

CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – AUGUST 2020

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Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	SKOCH Gold Award	SKOCH Gold Award has been awarded to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) for its “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes” project.
IIT-Kharagpur	Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2020	A group of researchers from IIT Kharagpur has been conferred the ‘Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awards 2020’ for developing a mechanism for generating electricity from wet clothes left under sunlight to dry.
Nitin Sethi	ACJ investigative Journalism award	Nitin Sethi of The Huffington Post India and Shiv Sahay Singh of The Hindu bagged the prestigious Asian College of Journalism’s Award for Investigative Journalism and the K. P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism, respectively.
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	Food System Vision Prize	The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has been awarded the ‘Food System Vision Prize’ for its ‘Eat Right India’ movement’s vision, along with nine other finalists.
Cristiano Ronaldo	Juventus’ MVP of the Year award	Cristiano Ronaldo (August 10, 2020) was named as Juventus’ ‘Most Valuable Player of the Year’ for the championship that lasted for almost 11 months.
Sudha Murthy, ITC’s Sivakumar	Gramodaya awards	Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murthy

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		and Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses of ITC Ltd, Sivakumar Surampudi are among the winners of the Gramodaya Bandhu Mitra Puraskaras.
Gajanand Yadava	Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019	Gajanand Yadava is a Parachute Jump Instructor. He is also a member of IAF's Skydiving Team `Akash Ganga`. He has undertaken more than 2900 jumps till date, stated the Indian Air Force in its post.
Anand Mahindra, Shantanu Narayen	2020 Leadership Awards from USISPF	A top US-based India-centric business advocacy group will honour Mahindra group Chairman Anand Mahindra and Adobe Chairman and CEO Shantanu Narayen with its 2020 Leadership Awards in recognition of their exemplary vision towards promoting US-India bilateral ties.
NLCIL	Swachhta Hi Seva award	The Government of India Navratna, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has bagged the award for making an extremely valuable contribution in the implementation of the "Swachhta Hi Seva Programme".
Ms. Sudha Painuli	National Award to Teachers 2020	Ms. Sudha Painuli has been selected for National Award to Teachers 2020. She is among the 47 outstanding teachers selected for the National Award to Teachers 2020.
Marieke Lucas Rijneveld	International Booker for The Discomfort of Evening	The 29-year-old Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld has become the youngest author ever to win the International Booker prize, taking the award for their "visceral and virtuosic"

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		debut novel, <i>The Discomfort of Evening</i> .
Noor Inayat Khan	Became the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque	Britain's World War II spy, Noor Inayat Khan, became the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former family home in central London.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Hamed Bakayoko	Prime Minister of Ivory Coast	He was presently serving as the as interim PM of the country since the sudden death of former Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly.
Sashidhar Jagdishan	HDFC Bank – MD and CEO	Mr. Jagdishan will take charge of the outgoing MD Aditya Puri on October 27, 2020 and will remain on the position for three years.
Mohamed Irfaan Ali	President of Guyana	Former Guyanese housing minister, Mohamed Irfaan Ali has been named as the President of the country. He is a member of the opposition People’s Progressive Party (PPP).
Jaideep Bhatnagar	Director General of AIR News	Mr. Jaideep Bhatnagar, an Indian Information Service Officer of 1986 batch, has taken over the charge as Director General, News Services Division of All India Radio.
Mark Phillips	Prime Minister of Guyana	He served as the Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force from 2013 to 2016. Meanwhile, former President Bharrat Jagdeo has been sworn in as Vice President.
Manoj Sinha	Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir	He will replace Girish Chandra Murmu who resigned. Murmu’s resignation has been accepted by the President.
Suresh Raina, Harmanpreet Kaur	WTF Sports – Brand ambassadors	Raina is also joining the brand as a Strategic Partner. The announcement was made through a web conference.

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Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi	Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	The oath office was administered by Shri Arvind Saxena, the outgoing Chairman of the Commission. Prior to this Prof.(Dr.) Joshi served as a Member of UPSC.
Hardayal Prasad	MD & CEO of PNB Housing Finance	Prasad will take over from, Neeraj Vyas the current interim managing director and chief executive officer of the company, will step down from the position on August 10.
Girish Chandra Murmu	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	He is the 14th CAG of India. He will assume office on 8 August 2020. He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi, a 1978 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, as the CAG.
Deepak Shetty	Deputy CEO and Managing Director of JCB India	Beginning next year, Shetty will take over as MD and CEO from Subir Kumar Chowdhury who has announced his retirement after having been with JCB India for close to 15 years, the company said in its release.
Mahinda Rajapaksa	Prime Minister of Sri Lanka	He took a hold of Prime Ministerial position after his party secured a landslide victory in the parliamentary elections.
Walter Roger Martos Ruiz	Prime Minister – Peru	His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra. Ruiz will succeed Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.
Mohamed Ould Bilal	Prime Minister of Mauritania	Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and has served as the head of the country's national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.

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Alexander Lukashenko	President of Belarus	A former English teacher Svetlana Tikhanouskaya, who emerged as Lukashenko's main rival at the elections gets 9.9 per cent of the vote.
Harsh Kumar Bhanwala	Executive chairman of Capital India Finance	Prior to this, Bhanwala was chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for over six years. He was appointed as the chairman NABARD in December 2013 and demitted the office on May 26, 2020.
Soma Mondal	chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	She will be taking charge when the present Chairman Anil Chaudhary.
Pramod Bhasin	Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)	He is currently the vice-chair of the board of governors at ICRIER. He will replace Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who has stepped down due to health reasons. Isher had been in this position for 15 years.
SS Mundra	Non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH)	Former RBI deputy governor, Subhash Sheoratan Mundra has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) with immediate effect.
Dinesh K Tripathi	Director General Naval Operations (DGNO).	He is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare and was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01st July 1985.
Harbhajan Singh	eBikeGO – ambassador	Through the association, the company is aiming to build mass appeal, positive voice and widespread adoption for electric mobility, eBikeGO said in a statement.
Shahzan Mujeeb	National Brand Ambassador of Aligarh Municipal Corporation	Aligarh Municipal Corporation (AMC) has recently roped in Indian Idol Season 11 Finalist and Oscar Nominated Playback Singer

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		Shahzan Mujeeb as its First Ever National Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level.
Kaushik Khona	CEO of GoAir	Kaushik Khona has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of GoAir Airline. He will replace Vinay Dube.
GP Garg	SEBI's new executive director	He has been closely associated with Sebi's initiatives on financial literacy and investor education in the country.
Rakesh Asthana	Director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF)	Currently, DG Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) chief S S Deswal was holding the additional charge of BSF since March this year.
Satya Pal Malik	Governor of Meghalaya	With his transfer, the Governor of Maharashtra Bagat Singh Koshyari is to discharge the functions of Governor of Goa.
Rohit Sharma	Oakley's brand ambassador in India	As a part of the partnership, Sharma will be sporting Oakley eyewear equipped with patented Prizm technology created specifically for sports lenses.
Ashok Lavasa	Vice President of Asian development Bank	Ashok Lavasa has resigned from his position as Election Commissioner on August 18, 2020, to join as the Vice-President of the Phillipines-based Asian Development Bank (ADB).
Luis Abinader	President of Dominican Republic	Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections with 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo who was the candidate of the ruling PLD got 37.7%.
Rajiv Kumar	Election Commissioner	He will be appointed as the election commissioner "with effect from the date he assumes the office. He will

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		succeed Ashok Lavasa who has submitted his resignation to the Indian President.
Keith Rowley	Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago	As per the preliminary result, PNM won 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led by former prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar won 19 seats.
Francisco Asue	Prime Minister of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea	The Asue government tendered the resignation to President Teodoro Obiang, following the criticism of the president. The government was dissolved to resolve the economic situation. Francisco Asue was first appointed as the Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea on 23rd June 2016.
Ashwani Bhatia	SBI MD	In an order from the Personnel Ministry, the government said Bhatia has been appointed as the managing director up to the date of his superannuation, that is May 31, 2022. Bhatia will be appointed in place of P K Gupta who superannuated on March 31.
Satpal Singh Satti	Himachal finance commission chief	The much-awaited appointment of Satti was being expected for a long time but kept getting delayed for one reason or the other.
Vinay Tonse	MD and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund	He will replace Ashwani Bhatia, who has been now appointed as the managing director (MD) of State Bank of India.
Utpal Kumar Singh	Secretary In Lok Sabha	Singh, a 1986 batch IAS officer served as the chief secretary of Uttarakhand before retiring on July 31 this year.

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Mustapha Adib	Lebanon's new Prime Minister	Lebanon's Ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib is set to become the country's next Prime Minister. Adib was named by four former Lebanon Prime Ministers as their choice for the post.
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Banking and Finance

Kotak Mahindra Bank starts ‘Kona Kona Umeed’ Campaign

Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of a two-month-long campaign called ‘**Kona Kona Umeed**’ with **huge offers and discounts** to lift up hope and optimism among its customers in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic.

SEBI to set up virtual museum of securities market

Indian Market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is planning to set up a virtual museum of the securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market. Sebi has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from agencies to develop the virtual museum.

HDFC Bank launches ‘Shaurya KGC Card’ for armed forces

HDFC Bank launched ‘Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card’, a loan product for the armed forces. A first-of-its-kind product for over 45 lakh Indian armed forces personnel, it is based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines by the government, the lender said in a statement. The credit card comes with some key benefits such as simple and easy documentation that doesn’t require physical presence.

Fino Payments Bank launches “Jan BachatKhata”

Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata (JBK), which is an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.

Under the JBK, customers can transact at a Fino branch or merchant point with fingerprint and OTP combination, while at non-Fino points they need Aadhaar authentication.

SBI General Insurance launches “Shagun – Gift an insurance” policy

SBI General Insurance has launched a first-of-its-kind insurance product called ‘Shagun – Gift an Insurance’, which is a unique gift of Personal Accident policy. The unique feature of this policy is that it can be gifted to anyone, which means it is not necessary for the policy buyer to be related to the insured.

RBI announces special OMO worth of Rs 20,000 crore in 2 tranches

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 25, 2020 announced special open market operations (OMO) for an amount worth Rs 20,000 crore in two equal tranches. The apex bank stated that it will conduct a simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under open market operations.

State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda grab the biggest pie of Jan Dhan outstanding

State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda have benefited the most as the outstanding balance in the Jan Dhan accounts held by banks surged 10% since April, even as the government

celebrated the sixth year of the implementation of one of the largest financial inclusion schemes in the world.

Paytm launched India's 1st pocket android POS device

Paytm has launched India's 1st Pocket Android POS (Point of Sale) Device named 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' for contactless ordering and payments in India. This is the first such Android-based device to be introduced in India and is much more powerful than the portable Linux based POS devices presently available in the country.

It is an effort to digitise and empower a large number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The company aims to issue over 2 lakh devices within the next few months which will generate over 20 million transactions per month.

LIC starts 'Special Revival Campaign' to revive lapsed policies

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced a special scheme to revive lapsed policies named 'Special Revival Campaign'. This campaign is open from 10 August to 9 October during which customers can revive their individual lapsed policies.

India-AIIB sign agreement of 500 million USD

Government of Maharashtra and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank signed loan agreement of 500 million USD to improve service quality, safety and network capacity of suburban railway system in Mumbai.

The project is to increase network capacity in the region. This in turn will also help to reduce fatal accidents of commuters. Among the primary beneficiaries of the project, 22% will be female passengers.

HDFC Bank Partners with Adobe to enable zero touch digital interface

HDFC Bank announced a strategic partnership with Adobe to enhance the digital experience journey of its customers. Powered by Adobe Experience Cloud solutions, this partnership will enable HDFC Bank to deliver personalised digital experiences to existing as well as new customers, at anytime and anywhere.

Bandhan Bank holding firm sells 20.95% stake to meet RBI norms

Bandhan Bank Ltd said it has met the promoter holding norms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after its holding company Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd (BFHL) sold 20.95% stake in the bank to at least seven investors.

The buyers included Singapore's state investors GIC and Temasek, which purchased the shares through affiliates Caladium Investment Pte Ltd and Camas Investment Pte Ltd respectively.

Ajay Tyagi gets 18 Months extension as SEBI Chairman

According to a Personnel Ministry, **Ajay Tyagi** has been given an 18-month extension, as the **chairman of markets regulator SEBI**. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension of Tyagi's term for 18 months, with effect from September 1, 2020 up to February 28, 2022.

RBI's 2nd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 Released

The **Monetary Policy Committee** of the Reserve Bank of India met on 4th, 5th and 6th August for its second meeting of 2020-21. During the second Monetary Policy meet, the MPC analysed the current & evolving macroeconomic and financial conditions and has decided to continue with the **accommodative stance** to revive growth as well as to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. With its decisions, MPC aims to keep inflation within the target and hence to preserve financial stability.

Bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan Yojana crosses 40-crore mark

More than **40 crore bank accounts** have been opened under the government's flagship financial inclusion drive **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, launched about **six years ago** by the Modi-government.

As per the latest figure, there are **40.05 crore beneficiaries** of this scheme and deposits in Jan Dhan bank accounts are in excess of Rs 1.30 lakh crore.

Airtel Payments Bank, Bharti AXA partner to offer 'shop insurance' for retailers

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer "**Smart Plan Shop Package Policy**" for the financial protection of the bank's retailers and merchants. The policy will provide financial protection in case of damage to assets inside the shop due to fire and allied perils and burglary, among others, as covered in the product.

LIC acquires close to 5% stake in YES Bank

Yes Bank said LIC has acquired close to **5 per cent** shareholding in the bank by purchasing shares from the open market. With the fresh acquisition, the hold of LIC has increased from 0.75 per cent to 4.98 per cent, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Core Investment Companies Can Have Only Two Layers, Says RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has directed core investment companies to restrict the number of layers in their group structure to just two as it seeks to clean up the structure of complex financial groups. Existing firms have been given until the end of March 2023 to comply with this simplified structure.

Bharti AXA Life, SBM Bank India enter into bancassurance partnership

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has entered into bancassurance partnership with SBM Bank India for distribution of life insurance products through the latter's network.

Under this agreement, Bharti AXA Life Insurance will offer its entire suite of life insurance products, including protection, health, savings and investment plans, to the customers of SBM Private Wealth, the retail banking arm of SBM Bank India.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank launches “LVB DigiGo” instant account opening facility

Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has launched LVB DigiGo, a digital initiative to enable the opening of savings account instantly. LVB’s new initiative will help people to avail the most required banking services instantly through the website.

As a Lakshmi DigiGo customer, one can visit the nearest LVB Branch and convert his/her “Lakshmi DigiGo”, account to a fully-featured regular account of choice and avail cheque book, debit card and a host of other facilities.

YES Bank launches unique facility ‘Loan against Securities’

‘Loan against Securities’ is an unique digital solution launched by the YES Bank under its loan in seconds platform. “Loan against Securities” will enable customers to avail loan facility against the securities that they hold. The customers are required only to pledge the securities and not selling them.

Axis Bank introduced ‘Liberty Savings Account’ for the Indian Youth

Axis Bank has introduced ‘Liberty Savings Account’ for the Indian Youth, to address the ever-changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians.

It offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of up to Rs 20,000 per year, which covers hospital expenses incurred under COVID -19, which makes this a 1st of its kind savings account to cover the pandemic. This account targets to meet the lifestyle requirements of the working class that falls under 35 years of age.

Muthoot Finance, Kotak General Insurance tie up to offer COVID-19 cover

Muthoot Finance has tie-up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against the gold loan. The company will be providing complimentary COVID-19 insurance cover to their eligible customers through Muthoot Finance Ayush Gold Loan, an exclusive initiative of Muthoot Group. This specific cover will only be available for the customers opting to avail gold loan under the Super Loan scheme.

ADB approved USD 1 billion loan for rapid transit system in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (Rs 7,485 crore) loan to construct the modern, high-speed 82-kilometre (Delhi – Meerut) Uttar Pradesh Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India. The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

HSBC India launches “Green Deposit Programme”

A “Green Deposit Programme” has been launched by the HSBC India. The “green deposit programme” has been launched exclusively for corporate clients. Under this programme, the bank will use the deposits to finance green initiatives and environment friendly projects. With this, the deposit scheme launched by the HSBC India will provide its corporate clients stable and pre-agreed returns along with the same protection as a normal bank deposit does.

Unitus Ventures receives Rs 75 cr from SIDBI

Unitus Ventures said it has secured an investment of Rs 75 crore (USD 10 million) under SIDBI’s Fund of Funds for Startups initiative.

The fund received from SIDBI (Small industrial Development Bank of India) will strengthen the deployment of Unitus’ second fund that was launched in 2018, a statement said.

Unitus has recently invested Rs 8.5 crore (USD 1.1 million) in Masai School, an ed-tech platform.

Indian Affairs

Government notification on E-invoicing

The central government comes up with a centralized e-invoicing scheme for business having turnover **more than 500 crores**.

As per the recent scheme, it will be mandatory for all those businesses with a turnover of more than 500 crores to generate all their B2B invoices on a centralized government portal which will go live from 1st October.

Fifth phase of Vande Bharat Mission starts from August 1

The fifth phase of Vande Bharat Mission will start from August 1, 2020. Under this, **a total of 792 flights**, including 100 domestic flights and 692 international flights have been scheduled.

The fifth phase of Vande Bharat Mission will repatriate Indians from 23 countries. As per the External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson, Anurag Srivastava, the International flights will cater to 21 different airports in India and will bring back 1 lakh 30 thousand Indians from abroad.

National Programme ‘Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21’ launched

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched ‘Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21’. It is a national programme which has been launched to popularize science among school students of Class 6th to 11th. The programme has been designed to identify the talent in the field of science and to promote the scientific acumen among the students.

PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate first World Solar Technology Summit on Sept 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first World Solar Technology Summit that will be held on September 8, 2020. The summit is being organised by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a virtual platform.

The first World Solar Technology Summit will focus on state-of-the-art technologies and next-generation technologies that will help boost efforts towards harnessing solar energy more efficiently. This was announced by Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh on August 17, 2020.

A book titled “Gastric Cancer” released by Jitendra Singh

Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has released a book on cancer named “Gastric Cancer” edited by Dr Ashok K. Vaid. The book was launched during a special session organized during the 3-day virtual conference on Oncology.

The book is published by Springer Healthcare Education. Ashok K. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist and was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.

Ministry of Culture announces 7 new circles of ASI

The Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (IC), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India. These new circles have been formed in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat.

Along with the 7 new circles, the minister also added that the Hampi Mini Circle in Karnataka has been converted into a full fledged circle.

India's longest river ropeway inaugurated in Assam

The longest river ropeway of India has been inaugurated in Assam. The ropeway is 1.8 Km long and connects Guwahati and North Guwahati over Brahmaputra river. The ropeway will be operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati.

Nuakhai Juhar Festival celebrated in Chhattisgarh and Odisha

Nuakhai Juhar festival was celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and other neighbouring states. It is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season. It is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.

During the festival, food grains are worshipped. The locals organize dances and folk songs in their districts displaying their culture and tradition. It is predominantly celebrated in western Odisha. However, this year due to COVID-19 lock down, people celebrated the festival inside their homes.

MCX to launch India's first bullion index named "Buldex"

Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) will launch India's first bullion index named "Buldex", on August 24, 2020. Bullions, viz. gold and silver are already being traded as individual commodities on the country's premier commodity exchange. With gold and silver as underlying, Buldex will have a market lot size of 50 and be cash-settled futures contract. MCX had tested bullion index futures trade in mock trading exercises in July.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches "Swasthya" & "ALEKH"

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal "Swasthya" and e-newsletter on health and nutrition "ALEKH". The ministry has also announced the opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal.

MPEDA launches Quality Control Lab in Porbandar

Quality Control Lab has been set up by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in Porbandar, Gujarat. The Quality Control Lab will offer tests for seafood processors as well as exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements.

Golf Resort at Thenzawl inaugurated

Implemented under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the “**Thenzawl Golf Resort**” Project.

The virtual inauguration took place in the presence of Tourism Minister of **Mizoram** Shri Robert Romawia Royte and Commissioner and Secretary for Tourism Department of Government of Mizoram Smt. Esther LalRuatkimi in New Delhi.

A book titled “Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World” by Dalai Lama

The Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, will release a new book titled “**Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World**” on climate change with German environmental journalist, Franz Alt in November.

The Dalai Lama in the book calls on political decision-makers to fight against deadlock and ignorance on the issue of climate change and to stand up for a different, more climate-friendly world and for the younger generation to assert their right to regain its future.

AMRUT Scheme Ranking: Odisha continues to be the Top Performer

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently released ranking of states under AMRUT scheme. Odisha has secured first position by scoring 85.67%. Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Scheme. The scheme aims to provide piped water supply to households in urban areas of the state.

Sports Ministry to organise “Fit India Freedom Run”

“Fit India Freedom Run” would be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from 15th August to 02nd October 2020. The ministry is organising “Fit India Freedom Run” to mark the 74th Independence Day of India on August 15 to 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. This would be the largest country-wide run, targeted to encourage fitness among the masses while following the COVID-19 protocols.

Indian Table Tennis star Poulomi Ghatak announced retirement

Indian Table Tennis star, Poulomi Ghatak has announced retirement. She had represented India at the Commonwealth Games in 2006 and Commonwealth championships between 2000 and 2008. She entered the Olympics in Sydney for the first time when she was 16.

Chunauti- Next Generation start-up challenge contest launched by IT Minister

The Union Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest on August 28, 2020 to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India.

OXY2 developed by IIT-M

A health startup at IIT Madras in joint collaboration with **HELYXON** has developed a device called **OXY2**. This newly designed device can easily take vitals of an individual such as heart rate, temperature, oxygen saturation and respiration rate clinically accurate.

The device is made commercially available now and has already been deployed to monitor 2000 patients a day in hospitals.

First Kisan Rail from Devlali to Danapur flagged off

Indian Railways unveiled the first “**Kisan Rail**” from **Devlali to Danapur** on 7th August 2020 from Devlali. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchyati Raj Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar and Railways and Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal flagged off the train via video conferencing.

Submarine Cable connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands launched

The submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland has been launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The 2300 Kms long submarine cable will boost the endless opportunities in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands by providing better internet & mobile connectivity.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge to boost Start-up

Union Minister of Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad launched “Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solution for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat” on 18 August 2020. The aim is to provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation, and research in the country.

“Pavitrapati” & “Aushada tara” launched to fight against COVID-19

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT (DU) has launched two products namely “Pavitrapati” & “Aushada tara” to fight against COVID-19. “Pavitrapati” is an Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Face Mask which will act as a virus neutraliser in order to provide resistance against the bacteria / virus. These masks will be made available on online platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart etc.

5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held virtually

5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) was held virtually. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, and the Parliament of Austria jointly organized the two day Conference with the support of the United Nations (UN). The conference was held with the theme “Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism” to deliver peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.

Harit Path: Mobile Application to monitor plantation along National Highway launched by NHAI

The National Highway Authority of India launched the mobile application called “Harit Path”. The application has started creating user IDs for experts. So far 7,800 plants have been geo-tagged using the application.

The application developed will monitor growth, location, species details and will maintain targets, achievements made by individual plantation projects. The application has been launched on Big Data Analytics platform -Data Lake.

What is Swachh Bharat Kranti?

“Swachh Bharat Kranti” is a translated copy of the book “**Swachh Bharat Revolution**”. Swachh Bharat Kranti is a Hindi version and Swachh Bharat Revolution is the English version. On August 5, 2020, the Hindi version of Swachh Bharat Revolution was launched by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development **Smt Smriti Irani** and Union Minister of Jal Shakti **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.

Indian Railways launches “OHE Inspection app” for real-time monitoring

Indian Railways has launched an **Overhead Equipment (OHE)** Inspection app which will help in minimizing the train delays and long waits due to technical snags. The app has been rolled out on an all over India basis.

On 1 July 2020 for the first time in the history of Indian Railways, 100% punctuality of trains was achieved as 201 trains arrived at their destination at the right time. The previous best was 99.54% on 23rd May 2020.

India’s first ‘Kisan Rail’ to begin services

The Indian railways will begin its “**Kisan Rail**” services to transport perishable goods. India’s first ‘Kisan Rail’ will run between Devlali in Maharashtra’s Nashik and will reach Danapur in Bihar.

The train will cover the journey of 1,519 kilometres in over 31 hours. The train will be flagged off via video conferencing by Union Minister of Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

51st IFFI to be held in Goa from Nov 20

51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa, from November 20th to 28th. This film festival is a hybrid film festival due to COVID 19, would screen films on the official digital platform along with the theatrical screenings.

Ayush Minister Shripad Naik reviews National Ayush Mission, launches a dedicated web-portal

Ayush Minister, **Shripad Naik** on July 30 chaired a **webinar of AYUSH/health ministers** of all the states and UTs in order to review the centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission and the operationalization of AYUSH Health & Wellness centres.

During the occasion, Shripad Naik also launched a dedicated web-portal for the National AYUSH Mission for submitting Utilization certificates, State Annual Action Plans, information related to DBT, Physical & Financial Progress Report, etc.

India withdraws from women's world team Squash championship

India has withdrawn from the women's world team Squash championship scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 15th to 20th December, due to lack of preparation, time and match-readiness of its players. Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has decided to withdraw from the championship.

Ministry of Tourism holds its 44th webinar on "Heritage Tourism in Gujarat"

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India's DekhoApna Desh Webinar Series titled, "Heritage tourism in Gujarat" on 1st August 2020 presented the fascinating and diverse heritage of the state of Gujarat ranging from ancient archaeological sites and majestic medieval monuments to modern architectural marvels.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020

The National Sports Awards selection committee have recommended four sportspersons for India's highest sporting honour, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020. Indian cricketer, Rohit Sharma and wrestler Vinesh Phogat are among the four sportspersons.

Apart from Rohit and Vinesh, table tennis player Manika Batra and Paralympian M Thangavelu are the other two names. In a first, this year's National Sports Awards ceremony is likely to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Daughter entitled to equal property rights even if born before 2005 amendment to Hindu Succession Act: SC

The Supreme Court on August 11, 2020 ruled that daughters are entitled to equal property rights **even if they were not born at the time of the 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 or irrespective.**

The apex court ruled that daughters would have equal coparcenary rights in Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) properties. This would hold irrespective of whether the father was alive or not at the time of the amendment.

MS Dhoni announces retirement from international cricket

MS Dhoni, the former captain of the Indian cricket team, has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing down curtains on a near 16-year-long storied career of one of the country's greatest limited-overs cricketers. Dhoni retires as India's most successful captain in limited-over internationals, having won three ICC trophies – 2007 T20 World Cup, 50-over World Cup in 2011 and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy – the only captain to do so.

PM Modi to inaugurate Atal Tunnel by September 2020

The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate “Atal Tunnel” by the end of September 2020. The tunnel is being built under Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway. It is located at 3,100 metres above the sea level. The length of the tunnel is 8.8 kilo metres.

India ranks first in Organic Farming

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that India ranks first in Organic Farming. Also, India ranks ninth in terms of areas under Organic Farming.

Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic. The other states that have similar targets include Uttarakhand and Tripura.

PM Modi announces “One Sun, One World, One Grid” initiative

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the “One Sun, One World, One Grid” (OSOWOG) plan. Under this, there will be a trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe.

As per the draft plan prepared by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the OSOWOG will connect 140 countries through a common grid that will be used to transfer solar power. “The vision behind the OSOWOG mantra is “the Sun never sets” and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.

Delhi Police signs MoU with All India Institute of Ayurveda

Delhi Police has signed an Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous Institute under Ministry of AYUSH. The MoU will offer Ayurveda Preventive and Promotive health services in the residential colonies of Delhi Police through a mobile unit named ‘Dhanwantari Rath’ and Police Wellness Centres.

National Infrastructure Pipeline Online Dashboard launched

The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) Online Dashboard has been inaugurated by the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman. The newly launched platform “NIP” will act as **one stop solution for all stakeholders** seeking for information on infrastructure projects in New India.

The platform is being considered a step towards the vision of an Aatma Nirbhar Bharat. It will attract investors for PPP projects and also ensure easy accessibility to updated project information.

SURAKHSYA: National Portal of “Project Elephant” launched

On August 10, 2020, the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched **National Portal on Human Elephant conflict** called “SURAKHSYA”. The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.

Central government to launch projects for lion, dolphin conservation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2020, announced that the centre has been planning to launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin to replicate the success of Project Tiger.

The projects will be launched by the central government for the biodiversity conservation of these species. PM Modi informed about these projects in his Independence Day Speech 2020.

Suresh Raina retires from International Cricket

Suresh Raina, a renowned Indian Cricket player has announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15, 2020.

His announcement came right after MS Dhoni's announcement of retirement from international cricket. Suresh Raina informed about his decision through his Instagram account, which shocked millions of his fans all around the country.

PM Modi launches Optic Fibre Link connecting Lakshadweep Islands with the mainland

PM Modi announced the Optic Fibre Linking of Lakshadweep Islands with the mainland during his address at the 74th celebrations of Independence Day.

The undersea Optical Fibre Cable link to be established between Lakshadweep and the mainland is second in the country. The first of its kind was established between Chennai and Port Blair.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Campaign launched in Kishtwar

Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has e- launched the Nasha Mukht Bharat Campaign in 272 most vulnerable Districts of country in terms of substance and alcohol abuse.

To eradicate the menace of the drug abuse, District Development Commissioner, Kishtwar Rajinder Singh Tara today launched the Nasha Mukht Bharat Campaign here on at the Independence Day function.

TERI launches flood and heavy rain warning system for Guwahati, in collaboration with NDMA

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have launched a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for Guwahati to alert local authorities about flash floods and/or heavy rainfall.

Launched at an online event, the fully automated web-based tool will help them take timely and appropriate measures in event of a natural disaster heading toward the city.

Delhi Govt launched 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' fitness campaign

Delhi Government has launched the Fitness Campaign "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" fitness campaign, for the students who are confined in their homes because of the lockdown imposed on Schools and colleges due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Government approves Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission

The Union Government approved Khadi Agarbatti Atma Nirbhar Mission on August 2, 2020 to generate employment and make India self-reliant in agarbatti production.

Union Minister for MSME, Nitin Gadkari approved the unique employment generation scheme, which was proposed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to help India become Aatmanirbhar in Agarbatti production.

President approves 84 gallantry awards for defence personnel

President Ram Nath Kovind has approved 84 gallantry awards for defence personnel, including nine Shaurya Chakra. The Kirti Chakra has been posthumously awarded to Abdul Rashid Kalas, Head Constable, Jammu and Kashmir Police.

IPL 2020 to be played from September 19 to November 10 this year

IPL 2020 will be played from **September 19 to November 10** this year. The decision to this effect was taken at a virtual meeting of the IPL Governing Council last night.

The meeting was organised to give a final shape to the schedule and discuss other arrangements for the eagerly-awaited event to be held in the UAE this year.

“Bharat Air Fibre Services” inaugurated in Maharashtra

“Bharat Air Fibre Services” has been inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for HRD, Electronics, Communication, and IT, Govt Of India, Shri Sanjay Dhotre. The services were inaugurated at Akola in Maharashtra. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has introduced the Bharat Air Fibre services as part of digital India initiative by the Government of India.

DNHDD launches E-Gyan Mitra mobile app

E-Gyan Mitra mobile app has been launched by the **Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**. The “E-Gyan Mitra” mobile app has been launched to provide **online education**.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu resigned

The day when the Union Territories (UTs) Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh celebrated their one year of formation, the Lieutenant Governor of J&K **Girish Chandra Murmu** resigned. He sent his letter of resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind. Following his resignation, Manoj Sinha has been appointed as the LG of Jammu and Kashmir.

A book titled ‘RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations’ authored by Yatish Yadav

The book, titled “**RAW: A History of India’s Covert Operations**” has authored by investigative journalist and author **Yatish Yadav**. A new book gives a peep into the heroic covert operations carried by India’s external spy agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

and thereby narrates a gripping account of what actually happens behind the grey walls of the secret society.

KVIC: First Silk Training cum Production Centre in Arunachal Pradesh

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is to set up the first of its kind **training cum production centre of silk in the state of Arunachal Pradesh**. The centre is to be launched in the first week of September, 2020.

The KVIC will provide machinery such as handlooms, warping drums and silk reeling machines. The centre is to provide training to 25 local artisans and will boost weaving activities in the region.

DAC approved procurement proposals worth Rs.8,722.38 crore

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved procurement proposals worth Rs.8,722.38 crore to strengthen the Armed Forces by relying on indigenous capability to take forward the initiative on ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

The approval was announced in a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for capital acquisitions of various equipment and platforms required by the Indian Armed Forces.

PM to launch platform for “Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will roll out the platform for “Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest”. The new platform will carry forward the journey of direct tax reforms and will also reward the honest taxpayers. Several major tax reforms in direct taxes have been carried out by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

State related Affairs

Uttarakhand to set up snow leopard conservation centre

Uttarakhand will soon have a **snow leopard conservation centre**. The conservation centre will be set up in Uttarkashi forest division area. The snow leopard conservation centre will be set up to promote winter tourism in the state.

MP launched “Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi” public awareness campaign

Madhya Pradesh Urban Development and Housing Minister, Bhupendra Singh has launched a public awareness campaign “**Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi**” from August 1-15. The Scheme will **spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection.**

Tamil Nadu disagrees with centre’s Three Language Policy

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami is not seen in agreement with the recently launched centre’s three-language policy proposed by the Union government in the National Education Policy 2020.

In a press release recently, the Chief Minister was found stating that the state will never allow the Centre’s three-language policy rather the state will continue with its dual language policy of Tamil and English.

Delhi Govt launches new “Electric Vehicle Policy”

Delhi government has launched the “**Electric Vehicle Policy**” for the national capital under which will waive registration fee, road tax, and provide an incentive of up to **₹1.5 lakh for new cars**. The government aims to generate employment to give a boost to Delhi’s economy and reduce pollution levels in the national capital.

Kerala’s 1st-ever Dragonfly Festival

WWF-India Kerala State Office is joining hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever state “Dragonfly Festival” in Kerala, christened ‘Thumbimahotsavam 2020’.

This is part of the National Dragonfly Festival organised by WWF India, Bombay Natural History Society and Indian Dragonfly Society in association with National Biodiversity Board, UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme and IUCN-CEC.

Chhattisgarh to launch “Indira Van Mitan Yojana”

The Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced about the launch of “Indira Van Mitan Yojana” on the eve of International Day of World Indigenous People. It is an initiative to support forest dwellers of Chhattisgarh and achieve self-reliance.

Gujarat launches Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana

The Gujarat Government launched a new scheme called the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana. The scheme will replace Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the state for the current year alone. The scheme is being replaced as the insurance firms have sought high premium from the government this time. If approved, the state government will have to pay Rs 4,500 crores.

ARUNODOI: Assam to launch mega scheme for Women Financial Empowerment

The Assam Government is to identify beneficiaries of new scheme called “ORUNODOI”. The scheme is being launched to help in women financial empowerment. The ORUNODOI will be the biggest scheme in Assam that will benefit more than 17 lakh families. The scheme aims to empower women while boosting economic development.

West Bengal government launches scheme to provide soft loans, subsidies to youth

On the occasion of International Youth Day, the West Bengal government launched ‘Karma Sathi Prakalpa’ scheme under which one lakh unemployed youth would be provided soft loans and subsidies to make them self-reliant, informed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Nagaland Govt launches “YellowChain” centralized e-commerce platform

Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio has launched “Yellow Chain” a centralized e-commerce system to provide the people of the state integrated platform to build sustainable businesses either in products or services from their own locations for sustainable economic activity.

Puducherry celebrates its 59th ‘De-Jure’ day

The Union Territory of Puducherry has celebrated its 59th anniversary of the “De-Jure” day on 16th August. The Puducherry administration organized a function at the Keezhoor memorial where the referendum was signed to mark the occasion. So on that day, the “De-Jure” (The Legal Merger of the UT with the Indian Union) was effected.

Chhattisgarh government to launch “Padhai Tuhar Para” scheme

Chhattisgarh government has announced to launch a student centric scheme named as “Padhai Tuhar Para”. The scheme will enable the school students to study with the help of community in their localities and villages, in view of the suspension of classes due to coronavirus outbreak.

Uttar Pradesh partners Israel to resolve Bundelkhand Water Crisis

Uttar Pradesh government has signed a ‘plan of cooperation’ with Israel government to resolve water crisis in Bundelkhand region. The partnership between the two governments seeks to address water crisis in drought hit regions of Bundelkhand. It will support regional farmers with latest farming technologies such as drip irrigation, meant for water deficient regions like Bundelkhand.

PRATHEEKSHA: First Marine Ambulance launched by Kerala Government

Around thirty fishermen lose their lives at sea in a year due to accidents during fishing. Under this context, the Government of Kerala has launched Marine Ambulance services to provide more efficient rescue.

The Marine Ambulance specializes in providing first aid and also rescue operations. The ambulance is capable of providing critical care to up to five people simultaneously.

UP Government launches “Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana”

“Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana” has been launched by the Uttar Pradesh government. Under this scheme, 19 international players from the state of Uttar Pradesh will get road connectivity to their houses.

The 19 international players who will be benefited from the scheme includes Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, former pacer Praveen Kumar, Piyush Chawla and Mohammad Kaif. The initial list of the beneficiaries includes 19 players, and more players will be added to the scheme in the coming future.

India’s 1st International Women’s Trade Centre to be set up in Kerala

Kerala will establish the first international women’s trade centre (IWTC) of India at Angamaly. The IWTC would be set by Kerala in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IWTC seeks to accelerate the women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity.

Assam’s first Newspaper for Kids ‘The Young Minds’ Launched

With the aim to promote creative thinking among children and inculcate in them the habit to read and write, the first children’s newspaper ‘The Young Minds’ has been launched in Assam.

The Young Minds is the brainchild of Guwahati-based duo Neelam Sethia and Neha Bajaj.

International Affairs

Russia plans mass vaccination against COVID-19 by October

Russia is planning to launch a **mass vaccination campaign** against the novel coronavirus in October 2020. This was announced by Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko on August 31, 2020.

The Health Minister stated that the doctors and teachers will be the first to get vaccinated. The Minister, however, did not divulge any information regarding the vaccine that will be used.

Russia chaired 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting

The **6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting** was held under the presidency of Russia. The Environment Ministers of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa participated in the meeting held via the video conference.

The meeting was preceded by the BRICS Working Group meeting. India will host the next meeting in 2021.

USFDA clears simple Saliva test called "SALIVA DIRECT" to detect COVID-19

The United States Food and Drugs Administration authorised the emergency use of saliva based diagnostic test for COVID-19. This is to be a game changer as it provides the results rapidly. The testing method has been named "SALIVA DIRECT".

Saliva Direct testing method is simpler and is less expensive as compared to traditional method called the Nasopharyngeal swabbing. The test method is to be used to test players and staffs in National Basketball Association.

Taiwan purchases F-16 jets from US

Taiwan recently signed an agreement to buy 66 of the latest F-16 jets from the US. This is expected to escalate the tensions between US and China further. This is the first purchase of Taiwan from the US since 1992. Though the deal was planned and talks were finalised a year ago, the move is likely to be denounced by Beijing. The sale of jets to Taiwan is to be completed by the end of 2026.

International Conference on Climate Change and its Impact on Himalayan Region to be held in India

The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital is to conduct an International Conference on Climate Change and its Impact on Himalayan Region. The conference is to be held between September 14 and September 16, 2020.

India plans to host BRICS Games in 2021

India is planning to host BRICS Games 2021, which will be aligned with the Khelo India Games scheduled for next year. This announcement came after Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju attended a meeting of Sports Ministers of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). India will get the chairmanship of the five-nation independent international group in 2021.

World Health Organization certifies Africa free from wild Polio

The Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC), an independent body set up by the World Health Organization (WHO), has certified the African continent free from wild Polio virus.

The landmark feat related to public health has been achieved by the continent after decades of work along with international health bodies, national and local governments, community volunteers and survivors. According to the previous records, about 75,000 children in Africa were paralysed by polio in year 1996.

Arab World's first ever nuclear reactor starts its operation

Oil-rich Gulf state UAE finally starts its **first-ever nuclear reactor “Barakah”** at **Abu Dhabi** on the Gulf coast. Barakah was expected to start its operation in 2017. However, due to various safety issue, it kept on getting delayed.

Japan marks 75 years of atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Japan marks the **75th anniversary** of the world's first atomic bomb attack on the city of **Hiroshima**. In 1945, the United States warplane Enola Gay dropped an atom bomb named **“Little Boy”** in the city of Hiroshima killing 140,000 people. Three days later, on August 9, the United States dropped another atom bomb **“Fat Man”** in Nagasaki that killed more than 40,000 people.

Serum Institute signs landmark deal to manufacture up to 100 million doses of COVID vaccine for India

The Serum Institute of India (SII) has entered into a landmark partnership with Gavi, The **Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to accelerate the manufacture and delivery of COVID vaccine for India and the middle and low-income countries.

Mahinda Rajapaksa's SLPP party wins landslide victory in Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections

Prime Minister Mahinda **Rajapaksa-led Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP)** registered a landslide victory in the Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections on August 5, 2020. The party and its allies secured two-thirds of the seats at the elections.

India to host ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2021

The International Cricket Council has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. **India will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021** as planned.

ICC has also decided to postpone the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 in New Zealand till February-March 2022 because of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on cricket globally.

Mauritius declares emergency over oil spill

The island of Mauritius declared environmental emergency due to oil spill caused by Japanese owned ship that was stranded off the coast days ago.

The MV Wakashio of Japanese companies Nagashiki Shipping Ltd and Okiyo Maritime Corporation was on its way from Brazil to Singapore carrying 4,000 tonnes of fuel. The ship ran aground on July 25, 2020.

United Nations releases 6 million USD in response to Beirut Explosion

The United Nations released **6 million USD** in response to the explosion at Beirut port. With this, the total UN funding towards relief operation of the explosion has come to 15 million USD.

A catastrophic blast occurred at the Lebanon capital, Beirut. It was driven by tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate.

Mauritius declares a “state of environmental emergency”

A “**state of environmental emergency**” has been declared by the **island nation of Mauritius**. The environmental emergency has been declared as a Japanese bulk carrier “MV Wakashio” ran aground on a reef in Mauritius and began leaking oil into the ocean. The ship stranded two weeks ago is leaking tons of fuel into the surrounding waters.

Russia becomes 1st country to register COVID-19 Vaccine

Russian President, **Vladimir Putin** has announced that a **COVID-19 vaccine** named “**Sputnik V**” developed in the country has been registered for use. Russian Ministry of Health has given regulatory approval for what it claims is the world's first Covid-19 vaccine, developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute. Russia is the first country to register a coronavirus vaccine.

Saudi Arabia ends loan, oil supply to Pakistan

Saudi Arabia has ended **its loan and oil supply to Pakistan**, ending the decades-long friendship between the two countries. This was reported by a leading media organisation.

Pakistan has also been asked to pay back USD 1 billion to Saudi Arabia, which was given as a part of a \$6.2 billion package announced by Saudi Arabia in November 2018.

Historic peace agreement between UAE & Israel

President of USA, Donald J. Trump, Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Nahyan have agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

New Coronavirus Strain with 10-times the infection rate detected in Malaysia

Malaysia has detected a strain of new Coronavirus which is ten times more infectious. The mutation called DG14G was earlier seen in other parts of the world.

The mutation has been found in at least three of the 45 cases in a cluster. It started from a restaurant owner who had returned from India and breached his 14-day home quarantine. He has since been sentenced to five months in prison and fined.

Turkey discovers a large natural gas reserve in Black Sea

Turkey discovered large natural gas reserves in the Black Sea coast. The announcement was made by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The discovery included 320 billion cubic metres of natural gas. If the natural gas reserve can be extracted, it could help the country to reduce its energy dependence on imports from countries such as Russia, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

Togo first in Africa to end sleeping sickness

Togo has become the first country in Africa to eliminate human African Trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness, a disease caused by parasites transmitted through infected tsetse flies. The World Health Organization (WHO) August 27, 2020 certified so, after the country applied for it in 2018.

Foreign Relation Affairs

IPL's Title Sponser Vivo pulls out amid anti-China sentiment

Vivo, the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League 2020, has pulled out after a disagreement with the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) over a discount on the sponsorship fee and also in response to the growing opposition to its involvement in the tournament, as it is a Chinese brand.

India-UN Development Partnership Fund: India contributes USD 15.46 mn

India gives **USD 15.5 million** to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, under its commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals. This fund of USD 15.46 million including USD 6 million for the overall fund, in which all developing countries are eligible for partnership, and USD 9.46 million is dedicated to Commonwealth countries.

GoI extends Line of Credit worth 18 million USD to Maldives

The Government of India has extended Line of Credit of worth **18 million USD to Maldives** to expand fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO).

Maldives is important to India for its strategic location. In Indian Ocean, Maldives archipelago comprises of 1,200 coral islands. They lie next to the shipping lanes that ensure uninterrupted energy supplies to India, China and Japan.

India to participate in Kavkaz 2020 exercise in Russia

India will take part in the multilateral military “Russian Kavkaz 2020” strategic command-post exercise to be held in Astrakhan, Russia. The Indian contingent includes 150 Army personnel and a smaller number of personnel from the Navy and Air Force.

Bangladesh to construct War Memorial for Indian soldiers

Bangladesh has taken a decision to construct a monument for the Indian soldiers. The country will establish a monument for the Indian soldiers who died in 1971 during the Bangladesh's struggle for independence from Pakistan. The announcement was made by the Bangladesh War Liberation Minister Mozammel Haque.

Israel shares AI-based Technology, equipment with AIIMS for COVID-19 treatment

Israel government has provided state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence-based technologies as well as high-end equipment to AIIMS to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The help of technology is a part of India-Israel cooperation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

India working on supply chain with Japan, Australia to counter dependence on China: Report

India, Japan and Australia are working on a supply chain agreement to counter dependence on China by creating an alternative. The countries plan to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), which was first proposed by Tokyo, according to a report by The Economic Times.

India-Nigeria sign MoU on space cooperation

India and Nigeria signed an agreement on space cooperation on Thursday, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said. Calling Nigeria India's close friend and the largest trading partner in Africa, Muraleedharan said the MoU is another milestone in the relations of the two countries.

Fourteenth India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue held

The 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held on 27th August via video conferencing. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr. Chan Heng Kee.

The Singapore-India Defence Policy Dialogue was established under the revised Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in 2015.

13th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting

The 13th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation was held to review the continuing growth of broad based cooperation between the two countries.

The session was co-chaired by Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India and Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates.

UK launches £3 Million Innovation Challenge Fund in India

An "Innovation Challenge Fund" of £3 Million has been launched by the government of United Kingdom (UK) in India. The newly launched fund aims to support research and development (R&D) proposals to address the challenges posed to the economy and the environment, by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the fund will help scientists in academia and industry to address the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

India names Bangladesh to be a priority recipient for COVID-19 vaccine

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla in Dhaka on August 19, 2020, informed that India will supply the COVID-19 vaccine to neighbouring country Bangladesh on a priority basis once it gets the nod and mass production starts.

India and Israel New Cultural Agreement

India and Israel signed a new cultural agreement to strengthen people-to-people exchanges. This agreement was signed by India's Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla and Israel's

Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi. The new cultural agreement will be a three year programme on cultural cooperation from 2020-23.

Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla attends 5th world conference of speakers of parliament via video conferencing

Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla attended 5th world conference of speakers of parliament on August 20 via video conferencing. Om Birla is leading an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the conference. The conference is being organized jointly by Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva and Parliament of Austria on 19 and 20 Aug with support of UN.

India, Uzbekistan conduct first meeting of National Coordination Committee

India and Uzbekistan held the first meeting of their National Coordination Committee on August 24, 2020. The committee has been set up to monitor the implementation of the mutually agreed projects between India and Uzbekistan.

India-Bangladesh to open inland waterways

India and Bangladesh will open new inland waterway from September 3, 2020. This is based on the agreement signed by the countries in May 2020 on Inland Water Transit and Trade. The number of IBP (Indo-Bangladesh Protocol) routes were increased from eight to ten.

Several agreements have been signed between India and Bangladesh to unlock the North. Also, several connectivity projects have been launched.

AGRIOTA: E-Market Platform to bridge Indian rural farmers and UAE food industry

The UAE Government launched AGRIOTA, a new technology driven agricultural commodity trading platform that will bridge the rural farmers from India and the gulf Food Industry.

The E-Market place allows the farmers to connect with the UAE food industry directly bypassing intermediaries. This optimizes the supply chain and ensures traceability creating value for all stakeholders.

Ranks and Indices

Apple becomes world's most valuable company

After reporting its blockbuster Quarterly result stock of **Apple Inc increased 10%** to a record high making Apple world's most valuable publicly listed company. The company has shown a great recovery from its low-point in March during the pandemic.

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries ranked No 2 brand globally after Apple on FutureBrand Index 2020

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has been ranked second biggest brand after Apple on the FutureBrand Index 2020. **"This year's highest entrant at number two, Reliance Industries excels on every attribute,"** FutureBrand said, releasing its 2020 Index.

Mukesh Ambani Eclipses Richest European To Become World's No. 4

Mukesh Ambani has surged past Europe's wealthiest man, making him the world's fourth-richest person.

Reliance Industries Ltd.'s chairman is now worth **\$80.6 billion**, after amassing \$22 billion this year, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

That gives him a **bigger wealth pile than France's Bernard Arnault**, whose LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE has suffered from customers curbing high-end fashion purchases faster than the company can cut costs.

Mumbai becomes 1st city in India to have female icons on traffic signals

Mumbai's Dadar has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.

Forbes magazine released "The Highest-Paid Actors Of 2020" list

Forbes magazine has released "The Highest-Paid Actors Of 2020" list. Bollywood actor, **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian star to be listed among the top 10 world's highest-paid actors of 2020. With total earnings of \$48.5 million.

Akshay is placed at **sixth place in the list**. Most of his income came from product endorsements. The list takes into account the earnings between June 1, 2019, and June 1, 2020. The list has been **topped by** Wrestler-turned-movie star **Dwayne Johnson**, for a second straight year, with the total earning of \$87.5 million. Johnson is also known by his ring name The Rock.

IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the ‘Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,’ (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India. The 2020 ‘Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA),’ was released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, in presence of Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank,’ in a virtual event on 18 August 2020.

“India ranks among lowest in terms of Internet quality”

India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality, according to a global research released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark.

As per the “Digital Quality of Life Index 2020”, which researches on the quality of a digital wellbeing in 85 countries (81% of the global population), in terms of e-infrastructure, India occupies 79th place, ranking below countries including Guatemala and Sri Lanka.

Indore tops as the cleanest city 4th time in a row on 2020 Swachh Survekshan

Indore topped the list of the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan, 2020, India’s annual survey on cleanliness.

The results were declared on 20th August by the Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. Surat in Gujarat and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra ranked second and third among the cleanest cities with more than a million population.

MUDRA loan: Tamil Nadu Women top the list

According to the data provided by Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, **Tamil Nadu has topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** in availing loans to women. It was followed by West Bengal and Karnataka.

As of March 31, 2020. Tamil Nadu had availed Rs 58,227 crores. The loans provided by other states are as follows **West Bengal: Rs 55,232 crores, Karnataka: Rs 47,714 crore, Bihar: Rs 44,879, Maharashtra: Rs 42,000 crores.**

Jeff Bezos becomes first person to hit a net worth of \$200 billion

Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO on August 26, 2020, became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 billion. Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, that affected the businesses and economies, the stocks of the e-commerce platform continue to soar.

Gujarat tops Niti Aayog’s Export Preparedness Index 2020

Gujarat has been ranked first in the first ever Export Preparedness index 2020 released by NITI Aayog. It is the first of its kind index on the lines of ease of doing business ranking, which has ranked all the states and Union Territories on various parameters of export preparedness and competitiveness.

Business related Affairs

RPower & JERA inks loan agreement for Bangladesh's power plant

Reliance Power and Japanese energy major **JERA** have signed an agreement with a group of banks for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh.

The signed agreement will provide full finance of about **\$642 million (approx Rs 4,798 crore)** for a new 745 MW natural gas combined-cycle power project in Meghnaghat in Bangladesh. This is one of the largest funding tie-ups for a project in Bangladesh's power sector.

Airtel joins hands with AWS to tap India's booming cloud computing market

Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), one of India's largest integrated telecom providers, announced a multi-year, Strategic Collaboration Agreement (SCA) with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to deliver a comprehensive set of innovative cloud solutions to large enterprise and small and medium enterprise (SME) customers in India.

Reliance Foundation launches "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge"

Reliance Foundation has launched the "**W-GDP Women Connect Challenge**" across India in association with US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP). The "W-GDP Women Connect Challenge" has been launched to bridge the gender divide as well as the digital divide in India.

Google partners CWC for flood forecasting initiative

Google and Central Water Commission(CWC) of India have launched the flood forecasting initiatives across India for the past several months. The Central Water Commission is the first governmental partner of Google to measure water levels on an hourly basis using around 1000 stream gauges across India.

IPL Title Sponsor 2020: Dream11 wins IPL title sponsorship for Rs 222 crores

Dream11 has won IPL 2020 title sponsorship bid for Rs 222 crores. This was announced by IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel on August 18, 2020. Dream11, the fantasy sports platform won the IPL Title rights by outbidding the IPL Title Sponsor favourites Tata Sons and educational platforms Byju's and Unacademy.

Reliance Retail acquires majority stake in Netmeds for Rs 620 crores

Reliance Retail has acquired a majority equity stake in 'Netmeds' for approximately Rs 620 crores. The announcement was made by the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) through a statement on August 18, 2020.

RIL announced that its subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) has acquired a majority stake in Vitalic Health Pvt. Ltd and its subsidiaries, which are collectively known as 'Netmeds' for approximately Rs 620 crores.

Flipkart signs pact with IIT-Patna

Walmart-owned Flipkart said it has inked an agreement with IIT-Patna to help create industry-focused applied research in the areas of artificial intelligence (AI), natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning (ML).

As part of the MoU, IIT-Patna will undertake a number of programmes such as joint research activities, writing research papers, organising seminars and internship/mentorship opportunities, according to a statement.

INOX Group becomes sponsor of Indian team for Tokyo Olympics

The governing body for the Olympic Movement in India, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and INOX Group has signed a sponsorship agreement to support Team India for Tokyo Olympics, which was rescheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

The partnership agreement will further support team India's promotions through the Group's entertainment company, Inox Leisure Limited.

IBM, NSDC join hands to offer free digital skills training

IBM and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) joined hands to offer a free digital education platform focused on emerging technologies and professional development skills.

As a part of the collaboration, IBM will curate online courses from the 'Open P-TECH' platform and offer them to users via NSDC's eSkill India portal to empower the country's youth with various skills to succeed in their future careers.

Adani Group set to acquire 74% stake in Mumbai International Airport

Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) is likely to soon acquire a 74 per cent stake in Mumbai International Airport (MIAL). With this acquisition, Adani Group flagship will become the largest private operator of airports in the country after GMR Group.

Adani Group is expected to announce acquisition of GVK Group's 50.5 per cent stake before next week, Business Standard reported.

Tata Group to launch "Super App" for digital services

Tata Group is launching a new app named "Super App" purported to bring together the country's disparate sales sector to offer a range of consumer goods. The app will put the conglomerate in competition with giants of the region like Reliance Industries and global titans like Amazon.

Greenko Signs MoU With NTPC to Explore RE and Storage Solutions

Greenko has entered into an agreement with NTPC to explore energy storage and renewable energy (RE) power supply solutions across India.

The objective of the partnership is to explore the possibility of development of renewable energy-based round-the-clock, flexible and dispatchable power supply offerings based on the integration of RE sources and pumped storage projects.

Reliance Retail to acquire Future Group's retail, wholesale businesses for Rs 24,713 crore

Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) announced on August 29, 2020 that it is acquiring the retail, wholesale business, logistics and warehouse business of Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore.

The announcement has come amid ongoing concerns on a slump sale basis for lumpsum aggregate consideration. Reliance Retail will be buying the businesses from the Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore, subject to adjustments as set out in the composite scheme of arrangement.

Defence News

Indian Armed Forces revive “Project Cheetah”

The Indian Armed Forces have decided to revive “Project Cheetah” amidst tensions with China. The project was pending for a long time and the tri-services have now decided to revive the project under Rs 3,500 crores.

The proposal of reviving “Project Cheetah” has been sent to a newly formed high-level defence ministry committee under Ajay Kumar. Ajay Kumar is the defence secretary. He is in charge of all capital procurements of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

SRIJAN: Online Portal launched to promote Indigenisation of Defence Production

The Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh launched “SRIJAN”, an online portal to promote indigenization of Defence production.

The portal is to display those items that are currently being imported by Indian Defence Industry. This will help domestic industries of the country to learn and focus more on these specific items.

Indian Coast Guard launches Interceptor Boat ‘ICGS C-454’

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has launched an Interceptor Boat ‘ICGS C-454’ in Surat, Gujarat. The Interceptor Boat ‘ICGS C-454’ has been built by Larsen and Toubro and it has a maximum speed of 45 nautical miles or 83 kilometers per hour.

DRDO lab comes up with contactless sanitation cabinet for gadgets, bank notes

For those who had been scratching their heads on how to sanitize currency notes, paper stuff and electronic gadgets, here’s good news.

The device is called Notesclean. The Notesclean’s role is essential as DRUVS can’t sanitise individual notes in a bundle optimally and it will take a long period of time. The Notesclean can disinfect currency notes in a quick time.

Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: DRDO identifies 108 systems and subsystems to design, develop and manufacture

The Defence Research and Development Organization has taken several initiatives to strengthen indigenous defence production under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. Recently, DRDO has included 108 systems and subsystems to achieve Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches mobile App for NCC training

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App here on (August 26, 2020). The App will assist in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets.

CISF launches ‘Pension Corner’ app for its retired personnel

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has made an in-house mobile app “Pensioners Corner”. The mobile app has been created by CISF to reach to the pensioners and to bring them on to the digital platform as a one stop solution.

Science & Technology

NASA & ULA launched Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has launched “**Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission**” with **United Launch Alliance (ULA)** Atlas V rocket to the Red Planet “Mars”.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission was launched from Space Launch Complex 41, at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The Perseverance rover is part of NASA’s Mars Exploration Program which is a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the Red Planet.

Skyroot India’s first private company to test upper-stage rocket engine

Aerospace startup **Skyroot Aerospace** has successfully test fired an upper-stage rocket engine, becoming the **first Indian private company** to demonstrate the capability to build a homegrown rocket engine.

The 3-D printed rocket engine – Raman, named after Nobel laureate CV Raman – has fewer moving parts and weighs less than half of conventional rocket engines with a similar capacity.

Israel successfully tested “Arrow-2” Ballistic Missile Interceptor

Israel has successfully tested its advanced missile defence system, “Arrow-2” ballistic missile interceptor. The Missile test was conducted in the test site in Central Israel over the Mediterranean Sea. The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of the United States of America along with Israeli Air Force and Israel Aerospace Industries conducted the testing.

Scientists found that the Dwarf planet Ceres is now an Ocean world

Researchers have stated that Ceres looks like an “Ocean World”. The scientist stated after analyzing the data collected by NASA’s Dawn spacecraft. The dwarf planet Ceres lies in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and is also the largest object in that belt.

China launches 5th Gaofen-9 series Earth observation satellite

China has successfully launched 5th Earth observation satellite, Gaofen-9 (05), from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The satellite, sent into orbit by a Long March-2D carrier rocket, is an optical remote-sensing satellite with a resolution up to the sub-meter level. This launch was the 343rd mission of the Long March rocket series and the 23rd for China in 2020.

Rare fish called “Mahseer” sighted in Sileru river

A team of researchers from Andhra University sighted a rare fish called “Mahseer” in the Sileru river. The fish is listed as Endangered in IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) list.

VSSUT first to set up Space Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre with ISRO

The Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla in Odisha's Sambalpur district became the first University in the country to set up a Space Innovation-cum-Incubation Centre with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a statement from the government of Odisha said.

Sports

Name	Tournament name	Extra Information
Lewis Hamilton	British Grand Prix 2020	Max Verstappen (Red bull) ended up second in this F1 race while Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) came third. This is the third win for Hamilton in this season of F1 races.
Max Verstappen	70th Anniversary Grand Prix	Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton finished the race at second position while another Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas finished third. This was Red Bull's first victory at Silverstone since 2012.
Lewis Hamilton	F1 Spanish Grand Prix 2020	This was his 4th win of the season and the 88th win of his career. Max Verstappen (Red Bull–Netherlands) came second followed by Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) at third.
Ronnie O'Sullivan	World Snooker Championship 2020	He has claimed his sixth World Championship title at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.
Bayern Munich	UEFA Champions League	German giants Bayern Munich have won the UEFA Champions League for the sixth time in the club's history after beating French side Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 at the final in Portugal's capital, Lisbon.
Sophia Popov	Women's British Open	Sophia Popov marked her ball a few inches from the hole on the 18th green, pulled the brim of her cap over her face and began to cry in the arms of her caddie. The realization had finally hit her. Against all odds, she was about to become a major champion.
James Anderson	Becomes first-ever fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets	The 38-year-old achieved the feat during England's third test against Pakistan at

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		the Ageas Bowl cricket ground in Southampton on August 25, 2020.
Dwayne Bravo	Becomes 1st bowler to scalp 500 wickets in T20 cricket	West Indies All-Rounder, Dwayne John Bravo became the first bowler in cricket to scalp 500 wickets in Twenty20 matches.
India & Russia	FIDE Online Chess Olympiad	India and Russia have become the joint winners of FIDE online Chess Olympiad. World chess governing body FIDE declared both the finalists as joint winners after at least two games in the second match were affected by internet connectivity issues.
Lewis Hamilton	Belgian Grand Prix	Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton dominated the Belgian Grand Prix to take his fifth victory in seven races this year and the 89th of his career.

Obituary

Name	Associated Field
Amar Singh	Rajya Sabha MP and former Samajwadi Party leader
Kamal Rani Varun	UP Cabinet Minister
William English	Co-inventor of the computer mouse
John Hume	Nobel Peace Prize winner
Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar	Former Maharashtra Chief Minister
Shirley Ann Grau	Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novelist
James 'Kamala' Harris	Former WWE wrestler
Nandi Yellaiah	Former Congress leader
Rahat Indori	Renowned Poet and Lyricist
PK Muthusami	Tamil Film lyricist
Rajiv Tyagi	Congress leader and spokesperson
Chunakkara Ramankutty	Malayalam poet-lyricist
Nishikant Kamat	Filmmaker
Russell Kirsch	Computer scientist
Angela Buxton	British Tennis legend
Gopalaswamy Kasturirangan	Former Indian cricketer
Pascal Lissouba	Former Congo President
Gail Sheehy	Writer-journalist
Arnold Spielberg	Computer Pioneer
A.R. Lakshmanan	Former Supreme Court Judge justice
Chadwick Boseman	Black Panther actor
Purushotham Rai	Veteran Athletic coach
H Vasanthkumar	Congress MP & founder of Vasanth and Co
Joe Ruby	TV writer and producer who co-created Scooby-Doo

Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
Muslim Womens Rights Day	August 01	
World Breastfeeding Week	August 01 – 07	Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet
World Sanskrit Day	August 03	
National Handloom Day	August 07	
International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples	August 09	“COVID-19 and indigenous peoples’ resilience”.
Quit India Day	August 09	
World Tribal Day	August 09	
World Biofuel Day	August 10	
World Lion Day	August 10	
International Youth Day	August 12	Youth Engagement for global action
World Elephant Day	August 12	
World Humanitarian Day	August 19	
World Photography Day	August 19	
National Renewable Energy Day	August 20	
Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day.	August 20	
International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	August 21	
World Senior Citizen Day	August 21	
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	August 23	
Women’s Equality Day	August 27	
World Water Week	August 24-28	Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action
National Sports Day	August 29	
International Day against Nuclear Tests	August 29	
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	August 29	