

CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – SEPTEMBER 2020

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Awards and honors

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Hyderabad International Airport	CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award	The Hyderabad International Airport or GMR led Rajiv Gandhi International Airport won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'.
David Attenborough	Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019	David Attenborough, a renowned author, and natural historian was conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the Peace Prize in a virtual ceremony.
Chaitanya Tamhane's 'The Disciple'	Best Screenplay award at Venice Film Festival	The Marathi-language movie, about the personal and professional experiences of a Hindustani classical singer, was among 18 titles in the competition section.
Aditya Puri	Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020	In a first-of-its kind recognition for an Indian corporate leader, Aditya Puri, MD, HDFC Bank was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020.
Fiumicino Airport	world's 1st 5-star Anti-Covid award	The Fiumicino International Airport (FCO) in Rome, Italy, has become the first airport in the world to be certified with "COVID-19 5-star airport rating" from Skytrax, a U.K.-based airport and airline review firm.
Udit Singhal	UN's list of 2020 Class of Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals	It is a highest-profile recognition opportunity for the youngsters who are leading efforts on the world's most pressing issues.
Vikas Khanna	Asia Game Changer Award 2020	This award is given to him for feeding millions of people across India in the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive 'FeedIndia'.

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Margaret Atwood	2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize	The Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award is named for the late U.S. diplomat who brokered the 1995 Bosnian peace accords reached in the Ohio city.
Kerala	United Nations Award for Control of Non-Communicable Diseases	Kerala won the United Nation Interagency Task Force Award for its outstanding performance in controlling non-communicable diseases related Sustainable Development Goals.
Kerala	2020 PATA Grand Award	Kerala Tourism's internationally-acclaimed 'Human by Nature' campaign has bagged one of the three PATA Grand Awards 2020. The awards were announced live during a virtual presentation ceremony in Beijing, China.
Shivangi Singh	Become India's 1st woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale	Flight Lieutenant, Shivangi Singh to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) September 10, 2020. She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF.
Usha Mangeshkar	Lata Mangeshkar award 2020-21	The award is given by the cultural department of the state government. The award includes a cash prize of five lakh rupees, a certificate and a memento.
Sonu Sood	Special Humanitarian Action Award	He has received the award for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending lakhs of migrants, stranded students across geographies abroad, back to their homes.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Hemant Khatri	Chairman and Managing Director - Hindustan Shipyard Limited	He will replace Rear Admiral L V Sarat Babu (Retd). Previously, Hemant Khatri was serving as the Director of Strategic Projects HSL.
Aveek Sarkar	Chairman of Press Trust of India	The Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications, Aveek Sarkar has been elected as the chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
V K Yadav	CEO of Railway Board	The chairman and CEO will be the cadre controlling officer responsible for human resources (HR) with assistance from a DG (HR).
Usha Padhee	Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)	She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post. The central deputation tenure of Usha is scheduled to end on 16th July 2022. She succeeds Rakesh Asthana (IPS) who was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force(BSF) on 17th August 2020.
Raj Srivastava	India's Ambassador to Republic of Croatia	He is an IFS officer of 1997 batch and is presently serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Tokyo.
Murali Ramakrishnan	MD & CEO of South Indian Bank	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Murali Ramakrishnan as Managing Director and CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2020.
S Krishnan	MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank	Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of S Krishnan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank. He will replace S Harishankar.
Ayushmann Khurrana	Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life	As the brand ambassador of the life insurer, actor will be

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		promoting the products as well as the digital services of the Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited.
Dwayne Bravo	Ambassador for “SBOTOP” sportsbook brand	West Indies cricket icon Dwayne Bravo has become the first cricket ambassador for “SBOTOP” sportsbook brand.
Vinkesh Gulati	Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) – President	The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has announced the appointment of Vinkesh Gulati as its 35th President for the year 2020-22. He succeeds Ashish Harsharaj Kale as the new FADA President.
Kenichi Ayukawa	Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) – President	He will replace Rajan Wadhwa. Ashok Leyland MD and CEO, Vipin Sondhi has been elected as the new vice president of SIAM. SIAM is the apex body of the Indian automotive industry.
Matthew Hayden	Trade envoy to India from Australia	Government of Australia has appointed former cricketer, Matthew Hayden and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India. The council plays an important role in advancing Australia’s foreign and economic policy interests with India.
Anil Jain	President of All India Tennis Association	The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has elected Anil Jain as its new president, while Anil Dhupar was chosen as its secretary-general. India’s Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal was elected as the treasurer for a four-year term till 2024.
Paresh Rawal	chairman of National School of Drama	In a career span of over three decades, Rawal has been acknowledged with numerous awards, including the prestigious National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1994. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2014 for his contribution to the entertainment industry.
Bhuvneshwar Kumar & Smriti Mandhana	brand ambassadors of Playerzpot	Playerzpot is a fantasy sports gaming app that allows its

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		users to play fantasy cricket. The partnership will see the cricketers in the brand's upcoming campaigns and promote Playerzpot through engagement activities.
Preeti Sudan	WHO panellist	The World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response appointed former health secretary, Preeti Sudan as one of its 11 panellists from across the world.
Ayushmann Khurrana	UNICEF – ambassador	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appointed Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign, "For Every Child". He will work towards this initiative in India.
Takeo Konishi	Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Country Director for India	The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on September 14, 2020, announced that it has appointed Takeo Konishi as a Country Director of India. Takeo Konishi has succeeded Kenichi Yokoyama.
Subhash Kamath	Chairman - Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)	Kamath, who was serving as ASCI vice-chairman, will replace Rohit Gupta, president, Sony Pictures Networks.
Jane Fraser	CEO of Citigroup	Citigroup has named Jane Fraser as its next chief executive officer. She will be the first female CEO of this major global bank.
Yoshihide Suga	PM of Japan	Yoshihide Suga has been elected as the new leader by Japan's governing party to succeed Shinzo Abe. He is all set to become Japan's next prime minister. Mr Abe had announced his resignation in August 2020 due to health issues.
Rajesh Khullar	Executive Director at World Bank	The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Rajesh Khulla for a tenure of three years from the date of assumption of charge or till the

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		date of his superannuation (August 23, 2023).
Sameer Kumar Khare	Executive Director at ADB	Khare is a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Assam cadre. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under Ministry of Finance.
Harivansh Narayan Singh	Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman	He is a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and Janata Dal (United) MP (Member of Parliament). MP Manoj Jha was put in front of Harivansh by the Opposition who is a MP from Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).
Virat Kohli	Brand Ambassador by EdTech major, Great Learning	The captain of the Indian cricket team and the world's #1 batsman, who also topped a recent ranking of India's most powerful celebrities, will now be the face of the Great Learning brand.
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar given additional charge of Food Processing Industries Ministry, following resignation of Harsimrat Kaur Badal
Deve Gowda	Rajya Sabha MP	Former Prime Minister of India, H D Deve Gowda took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka. This is the first time that the JD(S) leader has become a member of the Upper House since 1996.
Dr Girija Mungali	AFC task-force	The taskforce will regulate the football clubs in Asia and Australia. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
Simanchala Dash	Advisor to IMF Executive Director	The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the proposal to appoint Simanchala Dash as an advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington. He has been appointed for a period of three years.

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Bah Ndaw	Mali's interim president	On 19th August 2020, Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced his resignation with immediate effect following a military mutiny in the Republic of Mali.
Khushi Chindaliya	UNEP regional ambassador	In her new role, Khushi will raise awareness about climate change and the importance of environmental conservation and the need to safeguard environmental treasures.
Rajat Sud	Managing Director – EESL	A Joint Venture(JV) of Public Sector Undertakings, under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has appointed Rajat Sud as its new Managing Director from immediate effect.
Sonu Sood	Brand ambassador	As the brand ambassador of Acer India, Sonu Sood will support the range of innovative products of Acer over the social media and campaign on the commitment of Acers in improving the lives of the people through technology.
Mohamed Hussein Roble	Prime Minister of Somalia	He will replace former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire, who was voted out of office by parliament in July for failing to pave the way for fully democratic elections due before February 2021.
Sunil Sethi	KVIC - Advisor	Sethi will advise the Commission on latest design interventions in the readymade garments segment and promotion of Khadi in India and abroad. He appointment is be for a tenure of one year.
Aamir Khan	Brand Ambassador of CEAT	A tyre company of RPG Enterprises (Rama Prasad Goenka Group), CEAT Limited has signed Indian Actor Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador for 2 years.
Neetu David	Head of India women's selection committee - BCCI	The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Neetu David, one of finest woman cricketers of India in the late '90s and early

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		2000, as the Chairman of the 5 member women's national selection panel.
P.D. Vaghela	chairman of TRAI	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed P.D. Vaghela as the chairman of the Telecom Regulatory of India (TRAI). He will succeed RS Sharma, who was at the helm of the sector regulator for five years.
Moctar Ouane	Prime Minister of Mali	The interim President of Mali, Bah Ndaw, has named former Malian Foreign Minister Moctar Ouane as the new prime minister of Mali. Moctar Ouane has served as Mali's ambassador to the United Nations from 1995-2002.
Shekhar Kapur	President of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) S	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced Shekhar Kapur as the new President of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council. His tenure will be till March 3, 2023.

Banking and Finance

ICICI Prudential Life launched voice chatbot “LiGo” on Google Assistant

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited has introduced an Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered voice chatbot, “LiGo”, on Google Assistant. This will enable the company’s policyholders to address their queries by simple voice commands. It provides an easy to use and convenient service touch-point for customers.

ICICI Bank launches ‘Home Utsav’, a virtual property exhibition

ICICI Bank has launched a virtual property exhibition under the name ‘Home Utsav’. The exhibition will digitally showcase real estate projects by renowned developers, across India.

RBI paves way for loan recasts; 26 sectors identified

The Reserve Bank specified five financial ratios and sector-specific thresholds for resolution of COVID-19-related stressed assets in 26 sectors.

The 26 sectors specified by the RBI include automobiles, power, tourism, cement, chemicals, gems and jewellery, logistics, mining, manufacturing, real estate, and shipping among others.

RBI ropes in Amitabh Bachchan for customer awareness campaign

The Reserve Bank of India has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign. The campaign aims to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters.

IDBI Bank becomes 1st bank to enable document embedding feature on SFMS

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) become the first to implement the new feature of document embedding facility with Letter of Credit (LC) / Bank Guarantee (BG) messages over SFMS (Structured Financial Messaging System) platform of Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS).

RBI ceased Banking operations of Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank

Reserve Bank of India has ceased the Banking operations by the Aditya Birla Idea Payments (ABIP) Bank under Banking Regulations Act 1949 with effect from July 28, 2020. Now the bank company could not able to work successfully and applied for voluntary winding up by the Vodafone Idea Limited which holds 51% in ABIP bank and the remaining 49% by Grasim Industries Limited.

Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services

Public sector lender Canara Bank has launched lead management system (LMS) – i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0). The system has been launched to provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside.

RBI to introduce Positive Pay System to check Cheques

The Reserve Bank of India is to introduce “Positive Pay System” from January 2021. The system makes it mandatory to re-confirm key details of cheques that need payments beyond Rs 50,000.

What is Digital Payment Index?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on September 10, 2020 that a Digital Payments Index (DPI) will be launched. The index will assess and capture the extent of digitalisation of payments effectively.

Doorstep Banking Services launched by Public Sector Banks

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the doorstep banking services for public sector banks. This will facilitate the users a hassle-free and convenient banking service.

The services provided by the Doorstep Banking can be availed through Agents who has been deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 centers across the country. These services can be availed at nominal charges. They would benefit all customers, particularly the Senior Citizens and Divyangs.

RBI releases Cyber Security Vision Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks

The Reserve Bank of India released Cyber Security Vision Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). The apex bank has taken four different guiding principles in order to formulate the framework. This is because the heterogeneity of UCBs in India in terms of regions, size, digital depth and financial health is huge. A “one size fits all” approach would not be appropriate while prescribing cyber security in the country.

SBI Card starts new brand campaign ‘Contactless Connections’

SBI Card has launched its new brand campaign titled ‘Contactless Connections’, which aims to spread the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.

SBI to launch new loan scheme SAFAL for organic cotton growers

State Bank of India is planning to launch a loan product named “SAFAL” for organic cotton growers. The product Safe and Fast Agriculture Loan (SAFAL) is primarily focussed on organic cotton growers who don’t have any credit history. SBI will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for this purpose.

Mastercard launches Central Bank Digital Currency testing platform

Mastercard has launched “Central Bank Digital Currencies” (CBDCs), a Virtual Testing Environment for Central Banks to Assess and Explore National Digital Currencies. Mastercard has invited Central Banks, Commercial Banks and tech and advisory firms to evaluate the suitability of CBDCs in a country or region.

RBI Issues Draft on Rupee Interest Rate (IR) Derivatives Directions 2020

The Reserve Bank have proposed to allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to undertake the rupee interest rate derivatives which is subject to a ceiling of ₹5,000 crore. These directions aim to encourage high non-resident participation, to enhance the role of domestic market makers in the other market, to improve transparency and to achieve better regulatory oversight.

SBI, Titan launch contactless payment watches “Titan Pay”

Titan Company has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch India’s first contactless payment watches named “Titan Pay”. Using these watches, the account holders of SBI can tap their Titan Pay watch on the contactless payment POS machines for making payments. It is powered by YONO SBI.

ICICI Home Finance launched “Apna Ghar Dreamz” Home Loan Scheme

The ICICI Home Finance launched “Apna Ghar Dreamz”, its new home loan scheme for skilled laborers like electricians, mechanics, painters, grocery store owners etc in the informal sector of Delhi.

IDFC Mutual Fund launches ‘SIP in Fixed Income’ campaign

IDFC Mutual Fund has started a new campaign called SIFI or ‘SIP in Fixed Income’. The new campaign called SIFI has been launched to make investors more aware about the benefits of investing in fixed income products via Systematic Investment Plans.

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RBI to launch “Positive Pay System” for Cheque Truncation System

The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will launch “Positive Pay System” for Cheque Truncation System from 01st January, 2021. The “Positive Pay System” will be developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and make it available to participant banks.

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

ADB approves 300 million dollar loan for Rajasthan’s towns

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 300 million dollar loan to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of Rajasthan.

Indian Affairs

India develops World's Largest Solar Tree

The CSIR-CMERI operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology has developed world largest solar tree. The tree has an annual capacity of generating 12,000 to 14,000 units of Clean and Green power.

CFI to host first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021

The Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021, with an aim to promote the culture of cycling in the country. This one-day summit is designed to promote the culture of cycling and exchange knowledge with budding and professional cyclists.

India to conduct VAIBHAV Summit

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit on October 2, 2020. VAIBHAV is Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik Summit.

Highlights

- The Summit is being conducted under the following theme
- To bring Indian luminaries all over the world it to discuss and debate about collaboration mechanism with their counterparts in India.
- To bring together diverse academic cultures.
- To strengthen atma nirbhar Bharat initiative.

Eight Indian Beaches recommended for Blue Flag International Eco-Label

The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that 8 Indian beaches have been recommended for the Blue Flag International Eco label. The announcement was made on the eve of International coastal clean-up day.

Highlights

The eight beaches that were recommended are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Kasarkod and padubidri in Karnataka, Golden Beach in Odisha, Radha Nagar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goghla in Daman and Diu, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh.

PM Modi launches “Ghar Tak Fibre” scheme in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched nine highway projects and Optical Fibre Internet Services in Bihar. The optical fibre services are being provided under the scheme “Ghar Tak Fibre”. These services are to be executed along with combined efforts of Common Service Centre.

NSO Survey: 92% Indian Women and only 27% men take part in unpaid domestic work

The National Statistical Office conducted a survey between January 2019 and December 2019. According to the survey, 92% of Indian Women and only 27% of men participate in employment related activities.

Dept. of Fertilizers observes Swachhta Pakhwada from 1-15 September 2020

Union Department of Fertilizers is observing Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September 2020. All Public Sector Units as well as other Organizations under the Department are also participating in the Swachhta Abhiyan.

The Ministries observing Swachhata Pakhwada are monitored closely with the help of online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha.

Water Heroes Contest 2.0 launched by Jal Shakti Ministry

Water Heroes Contest: Jal Shakti Ministry has launched ‘Water Heroes – Share Your Stories’ Contest to reach out to people on the important subject of water conservation and management. The contest will be held from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

The Ministry will consider a maximum of 10 entries for awards every month. All the selected entries will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000 each and a certificate.

Golden Temple gets FCRA Registration

The Union Home Ministry recently granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple, in Amritsar. It will now enable the Golden Temple to receive foreign donations. The foreign contribution can be used by the Sikh shrine for providing financial and medical assistance to the needy. It can also be used to organise langar which is a free community kitchen.

India pays homage to Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary

India paid homage to Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary. Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Bhagat Singh was an Indian Socialist revolutionary who shot 21-year old British Police officer John Saunders in Lahore.

Shipping Minister launches ‘SAROD-Ports’ for disputes of maritime sector

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched a dispute redressal mechanism named “SAROD-Ports” (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes-Ports) to facilitate affordable and timely resolution of disputes for the maritime sector.

Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF 2.0) launched

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (I/C), Shri Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0. The framework was launched during a virtual event organized by the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). Along with the CSCAF 2.0, the minister also launched the ‘Streets for People Challenge’.

Conclave on “School Education in 21st Century” begins

A two-day conclave on ‘School Education in 21st Century’ commenced virtually. The conclave has been organised by Ministry of Education as part of Shikshak Parv 2020.

Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 8th-25th September, 2020 to felicitate the teachers and to take New Education Policy 2020 forward. The conclave was addressed by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi under the National Education Policy- 2020 (NEP-2020).

India’s first private Jet Terminal at New Delhi

India opened its first exclusive private jet terminal at New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport. The Terminal was inaugurated by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. The airport will allow movement of 150 jets on daily basis. The new terminal has capacity to handle over 50 passengers in an hour.

PUBG, 118 other Mobile Apps Banned by Indian Govt

The Ministry of Information and Technology on September 2, 2020, banned PUBG and 118 other widely popular Chinese mobile applications. PUBG is an online multiplayer shooting game.

There are reportedly, nearly 33 million active PUBG players in India which make it one of the most popular apps downloaded in India. The app clocks around 13 million users per day.

PM Modi to launch “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will digitally launch the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Along with the scheme, the PM will also launch e-Gopala application. The scheme aims to enhance fish production to 70 lakh tonnes by 2024-25. It aims to double the income of fish farmers.

AME Scheme: 670 new electric buses and 241 charging stations sanctioned

The Government of India recently sanctioned 670 Electric buses and 241 charging stations under phase II of FAME scheme. FAME is Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles. It was launched to promote electric mobility in the country.

IIPA organizes “National Tribal Research Conclave”

The Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) organised 2-days long “National Tribal Research Conclave”. The inaugural session of conclave was addressed by the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda.

Govt adds ‘testing on demand’ in its new guidelines for COVID-19 testing

The government has added ‘testing on demand’ in its new guidelines for COVID-19 testing. Under the ‘testing on demand’ section, government mentioned “individuals undertaking travel

to countries/Indian states mandating a negative COVID-19 test, and all individuals who wish to get themselves tested”.

However, government said that state governments have the freedom to decide on simplified modalities.

13th Aero India-21 to be held in Bengaluru in Feb 2021

The 13th edition of Aero India-21 is scheduled to be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3 to 07 February 2021. Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh has launched the website for Aero India 2021. Aero India is Asia’s largest air show and aviation exhibition held biennially in Bengaluru since 1996. The website can be accessed at aeroindia.gov.in.

Indian Railways observes “Swachhta Pakhwara”

Indian Railways is observing “Swachhta Pakhwara” from 16th to 30th September 2020. During the inaugural day of Pakhwara, Swachhta pledge was administered to Railway employees at all Zonal Railway HQs, Divisional Offices and other establishments.

During the Pakhwara, intensive cleaning and sanitization of stations, trains, tracks, colonies and other railway establishments is being carried out with special focus on plastic waste management.

World Largest Telescope to have IT controls built in India

The square kilometre array also called the SKA, an international initiative building the world’s largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, an IT company based in India. Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates six mega projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates six mega projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission on 29th September 2020 through video conference. Also, he will also inaugurate “Ganga Avalokan” museum, the first museum on Ganga which is dedicated to showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in Ganga river.

The Ganga Avalokan museum is located at Chandi Ghat, Haridwar. He unveiled the logo of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and ‘Margdarshika for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis under Jal Jeevan Mission.’

PM Modi dedicates to the Nation 3 key projects related to Petroleum sector in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the Nation three key projects related to the Petroleum sector in Bihar through video conferencing today.

The projects include, the Durgapur-Banka section of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project and two LPG Bottling Plants in East Champaran and Banka. The Bottling Plants will empower the Atmanirbhar Bihar' by meeting the rising demand for LPG in the state.

Seven Projects under “Namami Gange” and “AMRUT” schemes inaugurated

PM Modi inaugurated seven projects under Namami Gange and AMRUT Schemes in Bihar. Four of these projects were related to water supply, one to river front development and two of the projects were related to sewerage treatment.

The projects are to be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs 541 crores. They are to be implemented by Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

Postage Stamp on India’s first Anti-Satellite Missile released

A customized My Stamp on India’s First Anti-Satellite Missile (A-SAT) launch was released by the Department of Posts on the occasion of Engineers Day in the presence of National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval.

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presents first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank today presented the first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day. The event was organised in virtual mode and the faculty members were felicitated by the Minister through online interaction.

Union Minister of Education launches mobile app “EnglishPro”

Union Minister of Education has launched a free mobile app named as “EnglishPro“. The mobile application has been developed by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad under University Social Responsibility (USR). This app will be “a useful digital tool” and will act as an educational resource for the teachers, students and for people from varied backgrounds.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan chairs ‘Aarogya Manthan’ 2.0

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare chaired ‘Aarogya Manthan’ 2.0 celebrating the 2nd Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). During the event, he also presented awards to the winners of the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY Start-up Grand Challenge to support the implementation of PM-JAY.

GoI launches mental health rehabilitation helpline “KIRAN”

Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry have launched a toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline “KIRAN”. The helpline was launched in view of the growing incidence of Mental Illness, particularly in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The helpline – 1800-500-0019 will provide relief and support to persons with mental illness.

States mandated to set up committee on the Content Regulations of Govt Ads

As per the Supreme Court directions, the states have been mandated to set up their three-member committees on the Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.

In its 19th- meeting held in September 2020, the Committee on the Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA) took a serious note of the delay in constituting a state-level committee by some of the states.

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology celebrates ‘Himalaya Diwas’

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, virtually celebrated the ‘Himalaya Diwas’.

PM Modi inaugurates Patrika Gate in Jaipur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur, Rajasthan through video conference. The Patrika Gate was built by the Patrika group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.

What is ‘eSanjeevani’ telemedicine service?

Recently, ‘eSanjeevani’ telemedicine service completed about 3 lakh tele-consultation (online consultations) . eSanjeevani is the platform of the Union Health Ministry that provides tele-consultations. There are two components of teleconsultation services- eSanjeevani and eSanjeevaniOPD.

The eSanjeevani is a telemedicine service which is implemented under Ayushman Bharat health initiative for doctor-to-doctor interaction.

Andhra Pradesh CM flags off south India’s first Kisan rail

The country’s second and South India’s first “Kisan Train” was flagged off from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to Adarsh Nagar Railway Station in Delhi. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy & Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the train, via a video link from New Delhi and Amaravati. This train, loaded with 14 parcel vans, will cover a distance of 2,150 km in 40 hours.

PFC signs MoU with Govt. of India detailing targets for FY 2020-21

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has signed a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Power, Government of India detailing various targets to be achieved by PFC during Fiscal Year 2020-21.

AIM Launches Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC Initiative

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, has launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges. The programme will spur applied research and innovation in

Indian MSMEs and startups. The initiative will help identify and promote innovations necessary for boosting the MSME sector.

India Post launches Five Star Villages Scheme

Five Star Village Scheme has been launched by The Department of Posts. The scheme ensures the universal coverage (100 % coverage) of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of India.

Scheme will be first implemented in Maharashtra. 50 villages in each district will be covered during 2020-2021.

UNCTAD projects India's GDP at -5.9% in 2020

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has predicted that the GDP of India will contract by 5.9% in the year 2020. For the year 2021, UNCTAD projects the Indian economy to grow by 3.9%. The projection was made in its Trade and Development Report 2020.

Kritagya' Hackathon by National Agricultural Higher Education Project of ICAR

A hackathon named "KRITAGYA" has been planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). This hackathon has been planned to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women friendly equipments.

Overall job growth rate slips to 3.5% in FY 2020: CARE Ratings Report

According to the CARE (Credit Analysis and Research Limited) Ratings Report, the employment growth rate has declined to 3.5% in the Financial Year 2020 from 3.8% in the previous fiscal year.

However, the total number of jobs has increased to 50.02 lakh from 48.32 lakh. As per the newly released report, in FY20, 1.70 lakh jobs were added, while the net addition was 1.76 lakh in Financial Year 2019.

PM Modi addresses the 'Grih Pravesham' event in MP

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has addressed the 'Grih Pravesham' event in Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. Under this, 1.75 Lakh Families in Madhya Pradesh were delivered pucca houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Grameen (PMAY-G).

First 8 Khelo India State Centre of Excellence to get financial support of Rs. 95.19 cr in 4 years

Sports Ministry has identified sports facilities in 8 states to be upgraded to Khelo India State Centre of Excellence. The identified facilities, to be upgraded with an effort to identify and groom Olympic level talent, will be upgraded at a cost of Rs 95.19 crores.

Cabinet News

Cabinet approves Mission Karmayogi: What is Mission Karmayogi

Union Cabinet approved Mission Karmayogi for Civil Services Capacity Building during its meeting on September 2, 2020. This was announced during the media briefing on cabinet decisions by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.

Mission Karmayogi is a national programme for civil services capacity building to lay the foundation for the capacity building for civil servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while learning from best practices across the world.

Union Cabinet approves introduction of J&K Official Languages Bill in Parliament

Union Cabinet has approved the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 to be introduced in Parliament, to make Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi and English as official languages for the Union Territory, announced Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday. The Union Minister said that this was done on the demand of the people.

Union Cabinet approves India-Finland Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources

The Union Cabinet approved Memorandum of Understanding between India and Finland for the cooperation in the field of geology and mineral resources. The agreement was signed between Geological Survey of India, Ministry of Mines and Geological Survey of Finland and Ministry of Employment and Economy, Finland.

Assam Assembly passes bill to protect Tangible Heritage

The Assam Assembly passed bill to protect Tangible Heritage that are not currently covered by the state and national law. According the Assam Government the passage of the Assam Heritage (Tangible) Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Maintenance Bill, 2020 is a historic step towards implementing Clause 6 of Assam Accord.

The Tangible Heritage bill seeks to include museum objects such as sculptures, coins, manuscripts, epigraphs and other works of cultural artifacts and craftsmanship.

Cabinet Approves Amendments to Three Labour Codes

The Union cabinet approved amendments to the labour codes on September 8, 2020. The Three codes include social security, industrial relations, and occupational safety and health (OSH) out of four codes that was proposed in the Industrial Relations Code, 2019 bill.

Lok Sabha passes National Commission for Homeopathy Bill, 2019

National Commission for Homeopathy Bill, 2019 has been passed by the Lok Sabha, today. The bill is aimed at ensuring availability of high quality medical professionals for homeopathic

treatment. Earlier, the bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 19th March 2020 during the Budget Session.

Cabinet approves asset monetization of subsidiaries of PGCIL through Infrastructure Trust

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Asset Monetization of subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited- POWERGRID through Infrastructure Investment Trust.

It has given approval to POWERGRID to undertake monetization of its Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) assets, held in existing Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs), through Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).

Union Cabinet approves establishment of AIIMS at Darbhanga, Bihar

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. This will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The approved AIIMS would be established at a total cost of Rs. 1264 crore and is likely to be completed within a period of 4 years from the date of the approval of Government of India.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 was introduced by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in Lok Sabha on September 14, 2020. The bill is aimed at transforming the agriculture in the country and raising farmers' income.

Bills Introduced in Lok Sabha to Transform the Agriculture

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar introduced – The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve introduced The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha on September 14, 2020.

Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by Parliament, after Rajya Sabha's approval

The Parliament passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 15, 2020 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha had passed the bill earlier on March 17th. The bill seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 and convert three existing regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) into statutory bodies.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill to reduce salaries of MPs by 30%

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to cut salaries of MPs by 30%.

Currently, each MP draws a monthly salary of ₹1 lakh, ₹70,000 as constituency allowance and ₹60,000 for running office besides other perks as per the pay hike in 2018.

Lok Sabha passes bill to bring Cooperative Banks under RBI

The Lok Sabha on September 16, 2020 passed an amendment bill to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 replaces an ordinance that was issued on June 26, 2020.

Lok Sabha passes Farm Reform bills: Facts, Concerns and Benefits

Lok Sabha passed two farm bills amidst the protests from the opposition. The bills were on agriculture market reforms and contract farming provisions. The bill to amend the essential commodities Act, yet another farm bill was passed on September 15, 2020.

RS passed Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill 2020 to protect healthcare workers

Rajya Sabha, the Upper House, passed the Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill, 2020 on 19 September 2020. The Bill aims to punish the individuals who attack health workers or doctors who are fighting the covid-19 outbreak or during any situation similar to the current pandemic.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Second Amendment) passed in Rajya Sabha

The Rajya Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code (second Amendment) Bill 2020. According to the new amendment, fresh insolvency proceedings will not be started for the next six months considering Covid-19 pandemic.

GoI to amend FCRA: Bill Introduced in Lok Sabha

A bill was recently introduced in Lok Sabha to amend the FCRA act, 2010. FCRA act is Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. The bill proposed to include public corporations owned and controlled by the Government of India under the list of entities that are not eligible to receive foreign funding. The bill also proposed to include public servants under the list.

Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) bill passed in Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha passed Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill 2020. It was first introduced in Rajya Sabha. The bill amends the Epidemic Diseases act 1897. The act is being amended to protect Health Care personnel combating in the front line against pandemic and epidemic.

Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which is an amendment to the Banking Regulations act 1949, was passed in Parliament. The Bill replaces the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 that was promulgated on June 26, 2020.

Parliament passes Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain provisions) bill

Parliament passed the Taxation and other laws (Relaxation and Amendment of certain provisions) bill, 2020. It replaces an ordinance and will make few changes to direct and indirect tax laws. It was cleared in Rajya Sabha through voice vote. The bill was passed in Lok Sabha earlier.

Lok Sabha passes Major Ports Authorities Bill

The Major Ports Authorities Bill, 2020 was successfully passed in Lok Sabha on September 23, 2020. The passed bill seeks to provide operation, regulation, and planning of major ports in the country as well as providing greater autonomy to these ports.

State Related Affairs

JK govt set up a 10-member council for the conservation of biological diversity

The Jammu & Kashmir government has set up a 10-member council for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components in the Union territory, officials said. As per an order issued by the General Administrative Department (GAD), sanction has been accorded to constitute the Jammu and Kashmir Biodiversity Council.

Tamil Nadu appoints India's 1st-ever woman ambulance driver

Tamil Nadu has appointed India's first-ever woman ambulance driver, M Veeralakshmi under a new initiative by CM Palaniswami. M Veeralakshmi was appointed as the driver of one of the newly launched '108' ambulances.

Madhya Pradesh govt launches 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign

Madhya Pradesh government has launched a 15-day campaign named 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo'. Under the campaign awareness programmes were organized in seven thousand 178 settlements. About 35 lakh people from 378 urban bodies in Madhya Pradesh took part in the campaign.

The campaign was divided into five themes:

- Cleanliness Oath
- Continuous reduction in urban waste emissions
- Cleanliness in COVID conditions
- Separation of waste from sources of houses
- Launching a special cleanliness campaign for public places

Punjab government rolls out 'I Rakhwali' App

Punjab government has rolled out "I Rakhwali" App to ensure greenery and to protect the environment in Punjab. The development of app is state governments' effort to supplement its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab and to make people stakeholders in the process.

J&K LG launches SPARROW system for J&K Administrative Service officers

Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha launched the online portal, Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) for Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service Officers (JKAS).

Madhya Pradesh: PM holds 'SVANidhi Samvaad' with street vendors

Prime Minister interacts with street vendors in 'SVANidhi Samvaad' program on Wednesday. PM SVANidhi Samvaad was launched in June to help covid affected street vendors to resume livelihood activities.

Haryana CM launches “Apka Mitra” chatbot for UG courses

Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar has launched Educational WhatsApp Chatbot “Apka Mitra” & Online Admission Platform for UnderGraduate (UG) courses in government-aided and self-financed colleges for the new academic session 2020-21.

Tripura’s First Ever SEZ

First-ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was laid to foundation stone by the Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb at Sabroom which is the southernmost town of the state bordering Bangladesh.

What is special Economic zone (SEZ)

SEZ is an area in which the business and trade laws are kept different from the other part of the country. These areas are located within the national borders of country. The primary aim of the SEZ is to increase trade balance and employment, increase investment and job creation including the effective administration.

Karnataka Govt launches “Arthika Spandana” loan disbursal programme

Karnataka Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa has launched the “Arthika Spandana” programme of disbursing loans to the tune of Rs 39,300 crores through various cooperative institutions. Under this scheme, Rs 15,300 crores would be disbursed to the agriculture sector while a sum of Rs 24,000 crores would be earmarked for the non-agricultural sector.

Gujarat government launches Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana

The Gujarat government has launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY). The scheme will provide interest-free loans to women’s groups in the state. Under the MMUY, 50,000 joint liability and earning group (JLEG) will be formed in urban areas. Similarly, 50,000 such groups will also be formed in rural areas.

Organic Food Processing Unit inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, inaugurated Organic Food Processing Unit in Uttar Pradesh. With the inauguration of this food processing unit, 5000 farmers will be benefitted and it is expected to leverage an investment of Rs 50.33 crores.

Meghalaya launched India’s largest “Piggery Mission”

The state government of Meghalaya has launched India’s Biggest “Piggery Mission” with an outlay of Rs 209 Crores. It is being launched under the aegis of Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society (MLEADS) and funded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Rajasthan Partners with SIDBI to develop MSMEs

Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said that Rajasthan's Department of Industries and Sidbi partnered on September 12, 2020 to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

Odisha govt launches 'GARIMA' scheme for sanitation workers

The Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has launched a new scheme named 'GARIMA' which aims to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Department, Odisha has signed a Ministry of Understanding (MoU) with not-for-profit organisation Urban Management Centre for providing the technical support to implement the scheme.

International Affairs

China builds missile site in Kailash-Mansarovar

Amidst border tensions between India and China, China has reportedly built a missile launch site in Kailash-Mansarovar. The Kailash-Mansarovar is revered by four religions and is linked to high spiritual scriptures in India.

First World Solar Technology Summit today

The First World Solar Technology Summit will be organised today by the International Solar Alliance. More than 26000 participants from 149 countries have registered to join the virtual Summit.

Power Minister R.K. Singh, the President of the ISA Assembly will be joined by the Vice Presidents of ISA from Africa, Asia Pacific and the Latin American and Caribbean Region during the inaugural address.

Global Economic Freedom Index, 2020

Recently, an annual report on The Economic Freedom of the World, 2020 has been released in India which was prepared by Canada's Fraser Institute together with a New Delhi-based think tank Centre For Civil Society.

Hongkong and Singapore have topped the index, which have attained first and second position respectively.

US spacecraft named after fallen astronaut of Indian decent Kalpana Chawla

Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company has announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", in memory of the mission specialist who died in 2003 with her six crewmates aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

UK Enters into First Major Post-Brexit Deal with Japan

The UK has signed its first major post-Brexit trade pact by signing a deal with Japan. The deal aims to boost trade between these two countries by about £15bn. The deal would boost UK GDP by 0.07%, though, it is just a fraction of the trade that was lost with the European union (EU).

US signs Defense Cooperation Agreement with Maldives

"Framework for U.S. Department of Defense-Maldives Ministry of Defense and Security Relationship" was signed between Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia Reed Werner and Maldivian Minister of Defense Mariya Didi in Philadelphia on September 10, 2020.

India beats China to become member of UN's Commission on Status of Women

India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). India will be a member of the prestigious body for four years from 2021 to 2025.

Liberia declares rape a national emergency after spike in cases

Liberian President George Weah has declared rape a national emergency and ordered new measures to tackle the problem after a recent spike of cases in the West African state.

The move comes after thousands of Liberians protested against rising incidents of rape in the capital Monrovia last month in a bid to draw attention to the country's alarming rate of sexual assault.

Airbus to launch World's first Commercial Hydrogen aircraft by 2035

The aviation company airbus launched three concepts for the first zero emission commercial aircraft. Their aircraft is to enter into service by 2035.

Saudi Arabia chairs G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting

Saudi Arabia chaired the G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting which was held in the virtual mode. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar represented India in the virtual meeting that was convened in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Trump announces Wilmington as 1st WWII Heritage City

President of the USA, Donald Trump has announced Wilmington, North Carolina as the first World War II Heritage City. The announcement was made at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on September 2, 2020.

35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific 2020

The 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) was held virtual format due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Parshottam Rupala represented India in the conference.

Saudi Arabia chairs G20 Education Ministers Meeting

The Education Ministers Meeting will take place as part of the Sherpa Track for the G20 Leaders Summit 2020, which is to be hosted by Saudi Arabia at the end of 2020. The Saudi Arabian Presidency has selected the following theme for the G20's 2020 activities: Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All.

UNICEF report on Child Mortality Rate

'Levels and Trends in Child Mortality' report was published by United Nations (UN). As per the new estimate on mortality released by UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO),

the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Bank Group, the under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India has declined to 34 in 2019 from 126 in 1990.

Israel, UAE, Bahrain sign historic US-brokered peace deals

In a landmark moment, Israel, UAE and Bahrain signed Abraham Accords in a signing ceremony presided over by United States President Donald Trump at the White House on September 15, 2020. The signing of Abraham Accords aims to establish foundation of peace agreements between Israel and the two Arab nations- the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Mexico issues world's first sovereign bond

Mexico has become the first country in the world to issue a sovereign bond linked to the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. It has raised EUR 750 million (\$890 million) by such bonds.

Foreign relation

Japan provides Rs 3,500 crores assistance to India to fight COVID-19

The Japanese Government announced that it will provide loan assistance of Rs 3,500 crores to India as a response to COVID-19 crisis. This will also include implementation of health and medical policy. The loan is being received by India as an emergency fund.

The loan agreement was signed by Japan International Cooperation Agency in New Delhi. It has an interest of 0.01% per annum along with a redemption period of 15 years.

India, Japan, Australia agree to launch a resilient supply chain initiative in the Indo-Pacific region

Australia-India-Japan Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Supply Chain Resilience was held on 1st September. The virtual meeting comprised of India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator Simon, and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Kajiyama Hiroshi.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to visit Japan, Hold QUAD meeting

The External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is to visit Japan on October 6, and October 7, 2020. During the visit, the minister will hold talks with his Japanese counterpart and also will attend a ministerial meeting of Quadrilateral Coalition.

Under the ministerial meeting of Quadrilateral Coalition, the minister will meet the ministers of the QUAD members such as Japan, USA and Australia.

India, China holding 19th meeting of the WMCC of India-China Border Affairs

India and China are holding 19th meeting of the WMCC or Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination of India-China Border Affairs today virtually.

WMCC is an institutional mechanism for consultation and coordination for the management of India – China border areas.

India attends BIMSTEC meet

India attended BIMSTEC meet and discussed ways to expand cooperation among its member countries. It further discussed ways to expand cooperation to deal with the current COVID-19 challenges.

The grouping accounts to 22% of global population. It has a combined Gross Domestic Product of 2.8 trillion USD. India has been pushing to make BIMSTEC a vibrant forum.

India to host Summit of SCO Council on November 30

India is to host a summit of council of heads of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) on November 30, 2020. India is in the plan of expanding its cooperation with the grouping.

India was an observer of SCO till 2005. It became a member in 2017 along with Pakistan.

India, Russia finalise deal to manufacture AK-47 203 Rifles

India and Russia on September 3, 2020 finalised a deal to manufacture AK-47 203 rifles in India. The deal was finalised during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Russia. This major development was reported by Russia's state-run Sputnik news agency.

India to host Quad meet and 2+2 dialogue

India will soon be hosting the Quad meet involving Australia, Japan and the United States and the 2+2 dialogue with the United States. The details are being worked out for the same.

India-Angola Joint Commission meet

India and Angola held their first joint commission meeting on September 8, 2020. In the meeting, the countries have decided to expand their trade relation. They held discussions in various sectors including Food processing, agriculture, defence, pharmaceuticals, health, digitization and telecom.

Five PSUs of India to join International Solar Alliance Coalition

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced, during the inaugural speech at the first World Solar Technology Summit held on September 8, 2020, that five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) will join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action by contributing to the corpus fund of ISA.

EAM Jaishankar's busy diplomacy ahead of SCO meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers tomorrow in Moscow

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is having a busy schedule meeting with his counterparts on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Moscow.

The Russian president Vladimir Putin is also going to address the CFM through Video conference at 8.30 PM tonight. The meeting of SCO foreign ministers is scheduled for 12.30 pm tomorrow.

First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue Organised Virtually

The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually on September 9, 2020. The virtual dialogue focuses on enhancing the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region. The trio discussed on economic, geo-strategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region in the backdrop of increasing Chinese aggression.

India & Japan signs MoU on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies & Services

India and Japan signed an agreement concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of India and The Self-Defense Forces of Japan.

This agreement forms the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.

India and Japan sign Logistics Agreement

India and Japan signed a logistics agreement on September 10, 2020. The agreement on 'Reciprocal Provision Supplies and Services' will allow the Armed Forces of India and Japan to coordinate closely in services and supplies. The agreement was signed by Defence Secretary of India and Ambassador of Japan.

India-US hold 2 plus 2 intersessional meeting

India and the United States held a bilateral 2+2 Inter-sessional meeting in virtual mode. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress and developments in bilateral ties in defence, security, and foreign policy areas. They explored opportunities for enhancing ongoing cooperation in these fields based on mutual interest. They also exchanged views about regional developments, and agreed to pursue their quest for a free, open, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

S Jaishankar chairs IBSA Foreign Ministers' Virtual Meeting

External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India, Shri S. Jaishankar, chaired the customary meeting of IBSA Foreign Ministers through video conferencing. During the meet, India, Brazil and South Africa emphasized the need for the international community to redouble efforts to achieve tangible progress for accelerated and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council.

ONGC exits from Sudan

India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) recently exited from Sudan oilfields. This step was taken by ONGC after the African nation refused to pay for oil it lifted from the fields.

10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs

10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security will be held today, September 17, 2020. The virtual meeting would be chaired by Russia.

What is Djibouti Code of Conduct?

India joined Djibouti Code of Conduct on September, 16 2020 as an Observer State. The member countries include- Eritrea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Oman, Comoros, Jordan, Djibouti, Maldives, Kenya, Somalia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Seychelles, Yemen, UAE (United Arab Emirates), and United Republic of Tanzania.

The observers include- Norway, Japan, UK, US. India also became an observer state under the grouping recently.

Neighbourhood First Policy: PM Modi to hold e-Summit with Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold his first virtual Summit with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. The meeting is expected to be held on the side lines of United Nations general assembly. Apart from Sri Lanka India is expected to hold several other meets with its neighbourhood in the near future.

India launches first ever direct cargo ferry with Maldives

India and the Maldives have launched the first-ever direct Cargo Ferry Service on 21 September 2020 to boost trade between the two countries. The cargo ferry service will connect the Indian ports of Tuticorin and Cochin ports with Kulhudhufushi and Male ports in the Maldives.

India-UK holds Water Partnership Forum to discuss water conservation

India-UK Water Partnership Forum will be held on September 22, 2020, through a virtual mode to discuss ways to collaborate on the issues pertaining to infrastructure development and water conservation.

India-Denmark sign Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property Cooperation

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs signed Memorandum of Understanding on Intellectual Property Cooperation.

India-Israel to develop hi-tech weapon systems: A new Sub-group set up

A new sub group was set up under Ministry of Defence to promote a greater number of India-Israel defence projects. Under the group, India and Israel have planned to develop high-tech weapons and export to other friendly countries. The main focus on the cooperation is Technology Transfer.

The group is to be headed by Sanju Jaju, the Joint Secretary in Indian Defence Ministry.

India attends Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity

The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change represented India at the Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity that was held virtually. The dialogue was hosted by China.

Ranks & Indices

India's Adani Green ranked as world's No. 1 solar firm

Indian renewable energy company, Adani Green has been ranked as the world's number 1 solar energy company in terms of capacity. The company is currently the world's top solar developer with around 2.3 GW of operational projects.

India jumps 4 places to rank 48 on Global Innovation Index 2020

The Global Innovation Index 2020 released on September 2, 2020, has shown India jumped four places to rank at the 48th position. The index has been compiled by the World Intellectual Property (WIPO) along with INSEAD business school and Cornell University.

THE World University Ranking 2021: No Indian University in top 300

The Times Higher Education announced the results of World University Rankings, 2021. The University of Oxford was at the top position followed by Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Andhra Pradesh tops Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) or Ease of Doing Business ranking – 2019

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman has announced the 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states. Andhra Pradesh has topped in Ease of Doing Business ranking.

Bank of Baroda tops EASE 2.0 Index by IBA

As per the EASE Banking Reforms Index 2.0, Bank of Baroda has been placed at the first spot. State Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) got the 2nd and 3rd place respectively. The Indian Banking Association (IBA) makes EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) reform index.

The aim of this index is to bring fruitful change in the PSBs by bringing in healthy competition among these PSBs and by encouraging them to learn from each other.

Kerala topped NSO report as Most literate state in India

Kerala topped the list of the most literate state in India in the National Statistical Office (NSO) survey. The literacy rate of Kerala is 96.2%. Andhra Pradesh stood last with 66.4% literacy rate. The report was released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

India ranks 116 in Human capital Index of World Bank

India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020. Last year, India ranked 115 out of 157 countries. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

India ranked 89th in World Risk Report 2020

According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV). The topped in the list is Vanuatu.

Global Smart City Index: Indian cities slip; Singapore tops

The Institute for Management Development along with Singapore University released the Smart City index for the year 2020. The report says that the Indian cities declined in their technological updates.

The index has been topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich as top three smart cities.

India Happiness Report 2020 announced

The first all India Happiness Report 2020 covering all States and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country, what contributes to people's happiness, the impact of COVID-19 on happiness, and insights from thought leaders. The study is based on a nationwide survey covering 16,950 people between March and July 2020 by Professor Rajesh K Pillania.

In overall happiness ranking of states and union territories:

- Mizoram
- Punjab
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands

PM Modi in Time Magazine's '100 most influential people of 2020' list

Time Magazine has released the TIME 100 Most Influential People List 2020. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi is the only politician on the list. He has been named in this for the fourth time since coming in power in 2014. The List has named people in five categories: Pioneers, Artists, Leaders, Titans, Icons.

Business Affairs

Vodafone and Idea launches integrated brand identity ‘Vi’

An integrated brand identity – Vi has been announced by Vodafone and Idea which is pronounced ‘we’. The new brand is having the tagline ‘Together for Tomorrow’.

Infosys acquires product design firm Kaleidoscope Innovation

Infosys has announced that it would acquire product design and development firm, Kaleidoscope Innovation for up to \$42 million. Kaleidoscope is a US-based firm and would bring to Infosys a diverse talent pool with extensive knowledge of design and engineering.

ADB & Suguna Foods Private Limited signs \$15 million deal

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement for \$15 million of debt financing through the subscription of nonconvertible debentures for Suguna Foods Private Limited (Suguna). The deal will help in sustaining poultry farming operations, as well as rural livelihoods and food security in India during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TikTok chooses Oracle as its technology partner for its US operations

TikTok has chosen Oracle to be its technology partner for its American operations. Microsoft was also in a bid to acquire TikTok in the United States but the Chinese owner of the video-sharing platform “TikTok” chose Oracle over Microsoft to be its technology partner for its American operations.

TATA group to construct New Parliament Building

The TATA Group of Companies have won the bid to construct a new Parliament building. Total cost for the project is Rs 861.90 crores. It is expected to be completed in 21 months.

HCL & Google Cloud expands partnership for HCL’s Actian portfolio

HCL Technologies and Google Cloud has announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to bring HCL’s Actian portfolio, starting with Actian Avalanche, to Google Cloud. Actian Avalanche is a high-performance hybrid cloud data warehouse designed to power an enterprise’s most demanding operational analytics workloads.

Defence News

Ministry of Defence signs Rs 2,580 crores of contracts to boost Make in India

The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth Rs 2,580 crores to boost Make in India. The contracts were signed for supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Indian Army.

What is Pinaka?

Pinaka is a multiple rocket launcher that was designed and developed by DRDO. It has maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark II. Pinaka was used in Kargil war and was successful in neutralising enemy positions.

Chinese navy becomes world's largest navy, new PLA bases planned to be set up in Indo-Pacific region

China, home to the world's largest navy, is looking to set up new PLA bases in the Indo-Pacific region. This was revealed by the Pentagon in a detailed report to the US Congress on September 1, 2020.

11th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY begins in Bay of Bengal

Indian Navy and Russian Navy has commenced the 11th edition of a biennial bilateral maritime exercise "INDRA NAVY". The biennial bilateral maritime exercise will be conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 04 to 05 September 2020. The maritime exercise "INDRA NAVY" embodies the long-term strategic relationship between the two Navies.

DRDO successfully test scramjet technology for hypersonic missiles

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested a Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), which is an unmanned scramjet vehicle with the ability to travel at six times the speed of sound. The test was conducted from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha. Now, India has joined the elite club of the United States, Russia and China to develop and successfully test Hypersonic Technology.

Indian Air Force to formally induct Rafale Fighter Jets in Ambala

The Indian Air Force is going to formally induct the Rafale aircraft on September 10, 2010 at Air Force Station, Ambala. The aircraft will be a part of 17 Squadron called as the Golden Arrows. The first five Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft have arrived to the Air Force Station, Ambala from France on July 27th, 2020.

India conducts successful flight test of ABHYAS

The Defence Research and Development Organization conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS- High speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) vehicle at the Balasore test range in Odisha. This can now be used as a target for evaluation of missiles.

Indian Navy conducts Passage Exercise with Royal Australian Navy

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

JIMEX 2020: India-Japan Bilateral Maritime Exercise commences

The bilateral Maritime Exercise, JIMEX, conducted between India and Japan biennially is to be in the North Arabian Sea between September 26, 2020 and September 28, 2020.

Science & Technology

IIT Delhi launches “Chakr DeCoV” to decontaminate N95 masks

The IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched a special decontamination device called ‘Chakr DeCoV’, to decontaminate N95 masks. The Chakr DeCoV device is designed in the shape of a cabinet.

Department of Biotechnology launches Programme for Clinical Trial Research

The Department of Biotechnology has launched the programme for “Strengthening Clinical Trial Research Capacity in Neighbouring Countries”. The programme will help neighbouring countries, and LMICs (Low and Middle Income Countries) to build capacities for Covid-19 vaccine trials.

India successfully conducts testing of Prithvi II missile

India recently conducted the test fire of Prithvi II missile, developed indigenously and was successful. The test was conducted at Chandipur Integrated Test Range, Odisha.

IIT Madras develops “MOUSHIK” microprocessor

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has successfully developed ‘MOUSHIK’, an indigenously-made microprocessor for the Internet of things (IoT) devices. ‘MOUSHIK’ is a processor cum a system-on-chip that can cater to the rapidly-growing IoT devices, an integral part of smart cities of a digital India.

Brahmos Missile with an indigenous booster: Test Flight Successful

The surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos with an indigenous booster and airframe section was successfully flight tested at Balasore, Odisha.

India’s ASTROSAT completes five successful years of mapping stars

The ASTROSAT was the first multi-wavelength satellite launched by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). It was launched on September 28, 2015. It has now completed five years of successful imaging of celestial objects.

Books

A new book titled “Let Us Dream” by Pope Francis

Pope Francis is set to release the book “Let Us Dream” in December 2020. In the book, Pope Francis explains how a crisis can teach an individual to deal with problems they face in their lives. He cites three major crises from his own personal life.

UN Environment Programme launches “The Little Book of Green Nudges”

A new publication “The Little Book of Green Nudges” has been launched by the United Nations Environment Programme. The newly launched publication seeks to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.

Gauri Khan announces her debut book ‘My Life in Design’

Interior designer, Gauri Khan has authored her first book titled “My Life In Design”, which will be published by Penguin Random House India in 2021. It is a coffee-table book, in which Gauri has written about her journey as a designer.

A new book titled “Azadi” authored by Arundhati Roy

Arundhati Roy’s new book titled “Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction” is published by Penguin Books Limited. The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism.

Barack Obama announces his memoir ‘A Promised Land’

Former US President, Barack Obama has announced his first presidential memoir titled “A Promised Land.” The 768-page book will be published in November 2020 by Penguin Random House and is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2020, in 25 languages.

A book titled “Kitchens of Gratitude” authored by Chef Vikas Khanna

Star chef Vikas Khanna has authored a book titled “Kitchens of Gratitude” in which he has written about his Feed India initiative. Feed India initiative is one of the largest food drives in the world, serving meals to the underprivileged. The book will be released in 2021. He will also be honoured with the 2020 Asia Game Changer Award in October.

A book titled “Voices of Dissent” authored by Romila Thapar

A new book titled “Voices of Dissent” authored by Historian Romila Thapar will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books. The book is set to publish in October 2020.

The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.

Rajnath Singh launched a book titled ‘A bouquet of flowers’

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched a book titled ‘A bouquet of flowers’ written by Dr Krishna Saksena. Dr Krishna Saksena is the first lady to get a PhD, in 1955 from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their own journey and arrive at their own very personal realization and be inspired by it.

Sports

Name	Trophy Name	Extra Information
Sunil Nagpal	Grand Slam Singles event	Sunil Nagpal on September 1, 2020, created history by becoming the first Indian to win a singles' main draw match at a grand slam in the last 7 years. The 23 years old successfully stormed into the second round of the ongoing US Open.
NTPC	AIMA Chanakya National Management Games 2020	The team from NTPC Vallur, Tamil Nadu won the championship which featured the participation of teams from 112 organisations from different parts of the country.
P Iniyan	World Open Online Chess Tournament	Indian Grandmaster P Iniyan has won the prestigious 48th Annual World Open online chess tournament. He scored 7.5 points out of a possible 9 with six victories and three draws to finish on top.
Aaron Finch	Becomes second-fastest after Kohli to score 2,000 T20I	Finch achieved the feat in his 62nd innings and is only behind Virat Kohli who crossed the 2000-run mark in his 56th innings. Finch is second from Australia and 10th batsman overall to do so.
Pierre Gasly	F1 Italian Grand Prix 2020	This is his first Grand Prix win. Carlos Sainz Jr. (McLaren, Spain) came second followed by Lance Stroll (Racing Point, Canada) in third place. Lewis Hamilton ended at 7th place after he earned a 10-second stop and go penalty.
Poonam Khatri	Wushu World Champion	Indian Police Officer, Poonam Khatri has claimed World Championship status after her silver medal at the Wushu World Championship last year has been upgraded to a Gold medal. Poonam hails from Haryana's Jhajjar district.
Naomi Osaka	US Open title	In US Open Tennis, Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus in the Women's Singles final to

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		clinch her third Grand Slam title.
Dominic Thiem	US Open Men's Tennis Tournament 2020	Austria's Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev to win the men's singles title at the 2020 US Open tournament. It was Thiem's first Grand Slam title, and he becomes the first player in the Open Era to rally from two sets down in a US Open final.
Lewis Hamilton	F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020	Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the Formula One Tuscan Grand Prix 2020 held at Mugello Circuit, Italy. This was his 6th win of the season and 90th F1 win of his career.
Cristiano Ronaldo	Becomes 2nd Male Footballer To Score 100 International Goals	Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo has become the second male footballer to score 100 international goals after scoring against Sweden in Tuesday's UEFA Nations League match.
Novak Djokovic	2020 Italian Open title	In Women's single, Simona Halep defeated champion Karolina Pliskova, 6-0, 2-1, to win her first Italian Open title.
Ash Barty	Golf Club Championship	The top-ranked Women's Tennis Association (WTA) player in the world and a former professional cricket player, Ashleigh Barty has now added another feat in her sporting list by winning Brookwater Golf Club women's championship.
Valtteri Bottas	Russian Grand Prix 2020	This is his second win of the season. Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Netherlands) came second followed by the 6-time world-champion Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain), who stood third because of penalties.

Obituary

Name	Associated Field
Dr S. Padmavati	India's 1st female cardiologist
Pranab Mukherjee	Former President of India
David Capel	Former England Cricketer
Jiri Menzel	Oscar winning film director
Diana Rigg	British Actress
Moussa Traore	Mali's former president
Kapila Vatsyayan	Veteran scholar of Indian classical dancer
PR Krishnakumar	Veteran Ayurveda physician
Amitabha Ghosh	Former RBI governor
Babu Sivan	Veteran Tamil Director
John Turner	Former Canadian PM
Ang Rita Sherpa	Nepal's Legendary Mountaineer
Ashalata Wabgaonkar	Veteran Marathi actress
Bhupesh Pandya	Bollywood Actor
Suresh Angadi	Minister of State for Railways
Dean Jones	Former Australian Cricketer
S. P . Balasubramaniam	Legendary singer
Sekhar Basu	Veteran Atomic Scientist and Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission(AEC)
Dr Isher Judge Ahluwalia	Noted Economist
Syeda Anwara Taimu	Assam's only woman CM
Abhilash	Veteran songwriter

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Important Days

Day	Date	Theme
National Nutrition Week	1st September to 7th September	
National Teachers Day	September 05	
International Day of Charity	September 05	
International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	September 06	
International Literacy Day	September 08	Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond
International Day to Protect Education from Attack	September 09	Protect Education, Save a Generation
World Suicide Prevention Day	September 10	Working Together to Prevent Suicide
World First Aid Day	September 12	
International Day for South-South Cooperation	September 12	
Hindi Diwas	September 14	
International Day of Democracy	September 15	
National Engineer's Day	September 15	
International Day for Ozone day	September 16	Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection
World Patient Safety Day	September 17	Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety.
World Bamboo Day	September 18	BAMBOO NOW.
International Equal Pay Day	September 18	
World Water Monitoring Day	September 18	Solve Water
International Coastal Clean-Up Day	September 19	Achieving a Trash free coastline
World Alzheimer's Day	September 21	Let's talk about dementia
International Coastal Clean-Up Day	September 21	
World Peace Day	September 21	Shaping Peace Together
World Rhino Day	September 22	Five Rhino Species Forever
International Red Panda Day	September 22	
International Day of Sign Languages	September 23	Sign Languages are for Everyone
World Maritime Day	September 24	Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet
World Environmental Health Day	September 26	Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention.
International Day of Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	September 26	
World Tourism Day	September 27	Tourism and Rural Development

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World Rabies Day	September 28	Vaccination and Collaboration
International Day for Universal Access to Information	September 28	
International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction	September 29	Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet
World Heart Day	September 29	Use your heart to beat CVD
International Translation Day	September 30	