

On November 17, 2020 YES Bank launched 'YES BANK Neokred Card', a Co-Branded Prepaid Card in partnership with Neokred Technologies to encourage cashless payments. The prepaid card will be offered to the corporate partners of Neokred across various sectors including, HealthCare, Financial Institutions, Oil companies, NBFCs(Nonbank financial companies)Educational Institutions, FMCG(Fast-Moving Consumer Goods) and Infrastructure.

YES Bank in Partnership with Worldline Launches SMS Pay Functionality on PoS Terminals

On November 26, 2020 YES Bank Headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra in partnership with Worldline launched SMS Pay functionality on PoS(Point of Sale) Terminals. This allows merchants to accept contactless and remote payments from their customers and also enables customers to transact safely. SMS Pay provides an alternative channel of payment acceptance for the merchants at zero incremental cost.

LOANS ISSUED BY BANKS

LOANS ISSUED BY	RECEIVED BY	AMOUNT	KEY NOTES
NABARD	Goa	Rs 8504.30 Lakh	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 8504.30 Lakh under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the Government of Goa for the latter's various Social Infrastructure Projects. With this, NABARD achieved 100% of the target fixed for sanction to the Government of Goa during 2020-21.
ADB	Modernize Power Distribution Network in Meghalaya	USD 132.8 million	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 132.8 million loan to Modernize Power Distribution Network in Meghalaya. The Objective is to improve power quality and upgrade the power

			distribution network in Meghalaya. The loan will be increased by a USD 2 million grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction of ADB.
German state-owned development bank KfW	MMRDA, Mumbai	~ INR 4, 767 crore	Frankfurt-based German state-owned development bank KfW (formerly KfW Bankengruppe) extended two loans totalling 545 Million Euros (~ INR 4, 767 crore) to the Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for infrastructure projects in Mumbai. The package consists of a development loan of 345 million Euros and a promotional loan of 200 million Euros. The funds will be disbursed through an agreement with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
NABARD	Meghalaya	Rs 74.31 crore	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 74.31 crore to the state government of Meghalaya under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-Tranche-XXVI. It will be utilized within three years towards construction of 6 new roads and improvement of 24 existing roads viz. 22 village roads and 2 major district roads. RIDF created in 1995-96 by the Government of India (GoI) with the initial corpus of Rs.2000 crores for the development of rural infrastructure, RIDF is maintained by NABARD.

AGREEMENTS & MoUs SIGNED

BANKS	SIGNED WITH	KEY NOTES
AU Small Finance Bank	Care Health Insurance Company	The Jaipur headquartered AU Small Finance Bank Ltd signed an agreement with Care Health Insurance Company Limited (formerly known as 'Religare Health Insurance Company Limited') as Corporate Agent for Health Insurance Products.
World Bank (WB)	Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)	On November 16, 2020, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), which handles government's disinvestment programme, signed an agreement with the World Bank (WB) under which the latter provides advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization. This was approved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
New Development Bank (NDB)	NCRTC	On November 19, 2020, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt of India, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC) and New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) signed a loan agreement for lending USD 500 Million (~ INR 3708 Crores) for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project (RRTS)' in the National Capital Region

		(NCR). The Total cost of the project is USD 3, 759 Million. It is expected to be completed by August, 2027.
HDFC Bank	ICCI	On November 24, 2020 In its effort to support SMEs(Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) and Start-ups ICCI (Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries) headquartered at New Delhi, India has signed MoU(Memorandum of Understanding) with HDFC Bank. On 24th October 2020, BSE (formerly known as Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd) signed MoU with ICCI to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups & promote their listing on the exchange.

OTHER BANKING NEWS

RBL Bank and Visa Launched Instant Payouts “Visa Direct” for FinTechs

The Mumbai headquartered RBL Bank in partnership with Visa launched the latter’s processing capability “Visa Direct” that allows safe, convenient, real-time and secure funds delivery directly to financial accounts using credit and debit cards. This partnership underlines RBL’s “Partners ka Bank” philosophy.

Govt Provided Rs 670cr to Regional Rural Banks to Meet Regulatory Capital Requirement

Central Government has provided Rs 670 crore to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in order to raise the Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) of about one-third of the 43 RRBs who are suffering losses especially from north-eastern and eastern regions and need funds to meet regulatory capital requirement of 9%. This infusion would take care of their capital needs till March 31, 2021. As of end March 2020, 17 out of the 45 RRBs had CRAR of less than 9%, of which six RRBs had negative CRAR. As per the current scheme for recapitalisation of RRBs, the Centre, concerned state governments and the sponsor banks provides capital support in the ratio of 50:15:35, respectively to enable them to meet the regulatory requirement of CRAR. In accordance with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), RRBs as a group reported net loss of Rs 2,206 crore in the FY20.

SBI Becomes 1st Corporate Partner of edX from India to Offer Massive Open Online Courses

In a bid to develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals, SBI (State Bank of India) has entered into a strategic partnership with edX, a global non-profit education platform to expand the learners’ perspectives and access to knowledge beyond the classrooms. As part of this partnership, SBI will offer its Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the edX platform (edx.org.) from November 2020. With this partnership, SBI becomes 1st Corporate Partner of edX from India. Objective-To develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals.

HDFC Bank Voted as “Most Outstanding Company- Financial Sector” in India for 2nd Consecutive Year: Asiamoney

HDFC Bank Limited has been voted as the “Most Outstanding Company – Financial Sector” in India in the poll conducted by Asiamoney, a well-established financial publication. HDFC has been given the honour for the 2nd consecutive year. Bharti Airtel won the overall winner by Market in India.

Visa in partnership with DigitSecure and HDFC Bank deployed World’s 1st live PCI certified Tap to Phone Card Acceptance solution

Visa in partnership with DigitSecure and HDFC Bank deployed the world’s 1st live PCI certified Tap to Phone card acceptance solution. The objective is to accept safe contactless card payments in seconds

through an app on their Near-Field Communication (NFC)-enabled Android smartphones, without the need of any dedicated card acceptance machines.

ICICI Bank Launches 'ICICI Bank Mine', India's 1st Banking Programme for Millennial Customers; First-of-its-Kind Proposition in Industry

ICICI Bank launched 'ICICI Bank Mine' (inspired by 'Millennial Network'), India's first comprehensive banking programme for millennial customers, in the age bracket of 18-35 years old. It is a first of its kind proposition in industry. It is India's 1st full banking stack for millennials.

BoB & EAP India Introduced Employee Assistance Program

On November 4, 2020 Bank of Baroda (BoB), headquartered at Vadodara (earlier known as Baroda), Gujarat partnered with EAP-India introduced an 'Employee Assistance Program', a Well-being Programme for its employees to tackle their personal and professional problems through psychological counselling and consulting.

Airtel Payments Bank Partners with Bharti AXA General Insurance to Offer 'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance' to its Customers

On November 9, 2020 Airtel Payments Bank, headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra India's first payments bank partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance Co Ltd to offer 'Smart Drive Private Car Insurance' to offer car insurance for its customers.

IFSCA Approves the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020

On November 11, 2020 International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), regulatory body under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, headquartered at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in a meeting has approved the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020 to lay down the rules for the various aspects of banking operations that will be acceptable at the IFSC (International Financial Services Centres). IFSC International Retail Business Development Committee headed by Pradip Shah, Chairman of Indasia Fund Advisors Pvt Ltd. has presented the final report focuses on Banking, capital markets and insurance to IFSC.

SBM Bank India Partnered with PayNearby to Launch a Neo Banking Platform

SBM Bank (India) Limited (SBM Bank India) headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra, the wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius has partnered with Fintech PayNearby to launch a neo banking platform. SBM Bank focuses on to provide top of the line services to the wealthy and growing affluent in India and their counterparts will be NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) with relations in India. The bank is also looking at collaborative banking in other segments and where companies may have access to a large number of customers but does not have a banking license. [Click here to read gist about neo bank and other detail.](#)

Equitas Small Finance Bank Launches 'Eva', a Unique Women Savings Account; Smriti Mandhana, Appointed as Brand Ambassador

On November 16, 2020 Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (ESFBL) headquartered at Chennai, Tamil Nadu launched 'Eva', a unique savings account for Indian women. The product addresses the wellbeing of women in every aspect such as Health, Wealth and Prosperity. Smriti Mandhana, Indian Woman cricketer has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of ESFBL.

HDFC Bank launches 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign to Increase Awareness on Cyber Frauds

On November 17, 2020 HDFC Bank headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra launched a campaign, 'Mooh Band Rakho' to increase awareness on cyber frauds and ways to prevent them. The campaign

supports the International Fraud Awareness Week 2020(November 15 – 21), a global movement to reduce the impact of fraud. HDFC Bank initially launched the 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign to fight COVID 19. It has now extended to fighting cyber fraud.

Karnataka Bank Launches CASA Mobilisation Campaign

Karnataka Bank Limited(KBL) headquartered at Mangaluru(Mangalore), Karnataka launched CASA (current account, savings account) of FY21 mobilisation campaign to enable the basic banking services to the unbanked(not use banks or banking institutions) sections of the society and to popularize bank's digitally powered CASA products to the next level of customers on the basis of their requirements. It will begin from November 17, 2020 to March 4, 2021.

ICICI Bank Launches 1st of its kind fully digital, cardless EMI facility at retail stores

On November 19, 2020 ICICI Bank Ltd headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra in partnership with Pine Labs launched 'ICICI Bank Cardless EMI'(Equated Monthly Instalments). ICICI Bank becomes India's first bank and first in industry to launch a fully digital payment mode, a cardless EMI facility at retail stores. The facility allows the bank's pre-approved customers to use their mobile phone and PAN(Permanent Account Number) instead of wallet or cards, to purchase their gadgets or home appliances at retail stores across PAN India.

Govt of India, Govt of Meghalaya and World Bank Signs a \$120 Million Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project to Improve Connectivity in Meghalaya

On November 19, 2020 The Government of India, the Government of Meghalaya and the World Bank(WB) headquartered at Washington, DC, New York signed a \$120-million(~INR 890 Crore) Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project(MITP) to improve and modernize the transport sector of Meghalaya. The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a maturity of 14 years including a grace period of 6 years.

ADB Approved a \$50 Million Policy-Based Loan to boost West Bengal's Digital Platforms for Public Finance Reforms

On November 20, 2020 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$50 million (about Rs 370 crore) policy-based loan to boost West Bengal's Digital Platforms for Public Finance Reforms. The loan will be increased by a \$350,000 technical assistance grant to finance capacity building, to monitor IFMS(Integrated Financial Management System) reforms and strengthen the integration of social and gender aspects in reform areas.

NSDL Payments Bank Partnered with HDFC ERGO General Insurance to Offer Customised Insurance Solutions to its Customers

On November 23, 2020 NSDL Payments Bank Limited, headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra digital-first payments bank entered into partnership with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited to offer a customised, affordable and whole range of general insurance products to its customers through NSDL Jiffy, mobile banking application.

IPPB partnered with PNB MetLife India to launch Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) established in 2018 has collaborated with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited to launch Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). This scheme provides life cover of Rs 2 Lakh on death of the insured member due to any reason. It is optional for all the savings account holders with IPPB.

Mercedes-Benz India Partnered with SBI in 1st of its kind Retail Marketing Pact

India's top luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India has joined hands with State Bank of India (SBI) in a retail marketing pact to access latter's HNI (high net-worth individual) customer base for selling its premium cars. This is the first-of-its-kind collaboration to generate enquiries as well as to provide an online booking facility.

FINANCE NEWS

GSTN Enables Composition Taxpayers to file NIL statement through SMS

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), the IT platform of GST system launched the facility of filing NIL statement in Form GST CMP-08 for Composition Taxpayers through (short message service) and without logging in to the GST portal. CMP-08 is a quarterly statement of self-assessed tax to be filed by Composition Taxpayers. This will benefit 3.5 lakh taxpayers who file NIL statement under Composition Scheme.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Implemented AI Enabled Tool, IDEAS to Automate Motor Claim Settlements

In order to automate the complex process of motor claims, on November 2, 2020, HDFC ERGO General Insurance launched the AI (Artificial Intelligence) tool IDEAS (Intelligent Damage Detection Estimation and Assessment Solution) for motor claim settlements.

Aegon Life Insurance Launches 'Life + 36 critical illness Insurance' Plan on Flipkart

Aegon Life Insurance Company Limited launched 'Life + 36 critical illness Insurance' on Flipkart. The policyholder of the plan will get the benefit of life protection along with a lump sum amount on diagnosis of any of the 36 critical illnesses.

NPCI Launches 'RuPay Festive Carnival' for RuPay users

In order to cheer the customers in a new way this festive season, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched, 'RuPay Festive Carnival', a flagship campaign for RuPay users. The RuPay users with this launch can enjoy compelling benefits and attractive discounts on products of various categories.

USAID Provides 3 Million USD to COVIDActionCollab to Reduce the Effects of COVID-19 in India

Catalyst Management Services (CMS), a part of Catalysts Group ideated COVID Action Collaborative (CAC – COVIDAction Collab), partnered with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) over a virtual event to support the COVID-19 response of India. USAID has provided 3 million USD (around Rs.22 Crore) over 2 years to support the CAC (COVIDAction Collab) partnership.

Paytm Partners with SBI Card and Visa to Launch Contactless Co-Branded Credit Cards in 2 Variants

SBI Card and Payment Services Ltd. (SBI Cards) partnered with Paytm and Visa to launch co-branded credit cards, India's next-generation credit cards. The credit card will be available in two variants, namely, Paytm SBI Card and Paytm SBI Card SELECT.

NPCI Gives Approval to 'WhatsApp Pay' to start UPI in India; UPI closes 30% of TPAPs transaction volume

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) gave approval for 'WhatsApp Pay', a payment system of WhatsApp to go live on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the multi-bank model in India. NPCI has issued a cap of 30% on the total transaction volume on the UPI network of all Third Party App Providers (TPAPs). This will be effective from January 1, 2021. The decision behind the capping of 30% at TPAPs transaction volume in UPI is to address the risks and further protect the UPI ecosystem.

SEBI Enhances Foreign Investment Cap limit of Mutual Funds from \$300 million to \$600 million

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a circular on "Enhancement of overseas investment limits for mutual funds" under which the foreign investment limit per mutual fund (MF) house has been doubled to \$600 million, from the existing \$300 million, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 7 billion. SEBI has reserved an amount of \$50 million per fund house. A mutual fund launching a New Fund Offer (NFO) and intending to invest overseas will be required to specify the amount it will invest outside India and use the limit specified within six months.

SEBI Introduce 'Flexi Cap Fund' as a New Category under Equity Schemes; Debt MFs to hold 10% corpus in liquid assets

In order to give more flexibility to the mutual funds, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced 'Flexi Cap Fund' as a New Category under Equity Schemes. The objective is to protect the interests of investors in securities, to promote growth and to regulate the securities market. SEBI has made it mandatory for all open-ended debt mutual fund schemes (with exception) to hold at least 10% of their net assets in liquid assets. With this Flexi Cap Fund the Schemes should have minimum investment of 65% of total assets in the equity & equity related instruments.

Bharti AXA General Insurance Launched 'CancerSendsNoNotifications' Campaign

On November 7, 2020 Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited launched 'CancerSendsNoNotifications' Campaign on Social Media on account of the National Cancer Awareness Day 2020- November 7 to increase awareness and disseminate knowledge to detect the disease in the early stage among people in India.

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Launches 'Covid Shield+', India's First Individual Covid-19 Life Insurance Policy

On November 9, 2020 Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Company Limited launched, 'Covid Shield+', India's First Individual Covid-19 Life Insurance Policy. The comprehensive solution provides financial protection against the impact of COVID-19 diagnosis. Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance is a Joint Venture(JV) between Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd, and Tokio Marine Holding, Inc.,.

Paytm Launches 'Payout Links' for Businesses to Instantly Transfer Money

On November 10, 2020 Paytm, headquartered at Noida, Uttar Pradesh launched 'Payout Links', a new initiative under Paytm Payout, for businesses. This enables businesses to instantly make payments to the customers, employees & vendors, without the need to collect their bank details.

Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Launches 'Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund'; Managed by Harsha Upadhyaya

On November 19, 2020 Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited (KMAMC) launched 'Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund', an open-ended equity scheme that focuses on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and the Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI). The Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund, will be managed by Harsha Upadhyaya, Chief Investment Officer(CIO) – Equity & President, KMAMC. Managing Director(MD) of KMAMC is Mr. Nilesh Shah

Mastercard and USAID Partnered under W-GDP to Launch Project Kirana for Women Empowerment

On November 19, 2020 Mastercard headquartered at New York,US and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) entered into partnership under the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) Initiative to launch Project Kirana. Project Kirana is a 2-year economic empowerment program for women that drives small business growth through digital financial inclusion. The programme will be implemented by DAI and ACCESS Development Services in

the selected cities of Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi. Michael Miebach is the president and CEO of Mastercard.

LIC launches its First Digital Application, 'ANANDA' for Agents

On November 19, 2020 Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched its First Digital Application, 'ANANDA' (Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital App).

The digital tool supports the on boarding process to get Life Insurance policy with the help of the Agent / Intermediary without any paperwork. ANANDA is a first of its kind in the Indian Life Insurance industry with LIC pioneering the process through its in-house IT (Information Technology) enabled systems.

Muthoot Finance in Partnership with BAGIC Launched "Muthoot Gold Shield" to Insure Gold Jewellery

Gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Muthoot Finance in collaboration with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance (BAGIC) has launched "Muthoot Gold Shield" to provide insurance to its customers on gold jewellery. This scheme is backed by Group Affinity All Risk policy of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

HDFC Life, HDFC Ergo Launched Combi Health Insurance Policy "Click 2 Protect Corona Kavach"

HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Life and HDFC Ergo joined hands to launch a combi insurance product 'Click 2 Protect Corona Kavach' which offers a complete financial protection package in the current pandemic environment. This policy will provide all the benefits and features of HDFC Life's Click 2 Protect 3D Plus and HDFC Ergo's Corona Kavach policies.

Razorpay in Partnership with Visa Launches 1st of its kind card, 'RazorpayX Corporate Cards'

On November 26, 2020 Razorpay in partnership with Visa launched the 1st of its kind card, 'RazorpayX Corporate Cards' for Indian entrepreneurs. The bank-issued cards help to provide relief and stabilize the financial operations of the business owners of startups and SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) who are severely affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

SEBI Launched SMARTs Program to Strengthen Investor Education as a part of World Investor Week 2020

On November 25, 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs) program, as a part of World Investor Week (WIW) 2020 being celebrated by SEBI in India from Nov 23, 2020 to Nov 29, 2020 to enhance investor education and awareness. The education programs to be conducted under this will be free of cost to investors. It will be borne from SEBI's Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).

RXIL Initiates 1st Trade Credit Insurance Backed Transaction in Sandbox

Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL) has initiated a Trade Credit Insurance (TCI) backed transaction in the Sandbox environment. In this TCI backed transaction, RXIL has collaborated with TATA AIG as the insurer, ICICI bank and YES Bank as financiers. It is the 1st time a Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform tested the effectiveness of TCI backed transactions. This improves the financier's ability to assign credit limits to corporates.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

GDP & GROWTH RATE

ORGANIZATION	YEAR	RATE
Moody's	(CY) 2020	<p>Moody's => Contract by 8.9</p> <p>Goldman Sachs => Contract by 8.9%</p> <p>On November 12, 2020 As per Moody's 'Global Macro Outlook 2021-22: Nascent economic rebound takes hold globally but will remain fragile', India's GDP(Gross Domestic Product) for the Calendar Year(CY) 2020 is revised upwards to -8.9%(contract by 8.9) from -9.6% projected earlier. It also has revised the GDP for the CY 2021 upwards to 8.6% from 8.1% projected earlier. Goldman Sachs in its global economic analysis report titled 'V(accine)-Shaped Recovery', has projected India's GDP growth to contract by 8.9%(-8.9%) for CY 2020.</p> <p>It has reiterated its projections of India's GDP growth for CY 2021 and CY 2022 to be 10%and 7.2% respectively.</p>
Goldman Sachs		
Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)	Q2FY21	<p>RBI => Contracted 8.6%</p> <p>In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) first ever estimation based on high-frequency data namely "nowcast", India's Gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 8.6% in the quarter ended September 2020 i.e. Q2FY21. Nowcast is prepared by a team of economists including Michael Debabrata Patra, RBI's deputy governor.</p>
Goldman Sachs	FY21	<p>In accordance with the latest revision by Goldman Sachs, India's growth forecast for FY21 is upgraded to 10.3% contraction (-10.3%) from -14.8%. On the other hand, it downgraded India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 13% in FY22 as compared to 15.7%.</p>
Moody's Investors Service	Fiscal 2020	<p>Moody's => Contract by 10.6%</p> <p>On November 19, 2020 The Moody's Investors Service has revised upwards the India's GDP(Gross Domestic Product) for the Fiscal 2020 (April 2020-March 2021) to -10.6%(contract by 10.6%) from -11.5% projected earlier. The upward revision is due to the latest stimulus prioritizes manufacture and job creation, and changes the focus to longer-term growth. It has also projected India's GDP growth for fiscal 2021-22 at 10.8%, against the previous estimate of 10.6%.</p>
National Statistics Office (NSO)	Q2FY21	<p>Contracted by 7.5%</p> <p>In accordance with the official data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), India's gross domestic product (GDP) for the second quarter ended September 30, 2020 (Q2FY21) contracted by 7.5% as compared to the expansion of 4.4% in the corresponding July-September period of 2019-20. This shows a significant improvement over a 23.9% contraction in the previous April-June quarter (Q1FY21).</p>

ECONOMY NEWS

IFFCO Bazar Partners with SBI YONO Krishi App to Boost accessibility of Quality Agri-products in India

IFFCO Bazar, e-commerce wing of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) has entered into partnership with SBI (State Bank of India) YONO (You Only Need One) Krishi App.

Marg ERP and Paytm Partners to Resolve MSMEs Payment & Settlement Issues Digitally

On November 9, 2020, Marg ERP Ltd has partnered with Paytm empowers MSME using MargPay, a new integrated payments solution to resolve the payment collection and settlement issues of MSMEs and aid in expanding their businesses. Founder & CEO of Paytm– Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Abu Dhabi's SWF becomes 1st Notified Fund to get 100% IT exemption in India

Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) – MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited has become the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption on income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for its investment in India's priority sector as per the Finance Act, 2020. The announcement was made by the Ministry of Finance.

BUSINESS NEWS

HAL inks INR 400 Crore pact with Tech Mahindra for 'Project Parivartan'

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a contract worth INR 400 Crore for a period of 9 years with Tech Mahindra for implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) to support its 'Project Parivarta'.

Microsoft India and NSDC Collaborates to Empower over 1 lakh Underserved Young Women in India with Digital skills

Microsoft India Private Limited, a subsidiary of American software company Microsoft Corporation, has collaborated with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to skill over 1 lakh underserved women in India with digital skills over the next 10 months. This initiative is an extension of the partnership of Microsoft India and NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh Indian youth.

Mobikwik Partners with Amex to launch its 1st card, 'MobiKwik Blue American Express Card', a Digital Prepaid Card

On November 10, 2020 Mobikwik, headquartered at Gurugram, Haryana partnered with American Express (Amex) to launch its first ever Card, 'MobiKwik Blue American Express Card', a digital prepaid Card on Amex network.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Partners with PayBima to Distribute its Life Insurance Solution through Digital sales

On November 10, 2020 Tata AIA Life Insurance Company Limited entered into partnership with PayBima(PayBima.com), a digital arm of Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd.,(MIBL), an 80% subsidiary company of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd., as a Broker to distribute its industry-leading life insurance solutions. The association is in accordance with the mission of Tata AIA Life to provide Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) to its customers.

AGS Transact Tech and Utimaco Partners for Cyber-Defense Technology for Digital Payments in India & South-east Asia

On November 11, 2020 AGS Transact Technologies Limited (AGSTTL) and Utimaco entered into partnership to offer Cyber-Defense Technology, the highest level of security for digital payments and automation solutions to organizations across sectors including banking, petroleum, retail etc. in India &

South-east Asia. Under this partnership, the companies will provide crypto-key security solutions to organizations across sectors.

Stashfin Partners with Visa to Launch Co-branded Prepaid Cards with Credit Lines

On November 16, 2020 Stashfin has partnered with Visa to launch co-branded prepaid cards with credit lines. The credit line card can be used at physical merchant locations and ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) as well as in Visa-accepted online modes. Stashfin will extend Visa's commercial offers available on the cards to increase the product offerings to its users.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

MoU's BETWEEN COUNTRY

COUNTRIES	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
India	Finland	On November 26, 2020, India and Finland signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation and strengthening of technological, scientific and management capabilities in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation. It was virtually signed by Union Minister Prakash Keshav Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on behalf of India and Krista Mikkonen, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on behalf of Finland. India took three quantitative climate change goals as a part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted under the Paris Agreement. Click here
India	Vietnam	On November 27, 2020, India and Vietnam hold virtual Defence Ministers bilateral talks where India was represented by Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Vietnamese side was represented by General Ngo Xuan Lich, Minister of National Defence of Socialist Republic of Vietnam. During the meet, various discussions were held regarding ongoing projects, collaboration in Defence Industry capability building, training and cooperation in United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations. India-Vietnam signed an Implementing Arrangement for cooperation in the field of Hydrography.

MoU's WITH STATES

STATE	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
Maharashtra	15 companies	The state government of Maharashtra has inked MoUs worth around Rs 35,000 crore with 15 companies viz. 10 Indian and 5 global companies at the 'Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0' investor meet in Mumbai, Maharashtra in order to develop state as data and logistics hub in western India. The event was attended by the state's Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray.
Karnataka	Tata Technologies	The Government of Karnataka entered into an agreement with Tata Technologies to upgrade and modernize 150 Government ITIs (Industrial Training Institute) at a cost of INR 4, 636.50 Crores to create increased employment

		opportunities to youth of the state. More than One Lakh Youth are expected to benefit each year.
Rajasthan	NTPC & SECI	Rajasthan Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park to illuminate India's border areas with Pakistan in Rajasthan. The park will be of 8,000 MegaWatts (MW) capacity. Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL) will sign a separate MoU with NTPC and SECI to materialise the Mega Power Park Project of the Government of India.
Karnataka	The Embassy Group	On November 11, 2020 The Embassy Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Education, Government of Karnataka, for the all-around improvement of Government Schools in Bengaluru (Bangalore), Karnataka. Scope of MoU - To provide educational resources, infrastructural support, and health programs for 20 Government Schools at a cost of Rs 15 crores.
Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC)	Four Separate Firms	Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Four Separate Firms – IBM (International Business Machines) India, Singapore Polytechnic International (SPI), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and LV Prasad Film & TV Academy (LVPA) for promoting Skill Development among Youth. The MoU has been signed to impart industry-driven skill courses to students from ITI (Industrial Training Institutes), Polytechnic and Graduation.
Maharashtra	BFIL	On November 18, 2020, Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL), a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) of Maharashtra Government to enhance doorstep delivery of livestock care to farmers in the state. The Joint initiative is titled 'Maha Pashudhan Sanjeevani' and will be supported by BFIL as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The Scheme will be implemented under the Mukhyamantri Pashu Swasthya Yojana.
Delhi	(CEGIS)	On November 18, 2020, Delhi Government and the Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for carrying out detailed study of measures for state revenue. The study will provide comprehensive data analysis related to GST (Goods & Services Tax), vehicle tax, stamp duty, excise duty, and a comparative state analysis to improve the tax revenue capacity of Delhi.
TamilNadu	SIDBI	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TamilNadu (TN) government to develop the MSMEs (Micro,

		Small and Medium Enterprises) ecosystem in the state. Under the MoU, a Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up by SIDBI in TamilNadu. SIDBI had also signed MoU with the Uttarakhand Government to develop MSMEs in the state on November 24, 2020.
Jammu & Kashmir	BSE	On 27th November, 2020 BSE Limited (formerly known as Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd) signed four Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with Mission Youth, Government of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to spread financial awareness, support economic development, encourage sustainable livelihood to develop Youngsters skills for a career in BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance).

MoU's BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

ORGANIZATION	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	Research and Development (R&D) Centre of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	To develop and demonstrate biomass gasification-based hydrogen generation technology to produce fuel cell-grade hydrogen at an economical price.
Dynamatic Technologies Ltd	CSIR-CSIO	Bangalore-based Dynamatic Technologies Ltd and CSIR-CSIO (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Scientific Instruments Organisation) signed MoU for designing, developing and manufacturing futuristic solutions for defence and aerospace, healthcare and agriculture industries. The partnership with CSIO is aligned to Government of India's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
IREDA	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India setting key targets for the year 2020-21. IREDA has set a Revenue Target of INR 2406 Crores for the current Financial Year 2020-21.
Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)	JD Centre of Arts (JDCA)	For collaboration on joint socio-cultural research work and anthropological study of tribal art and tradition in the tribal dominated regions of India. The Collaboration is aimed to preserve the arts, crafts and traditions of the tribal communities.
Prasar Bharati	BISAG-N	Prasar Bharati, the public broadcaster of India signed a MoU with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N) of Gujarat under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to enable 51 direct-to-home (DTH) Educational television channels to all DD Free Dish Viewers.
HIL	DCPC	HIL (India) Limited a Public Sector Undertakings(PSU) under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has signed a MoU with Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) to achieve the revenue

		target of INR 451 Crore in the current Financial Year (2020-21). The MoU was signed by SP Mohanty, HIL (India) Limited's Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) and Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Secretary of DCPC.
EESL	DNRE	On November 17, 2020 Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of New & Renewable Energy (DNRE), Government of Goa to discuss the implementation of India's First 100 MW(MegaWatt) decentralised solar convergence project under the newly formed Convergence Energy Services Limited (Convergence) in Goa.
Indian School of Business	Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)	On 17th November 2020, Indian School of Business (ISB), premier Business school in India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to enable collaborative research in the areas of international relations and to promote cooperation between India and global partners on various issues. Prof Rajendra Srivastava, dean of ISB and TCA Raghavan director general of ICWA signed the MoU.

OTHER MoU'S IN CONTENT FORMAT

AAI signed MoU with NVVN, subsidiary of NTPC to set up Solar Power Plants in Airports

Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) Limited, a subsidiary of NTPC Limited, to set up solar power plants at the Airports under AAI and to promote the adoption of electrical vehicles at AAI Airports.

Govt of Bangladesh Signed MoU with BPL & SII to buy 3 crore Doses of AZD1222 – COVID-19 Vaccine

Government of Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Beximco Pharmaceutical Limited (BPL), Bangladesh drug maker and the Serum Institute of India (SII) for the supply and distribution of 3 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccine AZD1222 in Bangladesh. The AZD1222 vaccine is at the final stage of development at the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca. SII, licensed by AstraZeneca to manufacture AZD1222 and the entire quantity of vaccines will be delivered within 6 months.

MoPNG Signed MoUs for 900 CBG plants under SATAT Initiative

On November 20, 2020, Union Minister Dharmendra Debendra Pradhan, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) signed Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with 8 leading oil & gas marketing companies & technology providers to set up 900 Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants with an outlay of Rs 30,000 Cr across India under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative. Notably, in September 2020, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) included CBG in priority sector lending framework as biofuels can reduce India's fuel import bill by Rs. 1 lakh crore.

Delhi, UNICEF's "YuWaah" sign MoU to empower youth with Skills & Job Opportunities

On November 19, 2020, Delhi Government's Dialogue and Development Commission and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) initiated multi-stakeholder global platform - YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India) signed an Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) to empower youth with Skills and Job Opportunities. The MoU was signed by Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson, Dialogue and Development Commission and Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative in the presence of Manish Sisodia,

Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi. The MoU will strengthen the Rozgaar Bazaar Portal which was launched in July, 2020.

FICCI's FLO signs MoU with IESC of IIM Shillong to mentor women entrepreneurs

On November 22, 2020, FLO (FICCI Ladies Organization), the women's wing of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) of Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong to mentor women's entrepreneurs. IESC chairperson Sanjeeb Kakoty and FLO national president Jahnabi Phookan signed the deal for their respective organisations.

PFC, REC sign MoU with SJVN to provide INR 8, 520 Crore loan

On November 26, 2020, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) & REC Limited (formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SJVN Thermal (P) Limited (STPL) at Power Finance Corporation (PFC), New Delhi for extending Term Loan of INR 8520.46 Crores for 2×660 MegaWatts (MW) Buxar Thermal Power Project, Bihar. The 2x660MW Thermal project will be commissioned in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	ENTITY / PLACE	KEY NOTES
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner	Central Information Commission of India	Ram Nath Govind, President of India administered the "Oath of Office" for Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha, former Diplomat as the 11th Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) in the Central Information Commission of India. The "Oath of Office" ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. He succeeds Bimal Julka who completed his term as CIC in August 2020. He will serve as CIC for a term of 3 yrs.
Gyanendro Ningombam	President	Hockey India (HI)	Gyanendro Ningombam from Manipur was appointed as the President of Hockey India (HI). He is the 1st president of HI from the North East region. He will serve for a term of two years. He replaces Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad who was appointed as the Senior Vice President.
PVG Menon	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	ESSCI	Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI) appointed PVG Menon as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He succeeds N.K Mohapatra.
M M Kutty	Chairperson	Commission for Air Quality Management in	Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of M M Kutty as the 1st Chairperson of the

		NCR and Adjoining Areas	Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas. The center has also appointed members of the commission for 3-year term, with effective from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until the attainment of age of 70 years. MM Kutty is a former secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan	Chairperson	Reserve Bank Innovation Hub(RBIH)	On November 17, 2020 Reserve Bank of India(RBI) appointed Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder, and former co-Chairman, Infosys as the 1st chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub(RBIH). He is currently the Chief Mentor of Start-up Village, an incubation hub for start-ups. The governing council has also 9 other members.
Nitish Kumar	Chief Minister (CM)	Bihar	On November 16, 2020, Nitish Kumar of Janata Dal (United) party sworn-in as the Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar. He is the 23rd person to become a CM of Bihar and takes oath as 37th chief minister of Bihar. Four-Time BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) MLA's (Member of Legislative Assembly), Tarkishore Prasad (Constituency – Katihar) and Renu Devi (Constituency – Bettiah) were sworn-in as Deputy Chief Ministers. Renu Devi is the First Woman Deputy CM of Bihar.
Navneet Munot	Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	HDFC Mutual Funds	On 16th November 2020, the board of directors of HDFC Mutual Funds approved the appointment of Navneet Munot as its Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO). He will succeed Milind Barve, the current MD of HDFC Asset Management Company Limited. Navneet is currently serving as the Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer(CIO) of SBI Funds Management(FM).
SN Rajeswari	Whole-time member	IRDAI	On 18th November 2020, SN Rajeswari, Chairman and Managing Director of Oriental Insurance was appointed as a Whole-time member (distribution) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India(IRDAI). She is appointed for a period of 3 years or till attaining the age of 62.
Girish Chandra(G.C.) Murmu	External Auditor	Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)	On November 20, 2020 Girish Chandra(G.C.) Murmu, 14th Comptroller and Auditor General(CAG) of India elected

			as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for 3 years during PU's virtual meeting of the 284th session. He will take charge of this position from the Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland. Mr. Duarte Pacheco has been elected as the 30th President of the IPU. He succeeds Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron.
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INTERNATIONAL

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	ENTITY / PLACE	KEY NOTES
Joe Biden	President	United States	On November 7, 2020 Joe Biden of Democratic Party is set to become the 46th President of the United States. in the 2020 United States (U.S.) Presidential election and the First Woman, The First Black American and the first American of Asian descent Senator Kamala Harris as Vice President-elect. Joe Biden defeated Incumbent U.S. President, Donald Trump & Vice President, Mike Pence of the Republican Party in the 2020 elections.
Alassane Ouattara	President	Ivory Coast	Alassane Ouattara, President of Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) won the 3rd term as the President with his landslide victory in the 2020 Ivory Coast Election securing 94.27% of the vote.
John Pombe Magufuli	President	Tanzania	President John Pombe Magufuli won the 2nd term as the President of Tanzania with his landslide victory in the 2020 presidential election held on 28th October 2020 with 12.5 million votes i.e., 84% of the turnout vote. The swearing in ceremony of this 2nd term will be held on 5th November 2020. The capital and currency of Tanzania are Dodoma & Tanzanian shilling respectively.
Aung San Suu Kyi	State Counsellor	Myanmar	According to the Union Election Commission (UEC) of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is likely to win the 2020 Myanmar elections in the Parliament (as on 13th November) which is enough to form the next government. This will be the second term for Aung San Suu Kyi as State Counsellor. Aung San Suu Kyi is the first and incumbent State Counsellor of Myanmar. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent struggle for democracy.
Priyanka Radhakrishnan	First-ever Indian-origin Minister	New Zealand	41-year old Priyanka Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin

			Minister as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern unveiled her new cabinet after her victory in the 2020 General Elections of New Zealand. Priyanka was appointed as Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, Minister for Youth. She was also appointed as Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment. She belongs to the New Zealand Labour Party.
Duarte Pacheco	President	Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)	Duarte Pacheco, Portugal Parliamentarian was elected as the 30th President of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) for a three-year term of 2020-2023. He succeeds Gabriela Cuevas Barron, a Mexican Parliamentarian.
Maia Sandu	President	Moldova	Maia Sandu, leader of the Action and Solidarity party and former Prime Minister of Moldova, backed by the European Union(EU) won the Presidential runoff votes with around 57.75% of votes. She is set to become the first woman President of Moldova. Maia Sandu, won the election defeating the pro-russian incumbent president, Igor Dodon by 15 points (42.25% of votes).The capital and currency of Moldova are Chişinău and Moldovan leu.
Francisco Sagasti	Interim President	Peru	On 17th November 2020, Francisco Sagasti, a legislator from the centrist Purple Party, sworn-in as the interim President of Peru. Sagasti will lead the country as the interim president until the 2021 General election. Sagasti succeeds Manuel Merino, who resigned on 15th November 2020 just after serving 5 days as the interim President of Peru.The capital and currency of Peru are Lima and Sol.
Roch Marc Christian Kaboré	President	Burkina Faso	On 26th November 2020, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré (63 years old) of People's Movement for Progress(MPP) party, won the 2nd term as the President of Burkina Faso by winning the 2020 presidential elections.He will serve another 5 years as the President of Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso's Capital and currency are Ouagadougou and West African CFA franc.
Greg Barclay	Independent Chairman	ICC	International Cricket Council (ICC) has named New Zealand's Greg Barclay as its new independent chairman to succeed Shashank Manohar. He defeated Imran

			Khwaja in the second round of voting. Imran Khwaja was serving as the Interim chairman after Shashank Manohar stepped down from the post in July 2020.
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BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

PERSON NAME	BRAND / CAMPAIGN	KEY NOTES
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador	Rohit Sharma, India's leading cricketer, signed with Financepeer, Google incubated education fee financing company, as its brand ambassador. Rohit Sharma will be supporting Financepeer to transform the education sector and introduce innovation across the various segments of education.

RESIGNATIONS

PERSON NAME	RESIGNED AS	ENTITY / PLACE
Hashim Thaçi	President	Hashim Thaçi, President of Kosovo, resigned to face charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He announced his retirement at a news conference in Pristina, Kosovo. The capital and currency of Kosovo are Pristina & Euro respectively.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Dilip Rath, Chairman of NDDB Elected to the Board of International Dairy Federation (IDF)

During the General Assembly of International Dairy Federation (IDF), Dilip Rath, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was unanimously elected to the Board of IDF. India will host the 1st post COVID -19 IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 in New Delhi. India ranks 1st among the world's milk-producing nations and also has the largest bovine population in the world.

Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra Elected to UN's ACABQ Committee

Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elected to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a key (5th Committee) UN (United Nations) committee. She won the election with 126 UN members supporting her candidature, the opposing party got 64 votes. She was appointed to the ACABQ committee for a period of three Calendar Years starting from January 1, 2021.

SEBI Setup a 7 Member Expert Group to Review the Share Based Employee Benefits; Chaired by Sandip Bhagat

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), set up a 7-member expert group chaired by Sandip Bhagat, partner at S&R Associates to review the frameworks of the share based employee benefits & issue of sweat equity and recommend policy changes.

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

On November 24, 2020, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) constituted a High-level committee to explore the technological and commercial viability of Virgin Hyperloop Technology for ultrahigh speed travel in India, Vijay Kumar Saraswat (V.K. Saraswat), NITI Aayog member &

Chairman of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) was appointed as the Chairman and Adviser of the committee & Sudhendu Jyoti, Adviser, NITI Aayog as its convener.

AWARDS

AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF LITERATURE & ACADEMICS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
JCB Prize	S. Hareesh	Literature	On 7th November 2020, the book "Moustache" (original Malayalam title – "Meesha") authored by Malayalam writer S. Hareesh and translated to English by Jayasree Kalathil won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 worth Rs.25 lakhs. The book was published by HarperCollins India in 2020. First Debut novel to win the JCB Prize for Literature was "The Far Field" by Madhuri Vijay in 2019.

AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF ARTS & CULTURE FILMS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Best Original Music Award 2020	Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective	Music	The Asian Film Awards Academy (AFAA) announced the winners of the 14th Asian Film Awards (AFA14) held at Busan, South Korea. Karsh Kale and the Salvage Audio Collective won the Best Original Music Award 2020 for the film Gully Boy directed by Zoya Akhtar. Yang Ik-Joon, South Korean Actor and Director presented the Award. Click here
International Emmy® Awards 2020	Delhi Crime	Drama Series	On November 23, 2020 The International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences announced the winners of the 48th International Emmy® Awards 2020 during a live ceremony hosted by actor Richard Kind in New York City, USA. Netflix's India Original series 'Delhi Crime' written and directed by Richie Mehta won the award under the 'drama series' category. Delhi Crime wins the 1st Emmy® for a program from India. Click here

AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SERVICE, SCIENCE & BRAVERY

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Emmett Leahy Award	Dr. Dinesh Katre	Technology	Dr. Dinesh Katre, Senior Director & Head of Department (HOD), Human-Centred Design and Computing Group, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune won the Emmett Leahy Award for 2020. He led

			the team that developed Digitalaya, e-library and Archiving system.
Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020	Dr Satish Mishra	Science	National Academy of Medical Sciences(NAMS) ,India announced that Dr Satish Mishra the Principal Scientist of the Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow has won the “Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020” for his research work on the life cycle of Malaria Parasite which involves two hosts and 3 invasive stages.
International Children’s Peace Prize 2020	Sadat Rahman	Social Service	On November 13, 2020 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai presented the the International Children’s Peace Prize 2020 award to 17 year old Sadat Rahman from Bangladesh for his involvement in setting up his social organization and creating mobile application ‘Cyber Teens’ to end cyberbullying during a ceremony in the Netherlands.
Exim Bank’s BRICS Economic Research Award 2020	Dr. Adam Yao Liu	Ph.D. dissertation	On 16th November 2020, Dr. Adam Yao Liu, a political scientist trained at Stanford University, won the Export-Import Bank of India’s (India Exim Bank’s) BRICS Economic Research Award 2020 for his Ph.D. dissertation, “Building Markets within Authoritarian Institutions: The Political Economy of Banking Development in China.” The award was announced by David Rasquinha, Managing Director(MD) of India Exim Bank, during the 10th Annual BRICS Financial Forum over a virtual platform, organised by VEB.RF Russian National Development Corporation.
2020 AESC Lifetime Achievement Award	Dr. Bish Agrawal	Bravery	On November 17, 2020 Dr. Bish Agrawal, Chairman of Accord India and Founding Partner of AltoPartners won 2020 AESC (Association of Executive Search and Leadership Consultants) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the first Asian to receive this recognition. He was honoured during AESC Global Conference that was held virtually.In

			addition to him, Willie E. Carrington, Principal and Founder of Carrington & Carrington and Kevin M. Connelly, CEO of Kincentric, A Spencer Stuart Company also won the 2020 AESC Lifetime Achievement Award.
Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award 2020	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Contribution to the literary works	On 21st November 2020, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education received the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 for his contribution to the literary works of India. The award was presented to him by the Vatayan-UK organization in London, England. The Vatayan-UK felicitations ceremony organised as a virtual event by the British Institution Group in England. Along with Minister of Education, Manoj Muntashir, famous poet and lyricist won the International Vatayan Literary award 2020 at the Vatayan-UK felicitations ceremony.

OTHER IMPORTANT AWARDS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
National Water Awards for 2019	Tamil Nadu	Water Management	Tamil Nadu won first place in the Union ministry of Jal Shakti's 2nd National Water Awards for 2019 under the best state (normal) category for the conservation and management of water. K Manivasan, PWD Secretary will receive the Best State Award. Indira Gandhi Government High School, Katterikuppam, Puducherry secured the 1st place in the 'Best School' category.
Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Golden Jubilee Award 2020	Dr. K S Subramanian	Nano-Fertilisers	Dr. K S Subramanian, Director of Research of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu who is also a National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chair Professor, won the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) Golden Jubilee Award 2020 for his contribution in the field of nano-fertilisers. The award will be presented at the inaugural function of FAI's Annual Seminar on "Fertilizer and Agriculture during COVID-19" which will be held in New Delhi in December 2020.
Booker Prize 2020	Douglas Stuart	His debut novel "Shuggie Bain"	On 19th November 2020, New York based Scottish writer Douglas Stuart (44 years) won the Booker Prize 2020 for his debut novel "Shuggie Bain" published by Grove

			Atlantic in the United States and Picador in the United Kingdom. Shuggie Bain is a story of a boy from 1980's Glasgow with a mother with alcohol addiction. He is the second Scottish writer to win the award after James Kelman who won the Booker Prize in 1994 for his book titled "How Late It Was, How Late".
Children's Climate Prize 2020	Vinisha Umashankar	Designing a Solar Ironing Cart	On 18th November 2020, Vinisha Umashankar (13 year old), 9th Grade school girl from Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu(TN), India won the Children's Climate Prize 2020 under the 2020 Clear Air Category at the 5th edition of Children's Climate Prize. She won the award for designing a solar ironing cart which uses solar panels to power a steam iron box instead of the conventional charcoal. Isabella Lövin, Swedish Minister for Environment and Climate and Deputy Prime Minister presented the award to Vinisha over a virtual event.
International Award TX2	Philibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) and Uttar Pradesh Forest Department	Doubling Tiger Population	On 23 November, 2020 to mark the 10 anniversary of "Tigers times two" or TX2 under the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) aimed to double the population of the tiger, two categories of awards were distributed. Philibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) and Uttar Pradesh Forest Department from India has won the first International award TX2. Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan and the Manas Tiger Reserve in India received the Tiger Conservation Excellence Award.

RECOGNITIONS

NAME	RECOGNITION
Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)	Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi, implemented by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) became the first airport in Asia Pacific Region to get the highest level – Level 4+ Transition – carbon accreditation. The airport was accredited under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation program for its works in aligning its carbon management with global climate goals to reach net zero emission reduction. The Airport is owned and operated by GMR Group.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS IN CONTENT FORMAT

HelpAge India and Her Majesty Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan Receive 2020 UN Population Award

HelpAge India won the 2020 United Nations(UN) Population Award as the institutional laureate for its contribution towards the disadvantaged elderly people in India. Her Majesty Gyalum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan won the award as the individual laureate for her active

involvement to promote social causes in Bhutan. UN Population award was established by the General Assembly in 1981. United Nations Population Fund was headquartered at New York, United States.

Azim Premji of Wipro Tops in 7th Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020, followed by Shiv Nadar & Mukesh Ambani

On 10th November 2020, the Hurun India and EdelGive Foundation released the 7th edition of the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020. Azim Premji & Family, the founder and Chairman of Wipro topped the 2020 list. Azim Premji is followed by Shiv Nadar, Founder-Chairman of HCL Technologies and Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries at 2nd & 3rd position respectively.

VP M. Venkaiah Naidu Virtually Presented the 2nd National Water Awards

On 11th November 2020, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President (VP) of India virtually presented the 2nd National Water Awards for 2019, organised by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti over a virtual platform. Tamil Nadu won the first prize for the Best State Award under Normal Category followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan in 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

Mizoram won the Best State Award under special category.

Malayalam Film 'Jallikattu' Selected as India's official entry for Oscars 2021

A Malayalam film "Jallikattu" directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the International Feature Film category at the 93rd Academy Awards or 2021 Oscars. Lijo Pellissery also won the best director trophy at the 50th International Film Festival of India (FFI) in 2019 for "Jallikattu". The film about a tribe of men coming together to stop a bull that has run amok in their village is based on a short story by Hareesh.

India-Japan Cooperation Won the OECD's 2019 MAP Award

On 18th November 2020, the India-Japan Cooperation won the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s 2019 Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) Award in category 4 for pairings of jurisdictions that dealt most effectively with their joint caseload for transfer pricing cases. The award was announced during the virtual event of the 2nd OECD Tax Certainty Day organised by OECD. In category 4, Norway- United States cooperation won the 2019 MAP Awards for "other cases"[click here for more detail](#)

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

SUMMITS

SUMMITS	VENUE	KEY POINTS
India-Italy virtual summit	-	India-Italy virtual summit was held which was co-chaired by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Prof. Giuseppe Conte. The leaders discussed a wide range of issues including political, economic, scientific & technological, space and defence cooperation and also adopted 'Action Plan for 2020-2024' along with inking of 15 MoUs. Click here
Indo-Africa Summit 2020		The first-ever virtual Indo-Africa Summit 2020, organized by IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Indian Merchants' Chamber) and Africa Business News (CNBC Africa), was held on November 4 to 6, 2020 which was

	-	addressed by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Note: India's target is to enhance ties to 100*100 matrix by 2025, i.e. a target of USD 100 billion Bilateral Trade and USD 100 billion of Investment between India and Africa.
ASEAN-India Summit 2020	-	On November 12, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the virtual 17th ASEAN-India Summit 2020 along with Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam, the current Chair of Association of Southeast Asian Nations headquartered at Jakarta of Indonesia, also with all ten ASEAN Member States to discuss regional and international issues of common interest and concern, including South China Sea and terrorism. India announced a contribution of US\$ 1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.
Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) 2020	-	The virtual 20th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS) 2020 was chaired by President of Russia Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin where Indian Delegation was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, beginning from 1 January 2021, will focus on the theme of 'reformed multilateralism'. President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan will assume the chairmanship of SCO in 2021.
East Asia Summit (EAS) 2020	-	On November 14, 2020, External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) 2020 held virtually Under Viet Nam's 2020 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Chairmanship. The summit was chaired by Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc in his capacity as ASEAN Chair. Kuala Lumpur Declaration, and Ha Noi Declaration was adopted during the summit. During the Summit, the leaders adopted four other statements. Click here
12th BRICS Summit 2020	-	The 12th BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Summit 2020 held virtually on November 17, 2020 and hosted by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia on the theme "Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". India was represented by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. Vladimir Putin announced the approval of the Moscow Declaration, the BRICS Anti-Terrorism Strategy and the BRICS updated strategy for the economic partnership until 2025. Two pillars of this year's summit are the economy and counterterrorism. Click here
India-Luxembourg Bilateral Summit	-	On November 19, 2020, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi holds a virtual India-Luxembourg Bilateral Summit with Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for strengthening the relation between both nations in the post-COVID times. The key focus areas of the association include financial technology, green financing, space applications, digital innovations and

		start-ups, among others. During the summit, both sides inked 3 agreements. Click here
Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2020	-	Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 23rd Edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2020 held from November 19-21, 2020. The Summit is being held completely in Virtual Platform due to Pandemic. Theme of BTS 2020 – ‘Next is Now’. Delegates from countries like Australia, Germany, France, Israel, Netherlands, Switzerland and more than 25 countries under the name ‘Global Innovation Alliance (GIA)’ participated in the Virtual BTS 2020.
G20 (Group of Twenty) Summit	-	On November, 21-22, 2020, the 15th G20 (Group of Twenty) Summit was virtually convened by Saudi Arabia where the Indian side was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit, chaired by Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This was scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia but due to COVID-19 it was held virtually. The Summit under Saudi Arabia Presidency centered on the Theme, ‘Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All’. During the summit the leaders adopted the the G20 Riyadh Declaration to address common global challenges.
APEC Economic Leaders’ summit 2020	-	27th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ summit 2020 was virtually hosted by Malaysia from Kuala Lumpur on Nov. 20, 2020. It was chaired by Malaysia’s Prime Minister Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin under the 2020 APEC Malaysia theme of “Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity. Pivot. Prioritise. Progress”. It was the first virtual APEC meeting amid COVID-19. APEC leaders had endorsed the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 that will make free and fair trade the focus of the APEC agenda for the next two decades.

EVENTS

EVENTS	VENUE	KEY POINTS
AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0	-	On November 7, 2020, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Sirius, Russia launched a 14 days long (from 7–21 November 2020) virtual programme named “AIM–Sirius Innovation Programme 3.0” for Indian and Russian school children.
Counter Terrorism Dialogue		On November 19, 2020, The 12th Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held virtually between India and the European Union (EU) to support each other in their fight against terrorism. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Mr Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs of India and Ms Joanneke Balfoort,

	-	Director for Security Policy, European External Action Service. They discussed about cooperation in multilateral forums such as Financial Action Task Force, Global Counter Terrorism Forum and United Nations High-level Counter-terrorism Week 2021 and upcoming review of UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
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CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE	VENUE	KEY POINTS
Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 conference	-	In order to attract investments in India, the Virtual Global Investor Roundtable (VGIR) 2020 conference was held virtually which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It focuses on discussions around three important areas such as India's economic and investment outlook, structural reforms, and the government's vision for making the country a \$5 trillion economy. VGIR 2020 is organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020	-	13th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2020 was held virtually on the theme "Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility" from New Delhi which was inaugurated by Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge-IC) Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to disseminate information to the cities in order to keep them up-to-date with best urban transport practices. During the Conference the Award of Excellence was conferred upon Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and Agartala Smart City Limited (ASCL), Tripura.
Empowering Through Zero- Shunya Se Sashaktikaran	-	On November 25, 2020 Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Education chaired and addressed a virtual national conference on 'Empowering Through Zero- Shunya Se Sashaktikaran'. It was organised by Sri Aurobindo Society. He launched an e-book, 'Innovation and Leadership Casebook – Covid Edition'. It comprises the innovative efforts and work of the education officers and teachers.
Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies	-	4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies organised by Interpol (also known as International Criminal Police Organization), Europol (European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation) & Basel Institute on Governance (Switzerland) took place virtually from November 18-19, 2020. Interpol hosted the 4th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies conference. Basel Institute on Governance will host the 5th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies in 2021.
2020 Afghanistan Conference	-	On November 23-24, 2020, the ministerial pledging conference namely "2020 Afghanistan Conference" was co-hosted by the United Nations (UN), the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the Government of

	-	Finland. The conference was co-chaired by Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Janez Lenarcic, European Commissioner for Crisis Management. The Indian side was represented by the Union Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). India announced the Phase-IV of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) in Afghanistan worth USD 80 million (Rs 592 crore), which envisages more than 100 projects.
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COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE NAME	COMMITTEE HEAD	KEY NOTES
4-member committee	Shashi S. Vempati	The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) constituted a 4-member committee to review "Guidelines on Television Rating Agencies in India" notified by the ministry in 2014. The committee is headed by Shashi S. Vempati, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Prasara Bharti. The purpose of the committee is to examine and study different aspects of the television rating system in India and will notify the changes if required.
9-member working group Committee	R Chandrasekaran	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 9-member working group headed by R Chandrasekaran to revisit the product structures of engineering tariffs relevant to the retail businesses and provide suitable recommendations to revise them. The committee will submit the report within 3 months.
22 member Inter-Ministerial Committee	Shri Arun Goel	Government of India has set up a 22 member Inter-Ministerial Committee to strengthen India's capital goods sector which turns to achieve the target of a USD 5 trillion economy and a USD 1 trillion manufacturing sector. The committee is headed by Shri Arun Goel, Secretary of Department of Heavy Industries (DHI), Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

MEETINGS

MEETING NAME	VENUE	KEY POINTS
BRICS Business Forum	-	The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & Republic of South Africa) Business Forum was held virtually from October 20-28, 2020. The meeting is being held online for the first time due to Pandemic

		(originally planned to be held in Moscow (Russia), at St. Petersburg (Russia)).
India-UAE (United Arab Emirates) High Level Joint Task Force on Investments	-	India hosted the 8th Meeting of the India-UAE (United Arab Emirates) High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (Joint Task Force) virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was co-chaired by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Government of India and His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group meeting	-	Shaktikanta Das, Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) chaired the 40th SAARCFINANCE Governors' Group meeting in a virtual format. He inaugurated the SAARCFINANCE Sync, a closed user group secure communication network. The current chair of SAARCFINANCE is RBI.
OPEC-India Dialogue	Video Conference	OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Secretariat hosted the 4th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Dialogue through video conference. The meeting was co-chaired by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel and Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, Secretary General of OPEC. The OPEC in its recent World Oil Outlook 2020, has projected that India will account for 16% of the global economy by 2045, double that of 2020.
India-Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation	-	The 4th Meeting of the India-Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation was held virtually on 06 November 2020 which was co-chaired by Union Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Teodoro Locsin Jr., Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Philippines. Indian side invited Filipino students, scholars and academicians to avail the ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) and e-ITEC initiatives, and make use of integrated PhD Fellowships offered to ASEAN students at IITs.
BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting	-	Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman virtually participated in the 1st BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Chairmanship of Russia. To discuss the outcomes of G20 (Group of Twenty) Saudi Presidency in 2020, a digital platform to encourage infrastructure investments and expansion of the membership of the New Development Bank (NDB).

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IREDA	-	In the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IREDA on November 11, 2020, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA) had sanctioned loans worth Rs 12,696 crore in 2019-20 and has disbursed Rs 8,785 crore, supporting capacity addition of 5,673 MW (Mega Watt) during 2019-20.
Annual G77 Foreign Ministers Meeting	-	On November 12, 2020, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Ambassador T S Tirumurti virtually addressed the 44th Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (G77). The Title of the Forum was 'Global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the obstacle it poses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. The Group of 77 (G77) at the UN is a coalition of 134 developing countries established in 1964.
8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting	-	On 13th November 2020, the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education organised the virtual meeting of the 8th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting. The S&T cooperation among the member countries were discussed in the meeting. The theme of Russian Presidency (2020) is "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth". Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan represented India in the virtual STI Ministerial meeting.
Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for HIV Prevention 2020	-	On November 18, 2020, the Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Prevention 2020 was virtually hosted by UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) on behalf of the HIV GPC. Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Ministry for Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) was addressed the meeting on behalf of India.
Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee	-	On November 24, 2020, Piyush Goyal, Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry along with Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar co-chaired the 7th Meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar Virtually. India will host the 2021 Joint Trade Committee meeting between India and Myanmar. Both the countries acknowledged the establishment of a modern Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Tamu (Phase I) which is built with Indian's assistance.

INDEX

RANKING

INDEX / SURVEY NAME	RELEASED BY / CONDUCTED BY	KEY NOTES
Public Affairs Index 2020	Public Affairs Centre (PAC)	<p>Kerala emerged as the Best Governed State in the Large States Category, Goa emerged as the Best Governed State in Small States Category, Chandigarh emerged as the Best Governed Union Territory based on Governance in the 5th edition of Public Affairs Index 2020 (PAI 2020) released by Public Affairs Centre (PAC) on October 30, 2020.</p> <p><u>Top 3 Large States:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kerala 2. Tamil Nadu 3. Andhra Pradesh Click here
BMI (Body Mass Index)	Published in "The Lancet"	<p>India => 196th rank with respect to BMI in boys & ranks 198th in girls</p> <p>A review of BMI (Body Mass Index) of various countries' teenagers has been recently published in the international medical journal "The Lancet", according to which India is placed at 196th rank with respect to BMI in boys & ranks 198th in girls. This review covered school-aged children and adolescents for ages 5-19 years from 1985 to 2019 in 200 countries and territories. India's boys ranked 180th with an average height of 5.46 feet while girls ranked 182nd with an average height of 5.06 feet.</p> <p><u>Top 3 Countries with Tallest Boys:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Netherlands 2. Montenegro 3. Estonia <p><u>Top 3 Countries with Tallest Girls:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Netherlands 2. Montenegro 3. Denmark Click here
Water Risks by 2050	WWF	<p>In accordance with the World Wide Fund (WWF) Water Risk Filter, an online tool, co-developed by the WWF for Nature and Germany's Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (KfW DEG), nearly a third of the 100 cities in the world susceptible to "water risk" are in India means 30 Indian cities are expected to suffer increased water risks by 2050. Globally, populations in areas of high-water risk could rise from 17% in 2020 to 51% by 2050.</p> <p><u>Top 3 Indian Cities:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jaipur 2. Indore

		3. Thane Click here
Survey of the entire main stem of Ganga river	Wildlife Institute of India (WII)	Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in the second phase of its survey of the entire main stem of Ganga river (Main river without its tributaries) found that 49% of the river has high biodiversity and increased biodiversity sightings. The study was initiated by WII on behalf of the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
2021 World's Best Cities	Resonance Consultancy Ltd	In accordance with the annual report and ranking of best cities around the world titled "2021 World's Best Cities" by Resonance Consultancy Ltd, London, United Kingdom (UK) is at top spot for the 6th consecutive year. It was followed by New York, United States (US) and Paris (France) at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively. Notably only one Indian city, Delhi, is listed in the ranking at 62 which was ranked 81st in previous year ranking.
The 2020 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix	Anti-bribery standard setting organisation	India is at 77th position with a total risk score of 45 "The 2020 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix" was released by an anti-bribery standard setting organisation TRACE International, featuring 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions. India at the 78th position in 2019 with a score of 48. The list has been topped by Denmark for lowest bribery risk which is followed by Norway and Finland. On the other hand the North Korea ranked last i.e. at 194th position with a total highest risk score of 93.
56 th TOP500, the most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world	-	India's Supercomputer – PARAM Siddhi-AI – Ranked 62 in the list of most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the World. Japan's Fugaku topped the list, the second & third rank were taken by US (United States) Supercomputers "Summit" & "Sierra". Top500 project Rankings are published twice a year. In this list, computers are ranked based on their performance on the LINPACK Benchmark. Another Supercomputer, Pratyush – Ranked 77 featured in the Top 100.

REPORTS

REPORT NAME	SUBMITTED BY	KEY NOTES
Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX) 2019	India Migration Now	The Mumbai (Maharashtra) based research non-profit India Migration Now has released "Interstate Migrant Policy Index (IMPEX) 2019" stating integration of interstate migrants. In accordance to this, the states of Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh (AP) have been most successful in integrating migrant workers. IMPEX examines state's performance on 8 policy areas inclusion with more than 60 indicators.

India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) report	Rahul Chhabra	Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India launched India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors' over a virtual platform from New Delhi, India. The report was prepared by the 2nd batch of Fellows under the IBSA Visiting Fellowship Program.
Doing Business in India: The UK Perspective	Lord Gerry Grimstone	6th edition of United Kingdom India Business Council's (UKIBC) Doing Business in India Report 2020 titled "Doing Business in India: The UK Perspective" was virtually launched by the UK Investment Minister Lord Gerry Grimstone at a roundtable with Indian industrialists during his virtual visit to India. For the third year running, Maharashtra came out as the state with maximum incremental improvement, followed by Karnataka, Delhi, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.
Quarterly MSME Credit Health Index	CIBIL & MoSPI	Credit Information Company TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to launch the First Edition of the Quarterly MSME Credit Health Index. The index will provide a reliable measure and benchmark of the growth and strength of MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) in India.
List of Top 2% Scientists of the world	Stanford University	Stanford University, United States (US) has released a list of Top 2% Scientists of the world. The list has 1, 59, 683 persons and 1, 492 Indians have found a place in it. The scientists have been selected in the global list based on their research paper's International Evaluation. The results have been published in PLOS Biology and have been classified into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields in the report.
Vital Statistics on India based on Civil Registration System 2018	Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India	According to Annual Report on 'Vital Statistics on India based on Civil Registration System 2018', Arunachal Pradesh recorded the Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) in the country with 1,084 females born per thousand males. It was followed by Nagaland (965) & Mizoram (964), Kerala (963), and Karnataka (957). The report was released by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Manipur (757), Lakshadweep (839),

		Daman & Diu (877) recorded the Lowest SRB in the country.
Estimating the Economic Benefits of Investment in National Monsoon Mission (NMM) and High-Performance Computing (HPC) Facilities	Released by Harsh Vardhan	Union Minister for Earth Science (MoES), Harsh Vardhan released the report "Estimating the Economic Benefits of Investment in National Monsoon Mission (NMM) and High-Performance Computing (HPC) Facilities" prepared by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) at a function at Prithvi Bhavan, New Delhi. The report was commissioned by MoES. Click here
Finance Commission in Covid Time	Nand Kishore (NK) Singh	Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) led by Chairman Nand Kishore (NK) Singh submitted its Report titled "Finance Commission in Covid Time" for the period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 to the President of India Ram Nath Kovind. This is the first time that a chapter on the health care scenario of the country is introduced and should be able to spend at least 2.1% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) on health in the next five years. Centre releases first instalment of Rs 2,200 cr for 42 cities from 15 states for the improvement of air quality. Greater Mumbai (Maharashtra) has received the highest share of funds. Click here
Progress Towards Regional Measles Elimination Worldwide 2000-2019	World Health Organisation (WHO) and United States (US) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	As per the new report by World Health Organisation (WHO) and United States (US) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) titled "Progress Towards Regional Measles Elimination Worldwide 2000-2019", India is among six countries with the highest number of infants who had not received the vaccine against measles. The other five countries are Nigeria (3.3 million), Ethiopia (1.5 million), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (1.4 million), Pakistan (1.4 million), and Philippines (0.7 million).
Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 Pandemic	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)	According to the report titled "Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 Pandemic" released by United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) groups associated with terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda and ISIS are exploiting the Pandemic to spread conspiracy theories. The researchers have examined three groups of non-State actors –

		right-wing extremists, groups associated with ISIS, Al-Qaeda and other crime groups.
FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY)	In accordance with the report titled "FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond" by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), India may attract foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$120-160 billion per year by 2025. This is on the condition to increase the FDI to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio between 3-4% from less than 2% now. States-wise Maharashtra remains the most attractive destination (28%), followed by Karnataka (19%), Delhi (16%) and Gujarat (10%). These four alone received 75% of the FDI between October 2019 and June 2020.

ACQUISITION & MERGERS

Axis Bank to Acquire Up to 19.002% Instead of 17.002% in Max Life Insurance

Axis Bank Ltd along with its subsidiaries namely, Axis Capital Ltd and Axis Securities Ltd (together Axis Entities) has agreed to enter into revised agreements with Max Financial Services (MFS) Ltd to acquire up to 19.002% of the equity share capital of Max Life Insurance Co Ltd (Revised Agreements). This is in accordance with the Para 5(b) of Master Direction- Reserve Bank of India (Financial Services provided by Banks) Directions, 2016.

CCI Approves Acquisition of Bharti AXA by ICICI Lombard

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002, approved the acquisition of General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA) by ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited (ICICI Lombard).

Public Investment Fund to buy 2.04% stake in Reliance Retail for Rs 9,555 crore

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) will buy 2.04% equity stake in Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for Rs 9,555 crore (about USD1.3 billion). This is the largest investment made by any fund so far in RRVL. This marks the 9th investment by global investors in RRVL, since September 9, 2020. Including PIF's investment RRVL has raised Rs 47,265 crore. The global investors with this investment hold 12.27% combined. This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.587 lakh crore (approximately \$62.4 billion).

Axis Bank Acquires 57,743 shares in CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd for Rs 36.38 crore

Axis Bank Ltd acquired 57,743 shares in CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd for Rs 36.38 crore. The transaction is for 9.91% equity stake in CSC e-Governance as a strategic investment by the bank. The transaction is likely to be completed by December 2020.

TCS to Acquire 100% shares of Postbank Systems AG from Deutsche Bank

On November 9, 2020 Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed an agreement with Deutsche Bank AG, Headquartered at Frankfurt, Germany, under which TCS will acquire a 100% of the shares of Postbank Systems AG (PBS) from Deutsche Bank AG. The value of the deal was not disclosed. This acquisition contributes to the continued growth of TCS in Germany.

CCI Approves Acquisition of 7.73% equity share capital of Jio Platforms by Google International LLC

On November 12, 2020, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002 has approved the acquisition of 7.73% equity share capital of Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) by Google International Limited Liability Corporation-LLC (GIL). Jio will get all the funds from its 13 investors(including google) who have injected Rs 1,52,056 crore for a 32.97% cumulative equity share.

IRDAI gives Final Approval for Merger of HDFC ERGO Health with HDFC ERGO General Insurance

On November 11, 2020 Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India(IRDAI) gave its final approval for the merger of HDFC ERGO Health Insurance (formerly Apollo Munich Health Insurance Co Ltd) with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Co Ltd (HDFC ERGO). The National Company Law Tribunal(NCLT) has sanctioned the scheme of amalgamation between HDFC ERGO Health and HDFC ERGO General on september 30, 2020. the new entity will be the second-largest private insurer in the health and accident segment in India.

CCI Approves Acquisitions between Orix and GEH & Sinochem, ChemChina and Central SASAC

On November 12, 2020 The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the following acquisitions under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.CCI approved the acquisition of (i).Greenko Energy Holdings (GEH) from Orix Wind SPVs,ORIX Corporation (Orix).(ii). Next also Orix will acquire an equity stake in GEH.(iii).CCI also approved the transfer of 100% shareholding of Sinochem Group Company Limited (Sinochem) and China National Chemical Corporation Limited (ChemChina) to State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration (Central SASAC), a new company wholly owned by China.

DEA Approves Swap of Mitsui Sumitomo's Max Life Stake of 20.57% with 21.87%stake in Max Financial Services

On November 19, 2020 Department of Economic Affairs(DEA), Ministry of Finance(MoF) gives approval for a swap of 20.57% stake by Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance (MSI) Company Ltd that it holds in Max Life with a 21.87% stake in Max Financial Services Ltd(MFSL).Presently MFSL holds 72.5% stake in Max Life and MSI owns 25.5% stake.The share swap transaction will result in MFSL's stake in Max Life increasing to 93.10%. Mr. Mohit Talwar(Vice Chairman of the Max Group) is the MD of Max Financial Services Ltd(MFSL).

CCI Approved Acquisition of Certain Undertaking of Future Group by RRVL & RRVL WOS

On November 20, 2020 The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of retail and wholesale undertaking and logistics and warehousing undertaking of the Future Group by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) and Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRVL WOS). The approval was given under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

Indian Bank, Canara Bank, Axis Bank, South Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda Acquires 6.67% stakes each in IBBIC

On November 20, 2020 Indian Bank, Canara bank , Axis bank, South Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda(BoB) acquired 6.67% stakes (representing 50,000 equity shares) each in the proposed financial tech firm, IBBIC Pvt Ltd. for Rs 5 lakhs to provide a platform to explore, build and implement Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) solutions for the Indian financial services sector.

HDFC Ltd to Acquire 19.9% Stake in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC

HDFC(Housing Development Finance Corporation) Ltd will acquire 19.9% stake in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC (Asset Reconstruction Company) Private Ltd for Rs 49,87,500. Renaissance Investment has to get the approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to commence the business of asset reconstruction.

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Bull Strike	Teressa Island in Nicobar Group of Islands	Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted a three-day Tri-Service Combat Exercise code named "Bull Strike" from November 3-5, 2020 at Teressa Island in Nicobar Group of Islands. The exercise focussed on interoperability and synergy among three services – Army, Navy and Air Force to maximise combat potential.
Sagar Kavach	Paradip Coast, Odisha	A two-day joint coastal security annual exercise "Sagar Kavach" was held on November 5-6, 2020 at Paradip Coast, Odisha. It was carried out by the state governments of Odisha and West Bengal. More than 10 such departments, including the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard, the Odisha Police, the local fishermen, the forest department, and the port marine department, have joined the joint exercise.
Four-nation Naval Exercise Malabar 2020	Venue => Bay of Bengal Participating countries: India, United States, Japan, Australia	The Phase 1 of the 24th Edition of the Four-nation Naval Exercise Malabar 2020 took place in the Bay of Bengal from November 3-6, 2020. Since 2007, all the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Group countries (India, United States, Japan, Australia) participated for the 1st time in the Malabar Naval Exercise. The exercise was restricted to sea phase and was conducted in "Zero Contact" format due to Pandemic. For the first time in more than 10 years, exercise is witnessing the participation of all four Quad countries.
Four-nation Naval Exercise Malabar 2020	Arabian Sea	Phase 2 of the 24th Edition of the Four-nation Naval Exercise Malabar 2020 took place in the Arabian Sea from November 17-20, 2020. This is the First time since 2007, that all the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Countries (India, United States, Japan, Australia) are participating in the Malabar Naval Exercise. INS Aircraft Carrier Vikramaditya of India and

		F/A-18 fighters and United States' E2C Hawkeye from USS Nimitz (World's Largest Warship), Australian Navy deployed its HMAS (Her Majesty's Australian Ship) Ballarat, an Anzac-class frigate. Japanese Navy sent its leading destroyer JS Murasame for the exercise.
Indo-Thai CORPAT	Andaman Sea close to the strategic Strait of Malacca, India-Thailand	On November 18-20, 2020, the 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy with Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette, the Royal Thai Navy with Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate and along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies was conducted in Andaman Sea close to the strategic Strait of Malacca. Since 2005, both nations have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year to boost maritime links.
SITMEX-20 – A Trilateral Naval Exercise	Andaman Sea, Indian Navy, Royal Thai Navy (RTN) & Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)	2nd Edition of SITMEX-20 – A Trilateral Naval Exercise between Indian Navy, Royal Thai Navy (RTN) & Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) took place from November 21-22, 2020 at the Andaman Sea. The 2020 Edition was hosted by RSN. 1st Edition of SITMEX-19 was hosted by India in Port Blair in 2019. The exercise was conducted only as a 'non-contact, at sea only' format due to COVID-19.
India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20	Andaman Sea, India – Singapore	Indian Navy (IN) hosted the 27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 from 23 to 25 November 2020 in Andaman Sea in a "non-contact, at sea only" format amid COVID-19. It is an annual exercise between IN and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The Indian Navy was represented by INS (Indian Naval Ship) Rana with its integral Chetak helicopter in addition to INS Kamorta, INS Karmuk, Submarine INS Sindhuraj and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
BrahMos supersonic cruise missile	Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal	Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an air launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. The missile hit the target of the sinking ship with accuracy. The aircraft, belonging to Thanjavur-based Tigersharks squadron, took

		off from a frontline airbase in Punjab and it was refuelled mid-air before the missile was released.
PINAKA Rocket	Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha	India successfully flight tested the Enhanced version of PINAKA Rocket System from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. It has been indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Enhanced variant of the missile will achieve longer range performance compared to earlier versions of the Pinaka missile and are expected to replace the existing PINAKA Mk-I rockets. It has been designed and developed by Pune based DRDO Laboratory Namely Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) System	Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha	On November 13, 2020, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) System at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha. The missile with range of 25km to 30 km successfully hit its target during the test. QRSAM has been designed to protect moving armoured vehicles from aerial attacks and is set to be inducted into the Indian army by 2021.
Chinese Conventional Missiles	Disputed waters South of Hainan Island and North of the Paracel Islands	The Chinese conventional missiles namely DF-26B intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) and DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) have successfully hit a moving ship (mobile at-sea) target in disputed waters south of Hainan Island and north of the Paracel Islands. The DF-21D and DF-26 are in categories banned under the Russia-US Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which the US withdrew from in 2019.
Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)	Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha	On November 17, 2020, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired its Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha for the Second Time. It demonstrated the warhead's performance on proximity detection. The first test conducted on November 13, 2020 showcased the Radar and Missile's capabilities. It is an indigenous Missile System developed by DRDO in association with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
Raytheon Standard Missile (SM)-3 Block IIA	Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site	On November 18, 2020, the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System-equipped Navy destroyer, United States Ship (USS) John Finn launched a Raytheon Standard Missile (SM)-3 Block IIA to successfully shot down a mock intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) target for the first time during a missile defense test by Pentagon, the US Department of Defense. The missile test was conducted in an area of Open Ocean near Hawaii, United States (US) while the unarmed target ICBM was launched from the Ronald

		Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.
BrahMos supersonic cruise Missile	Andaman and Nicobar (A & N) Island	On November 24, 2020, Indian Army successfully test-fired the land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise Missile from the Andaman and Nicobar (A & N) Island Territory. The range of the land-attack version of Brahmos supersonic cruise Missile has been extended to 400 Kms from the original 290 kms. It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile. The missile hit the target in the Bay of Bengal accuracy. BrahMos Missile has been jointly designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd.
Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile	Frigate Admiral Gorshkov of the Soviet Union	On November 26, 2020 Russia successfully test-fired Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from frigate Admiral Gorshkov of the Soviet Union from the White Sea. It successfully hit a sea target at a distance of 450 km (Kilometres) in the Barents Sea. On October 7, 2020 the Russia for the first time test-fired the Tsirkon (Zircon) Hypersonic Cruise Missile. It was carried out by the frigate Admiral Gorshkov.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Naval Ship 'Airavat' reaches Port Sudan with Food Aid as Part of 'Mission Sagar-II'

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Airavat entered Port Sudan with 100 Tonnes of Food aid as part of Mission Sagar-II. Under Mission 'SAGAR' Indian government is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic. The mission is being done in close coordination with the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs and other agencies of Indian Government.

Shripad Naik Launches Indian Navy's 5th Scorpene-class Submarine 'INS Vagir' from Mazagon Dock

On November 12, 2020, Minister of State (MoS) for Defence, Shripad Naik virtually launched the Indian Navy's 5th Scorpene-class Submarine 'INS Vagir' in Arabian sea waters at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDSL), Mumbai has built 'Vagir'. 'Vagir' is part of six Kalvari-Class submarines being built in India. Designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS (The Naval Group, formerly known as Direction des Constructions Navales (DCNS)) and is being built as part of Indian Navy's Project-75.

Indian Coast Guard ship 'C-452', designed and built by L&T, commissioned at Ratnagiri

Western Seaboard Commander Additional Director General (ADG), Rajan Bargotra virtually commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship 'C-452' at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. It is the 52nd ship in the series of 54 Interceptor Boats. It has been designed and Indigenously built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard Limited in Surat, Gujarat.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Unveiled A-Sat Missile Model in New Delhi

On November 9, 2020, a model of Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile installed inside the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Bhawan premises, New Delhi, was unveiled by Union Defence Minister (Raksha Mantri) Rajnath Singh. India's first-ever Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile Tested under the operation code 'Mission Shakti' on 27th March 2019 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha and became the fourth nation in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.

2nd Batch of Three Rafale Fighter Jets land at Jamnagar Air Base in Gujarat

The 2nd Batch of Three Rafale Fighter Jets landed at the Jamnagar Air Base in Gujarat. The fighter jets took off from Istres air base, France and flew continuously over eight hours covering 3,700 nautical miles (6,852 Kilometres) before landing in India. With the arrival of the Three fighter jets, the Indian Air Force (IAF) now has 8 Rafale Fighter jets. The Second batch will be stationed at Hasimara Air Force Station, West Bengal.

Indian Navy receives 9th P-8I Surveillance Plane from US at INS Hansa, Goa Naval Airbase

On November 18, 2020, Indian Navy received the 9th Poseidon 8I maritime surveillance aircraft from the United States (US) at the INS Hansa, Goa Naval Airbase. The P-8I Aircraft received on November 18, 2020 is the first of the Four Additional planes ordered by India after completion of the Initial order for eight aircrafts. India signed a deal of USD 1.1 Billion with the US for Four Additional P-8I Aircrafts in 2016.

OshoCorp Global becomes 1st Private firm to Receive Indian Army's Approval for Manufacturing Specialised Tank Ammunition

For the First Time, Indian Army has given Project sanction order to Private Firm OshoCorp Global for development and supply of Specialised ammunition for its Main Battle Tanks T-72 and T-90. The Project's cost is over INR 2,300 Crores and it has a potential for future domestic and export orders.

DRDO Chairman Satheesh Reddy flags off First 'Varunastra' - Heavyweight Torpedo at BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit

On November 21, 2020, Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development (R&D) and Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), G. Satheesh Reddy flagged off the first 'Varunastra', heavy weight torpedo to be delivered to the Indian Navy during a ceremony held at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Visakhapatnam Unit, Andhra Pradesh. The Varunastra has been designed and developed by Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.

Indian Navy inducts two 'MQ-9B Sea Guardian' American Predator drones, 1st Defence hardware procured on lease under the DAP 2020

On November 25, 2020, Indian Navy inducted two 'MQ-9B Sea Guardian' unarmed drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – UAV) procured from the United States (U.S.) on lease. MQ-9B Sea Guardian became the first defence hardware to be procured on lease under the new Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020. The drone will help in carrying out surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

SATELLITE NAME	COUNTRY	PURPOSE
EOS-01	India	In its first mission of 2020, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on November 7, 2020 has launched its latest earth observation satellite EOS-01 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh (AP) along with 9 international customer satellites from Lithuania (1), Luxembourg (4), and the US (4). These were carried off by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C49.

Long March 6 rocket	China	China has successfully sent 13 satellites viz. 3 Chinese and 10 customer's satellites, into orbit through the Long March 6 rocket's 351 flight which was lifted off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, Shanxi Province, China. The Chinese Satellites are UESTC (also known as Tianyan-05), Beihang SAT-1 and Bayi-03.
"UESTC" satellite (Star Era-12)"	China	China has successfully launched the world's first 6G satellite named "UESTC" satellite (Star Era-12)" into orbit with an aim to test communications from space using high-frequency terahertz (THz) spectrum. It was one of the 13 satellites aboard the Long March-6 rocket, which launched on November 6, 2020 at the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi province of China.
Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich	NASA, United States (US) & European Space Agency (ESA)	On November 21, 2020, 'Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich' – A Satellite developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US) & European Space Agency (ESA) to monitor rising global sea levels was successfully launched into the orbit by a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It is jointly developed by NASA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), ESA, EUMETSAT (Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) and European Commission. The Spacecraft was built by Airbus Defence and Space in Germany.
Chang'e-5	China	On November 24, 2020, China National Space Administration (CNSA) has successfully launched the 8.2 tonne lunar probe namely "Chang'e-5" through Long March-5, China's largest carrier rocket. The launch took place from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern province of Hainan, China. It is the world's first moon-sample mission in 44 years i.e. since 1976.

OTHER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

NATIONAL

IMO recognizes India's IRNSS as component of WWRNS; Becomes 4th Nation in the world to have Independent Navigation System

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) (operational name NavIC – Navigation with Indian Constellation) has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). India became the Fourth Country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite recognised by IMO. Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of IMO approved the recognition of IRNSS as a component of the WWRNS. IRNSS was developed by ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization).

Indian Railway Launches Digitised Online Human Resource Management System

On the lines of Minister's (PM) Narendra Modi vision of digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, Indian Railway has launched a completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS) on November 27, 2020 to improve the efficiency and productivity of Railway system &

also employee satisfaction. Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman & CEO, Railway Board has launched some modules of HRMS & User depot useful for railway employees and pensioners via video conferencing...[Click here to know about the modules.](#)

INTERNATIONAL

NASA Detected first fast radio burst in Milky Way galaxy

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) detected a bright Fast radio bursts (FRB) and X-rays, which lasted for a millisecond, from the Milky Way galaxy for the first time ever. This signal, called FRB 200428, was found in April inside the Milky Way galaxy for the first time.

Pfizer Inc & BioNTech Completed the COVID-19 Vaccine – “BNT162b2” Trial with 95% Success Rate

On 18th November 2020, the Pfizer Inc of the United States of America(USA) and its partner BioNTech of Germany completed the Phase 3 trial of their COVID-19 vaccine candidate, BNT162b2 against SARS-CoV-2 with 95% effective, highest success rate.

Pfizer and BioNTech will submit an application to the United States Food and Drug Administration for Emergency Use Authorization and share the data of the trial with other regulatory bodies across the globe. The vaccine was developed with new messenger RNA(mRNA) technology.

Australia to host Temporary Ground Station Tracking facilities for ISRO’s Gaganyaan Mission

Karen Andrews, Australian Minister of Industry, Science and Technology stated that Australian Space Agency (ASA), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are working together to set up Temporary ground station tracking facilities in Australia for ISRO’s Gaganyaan Mission. She stated it while virtually addressing the 2020 Bengaluru Tech Summit held from November 19-21, 2020. Gaganyaan Mission is an ambitious plan of ISRO to put an Indian in space by 2022.

ENVIRONMENT

Periclimenella agattii & Urocaridella arabianesis: New Species of Shrimp Discovered from Lakshadweep Islands, India

Scientists associated with the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) have discovered two new species of Shrimps from the coral reefs in Agatti island of Lakshadweep islands, India. The two species were named Periclimenella agattii and Urocaridella arabianesis after the Agatti island and Arabian Sea respectively. The findings of the research are published in the Zootaxa, an international peer-reviewed journal.

Archaeologists Found Evidence of Dairy Production in Indus Valley Civilisation

The research of archaeologist of India and Canada found evidence of dairy production in the Indus Valley Civilization. The research discovered that dairy was produced and processed by the Harappans back in 2500 BCE (Before the Common Era). The study was carried out on 59 shards of pottery from the archaeological site in Kotada Bhadli, Gujarat. The findings of the research were published in Scientific Reports of Nature Research Journal.

“Rohanixalus”: New Genus of Tree Frog Discovered in Andaman Island and Northeast India

A team of researchers from India, China, Indonesia and Thailand had found a new genus of tree frogs in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Northeastern parts of India.

The new genus was named “Rohanixalus” after Rohan Pethiyagoda, taxonomist from Sri Lanka. The research team was led by Professor S D Biju of Delhi University. The findings of the discovery have been

published in the article titled 'New insights on the systematics and reproductive behaviour in tree frogs of the genus *Feihyla*, with description of a new related genus from Asia (*Anura*, *Rhacophoridae*)' in the November 12 issue of *Zootaxa*, an international journal for animal taxonomists.

Researchers from IISc & CES discover 5 new species of Vine Snakes

On November 13, 2020, Research team was headed by Ashok Kumar Mallik from the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) discovered five new species of vine snakes of which four species are from Western Ghat alone and one was discovered from lower and drier part of peninsular India. It has been published in the journal *Zootaxa*.

Roridomyces Phyllostachydis: New Mushroom Species That Glow Bright Green Found in Meghalaya Forests

A new species of mushroom that emits bright green light in the dark was found in the West Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya by a team of scientists from India and China following the reports of the locals. The species is named *Roridomyces Phyllostachydis*, this is the first record of the genus *Roridomyces* in India. This species is now added to the 97 other species of bioluminescent mushrooms in the world.

SPORTS

CRICKET

IPL 2020-Mumbai Indians won the 13th edition of IPL; Trailblazers won the 3rd edition of Women's T20 Challenge 2020

Mumbai Indians won the 13th Edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) officially known as Dream11 Indian Premier League 2020 that took place from 19th September-November 10, 2020 at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (**Mumbai Indians became the first team in IPL history to win 5 Titles**). Delhi Capitals became the runner up in the 13th edition of IPL. Jofra Archer of Rajasthan Royals won the Player of the Series. Winners of Jio Women's T20 Challenge (Women's Title) – IPL Trailblazers (1st Title). [Click here to read complete detail of 13th edition of IPL.](#)

Australian Cricketer Shane Watson announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

Former Australian All Rounder Shane Robert Watson announced retirement from all forms of Cricket at the age of 39. He had already announced retirement from International Cricket in 2015 but was playing Franchise-based Cricket tournaments such as Indian Premier League (IPL), Pakistan Super League (PSL). He was part of the World cup winning Australian Team in both 2007 and 2015 World cups.

West Indies Cricketer Marlon Samuels announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

West Indies Batsman Marlon Nathaniel Samuel announced retirement from all forms of Cricket at the age of 39. He is a Right-hand Batsmen and a Right-arm off break bowler. He was part of the West Indies Cricket Team which won the 2012 ICC World Twenty20 (Sri Lanka) and 2016 ICC World Twenty20 (India).

Indian Cricketer Sudeep Tyagi announces retirement from all forms of Cricket

On November 17, 2020 Indian Fast Bowler Sudeep Tyagi announced retirement from all forms of Cricket. He was Hailing from Uttar Pradesh. Tyagi represented India in 4 One-Day Internationals (ODI) & 1 Twenty20 International Scalping Three wickets in the ODI format.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

China's Chen Meng wins 2020 Dishang ITTF Women's World Cup Title at Weihai, China

On November 10, 2020, World Number One Chen Meng (China) defeated Sun Yingsha (China) to win the 2020 Dishang ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) World Cup Title (Gold Medal) held at Weihai, China. It is her First ITTF Women's World Cup title. This is the First Table Tennis tournament after 8 months due to the pandemic. Dishang ITTF Women's World Cup is the 24th Edition of the ITTF Sanctioned event.

2020 ATP Finals – Overview

The 51st Edition (51st edition of Singles, 46th edition of doubles) of 2020 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) officially known as 2020 Nitto ATP Finals took place from November 15-22, 2020 at The O2 Arena, London, United Kingdom. It is organized by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP). Daniil Medvedev (Russia) win the Single's Title of 2020 ATP Finals for the first time. Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands), Nikola Mektic (Croatia) claims the Doubles Title at the 2020 ATP Finals.

Winners of 2020 ATP Finals:

Category	Winner	Runnerup
Men's Singles	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
Men's Doubles	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands), Nikola Mektic (Croatia)	Jurgen Melzer (Austria), Edouard Roger-Vasselin (France)

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

India to host 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

On November 17, 2020, World Football Governing body FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) approved India as the host of the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2022. It was to be held in 2021 but postponed to 2022 due to COVID 19. This is the First time that India will host a FIFA women's football tournament.

BOXING, WRESTLING & WEIGHTLIFTING

Amit Panghal, Ashish Kumar & Sanjeet won gold medal in 1st Alexis Vastine International Tournament held in Nantes, France

1st edition of Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament for elite boxers was held from October 27, 2020 to October 31, 2020 at Nantes, France where nine Indians boxers i.e. five men and four women qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, postponed to next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Noted players like Amit Panghal, Sanjeetm Ashish kumar has grabbed Gold medal in their respective event.

Read More Details Here: [Amit Panghal, Ashish Kumar & Sanjeet won gold medal in 1st Alexis Vastine International Tournament held in Nantes, France](#)

ARCHERY & SHOOTING

Sports Ministry restores Archery Association of India as National Sports Federation

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports restored the Archery Association of India as a National Sports Federation, allowing the promotion and regulation of Archery in India. Eight years ago, the Archery Association of India (AAI) was removed from the National Sports Federation due to its failure to satisfy mandatory election rules set by the National Sports Development Code, 2011 (Sports Code) of India.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

Hamilton wins Emilia Romagna Grand Prix for 93rd F1 win; Mercedes wins 7th consecutive Constructor's Title

British Driver Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the 2020 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix (officially known as the Formula 1 Emirates Gran Premio dell'Emilia Romagna 2020) held at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari in Imola, Italy. This was Hamilton's record extending 93rd F1 victory. The Championships are organized by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

Overview of 49th Edition of Rolex Paris Masters 2020

The 49th Edition of the Paris Masters officially known as 2020 Rolex Paris Masters took place from November 2-8, 2020 at Palais omnisports de Paris-Bercy (Bercy Arena) in Paris, France. It is a Masters 1000 event and it is a part of the 2020 ATP Tour. It is conducted only for Men. Daniil Medvedev (Russia) won the 2020 Rolex Paris Masters Singles Title. Felix Auger-Aliassime (Canada), Hubert Hurkacz (Poland) won the 2020 Rolex Paris Masters Doubles Title.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020; Secures Record Equalling 7th Driver's Championship Title

On November 15, 2020 British Driver Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the Formula 1 DHL Turkish Grand Prix 2020 held at Intercity Istanbul Park, Turkey. With this victory, Lewis Hamilton clinched the 2020 Driver's Championship Title and also secured his 7th F1 World Driver's Championship, equalling Michael Schumacher's (Germany) World Record of 7 Titles. The Championships are organized by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

BOOKS & AUTHORS

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR	KEY NOTES
Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy	Tamal Bandyopadhyay	Provides an insider perspective on the forces that are restructuring the banking system in India, Asia's 3rd largest economy. This book, published by Roli Books, provides an understanding about the challenges and economic potential of India.
Till We Win	Randeep Guleria and co-written by Chandrakant Lahariya	'Till We Win' – India's Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic – a New book written by AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) New Delhi, Director, Randeep Guleria and co-written by Chandrakant Lahariya, who is a leading public policy and health systems expert and Gagandeep Kang, a renowned vaccine researcher and virologist is set to be released in November, 2020.
The Age of Pandemic (1817-1920): How they Shaped India and the World	Chinmay Tumbe's	Chinmay Tumbe's 2nd book titled "The Age of Pandemic (1817-1920): How they Shaped India and the World" the book argues that the period between 1817 and 1920 as the age of Pandemic which claimed around 70 million lives, with India as the epicentre. The book is published by HarperCollins India and is set to release in December 2020.
Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi	Vinay Sitapati	Vinay Sitapati, a political scientist, lawyer and a journalist authored his 2nd book titled "Jugalbandi: The BJP Before Modi". The book documents about the

		partnership between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, The founding leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The book will be published by Penguin's Viking (Viking Books is an imprint of Penguin General) and it is set to be released in November 2020.
Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana	Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar along with the co-author Amara Sarada Deepthi	M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President(VP) of India launched the book titled "Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana" over a virtual platform. Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar authored the book along with the co-author Amara Sarada Deepthi.
Your Best Day Is Today!	Anupam Kher	Veteran Bollywood Actor and Padma awardee, Anupam Kher unveiled the cover of his new book titled "Your Best Day Is Today!". It is the 3rd book of him.
Archaeology and the Public Purpose: Writings on and by M N Deshpande	Nayanjot Lahiri	The Book titled "Archaeology and the Public Purpose: Writings on and by M N Deshpande" authored by Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor of History at Ashoka University was published by Oxford University Press (OUP). The book about the history of post-Independence archaeology in India with the life of M N Deshpande (1920-2008), a leading Indian archaeologist.
Maile Bujheko Gandhi	Released by Bidhya Devi Bhandari	Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal released a pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi in Nepali language, titled 'Maile Bujheko Gandhi'(the Gandhi as I understood or 'My understanding about Gandhi') in Shital Niwas, Kathmandu .The book was published by the Embassy of India along with B. P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation.
Majhi Bhint	Rajendra Darda	On November 9, 2020 Bhagat Singh Koshyari, governor of Maharashtra released the Marathi language book 'Majhi Bhint' (My Wall) authored by Rajendra Darda, former Maharashtra Minister of Education at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The book is a compilation of selected Facebook posts of Rajendra Darda that pertains to a range of issues written over the last four years.
How to Be a Writer	Ruskin Bond	The book titled 'How to Be a Writer' authored by Ruskin Bond was published by HarperCollins India. The book gives practical advice for every person who is aspiring to write and be published.
Jacinda Ardern:Leading with Empathy	Supriya Vani and Carl A Harte	'Jacinda Ardern:Leading with Empathy' – A Biography of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will be published in 2021 by HarperCollins.The book will be authored by Supriya Vani and Carl A Harte. HarperCollins Publishers India has announced the acquisition of the book. In October, 2020, Jacinda Ardern was re-elected in the 2020 New Zealand General Elections.
Boskiyana	Gulzar	'Boskiyana', a new Hindi book on Gulzar, veteran Indian poet-lyricist has been published by Radhakrishna Prakashan. The book portrays the life of Gulzar through

		his films, poetry, philosophies, lifestyle, likes and dislikes. The 228-page book is edited and compiled by Yashwant Vyas. Boskiyana' is the name of the house of Gulzar in Mumbai.
I Am No Messiah	Sonu Sood, co-authored by Meena Iyer	Sonu Sood, an actor and producer is set to pen his autobiography titled "I Am No Messiah". The book will be co-authored by Meena Iyer. The book will account the experience of Sonu Sood during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book is set to be published by Penguin Random House India and released in December 2020. Recently he was honoured with the Special Humanitarian Action Award by the Department of planning of the government of Punjab with the support of the UNDP.
Insomnia: Army Stories	Rachna Bisht Rawat	Rachna Bisht Rawat launched her new book "Insomnia: Army Stories" featuring stories based on life in the armed forces. The book is published by the Penguin Random house India. This book featured all the characters featured in Insomnia are not heroic, the characters represent ordinary people who have their own weaknesses and failures, also speaks more about emotions in various forms and speaks less about the army.
Reporting India: My Seventy Year Journey as a Journalist	Prem Prakash	Veteran Journalist Prem Prakash's new book titled "Reporting India: My Seventy Year Journey as a Journalist" has been launched. The book was published by Penguin Random House India. The book accounts the life events of Prem Prakash, a pioneer in the field of Indian journalism. Prem Prakash is currently serving as the Chairman of ANI (Asian News International), leading news agency of India.
Balochistan: Bruised, Battered and Bloodied	Francesca Marino	Italian Journalist Francesca Marino's latest book titled "Balochistan: Bruised, Battered and Bloodied" Published by Bloomsbury India is set to be released in November 2020. The introduction of the book notes that the insurrection in Balochistan has become hostile in 2006 after the murder of Nawab Mohammad Akbar Shahbaz Khan bugti. The foreword of the book was written by Hussain Haqqani, former Pakistan Ambassador to the United States. The photographs in the book were taken by Roshaan Khattak.
"Loktantra Ke Swar" and "The Republican Ethic volume 3"	Released by Rajnath Singh	On 19th November 2020, Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh released two books titled "Loktantra Ke Swar" and "The Republican Ethic volume 3", collection of the selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind in Hindi and English respectively. The books were published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Information and Broadcasting released the e-version of

		the books. President Ram Nath Kovind was sworn-in as the 14th President of India in July 2017.
Phoolsunghi	Pandey Kapil	Gautam Choubey has translated 'Phoolsunghi', a Bhojpuri Novel written by Pandey Kapil. It is the first ever translation of a Bhojpuri novel into English. The book is published under Penguin's Hamish Hamilton. It is a historical novel set in Bihar, that narrates the tale of unfulfilled love between Mahendra Mishra, one of the most popular yet enigmatic Bhojpuri poets, and the tawaif Dhelabai.

BOOKS & AUTHORS IN CONTENT FORMAT

PM Modi releases book on the life of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism

On 25th November, 2020 Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book on the life and ideals of Sri Guru Nanak Dev the founder of Sikhism, India's fourth largest religion. The book was written by Chandigarh based writer Kirpal Singh and released in the presence of Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. Guru Nanak Dev Born at Talwandi (now known as Nankana Sahib in Pakistan) on October 20, 1469.

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
Tripunithura Narayanaier Krishnan (T N Krishnan)	Veteran Violinist and Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan Awardee	Kerala	Passed away at the age of 92 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born in 1928 in Kerala. He received the Padma Shri in 1973 and Padma Bhushan in 1992, India's highest civilian awards, for arts.
Arjun Prajapati	Renowned Sculptor and Padma shri awardee	Rajasthan	Passed away at the age of 64 in at Jaipur, Rajasthan due to COVID-19. He was born on 9th April 1956 and hails from Rajasthan. He was popularly known as the "Maharathi of Cloning" - master of cloning. He gave a new identity to the traditional 'Bani-Thani' form of art and established a different identity for it in the country and abroad, this art is known as "Arjuna's Bani-sthani".
Satish Prasad Singh	Former Chief Minister(CM) and Socialist of Bihar	Bihar	Passed away at the age of 84 due to illness at AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences), Delhi. Satish Prasad Singh, the leader of Soshit Samaj Dal became the 6th and the shortest-served CM of Bihar for 5 days (28 January to February 1, 1968) with the support of Indian National Congress (INC). He was born on January 1, 1936

			in Korchakka Village, Khagaria district, Bihar. He was elected as the Member of Parliament-MP to the 7th Lok Sabha on a Congress ticket from Khagaria constituency of Bihar in 1980.
Sanchaman Limboo	Former Chief Minister (CM)	Sikkim	On 8th November 2020, Sanchaman Limboo, Former Chief Minister (CM) of Sikkim passed away at the age of 73 due to prolonged illness in Gangtok, Sikkim. He was born on January 15, 1947 in West Sikkim district, Sikkim.
R. Doraikkannu	Agriculture Minister of (TN)	-	R. Doraikkannu, Agriculture Minister of Tamil Nadu (TN) and a member of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) passed away at the age of 72 at a private Hospital in Chennai. He died due to COVID-19 related complications. He hails from Rajagiri near Papanasam in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.
Satyajit Ghosh	Former football player	-	Satyajit Ghosh, former football player of India and Mohun Bagan passed away at the age of 62 at Bandel, West Bengal due to cardiac arrest. The defender represented India in the 1985 Nehru Cup.
Soumitra Chatterjee	Veteran Bengali Actor and Padma Bhushan Awardee	Calcutta, Bengal Presidency (British India)	Passed away at the age of 85 in a private hospital at Kolkata, West Bengal. He died due to COVID-19. He was born on 19th January, 1935. Soumitra Chatterjee received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1998 and Padma Bhushan for arts in 2004.
Asif Basra	Actor	Maharashtra	On 12th November 2020, the 53-year-old actor Asif Basra, committed suicide and found dead in a private complex in Mcleodganj, Dharmashala, Himachal Pradesh. He was well known for his role as a senior executive in "Paatal Lok" series. He was born on 27th July 1967.
Bhanwar Lal Meghwal	Rajasthan's Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and the leader of Indian National Congress (INS) of Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Passed away at the age of 72 in a private hospital in Gurugram, Haryana due to prolonged illness. He was born on 2nd July 1948 in Sujangarh in Churu district, Rajasthan.
Vice Admiral John Thomas Goslin Pereira	Indian Navy's former Chief of Materials(COM)	Kerala	Passed away after a brief illness. He was among the last surviving naval officers who served during World War

			II(1939 to 1945). He was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) for his war service. He was born on February 15, 1923 in Kannur, Kerala. Current COM- Vice Admiral SR Sarma.
Mridula Sinha	Former and first Woman Governor of Goa and former president of BJP Mahila Morcha	Bihar	Passed away at the age of 77 at a hospital in Delhi. She was born on 27th November 1942 in Chhapra, Bihar. Mridula Sinha was a proficient Hindi writer who contributed to the field of literature and culture.
Tarun Gogoi	Chief Minister	Assam Province, British India(now Assam, India)	On 23rd November 2020, Tarun Gogoi, the longest serving chief minister of Assam and popular leader of Indian National Congress (INC) passed away at a hospital in Gauhati, Assam. He passed away due to post COVID-19 complications and multiple organ failures. He was born in Assam Province, British India(now Assam, India).
Ahmedbhai Mohammedbhai Patel	Senior leader of Indian National Congress Party and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament(MP) from Gujarat	Gujarat	Passed away at the age of 71 at Medanta Hospital, Delhi due to complications from COVID-19. He was the treasurer of the All India Congress Committee (2018 – 2020). He was born on 21st August 1949 in Gujarat.
Faqir Chand Kohli	Father of Indian Information Technology (IT) industries	Peshawar, British India	On November 26, 2020, the founder and 1st CEO of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Faqir Chand Kohli, who is also known as the 'Father of Indian Information Technology (IT) industries' passed away at the age of 96 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on March 1924 Peshawar, British India.(Presently Peshawar is presently located in Pakistan). He received India's third-highest civilian honor, 'Padma Bhushan Award' in 2002 for his contributions to the Indian software industry.

INTERNATIONAL

PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa	Prime Minister(PM)	Bahrain	Prince Khalifa bin Salman al Khalifa, Prime Minister(PM) of Bahrain passed away at the age of 84 at Mayo Clinic hospital, United States. He is the World's Longest Serving PM. He has been serving as PM since 1971. He was born on

			November 24, 1935 in Jasra, Bahrain. He is the son of Bahrain's former ruler, Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.
Jerry John Rawlings	Former President	Ghana	Passed away at the age of 73 at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana due to short illness. He is the 1st president of the 4th republic of Ghana. The capital and currency of Ghana were Accra and Ghanaian cedi. A former air force officer and military leader was born on June 22, 1947 at Accra, Ghana.
Sir Thomas Sean Connery	Scottish actor & Oscar Awardee	Scotland	Who portrayed in James Bond, fictional British secret agent in film in 7 bond films between 1962 and 1983 passed away at the age of 90 in Nassau, The Bahamas (officially- The Commonwealth of the Bahamas). He is the first actor to play James Bond on the big screen. He was born on 25th August 1930 at Edinburgh, Scotland. He received Academy Awards(Oscar) for the films the Untouchables (1987) and The Name of the Rose (1986).
Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ	Veteran Author and columnist	Spain	Spaniard Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ, a veteran Author and columnist, who was popularly known as Father Valles passed away at the age of 95 in Madrid, Spain. He was born on 4th November 1925 in Logroño, Spain. India honoured him with Indian citizenship. He translated various mathematical concepts into Gujarati and coined Gujarati terms for them. He won the Ranjitram Suvarna Chandrak, the highest award in Gujarati literature in 1978 and became the first non-Indian to receive the honours.
Don Talbot	Swimming Coache	Australia	Don Talbot, one of Australia's greatest swimming coaches and former head coach of Olympic Swimming team of Australia and Canada passed away at the age of 87 in Queensland, Australia. He was born on 23rd August 1933 in New South Wales, Australia.
Masatoshi Koshiha	Japanese astrophysicist	Japan	Passed away at the age of 94. He is the co-winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in physics for confirming the existence of elementary particles called neutrinos. He was born on September 19, 1926 in Toyohashi, Aichi, Japan.
Diego Armando Maradona	Former Argentina Football Player & FIFA World Cup Winner	Argentina	Passed away at the age of 60 due to heart attack in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Under his captaincy, Argentina's National Football Team won the FIFA World Cup that held in Mexico against West Germany in the year 1986.

James David Wolfensohn	Former President of the World Bank	Australia	On 25th November 2020, James David Wolfensohn, former president of the World Bank, who served as the President for around 10 years (from 1st June 1995 to 31st May 2005), passed away at the age of 86 at his residence in Manhattan, New York, United States of America(USA). He was born on 1st December 1933, in Sydney, Australia. He was the 3rd President of the World Bank to serve two full terms.
Sadiq al-Mahdi(also known as Sadiq as-Siddiq)	Last Democratically Elected Prime Minister(PM)	Sudan	On November 26, 2020 Sadiq al-Mahdi(also known as Sadiq as-Siddiq), Sudan's Last Democratically Elected Prime Minister(PM) passed away at the age of 84 in a hospital in the United Arab Emirates(UAE) due to COVID-19. He was the head of the National Umma Party. He was born on December 25, 1935 in Al-Abasya, Omdurman, Sudan. Capital and Currency of Sudan are Khartoum and Sudanese pound

IMPORTANT DAYS

OBSERVED DATE / WEEK	DAYS	KEY NOTES
October 31, 2020	World Cities Day	The United Nations (UN) World Cities Day 2020 is observed annually on October 31. The day is observed to promote global urbanization, address challenges of urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world. This is the Seventh Global Celebration of World Cities Day, since it was launched in 2014. The Theme of World Cities Day 2020 is 'Valuing our communities and cities', The General theme is "Better City, Better Life". The Global Celebrations was hosted by the County Government of Nakuru, Kenya. Kenya Will became the first African Country to host the World Cities Day Global Observance.
October 24-31, 2020	Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week	The Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week is held annually from October 24 – 31 since 2012 to tackle disinformation and misinformation. The year 2020 marked its 10th edition under the theme "Resisting Disinfodemic: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone". The event led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was virtually hosted by the

		Republic of Korea amid COVID-19. It was also joined by the World Health Organization (WHO). The week also saw the virtual observance of the 10th MIL and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) Conference and the Youth Agenda Forum from Seoul, Republic of Korea on October 27-29, 2020.
October 31, 2020	World Thrift Day	Observed annually on October 31 since 1925 to promote savings and financial security of individuals and the nation as a whole. This day also raises awareness among the people to save their money in a bank rather than keeping it at home. It should be noted that in India this day is celebrated on October 30 as the death of late Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984 coincides with global observance.
October 31, 2020	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day	Observed annually on October 31 to mark the Birth Anniversary of Iron Man of India-Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The year 2020 marks the 145th Birth Anniversary of Vallabhai Patel. National Unity Day was introduced by the Government of India in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Kevadia and paid his respect to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He inaugurated India's First seaplane service, which will offer air connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat. It will be operated by Spicejet.
November 1, 2020	World Vegan Day	Observed annually on November 1 all over the world to encourage people to follow a vegan lifestyle which is not only for the welfare of animals but also for an environment. It is celebrated by organizing a number of festivals and exhibitions by vegan societies. The 1st World Vegan Day was celebrated in the year 1994. This day also marks the founding day of The Vegan Society in the United Kingdom (UK) which was established in 1944. The day was mooted by Louise Wallis, the then Chair of the Vegan Society during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Society in the year 1994.
November 2, 2020	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI)	The United Nations (UN) International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) is observed annually across the globe on November 2 to end impunity (exemption from punishment from the injurious

		consequences of an action) for crimes against journalists. The day also aims to raise awareness about all attacks against journalists and media workers. UNESCO launches a global awareness campaign "Protect Journalists. Protect The Truth". The date, November 2 was chosen to commemorate the assassination of 2 French journalists namely, Ghislaine Dupont and Claude Verlon in Mali on November 2, 2013. UNESCO released the brochure 'Protect Journalists, Protect the Truth'.
November 5, 2020	World Tsunami Awareness Day	The United Nations (UN)'s World Tsunami Awareness Day is annually observed on 5th November to create and raise awareness about Tsunami and share innovative approaches across the globe to reduce the risk of tsunami. The First World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed on 5th November 2016. UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in collaboration with the United Nations system facilitates the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day. The theme of the 2020 World Tsunami Awareness Day is "Strengthening disaster risk governance".
November 6, 2020	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	United Nations(UN)'s International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is annually observed across the globe on 6th November to create and raise awareness on the need to protect the environment during armed conflicts. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/56/4 on 5th November 2001, and proclaimed the 6th November of every year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict to safeguard nature for the sake of future generation and protect the environment. UNEP noted that around 40% of all the internal conflicts in the past 60 years are associated with the exploitation of natural resources.
November 2-6, 2020	International Stress Awareness Week	The International Stress Awareness Week is annually celebrated from 2- 6 November, 2020 to raise awareness on the prevention of stress and to promote the importance of wellbeing of individuals and organisations. The International week was established to

		focus on stress management. The Week was created in 2018 following the establishment of National Stress Awareness Day in 1998. The National Stress Awareness Day was established by the International Stress Management Association (ISMA) to identify and reduce the stress factors in life. The day is annually marked on the 1st Wednesday of November.
November 7, 2020	National Cancer Awareness Day	The National Cancer Awareness Day is annually observed across India on 7th November to create awareness about the prevention and early detection of Cancer among the general public. The first National Cancer Awareness Day was observed in 2014. The National Cancer Awareness Day on 7th November coincides with the birth anniversary of French- Polish Physicist and Nobel laureate Madame Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (1903).
November 8, 2020	International Day of Radiology (IDoR)	Annually celebrated to create awareness on the importance and value of the contribution of Radiology in the safe patient care on November 8. This marks the 8th International Day of Radiology. The theme of 2020 IDoR is "Radiologists and radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19".
November 9, 2020	National Legal Services Day	Observed annually on November 9 across India to commemorate the enactment of the Indian Legal Services Authorities Act 1987. The Supreme Court of India started to observe the 1st National Legal Service day in 1995.
November 10, 2020	World Science Day for Peace and Development	United Nations(UN)'s World Science Day for Peace and Development is annually celebrated across the globe on 10th November to highlight the role of Science in society and the need to engage the public on the discussion on the emerging scientific issues. The first observance took place on 10 November 2002 under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) auspices. The theme of 2020 is "Science for and with Society" with the focus on the "Science for and with Society in dealing with the global pandemic".
November 11, 2020	National Education Day	Annually celebrated in India on 11th November to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Sayyid Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin Ahmed bin Khairuddin Al-

		Hussaini Azad (known as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad), the first education minister of Independent India. The day is observed to spread awareness on the importance of education and literacy.
November 12, 2020	Public Service Broadcasting Day	Also known as Jan Prasaran Diwas is annually celebrated across India on 12th November to commemorate the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to All India Radio(AIR), Delhi on 12th November 1947. The Public Service Broadcasting Day was conceptualised by Suhas Borker, Convenor, Jan Prasar and the day were declared in 2000.
November 12, 2020	World Pneumonia Day	Annually celebrated across the globe on 12th November to create awareness among the public about Pneumonia, a fatal infection and the methods to prevent the infection. It was first celebrated on 12th November 2009 by the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia. World Pneumonia Day was established by the Stop Pneumonia initiative in 2009.
November 13, 2020	Ayurveda Day	Annually celebrated across the globe on the day of Dhanwantri Jayanti, as a global initiative to promote and preserve the health science of Ayurveda. The 2020 Ayurveda Day falls on 13th November 2020 which marks the 5 th year celebration with the theme - "Ayurveda for Covid-19" . 4th Ayurveda Day was celebrated on October 25th, 2019.
November 14, 2020	World Diabetes Day	United Nations(UN)'s World Diabetes Day is annually observed across the globe on 14th November to recognise the need to undertake multilateral efforts to promote and improve the health of the humans and to provide access to treatment and healthcare education. The theme of the World Diabetes Day 2020 is "The Nurse and Diabetes"
November 14, 2020	Children's Day	Children's Day in India, also known as 'Bal Diwas' is celebrated annually across India on November 14 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, who is fondly called 'Chacha Nehru'(Uncle Nehru) by children. This year(2020) marks the 131st birth anniversary of Chacha Nehru.] and To increase the awareness of the rights, care and education of children. Click here
November 15, 2020	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims(WDoR)	United Nations (UN)'s World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims(WDoR) is annually observed across

		the globe on the third Sunday of November. The day provides an opportunity to remember the victims who were killed or injured in road accidents. The day aims to spread awareness for the global efforts to reduce the casualties of road accidents. The WDoR 2020 falls on 15th November 2020.
November 16, 2020	International Day for Tolerance	The United Nations (UN)'s International Day for Tolerance is annually observed across the globe on 16th November with a goal to get the educational institutes and general public to see tolerance as a crucial element of the society. UNESCO in partnership with New Delhi Office, released an illustrative book titled "A Day With Gandhi" authored by Aarya Chavda.
November 16, 2020	National Press Day	Celebrated annually on November 16 across India to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966. The day aims to raise public awareness of the role of a free, pluralistic and independent news media in the development of the democratic society. The day is the symbol of a free and responsible press in India.
November 17, 2020	National Epilepsy Day	Annually celebrated across India on 17th November to create awareness about Epilepsy, its causes, risk factors, symptoms and treatments. This National Epilepsy Day is observed by the Epilepsy Foundation of India. The Epilepsy Foundation of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra was established by Dr. Nirmal Surya in 2009.
November 17, 2020	International Students' Day	Celebrated annually on November 17 across the globe. It is an international observance of the student community. The day aims to ensure every student has access to education around the world. The International Students Council in London declared November 17 as the International Students Day in 1941.
November 18, 2020	Naturopathy Day	Annually observed across India on 18th November to promote health through the drug free form of treatment without the use of any form of medicine. The 18th November 2020 marks the 3rd Naturopathy Day of the ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH). The theme of the 3rd Naturopathy Day 2020 is "Nurturing Vitality Through Naturopathy".
November 18-24, 2020	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)	Annually celebrated across the globe from 18th to 24th November to create and

		increase the awareness of global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and to encourage the best practices among the general public to stop the emergence and spread of drug resistant infection. The theme of the WAAW 2020 for the human health sector is "United to preserve antimicrobials". The slogan of the week long campaign of WAAW is "Handle Antimicrobials with Care".
November 19, 2020	United Nations(UN)'s World Toilet Day	Annually celebrated across the globe on 19th November to celebrate Toilets and to raise awareness about the 4.2 billion people across the globe who are living without any access to safely managed sanitation. The First UN's World Toilet Day was observed on 19th November 2013. The theme of the 2020 World Toilet Day is "Sustainable sanitation and climate change". Every year the UN Water, the UN's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation sets the theme of the World Toilet Day.
November 19, 2020	Women's Entrepreneurship Day(WED)	Annually observed across the globe on 19th November to celebrate, empower and support the Women Entrepreneurs in business across the globe. The day is organised by the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization(WEDO) or #ChooseWomen founded by Wendy Diamond, recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honour.
November 19, 2020	International Men's Day	Annually celebrated across the globe on 19th November to create awareness about the difficulties that men face on a global scale. The day is observed to celebrate the men who make a positive impact on society and influence their gender as a role model. The theme of the international Men's Day 2020 is "Better Health for Men and Boys". Dr Jerome Teelucksingh, a doctor from Trinidad and Tobago chose the date 19th November to honour the birth anniversary of his Father.
November 18, 2020	World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease(COPD) day	Annually observed across the globe on 3rd Wednesday of November to create awareness and educate the general public about the chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and to advocate for better care for COPD patients. The 2020 World COPD day falls on 18th November 2020. The theme of 2020 World COPD day is "Living Well with COPD - Everybody, Everywhere", which is aimed to

		spread a positive message to the patients and care providers.
November 20, 2020	United Nations(UN) World Children's Day	Observed annually on November 20 to promote international togetherness and awareness among children globally. The day also aims to improve the welfare of children. This day is UNICEF(United Nations Children's Fund)'s annual day of action for children, by children. Focus theme of World Children's Day 2020- 'Reimagine a better future for every child'.
November 20, 2020	United Nations (UN)'s Africa Industrialization Day	The United Nations (UN)'s Africa Industrialization Day is annually observed across the globe on 20th November to create and raise awareness about the importance of the industrialization of Africa and the difficulties faced by Africa.
November 16-20, 2020	Africa Industrialization Week 2020	The Africa Industrialization Day has been commemorated as the Weeklong events since 2018.The Africa Union Commission hosted the Africa Industrialization Week 2020 (#AIW2020) celebrations from 16th - 20th November 2020.The theme of 2020 is "Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA era".
November 19, 2020	World Philosophy Day	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO)'s World Philosophy Day is annually celebrated across the globe on 3rd Thursday November(19th November 2020 to promote the international culture of philosophical debate that respects human dignity and diversity. The theme of World Philosophy Day 2020 is "The importance of philosophy in times of crisis".The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO) introduced the World Philosophy Day in 2002.
November 15-21, 2020	National Newborn Week	Annually celebrated across India from 15th November to 21st November to increase the awareness on the importance of newborn care for the survival and development of the newborn.The National Newborn week, dedicated to promote the reduction of newborn mortality rate in India. This was conceptualised by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.The theme of National Newborn Week 2020 is "Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere".

November 21, 2020	United Nations(UN)'s World Television Day	Annually observed across the globe on 21st November to recognise the increasing impacts of television on decision making and to focus on the issues like economic and social issues. The date 21st November was chosen to commemorate the first World Television Forum by the United Nations held on 21st and 22nd November 1996.
November 8, 2020	World Town Planning Day(WTPD)	World Town Planning Day(WTPD) also known as World Urbanism Day is annually across the globe on 8th November to provide an opportunity to unite the planners and celebrate planning around the world. The ISOCARP – International Society of City and Regional Planners promotes the celebration of World Town Planning Day or World Urbanism Day. The year 2020 celebrates the 71st edition of World Town Planning Day. The World Town Planning Day(WTPD) was initiated by Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires in 1949.
November 21, 2020	World Fisheries Day	Annually celebrated across the globe on 21st November 2020, to create and spread awareness about the importance of the healthy ocean ecosystem and to ensure the sustainable stock of fisheries in the world. The Food and Agriculture Organisation(FAO) of the United Nations(UN) celebrated World Fisheries Day 2020 on 20th November 2020 instead of 21st November 2020. The holy see and FAO partners to celebrate the World Fisheries day 2020 on 20th November 2020.
November 16-22, 2020	National Pharmacy Week(NPW)	Annually celebrated across India on the 3rd week of November to create awareness to the stakeholders about the presence of the pharmacists in the society and to acknowledge the importance of the role of registered pharmacists with respect to medicine, its usage , handling and dispensing. The Indian Pharmaceutical Association(IPA) organised the 59th National Pharmacy week on the 3rd week of November(from 16th November to 22nd November 2020).The theme of the National Pharmacy Week 2020 is "Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals".
November 23-27, 2020	Aviation Safety Awareness Week	Airports Authority of India (AAI) has commenced Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020 from 23rd November to 27th November

		2020 to raise awareness on Aviation Safety. Arvind Singh, Chairman of AAI virtually inaugurated the celebrations of Aviation Safety Awareness Week. Central Idea of Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020- 'Raise awareness on Aviation Safety'. Also highlighted to achieve the long term objective of Zero fatality by 2030.
November 19-25, 2020	World Heritage Week	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s World Heritage Week is annually observed across the globe from 19th November to 25th November to create awareness among the general public about the importance of rich heritage and to make them strive for the preservation of their heritage. China and Italy have the highest number of world heritage sites with 55 entries on UNESCO's World Heritage site list.
November 22, 2020	NCC Raising Day	National Cadet Corps (NCC)'s Raising Day is observed annually on the 4th Sunday of November. This year(2020) falls on November 22 and also marks the 72nd Edition The 2019 NCC raising day was celebrated on November 24.
November 16-22, 2020	Awaas Diwas	Celebrated annually on November 20 across India to commemorate the launch of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), that aims to provide 'Housing for All' by 2022. Awaas Week / Saptah 2020 is celebrated from 16th November to 22nd November.
November 25, 2020	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	United Nations(UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is annually observed around the world on November 25 to raise awareness about the fact that women globally are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence. The UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign of UN Secretary-General will commemorate the day. Theme of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2020– "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!".
November 26, 2020	National Milk Day	Annually celebrated across India on 26th November to celebrate the importance of milk in the life of humans. The day honours the birth anniversary of padma awardee Dr Verghese Kurien, who is known as the Milkman of India and Father of India's White Revolution. The National Milk Day 2020

		marks the 99th Birth Anniversary of Dr Verghese Kurien.
November 26, 2020	Constitution day or Samvidhan Divas	Observed annually on November 26 since 2015 to mark the adoption of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949. The Constitution then came into force on January 26, 1950. The year 2020 marked the 71st Constitution Day. Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 80th AIPOC 2020 at Kevadia, Gujarat on the theme "Harmonious Coordination between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary- Key to a Vibrant Democracy".
November 27, 2020	National Organ Donation Day	27th November 2020 marks the 11th National Organ Donation Day is annually observed across India to recognize the selfless contribution made by deceased donors to healthcare and mankind re-instill our faith in humanity. The day is observed by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

APPS & WEB PORTAL

APP & WEB NAME	LAUNCHED BY	PURPOSE
Green Delhi	Arvind Kejriwal	In order to increase citizen participation in the fight against pollution and ensure timely action against pollution sources in Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of Delhi launched 'Green Delhi' App. Citizens using the app can bring pollution causing activities to the notice of the Government. At the Delhi Secretariat a 'green war room' has been established to monitor the status of complaints.
Jeevan Seva App	Satyendar Jain	On November 12, 2020, On collaboration with EVERA, an EV cab facility launched by Prakriti E-Mobility Pvt Ltd, Health Minister of Delhi ,Satyendar Jain launched Jeevan Seva App, the first-ever initiative to help COVID-19 patients reach healthcare facilities in EV(Electric Vehicles) for free of cost.It helps to transport COVID-19 patients(not critical) to and from their homes, hospitals and healthcare facilities from any point in Delhi
Wildlife Rescue App	V.P. Singh Badnore	On 4th November 2020, V.P. Singh Badnore, Administrator of Union Territory(UT) Chandigarh and Governor of Punjab launched a real time mobile application – "Wildlife Rescue App" for online monitoring of Wildlife rescue, reporting and

		release of wildlife in the wildlife sanctuaries in Chandigarh.
Secha Samadhan	Naveen Patnaik	On 9th November 2020, Naveen Patnaik Chief Minister of Odisha launched a mobile application – “Secha Samadhan” to enable farmers to directly connect with the Water Resources Department along with other 3 online services to solve the issues on water distribution for industries, commercial establishments and other institutes.
Palle Pragathi Panchayat Secretary app & Palle Pragathi Inspection Officer app	Errabelli Dayakar Rao	On 9th November 2020, the Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Panchayat Raj Minister of Telangana unveiled the two mobile applications, Palle Pragathi Panchayat Secretary app and Palle Pragathi Inspection Officer app. These applications were launched by the State Government to monitor and improve the Palle Pragathi works, which undertaken by the gram panchayats. The apps were designed by the State Panchayat Raj department
StAR MF Corp Direct Portal	BSE StAR MF	On November 14, 2020 BSE StAR MF, the Mutual Fund distribution platform of BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange), launched ‘StAR MF Corp Direct Portal’, a direct investment portal for corporates with more features. The portal will simplify and provide end-to-end value-based services to the Asset Management Companies (AMCs), distributors, investors, and mutual fund industry participants.
Kadalu App	Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Karnataka’s Minister for Fisheries, Inland Transport Department and Muzrai	On 13th November 2020, Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Karnataka’s Minister for Fisheries, Inland Transport Department and Muzrai launched the “Kadalu App” to support and help the fishermen. He launched the app at the Fishing Awareness programme held in Moodukudu, Krishnapura, near Udupi. The app was conceptualised and developed by Coastal Security Police for the Department of Fisheries, Government of Karnataka.
Land Management System (LMS)	Rajnath Singh	On November 19, 2020 Union Minister for Defence, Rajnath Singh virtually launched a Portal “Land Management System (LMS)”, it is the First LMS portal developed by the Department of Defence in association with Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and Armed forces. The portal will help in improving the overall management of defence land. It has been developed by the Department of Defence in association with Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) and Armed forces.
UMANG International	Ravi Shankar Prasad	On 23rd November, 2020 Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ministry of

		Communications launched the International version of UMANG App termed, 'UMANG International' App to during the online conference to celebrate 3 years of UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-Age Governance) and it's more than 2000 services milestone. UMANG International' App is extended for 9 countries. The launching ceremony held successfully coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). he minister also launched an e-Book "3 Saal Umang Bemisaal- #3YearsofUMANG".
India Climate Change Knowledge portal	Prakash Javadekar	On November 27, 2020 Union Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change Mr. Prakash Javadekar has launched "India Climate Change Knowledge portal" to provide information about the Government initiatives towards climate change to the citizens. This will be the "Single Point Information Resource" updates initiatives by various Ministries Nationally and Internationally, towards the fight on climate change. The portal is built similar to the world bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal.
Abhayam App	Jagan Mohan Reddy	Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually launched the 'Abhayam App' for the safety of women Travelling by Auto & Taxis. The app will help women to raise an alarm in case of any emergency. This is the First Internet of Things (IoT) based women safety project. The app was launched as part of the First Phase of the Abhayam Project. It sanctioned by the Central Government under the Nirbhaya Scheme.
Thee	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN) launched a mobile application "Thee" to support the general public to reach out the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services. The app has been developed with Amtex technology.

AC GAZE

Assam's Rupsi Airport to Start its Commercial Operation by January 2021

Airports Authority of India (AAI) stated that Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar district, Assam is ready to start commercial operation under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) by January 2021. It is Assam's 7th airport and Northeast's 14th airport. It is a British-era airport that was originally constructed during World War-II to supply arms, manpower and ammunition to the Allied forces. The flight operations came to a halt in the 1980s. At an estimated cost of Rs 69 crore it has been re-developed.

AAI hands over Lucknow airport to Adani Group on lease for 50 years

Airports Authority of India (AAI) handed over the Lucknow Airport (Uttar Pradesh) to Adani Group on lease for a period of 50 years. AAI had signed concession agreements with Adani Group on February 14,

2020 for operations management and development of Mangalore, Lucknow and Ahmedabad Airports. In February, 2019, the Central Government privatized six major airports of the country – Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangalore, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati. Adani won the rights to run all airports for 50 years.

UP's Chandauli Tops NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts of September 2020

The Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh (UP) tops the NITI Aayog's ranking of Aspiration districts of September 2020. Bokaro and Purbi Singhbhum of Jharkhand secured 2nd and 3rd position followed by Sonbhadra of UP at 4th position. The ranking accounted for the progress made by 112 districts across 6 development areas during September 2020. The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched in January 2018 with an aim to transform the underdeveloped districts.

ECI organised 3-day International Virtual Election Visitors Programme for Foreign Election Management Bodies

In the context of the ongoing Bihar Legislative Assembly Election, Election Commission of India (ECI) organised a three-day International Virtual Election Visitors Programme (from 5th November 2020 to 7th November 2020) for Foreign Election Management Bodies and Organizations. Delegates from around 40 countries along with International IDEA, International Foundation of Electoral Systems and Association of World Election Bodies participated in the programme. The session was addressed by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Sushil Chandra.

Gujarat High Court became the 1st High Court in India to Live-Stream its Court Proceedings on Youtube

The Gujarat High Court became the first high court to live stream judicial proceedings on YouTube channel. This is to increase the access to courts, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The live stream also aims to broaden the implementation of the open court concept even for virtual hearings. 1,500 viewers were watching the proceeding on the day of live streaming.

Bangladesh and US launch joint naval exercise 'CARAT Bangladesh 2020'

Bangladesh and US (United States) Navies launched the 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh-2020' to expand relationships and to broaden maritime awareness between the two sides. The sea phase of the exercise will take place in the Bay of Bengal with ships from both countries. They are designed to enhance interoperability between the two navies. CARAT 2020 underscores the shared vision of the US and Bangladesh for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and secure Indo-Pacific region.

6 Women Led Startups Won COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge Organised by MyGov in Collaboration with UN Women

Six Women led start-ups won the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge organised by MyGov in collaboration with United Nations(UN) Women. The challenge was hosted on the Innovate platform of MyGov. The 2 stage challenge (Ideation stage and Proof of Concept (PoC) Stage) called for the applications from women led start-ups which provided solutions to address the issues faced by women. The top 3 winners were Bengaluru-based Resada Lifesciences Private Limited led by Dr P Gayatri Hela, Shimla based iHeal HealthTech Private Limited led by Romita Ghosh and Kerala based Thanmatra Innovations Private Limited led by Dr Anjana Ramkumar and Dr Anushka Ashokan.

Rare Metallic Asteroid '16 Psyche' may be worth \$ 10, 000 Quadrillion

According to a recent study published in The Planetary Science Journal, Asteroid '16 Psyche' which orbits between Mars and Jupiter is believed to be made up almost entirely of iron, nickel and other rare materials like gold, platinum, cobalt, iridium and rhenium. It is worth an estimated \$10, 000 Quadrillion

which is more than the entire economy of Earth. It was discovered on March 17, 1853 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis and named after Greek goddess of Soul, Psyche. Researchers at the Southwest Research Institute (Texas, US) observed the asteroid through the Hubble Space Telescope.

BCCI Announces Jio as Title Sponsor for 2020 Edition of Women's T20 Challenge

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Jio, a Telecommunications Company owned by Reliance Industries will be the title sponsor for the 2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge. The partnership will also have the support of Reliance Foundation Education and Sports for All (RF ESA). This is the first time a sponsor has signed with BCCI exclusively for women's matches. The Women's T20 Challenge will be played from November 4-9 here in Sharjah and the competition will be contested between three teams – Trailblazers, Supernovas, and Velocity.

Union Territory of Ladakh celebrating its first raising day; J&K marks first anniversary of becoming UT

Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated its First Raising Day on October 31, 2020. It was on 31st October 2019 that Ladakh became a Union Territory. Ladakh is celebrating the Union Territory Foundation Day with a theme of One year of Development, Prosperity and Empowerment. A series of foundation ceremonies or dedications were planned in Leh and Kargil districts to commemorate the day. October 31, also marks one year since Jammu and Kashmir acquired the Union Territory status.

United States offers F-18 Naval fighter jets for Indian Navy's requirements

The United States of America (USA) has offered its F-18 Naval Fighter Jets for the Indian Navy's Requirements of Combat jets for its aircraft carriers. The US Government has offered to provide the naval fighter aircraft under a Government proposal at the meeting between Defence delegations of both countries during 2+2 meetings. The US Government has offered to sell F-18 fighters along with unmanned aircraft Sea Guardian to Indian Navy along with other systems to Indian Armed Forces in recent times.

Karnataka's Mysuru to Get India's First Sandalwood Museum

India's first Sandalwood Museum is being established in Aranya Bhavan in Ashokapuram, Mysuru, Karnataka. The museum is set up by the Regional Forest Department to educate farmers about the significance of cultivation of sandalwood and it will be inaugurated by Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

2nd World Health Expo held in Wuhan, China

The Second World Health Expo is being held in Hubei's Capital City, Wuhan in China from November 11-14, 2020. The World Health Expo will showcase the Latest Technology in Fitness Sports and the most realistically restored anti-epidemic Scenes. It will feature 12 different venues for audiences to experience the most frontier health technology. 1st World Health Expo was also held in Wuhan, China from April 7 to 10, 2019.

RBI asks Lending Institutions to Implement Waiver of Interest on Interest Scheme

On October 27, 2020 RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has asked all the lending institutions, including non-banking financial companies, to implement the waiver of interest on interest for loans up to Rs 2 crore for the 6 months moratorium period beginning March 1, 2020. Under the scheme, the lending institutions have been mandated to grant ex-gratia payment to certain categories of borrowers through crediting the difference between simple interest and compound interest for the period between March 1- August 31, 2020. The government has asked the lending institutions to complete crediting the amount in the accounts of borrowers by 5th November.

Hero MotoCorp Signed Distribution Agreement with Harley-Davidson for Indian Market

On 10th November 2020, Hero MotoCorp signed a distribution agreement with Harley-Davidson Motor Company for Indian market, as a part of "The Rewire" a plan to change its business model in India. Under this, Hero will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles, parts and accessories for general merchandise through a network of exclusive Harley-Davidson dealerships and MotoCorp will develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand. Harley-Davidson Motor Company of Chairman and President & CEO– Jochen Zeitz.

One Rank One Pension Scheme completes five years

The year 2020 marked the Fifth Anniversary of the Government's decision to implement 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) for Defence Forces Personnel, the decision to implement OROP was taken in November, 2015. OROP is aimed at ensuring uniform pensions for veterans retiring in the same rank with the same length of service irrespective of when they retire.

HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank in 'red flag' list

HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank have been mentioned in the 'red flag' list, a system used for monitoring Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) limits. A red flag will be activated whenever the foreign investment in Indian companies exceeds the permissible limit i.e within 3% or less than 3% of the aggregate NRI/FPI limits or the sectoral cap. As per the data provided by NSDL(National Securities Depository Ltd.) the current FPI shareholding of HDFC is 71.3% and 73. 1% for IndusInd Bank. FPIs can invest up to 74% in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank. Apart from them, Novartis India and Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care are the only other companies in the red-flag list.

CSIR-CDRI Scientist Dr Susanta Kar Honoured with Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award- 2020

Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh was honoured with "Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020" by Society of Biological Chemists(India) or SBC(I), Bengaluru for his contribution towards defining the survival tactics of Leishmania donovani. Leishmania donovani is a protozoan parasite that infects the macrophages and the causative agent of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala Azar).

Kerala's Responsible Tourism Mission Receives World Travel Mart's 'Highly Commended' Award

On November 6, 2020 Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission received World Travel Mart's 'Highly Commended' Award in the category of "Meaningful Connections." for its activities that aimed at promoting RT during the COVID-19 pandemic. It received the award for its activities like "Work at Home Videos" developed by RT Mission entrepreneurs and storytelling audio and video series of various Mission units in the state that posed multiple challenges to the tourism sector. This award is the 5th International Award for the RT Mission since its formation in 2017. The Mission has also won 3 National Awards.

SpaceX launches 4 astronauts into space

On 15th November, 2020, SpaceX launched Four Astronauts (3 Americans, 1 Japanese) to the International Space Station on the first full-fledged taxi flight for NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) by a private company. They were launched by Falcon Rocket from the Kennedy Space Center. The capsule has been named as "Resilience".

Bipal Kumar Deb Launches Rs 280 Crore Phase II Project of Indo-German Development Cooperation in Tripura

On November 13, 2020 Bipal Kumar Deb, Chief Minister(CM) of Tripura launched Phase II of Indo-German Development Cooperation (IGDC) project at Ambassa in Dhalai district, Tripura. The Rs 280 crore project has been labeled as 'Climate Resilience of Forest Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Adaptive Capacities of Forest Dependent Communities in Tripura'. Of the amount of Rs 280 crore, the KfW, a Germany based national bank, has a stake of Rs 200 crore. Phase II that was approved in June 2020 will be implemented under direct supervision of the State Forest Department. This was approved in June 2020 and. The Phase I of the IGDC project in Tripura was introduced in 2009.

Sonu Sood Appointed as State Icon of Punjab by Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India(ECI) approved the appointment of **Sonu Sood** as the **State Icon of Punjab**. The proposal for the appointment was made by S Karuna Raju, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer(CEO). Sonu Sood hails from the Moga district of Punjab.

Japan, Australia sign defense pact to counter China's influence

Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga and Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison signed a defence pact "Reciprocal Access Agreement" to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over Pacific Island Nations. The agreement will strengthen security ties and facilitate cooperation between defence forces of the two countries. Both Japan and Australia are part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD – India, Japan, Australia and United States) to counter China's dominance in the East and South China Seas.

Airtel buys 5.2% stake in Avaada Energy's arm

Bharti Airtel Limited, an Indian multinational telecommunications services company has picked up a 5.2% stake in Avaada MHBuldhana Private Limited, a solar power firm for INR 4.55 Crore. Avaada Energy Pvt Ltd is developing a captive solar power plant in Maharashtra and will become operational by March 2021. The Acquisition was an all-cash deal.

RBI Becomes World's 1st Central Bank to Reach 1 million Followers on Twitter

On September 27, 2020, the number of followers of the Reserve Bank of India(RBI)has increased from 9.66 lakh to one million or 10 lakh on Twitter. With this, the central bank of India is now the first-ever such bank in the world to reach these many followers in the micro-blogging site. The US Federal Reserve has about 6.67 lakh Twitter followers and the Frankfurt-headquartered European Central Bank (ECB), the second most powerful monetary authority in the world, has about 5.91 lakh followers. Currently, the RBI handle is followed by over 1 million people.

Karnataka Cabinet approves the creation of Vijayanagara as its 31st District

The cabinet of Karnataka has in principle agreed the creation of Vijayanagara district as the 31st District of Karnataka. The Vijayanagara district, will be carved from the Ballari district and will include Hampi, the capital of Vijayanagara empire. The new district will have 6 out of the 11 taluks in Ballari with Hospet as its headquarters.

5th India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2020 in Shillong Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

India International Cherry Blossom Festival is the annual event of Meghalaya that attracts a record number of tourists in Shillong. 5th India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya hosts the only Cherry Blossoms festival in India. Meghalaya people celebrate festivals through virtual mode. These flowers can be spotted across

Meghalaya during this time of the year. These flowers are expected to continue to bloom till the end of November.

RBI Rejects Muthoot Finance Proposal to Acquire IDBI MF

On November 24, 2020 Reserve Bank of India(RBI) rejected the proposal of Muthoot Finance Limited to acquire 100% equity share of IDBI Asset Management and IDBI MF(Trustee Company from IDBI Bank, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities. The deal was estimated at Rs 215 crore. In this regard, Muthoot Finance in November 2019, had entered into a share purchase agreement with IDBI Bank, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities, IDBI Asset Management and IDBI MF Trustee Company .

Elon Musk Becomes World's 2nd richest person:Bloomberg Billionaires Index

On November 25, 2020 The Bloomberg Billionaires Index ranked Elon Musk, co-founder & CEO of Tesla as the world's 2nd richest person with a total net worth of USD 140 Billion after surpassing Bill Gates(USD 129 Billion), co-founder of Microsoft. Elon Musk is also the CEO of Space Exploration Technologies Corp.(SpaceX). Jeff Bezos Founder, CEO, and president of the multi-national technology company Amazon, is ranked in 1st position with a net worth of USD 187 Billion. Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd(RIL) ranked in 10th position with a net worth of USD 74.4 Billion.

Israel PM, Benjamin Netanyahu & Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2021

Israeli Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have been nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their contribution in establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Signing of Peace Agreement between UAE, Israel and Bahrain was also reason behind their nomination.

Cyclone Nivar: 4th cyclone to hit the North Indian Ocean region in 2020

On 25th November 2020, the Nivar Cyclone made a landfall near Puducherry, south of Chennai with a wind speed of 85 to 95 kmph. Ambur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Arani also experienced a wind speed of 50 Kmph. The Nivar is the 4th Cyclone to hit the North Indian Ocean Region in 2020. The storm was named "Nivar" based on the guidelines of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Nivar was selected from the names suggested by Iran.

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet clears Proposal to Rename Ayodhya airport as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport

On November 24, 2020 Uttar Pradesh(UP) Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, cleared the proposal to rename the Ayodhya airport as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport, , Ayodhya, UP. The proposal for the same will be sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India after it is passed by the state Assembly.

HDFC Bank's m-cap crosses ₹8 trillion market cap for the 1st time

The Market Capitalization (m-cap) of HDFC Bank crossed INR 8 Trillion for the first time. It became India's third company and the first bank to achieve this milestone. Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) are the only two companies to have achieved the landmark. RIL is India's most valued company having a market value of INR 13.17 Trillion followed by TCS at INR 10.13 Trillion. Hindustan Unilever is fourth with INR 5.08 Trillion m-cap followed by Infosys with INR 4.83 m-cap.

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