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Awards and Honors

Recipient Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty	2020 Great Immigrants	2011 Pulitzer Prize winner Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee and Harvard University Economics Professor Raj Chetty were listed among the 38 immigrants to be honoured as the '2020 Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation.
C. Rangarajan	Mahalanobis award	Former Reserve Bank of India Governor C. Rangarajan has been conferred the P.C. Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his contribution to official statistics.
Indian battalion (INDBATT)	UNIFIL environment award	Indian battalion (INDBATT) has stationed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has won an environment award for a project that aims to decrease waste generation, reuse plastic, build greenhouses and compost pits.
Mukesh Ambani	Became world's seventh richest	Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has become the world's 7th richest person after overtaking legendary investor tycoon Warren Buffett in terms of net worth.
Edappadi K Palaniswami	Paul Harris Fellow recognition	The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International having its headquarters at Chicago, has honoured Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami with Paul Harris Fellow recognition, said Information Minister Kadambur Raju.
National Thermal Power Corporation	CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019	National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC

		Limited, a Central PSU under Ministry of Power has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019, under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.
Gurbux Singh, Palash Nandi	Mohun Bagan Ratna	The club has decided not to hold the customary ‘Mohun Bagan Day’ function on July 29 this year owing to the pandemic. July 29 was the date of Bagan’s IFA Shield triumph in 1911 when they defeated East Yorkshire Regiment 2-1.
Chhattisgarh	“Elites Excellence Awards 2020”	Chhattisgarh has been awarded this honour by the country’s prestigious IT institution Elites Technomedia, New Delhi under the ‘Digital India initiative’.
Ashok Kumar	Mohun Bagan Lifetime Achievement Award	Ashok Kumar, a key member of India’s 1975 World Cup-winning hockey team, will be conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by city football club Mohun Bagan on the occasion of its foundation day in a virtual ceremony in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Ved Parkash Dudeja	‘Infra Business Leader of the Year’	Ved Parkash Dudeja, vice chairman, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was recently awarded the coveted ‘Infra Business Leader of the Year’ award for 2020 by the Rail Infra and Mobility Business Digital Awards (RIMBDA).
Sachin Awasthi	Global Humanitarian Award 2020	Sachin Awasthi has been honoured with the “Top Publicist” award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020, through

		webinar took place in London.
N Chandrasekaran & Jim Taiclet	Global Leadership Award 2020	Tata group chairman, Natarajan Chandrasekaran and Chief Executive Officer and President of Lockheed Martin, Jim Taiclet to receive the US-India Business Council(USIBC) Global Leadership Award 2020.
Tara June Winch	2020 Miles Franklin Prize	Wiradjuri author Tara June Winch has won the Miles Franklin Literary Award — Australia’s most prestigious writing prize, and one of its richest at \$60,000 — for her novel The Yield.
Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis	2020 Nelson Mandela Prize	The President of the United Nations General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande has made the announcement of the winners of the award which recognizes persons who dedicate their lives to the service of humanity.
Arnab Chaudhuri	Toonz Media Award	The ‘Legend of Animation’ award instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS) 2020 – Digital Edition will be posthumously conferred to the legendary animation director Arnab Chaudhuri.
Greta Thunberg	winner of the first Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity	The Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, awarded annually, in the amount of 1 million euros, aims to recognise people, groups of people and/or organisations from all over the world whose contributions to mitigation and adaptation to climate change stand out for its novelty, innovation and impact.

Kala Narayanasamy	President's Award in Singapore	Indian-origin nurse, Kala Narayanasamy in Singapore has conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Sunil ydv SS	Karamveer Chakra Award	The founder of SS Motivation, Sunil ydv SS was honoured with "Karamveer Chakra Award" by Global Fellowship Award instituted by United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO) at the ReX ConCLIVE hosted in IIT Delhi.

Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Nigar Johar	Pakistan – Army Lieutenant General	Major General Nigar Johar has become the first female officer to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in Pakistan Army
Salma Lakhani	lieutenant-governor of Alberta	The Liberal government has named Salma Lakhani as next lieutenant-governor of Alberta, making her the first-ever Muslim to hold the ceremonial position in Canadian history.
Indra Mani Pandey	India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN in Geneva	To the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, the 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Indra Mani Pandey was appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India.
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	Concurrently, Vaidya will also be Chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IOC and Indian Oiltanking Ltd.
Ravinder Bhakar	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC)	He is a 1999 batch officer of Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS). He will replace Anurag Srivastava.
Baisali Mohanty	United Nations Policy Officer	Odia girl Baisali Mohanty who brought laurel to the state winning the prestigious High Profile Achievement Award as best graduate student at Oxford University.
Anandiben Patel	Governor of Madhya Pradesh	She was given additional charge as MP Governor following the illness of incumbent Governor Lalji Tandon. She will serve as Governor until incumbent MP Governor Tandon's health improves. The oath

		ceremony was at Raj Bhavan in Bhopal
Parminder Chopra	Director (finance) at Power Finance Corporation	Chopra was working as Executive Director (Finance) at Power Finance Corporation (PFC) before assuming charge as Director (Finance), PFC.
Sanjay Raghuraman	CEO of Kalyan Jewellers	Thrissur-based Kalyan Jewellers has strengthened its leadership team by appointing the company's first CEO and inducted two new directors. It has promoted Chief Operating Officer Sanjay Raghuraman to the post of CEO.
Aavishkar Salvi	Head Coach Of Puducherry Cricket Team	Former India seamer Aavishkar Salvi has been appointed head coach of the Puducherry senior team for the upcoming domestic season. (More Cricket News)
Jean Castex	French President	French President Emmanuel Macron has named Jean Castex, who coordinated France's reopening strategy after the coronavirus lockdown, as the country's new prime minister, according to the Elysee Palace.
Jayant Krishna	CEO – UKIBC	The UK India Business Council has appointed Jayant Krishna as its new Group Chief Executive Officer, effective from August 3, 2020. He takes over from Richard Heald, OBE who held the position at the Council for a term of 10 years.
Dr. Bishnu Prasad Nanda	Director General Railway Health Services (DG RHS)	He joined at the apex post of the Health Department in the Railway Board. Prior to this, Dr. Nanda was serving as Principal Chief Medical Director, Southern Railway.

Sijo Kuruvilla George	Member - Centre's committee on science and tech policy	The founding CEO of Startup Village and founder of Re-think Foundation, Sijo Kuruvilla George, has been selected as member of Central Government's Expert Committee on Science and Technology Policy.
Injeti Srinivas	Chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)	He has been appointed for a period of three years as the Chairman of International Financial Services Centre Authority.
Rajesh Verma	chairman of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)	Verma shall head the authority as long as he holds the post of secretary at the ministry of corporate affairs.
Parag Chitnis	US agriculture firm's Acting Director	Indian American scientist, Dr Parag Chitnis has been appointed as the Acting Director of top US agriculture research firm, the prestigious National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
Gyanendro Ningombam	Hockey India president	He will replace Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad. This was following the resignation letter of Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad received by Hockey India on 7 July 2020 due to his personal and family commitments.
Andrzej Duda	Polish President	Polish President Andrzej Duda narrowly beat his opponent Rafal Trzaskowski in the Presidential Elections held on July 12, 2020. The votes were counted on July 13.
Vikram Doraiswami	India's next Ambassador to Bangladesh	Indian Foreign Service officer, Vikram Doraiswami has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Bangladesh. He is currently serving as additional secretary in-charge of international organisations

		and summits at the headquarters of the external affairs ministry in Delhi. He will succeed Riva Ganguly Das in Dhaka.
Hemang Amin	CEO - Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	He will replace Rahul Johri who recently resigned as the chief executive officer (CEO) of BCCI and his resignation was accepted by the BCCI office-bearers.
K Sivan	Von Karman Award 2020	The Von Karman Award is known as the highest distinction of the IAA. Dr K. Sivan is going to receive an award in March 2021 at Paris France.
Ashok Lavasa	Vice President – Asian Development Bank	Ashok Lavasa was appointed as the vice president of Asian Development Bank. Ashok Lavasa, a 1980 batch retired IAS officer. He was serving as the Election Commissioner and is next in line to become Chief Election Commissioner.
Chandrikapersad	president of South American country “Suriname”.	A former Justice Minister, Santokhi of the Progressive Reform Party (PRP) was elected unopposed. He will succeed Desi Bouterse, a former military strongman, whose National Party of Suriname (NPS) lost the election in May as he sent the country to an economic precipice.
Brett Lee	SportsAdda - Brand ambassador	SportsAdda – Indian news and information website for cricket, football, and kabaddi, has signed former Australian fast bowler and cricket legend Brett Lee, as its brand ambassador.
Roshni Nadar Malhotra	chairman of HCL Tech	India’s wealthiest woman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra becomes the new chairman

		of Noida-based IT company, HCL Technologies. The appointment of non-executive director Roshni Nadar Malhotra to the new role takes effect immediately.
Ashwini Kumar Tewari	SBI Card – MD & CEO	He was nominated by parent State Bank of India for the position and his appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2020. The new appointment will be valid for two years.
Prabhjeet Singh	Uber India & South Asia President	Uber announced the appointment of Prabhjeet Singh as President Uber India and South Asia, tasked with overseeing the next phase of growth in the company's mobility business.
Ossouka Raponda	Prime minister - Gabon	Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda has been appointed as the first woman prime minister of Gabon. She is the 12th PM of the country and succeeds Julien Nkoghe Bekale.
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Ambassador of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)	Priyanka has joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFF. Bollywood filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has also been chosen for TIFF 2020.
Kulmeet Bawa	President and managing director – SAP	Based in Gurugram, Bawa will report to Scott Russell, president of SAP Asia Pacific & Japan (APJ).
Amudha	Joint Secretary in PMO	P. Amudha, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been brought to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as Joint Secretary in a reshuffle involving 16 officials of elite services from different categories.

Ramesh Boddu	MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank	Board of Directors of the Karur Vysya Bank has appointed Ramesh Babu Boddu as a Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the bank.
PC Kandpal	MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance	He is serving as the deputy CEO of SBI General Insurance since June 2019. He will replace Pushan Mahapatra who has been appointed as director (strategic investments & digital initiatives).
Sumit Deb	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC).	His tenure as the CMD of NMDC would be applicable till 28 February, 2023. He will succeed N Bajendra Kumar as the CMD of NMDC who will retire as CMD on 31st July 2020.
Sahil Seth	Honorary adviser to BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Sahil Seth has been appointed an honorary adviser to the steering committee for the BRICS Chamber of Commerce (CCI) young leaders for the period of 2020-2023.
Riva Ganguly Das	Secretary East in MEA	India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Riva Ganguly Das is appointed by the Government as the Secretary East, in the Ministry of External Affairs.
Naveen Tahilyani	MD & CEO - Tata AIA Life Ltd	Naveen Tahilyani has been appointed by Tata AIA Life Limited as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
Partha Pratim Sengupta	MD & CEO of IOB	He will replace Karnam Sekar, who retired from the post of the MD and CEO at IOB on June 30, 2020. Sengupta has been appointed upto a date of attaining the age of superannuation, December 31, 2022, or until further orders.

VR Chaudhary	chief of Western Air Command - Indian Air Force	Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhary has been named as the new head of Western Air Command of Indian Air Force, which looks after the country's defence in North India.
Rajesh Bhushan	Secretary - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Senior IAS officer Rajesh Bhushan, who was appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the central government in April this year.
Anandiben Patel	Governor of MP	This development comes after MP Governor Lalji Tandon passed away. The power conferred by Articles 155 and 160 of the Constitution was exercised by the President.
Govindan Rangarajan	IISc - Director	Professor Govindan Rangarajan has been formally appointed by the Governing Council of the Institute as the next Director of IISc with effect from 1 August.
Archana Soreng	UN chief to new advisory group	Indian climate activist, Archana Soreng has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders who will provide perspectives and solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis.
Pritam Singh	Singapore's First Leader Of Opposition In Parliament	Indian-origin politician Pritam Singh was designated as the Leader of the Opposition in Singapore, the first such appointment in the history of the city-state.
Hichem Mechichi	Prime Minister of Tunisia	He succeeded Elyes Fakhfakh, who resigned over allegations of a conflict of interest. He has a month to form a government.

MA Hampiholi	Charge as commandant of INA	He has replaced the Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM who served as the Commandant, Indian Naval Academy (INA) from 12 June 2019 to 27 July 2020.
Varun Sridhar	Paytm Money – CEO	He will replace former MD and CEO Pravin Jadhav who resigned from the startup due to differences with the management of Paytm.
N. Sivaraman	MD and Group CEO - ICRA	He succeeds former MD and Group CEO Naresh Takkar. The post has been left vacant for one year after the termination of Naresh Takar in August 2019.
Hardik Satishchandra Shah	Private Secretary to PM Modi	2010-batch IAS officer, Hardik Satishchandra Shah has been appointed the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on co-terminus basis.
Babita Phogat, Kavita Devi	Haryana sports deputy directors	Commonwealth Games medalist Babita Phogat and Kabaddi player Kavita Devi have been appointed as deputy directors in the Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Haryana.

Banking & Finance

RBI to conduct fresh OMO Operations for Government Securities

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced fresh **Open Market Operations (OMO)** for the sale and purchase of Government Securities. The RBI will conduct the sale and purchase of government securities on July 2, 2020 of **Rs 10,000 crore** each.

The RBI took the decision after considering the current liquidity and market situation. Here in this article, we have explained what is OMO, why RBI conducts the OMO, what is operation twist and other details related to the Open Market Operations.

Visa partners with Federal Bank for rolling out Visa Secure for e-commerce

Visa, a global leader in payments technology has tied-up with Federal Bank to launch “**Visa Secure**” to the bank’s cardholders. “Visa Secure” is a modernized technology that provides a **quicker and frictionless checkout experience to the consumers**.

Adoption of new improved technology will enable the bank to focus on customer-centric digital solutions that make online shopping experiences seamless.

FamPay launches ‘numberless card’ for teenagers

India’s first Neobank for teenagers, FamPay has launched **India’s first numberless card, “FamCard”**. Teenagers can now use FamCard like a debit card to make payments independently, without asking parents for physical cash or their debit/credit card.

Bank of Baroda launches paperless ‘Insta Click Savings Account’

Bank of Baroda has launched ‘**Insta Click Savings Account**’, a digital self-assisted online savings account, for all its customers. The bank’s Insta Click Savings Account will offer innovative digital offerings for customers, from the comfort of their homes.

IRCTC & SBI Card launches Co-branded Contactless Credit Card

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and SBI Card has launched a new Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on **RuPay** Platform.

The card was revealed by Union Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, **Shri Piyush Goyal**. The newly launched card aims to ensure a safe, convenient and improved travel experience for the rail passengers.

Bharti AXA General Insurance starts ‘Bohot Zaroori Hai’ campaign

Zaroori Hai for farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka to encourage them about their yield protection and financial security. It includes Ahmednagar, Nashik, Chandrapur, Solapur, Jalgaon and Satara in Maharashtra and Dharwad, Mysuru and Kodagu in Karnataka.

HDFC Bank launches ‘e-Kisaan Dhan’ app for farmers

HDFC Bank announced the launch of ‘e-Kisaan Dhan’ app for farmers allover India. Through this app the farmers will be able to access a bouquet of services, both banking and agriculture, through their mobile phones.

The app is a one stop solution for all the information needed on agriculture practices by the farmers.

Fino Payments Bank launches ‘Bhavishya’ savings account for minors

Fino Payments Bank Limited announced the launch of a savings account scheme for minors aged between 10-18 years. ‘**Bhavishya**’, a subscription-based savings account, can be opened by paying a nominal amount.

The bank will initially introduce the Bhavishya savings account in UP, Bihar, and MP and gradually in other states.

Karur Vysya Bank forms partnership with Bajaj Allianz Life

Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has entered into a corporate agency partnership with Bajaj Allianz Life to offer the **life insurance solutions of the latter to its customers**. The insurer’s products will be available at the bank’s 780 branch offices across the country.

AIIB releases \$50 mn to L&T infra finance

L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (LTIFCL) said it has received the first tranche of **USD 50 million** of the total USD 100-million ECB loan from the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**. AIIB is a multilateral development bank that invests in sustainable infrastructure.

Amazon Pay ties up with Acko to sell auto insurance

Digital payments major, Amazon Pay has launched vehicle insurance in partnership with Bengaluru-based startup **Acko General Insurance**. Amazon Pay, which is the payments unit of Amazon India, will help customers purchase insurance effortlessly and Amazon Prime members will get extra benefits including additional discounts.

Muthoot Fincorp launches portal “Restartindia” for MSMEs

A portal “**Restartindia**” has been launched by the Kerala-based NBFC, Muthoot Fincorp. The portal has been launched for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in order to restart businesses across the country.

It will provide solutions for problems faced by a large number of women entrepreneurs and will majorly focus on nano and micro enterprises. Muthoot Fincorp and INKtalks, a free and open platform for advisory support, have jointly conceptualised the portal.

IMF Grants \$4.3 bn to S. Africa in biggest COVID-19 loan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved **USD 4.3 billion to S. Africa** in emergency funding, the largest amount is given to any country yet to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The funds “support the authorities’ efforts in addressing the challenging health situation and economic impact of the COVID-19 shock”. South Africa is the worst-hit country in the continent with over 4,50,000 cases.

Indian Affairs

MyGov Corona Helpdesk received CogX 2020 award

Artificial Intelligence-enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk received two awards at the CogX 2020 is held annually in London, the UK. CogX is a prestigious Global Leadership Summit and Festival of AI & Emerging Technology. MyGov Corona was awarded under the categories ‘Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society’ and ‘People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner’.

RRI introduces QKDSim toolkit to ensure safety in secure quantum communication platforms

Researchers from **Raman Research Institute (RRI)**, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has launched **Quantum Key Distribution or QKD**. The qkdSim simulation toolkit aims to ensure safety in secure quantum communication platforms.

Indian oil, NTPC Ltd, and SDMC signed MoU for Waste to Energy plant in Delhi

A Memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Waste to Energy plant at Okhla, Delhi, between Indian Oil, NTPC Ltd and South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on 30 June 2020.

Under the MoU, **IndianOil, SDMC, and NTPC** will jointly develop a demonstration **Waste-to-energy Plant at Okhla** landfill site in Delhi, using Gasification technology.

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched BIS Mobile App BIS-Care

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution **Ram Vilas Paswan** launched the Bureau of Indian Standard’s Mobile App **BIS-Care** on 27 July.

He also launched three portals namely the Standardization, Conformity Assessment, and Training Portals of e-BIS on www.manakonline.in for consumers.

ADB, IEA Renew Collaborative Agreement on Energy Sector Sustainability

ADB has renewed an MOU with IEA to scale up collaboration and advance progress on sustainability with an increased focus on energy sector resilience in APAC.

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced that it has renewed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** to scale up collaboration and advance progress on sustainability with an increased focus on energy sector resilience in Asia and the Pacific.

Indian Railways on mission to become ‘Green Railway’ by 2030

The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by 2030. The Ministry of Railways has taken a number of major initiatives towards mitigation of global warming and combating climate change.

Adani Ports signs up for Science-Based Targets initiative

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has become the first Indian port to sign the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

After signing up for the SBTi, APSEZ has committed to set up science-based emissions reduction targets across their entire value chain. These targets would be consistent with keeping global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

HRD Minister releases ‘Pragyata’ guidelines for online education

Union Human Resource Development Ministry has released ‘Pragyata’ guidelines for Digital Education. As per the guidelines, online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes.

It further mentions that two online sessions of up to 30-45 minutes each should be conducted for classes 1 to 8 and four sessions for classes 9 to 12.

NABARD organised ‘Digital Choupal’ to mark its 39th foundation day

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) organised its first ‘Digital Choupal’ to mark its 39th foundation day. “Digital Choupal” was conducted in the form of a video conference which was attended by participants of different projects initiated by NABARD, to share their experiences about the projects they are involved in.

Worlds First Reusable PPE Kits by Indian Manufacturing Company

Indian Manufacturing Company- Loyal Textile Mills launched the first of its kind in the world-wide reusable **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) kits** on 9th July 2020. Along with reusable PPE kits, **Loyal Textile Mills** also unveiled reusable garments and face masks with zero virus penetration.

The reusable masks, clothing and PPE kits were introduced by Loyal Textile Mills in partnership with the textile manufacturing company headquartered in Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland- HeiQ Materials AG.

India has become the Second Largest Source of FDI for the United Kingdom

The statistics for the number of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** projects in the Financial Year 2019-20 in the United Kingdom was released on 10th July 2020 by the United Kingdom Government’s **Department for International Trade (DIT)**. As per the Figures provided by DIT, the second-largest source of FDI in the United Kingdom is now from India.

India’s First State-Level ‘E-Lok Adalat’ conducted by Chhattisgarh High Court

Despite the cancellation of the 3rd National **Lok Adalat** of the year 2020 scheduled to be held on 11th July 2020, the first State Level ‘**E-Lok Adalat**’ of India was conducted successfully on 11th July 2020. The Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court P.R. Ramachandra Menon inaugurated the first State Level E-Lok Adalat of India from the Conference Hall of the Chhattisgarh State’s High Court in Bilaspur district.

Fourth Cycle of All India Tiger Estimation 2018 enters Guinness Book of World Records

For being the World's Largest Camera Trapping Wildlife Survey, the Fourth Cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018 has made it to the Guinness Book of World Records. Every four year since 2006, All India Tiger Estimation has been conducted in India.

The 2018 Estimation was the fourth cycle in overall. Earlier from the first, second, and third cycles were conducted in the years 2006, 2010 and 2014 respectively.

First Edition of 'Matsya Sampada' launched by Union Minister

The first edition of Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter was launched. The name of the newsletter is '**Matsya Sampada**'. The newsletter was launched by the Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, **Giriraj Singh**.

From the first quarter of 2020-21, newsletter Matsya Sampada will be published on a quarterly basis. The operational guidelines for the PMMSY scheme have also been published in the first edition of the newsletter.

Unique Urban Forest inaugurated at the Office of CAG in New Delhi

Keeping in mind its community responsibilities towards the increasing cause of concern from the degrading Air Quality Index (AQI) in the National Capital over the years, an Urban Forest will be established in the Office Park of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for India at New Delhi.

The Urban Park was inaugurated on 2nd July 2020 by the **Prakash Javadekar (Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change)**.

Govt launches AI-based ASEEM digital platform

The Ministry of Skilled Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on July 10 launched Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) digital portal which will help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020 launched

For supporting the drug discovery process, a national initiative called Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020 was launched on 2nd July 2020. The initiative was launched by **Ramesh Pokhriyal (Union Human Resource Development Minister)** and **Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Science and Technology)**.

17 days 'Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao' Campaign in New Delhi from 10th July

A mega tree plantation drive has been announced by the Delhi Government on 2nd July 2020. The name of the campaign is '**Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao**' meaning '**Plant Trees, Save Environment**'. The campaign will begin on 10th July 2020 and will continue until 26th July 2020.

Indian Railways will be the largest Railway in world to have 100 per cent electrification by 2030: Piyush Goyal

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has said that Indian Railways will be the largest Railway in the world to have 100 per cent electrification replacing diesel. He expressed hope that it will be **the world's first Green Railways running on 100 per cent clean energy by 2030.**

Addressing the India Global Week-2020, he said, the government has opened up for bidding for additional 151 trains inviting private participation so the passengers can enjoy world-class facilities and high speed journeys.

USAID & MNRE partners for clean energy development

The **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** and the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has announced a partnership for clean energy development. The partnership has been established between the USAID-supported South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE) and MNRE's National Technical Institutions.

As per the partnership, SAGE will offer advanced technical knowledge on clean energy development to MNRE's National Technical Institutions. SAGE will also help US in achieving its goals of Asia **EDGE (Asia Enhancing Growth and Development through Energy Initiative).**

India celebrates 21st anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

The nation is observing the 21st anniversary of **Kargil Vijay Diwas** (July 26), remembering its brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives to uphold and safeguard the integrity of the nation.

This day commemorates the success of **"Operation Vijay"** which was launched by the Indian Army to recapture the Indian territories captured by the Pakistani intruders in the Kargil-Drass sector in 1999.

HRD Ministry to be renamed as Ministry of Education

Ministry of Human Resource Development has been renamed as **Ministry of Education.** The Union Cabinet has approved the change in the name of the ministry. The HRD Ministry is currently headed by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

PM Modi launches Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 4 launched the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' to help the local developers to create indigenous apps.

The innovation challenge aims at encouraging tech & startup communities to create world-class Made in India Apps. Under the challenge, innovators are invited to develop apps in eight categories.

The App innovation challenge has been launched in the combined partnership of the **Ministry of Electronics &IT and Atal Innovation Mission-Niti Aayog.**

Union HRD minister launched Fit Hai to Hit Hai India for school children

Union Minister of Human Resource Development **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** and Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs **Shri Kiren Rijiju** launched the “**Fit Hai To Hit Hai India**” program under the Fit India campaign. The Fit India Talks sessions are being organized in association with the Sports Authority of India and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Exceptional Operational Efficiency from NTPC Singrauli

NTPC Singrauli Unit 1, the oldest NTPC unit has emerged as the **country’s top-performing unit in the first quarter of the financial year**, according to data released by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**. The station’s first unit began generating on 13 February 1982 and continues to serve the country with exceptional results.

India’s first trans-shipment hub in Cochin port, Kerala

The Minister of State for Shipping **Shri Manasukh Mandaviya** reviewed the development activities of **Vallarpadam terminal at Cochin**. The terminal accommodates **India’s first trans-shipment hub**. A Trans-Shipments Hub handles containers and stores them temporarily. Later it transfers them to other ships for onward destination.

Schemes for promotion of Bulk Drugs & Medical Devices Parks

Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers **Shri DV Sadananda Gowda** has launched four schemes for the **promotion of domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices parks** in the country.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals has formulated four schemes, two each for Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices parks. These schemes will work towards the development of Indian pharmaceutical capacities and reduce India’s dependence on imports, making it self-reliant.

Sports Ministry to launch TOPS for Junior Athletes

The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Kiren Rijiju** on July 3 announced that the government will launch **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** for the **junior athletes**. The scheme will groom the junior athletes for 2024 and 2028 Olympics.

The announcement was made by the union minister during the ‘Fit Hai to Hit Hai India’ webinar which was attended by Indian Shuttler **PV Sindhu**, Union Human Resources Development Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** and Indian football team skipper **Sunil Chhetri**.

President inaugurated Dhamma Chakra Day 2020 celebrations on 4th July

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated **Dhamma Chakra Day 2020** celebrations on 4th July 2020. The day is celebrated to mark Buddha’s First Sermon to his first 5 ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, Rsiapatana in the present-day Sarnath near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Dhamma Chakra Day is celebrated by Buddhists across the world as the day of Dharma Chakra Parvattana or “**Turning of the Wheel of Dharma**”.

AIR to broadcast its first-ever ‘News Magazine’ programme in Sanskrit

The All India Radio (AIR) will broadcast its first- ever ‘News Magazine’ programme in Sanskrit which will have news from the world of Sanskrit and prominent developments of the week, a statement said.

The programme titled, ‘**Sanskrit Saptahiki**’, will be of 20 minutes duration. It can be heard on All India Radio FM News Channel (100.1 MHz frequency) every Saturday with a repeat broadcast on Sundays.

Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated World Class State of the Art Honey Testing Lab

Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the ‘**World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory**’ in Anand, Gujarat through Video Conference.

The laboratory was established by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) with support of the National Bee Board (NBB). The move is in line with PM Narendra Modi’s vision to bring sweet revolution in India.

CSIR, UBA-IIT Delhi, Vijnana Bharati sign a tripartite MoU to adopt CSIR technologies for rural development

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan-Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (UBA-IITD), and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi. Under the MoU, it is expected to lay the foundation for cooperation and joint action in the area of UBA for rural development of India.

Vice President of India to launch Elyments, First Indian Social Media Super App

Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu is to launch Elyments, the first Indian Social Media Super App, on 5th July 2020. More than 1000 IT professionals jointly created the indigenous first social media super-app.

About Elyments –

- Elyments was built with an aim to **keep the user’s privacy in mind, as a primary concern.**
- The product was designed by India’s top privacy professionals.
- Data of users will be stored in the app and will never be shared with a third party without the user’s explicit consent.
- The app is available in **more than eight Indian languages.**

Quidich announced successful completion of India’s First NPNT Complaint Drone Flight

Mumbai based Quidich Innovation Labs Private Limited has announced that it has successfully completed the first No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) compliant drone flight of India.

The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** identified the green field near **Karnataka's Tumkur** were the first NPNT compliant drone flight of India was carried out. The drone used for the flight is an Asteria Aerospace (Bengaluru based company) manufactured A200 micro drone.

PM to Inaugurate Asia's Largest Solar Plant on 10th July

Through video conferencing, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the 750 MW Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant on 10th July 2020. This was informed on 5th July 2020 by the **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. To date, the 750 MW Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Project is the **largest single-site solar power projects in India and also in Asia**.

World's Largest COVID-19 Treatment Facility Inaugurated in New Delhi

10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in New Delhi on 5th July 2020. To date, SPCCCH is the World's largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility. It was inaugurated by **Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal**.

Himalayan butterfly is India's largest Butterfly

The Himalayan butterfly named **Golden Birdwing** has become **India's largest butterfly** and broke the record set by an unknown specimen, which was held for 88 years. The unknown specimen was recorded by a British Army officer Brigadier William Harry Evans in 1932.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates six new bridges in Jammu Division of Union Territory of J&K

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **six new bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in the Jammu Division of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through Video Conference. Minister of State, PMO, Dr. Jatinder Singh, Chief of the Army Staff M. M. Naravane, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and other senior officers were present during the occasion in New Delhi.

Centre approves Rs. 107 crores for the firefighting facilities at Haldia dock in Kolkata

The central government on July 14 announced that it has approved **Rs. 107 crores** for the modern and advanced firefighting facilities at the **Haldia dock complex of Kolkata Port**.

The new modern facilities will ensure safe cargo operations, especially petrochemical goods. Kolkata port is counted as one of the **top 12 major ports in the country**.

“Manodarpan” initiative to be launched by Ministry of HRD

Ministry of Human Resources and Development will launch **“Manodarpan”** initiative under **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**. The initiative is being launched to provide psychosocial support to the students for their mental well being.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into force in India

The **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** has been implemented in **India since 20th July 2020**. It has replaced Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

The new act has been introduced to offer protection to buyers from traditional sellers as well as from the new e-commerce retailers/platforms. It will protect the consumer rights through its various notified Rules and provisions and will empower consumers and hence help them in protecting their rights.

Union Cabinet approves Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 8, 2020 approved the new pan-India central sector scheme-Agriculture Infrastructure Fund. The scheme will provide a medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in eligible projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.

Zonal Master Plan of Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone approved

Union Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar informed that the Zonal Master Plan of Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone has been approved.

The announcement was made by the minister during a review meeting of “Chardhaam Road Project” in the state of Uttarakhand. The plan was prepared by the Government of Uttarakhand and was appraised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Cochin Shipyard signed agreement to build autonomous electric ferries for Norway

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has signed a contract with ASKO Maritime AS, Norway, a subsidiary of NorgesGruppen, to build autonomous electric ferries. The agreement paves way for the construction and supply of the two autonomous electric ferries along with an option to build two more identical vessels

ICAT launches an e-portal “ASPIRE”

An e-Portal named “**Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)**” has been launched by the **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)**.

The portal has been launched to improve the technological capability of Indian automotive sector with the help of exchange of knowledge & expertise, to make them self reliant and to enable the growth of automobile sector including overall socio-economic progress of the country.

A book titled “Suraj Kade Marda Nahi” authored by Baldev Singh Sadaknama

Sahitya Akademi Award winner, Baldev Singh Sadaknama has authored a book ‘**Suraj Kade Marda Nahi**’ (sun never dies). The book portrays many aspects of freedom fighter Udhm Singh.

The book is published by Unistarbooks. The book has been released and will be formally launched on July 31, 2020. Udhm Singh 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31, 2020.

India's first public EV Charging Plaza inaugurated in Delhi

India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza has been inaugurated by the Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, R.K Singh at Chelmsford Club in New Delhi.

The public EV Charging Plaza has been established by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to make e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India.

India to have 60% renewable energy by 2030, says power minister

India will have around **60 per cent** of its installed electricity generation capacity from clean sources by 2030, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister **R K Singh** said. The minister also exuded confidence that the renewable energy capacity would touch **510 GW by 2030**, including **60 GW of hydro power**.

In September last year at the United Nations Climate Action Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced increasing the renewable energy target to 450 GW by 2030 from 175 GW by 2022.

Sonu Sood launches 'Pravasi Rojgar' app to help migrants

Bollywood actor, **Sonu Sood** has launched '**Pravasi Rojgar**' app to help migrants to **find job opportunities across India**. The initiative will be supported by community outreach in the villages to find the right employment opportunities for migrant workers in different parts of the country.

State Related Affairs

‘Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya’ campaign in Madhya Pradesh from 6th July

To take care of the academic regularity of the school students in the state, the School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh has prepared a digital campaign named ‘Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya’ meaning **My Home My School** for providing a school-like environment to the students of classes 1 to 8 in the state during the corona crisis. The campaign will **begin on 6th July 2020**.

Chhattisgarh govt launches “Godhan Nyay Yojna”

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, **Bhupesh Baghel** has launched “**Godhan Nyay Yojna**”. The scheme will help to promote cattle rearing, ensure the safety of livestock, help cattle ranchers earn extra income, help in tackling the problem of open grazing by stray cattle and encourage the use of organic fertilizers as well as boost rural economy among other things.

Rajasthan launches campaign to ensure purity of milk, dairy products

A week-long campaign has been launched in Rajasthan to ensure purity of milk and its products, state health minister Raghu Sharma said. Samples of milk and dairy products will be collected under the campaign “**Pure for Sure**” from July 8-July 14, he said.

All the necessary equipments and facilities are being provided to all the food safety officers, he added.

Delhi Cabinet approves “Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana”

Delhi Cabinet has approved ‘**Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana**’, which will be launched in six to seven months and will be linked to Centre’s ‘one nation, one ration card’ scheme. The scheme will help the beneficiaries get ration delivered at home. They will not have to come to the ration shops.

MP govt to run ‘Roko -Toko’ campaign for those who do not wear masks

In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a **Roko -Toko means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks**. As the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of Rs 20 per mask from the concerned.

Madhya Pradesh Tops in Implementation of PM SVANidhi: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh’s Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed the Street Vendors in the State on 12th July 2020 through video conferencing.

He informed that Madhya Pradesh so far has topped in implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) by sanctioning an interest-free loan of around Rs 15.50 crore to 15,500 street vendors in the state.

Tamil Nadu Government signs 8 MoUs of Rs 10,399 crores

The Tamil Nadu State Government signed eight new **Memorandum of Understanding of Rs 10,399 crores**. The MoUs will bring investments in the areas of solar cells, agrotech, iron foundry and module manufacturing.

In order to monitor the projects, the state government is to setup a Special Investment Promotion Task Force. The chief Secretary of the state is to chair the task force.

Arunachal Pradesh plans 100% tap connections by 2023

Arunachal Pradesh Government has decided to provide 100% tap water connections to all the households in the state by 2023 under Jal Jeevan Mission, the flagship programme of Government, which aims to provide safe drinking water to all.

In hilly areas, it is a huge burden on the women of the household to go and fetch water from a distance, which takes a heavy toll on their body. To reduce their drudgery, this mission has come as a boon and aims to provide potable water to every rural household in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality on a regular and long-term basis.

Zoram Mega food park launched in Mizoram, 5,000 jobs to be created

The Union Food Processing Minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated a **mega food park in Mizoram** on July 21, 2020 that will benefit around **25,000 farmers** and generate around **5,000 job opportunities**.

The Minister virtually inaugurated the park in the presence of Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Rameswar Tel and DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh and other senior Ministers of Mizoram.

Kerala announces ‘Dream Kerala Project’ aimed at aiding returning expats

The Kerala government has announced “**Dream Kerala Project**” to tap the potential and experience of those **returning from abroad and other states after losing their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic**. The project aims at the rehabilitation of returning expatriates and the state’s overall development.

Tamil Nadu govt announces monthly stipend of Rs. 3000 for the lawyers

Tamil Nadu government on July 2 announced a monthly stipend of **Rs. 3000** for the lawyers for the time period of two years. The decision has been taken to help them overcome financial difficulties at the time of the crisis.

The announced stipend was the long-standing demand of the **Bar Council of Tamil Nadu**. The state government has also been implementing an Advocates Welfare Scheme for more than three decades.

Gujarat’s Zoya Khan becomes India’s 1st transgender operator of CSC

Union IT Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** announced that **Zoya Khan** is **India's first transgender operator of a Common Service Centre (CSC)** from Vadodara, Gujarat. "She has started CSC work with tele-medicine consultation," said Prasad on Twitter. "Her vision is to support transgender community in making them digitally literate and give them better opportunities," he added.

Maharashtra Government and UKIBC signs MoU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed virtually on 4th July 2020 between the non-profit organization UKIBC- UK India Business Council and the MIDC-Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. MIDC is the Maharashtra Government's premier agency for industrial infrastructure development.

8th July: Rythu Dinotsavam (Farmer's Day) in Andhra Pradesh

The birth anniversary of Former and the **14th Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S Rajasekhara Reddy** is celebrated as Rythu Dinotsavam meaning **Farmer's Day**. The day was first celebrated in 2019 when the current Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy issued a government order designating the day as Farmer's Day in Andhra Pradesh.

Himachal first state where everyone has an LPG connection: CM

Himachal Pradesh has become the **first state in the country** where **all households have LPG gas connections**, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has announced.

Pointing out that as many as 1.36 lakh families of the state have been benefitted under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna, he said collecting fuelwood and cooking food on traditional gas was not only cumbersome but also had adverse effects on the health of the women as well as on environment as lakhs of trees were cut for fuelwood.

U.P Chief Minister Inaugurates 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated a programme under which the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has set a target to **plant more than 25 crore sapling across the state**.

The name of the mega plantation programme is 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'. Yogi Adityanath planted 3 saplings at the Kukrail Reserve Forest's Harishankari Vatika in Lucknow to inaugurate the **Mission Vriksharopan-2020**. He planted saplings of a Banyan tree, Ficus Virens and Ficus Religiosa.

'Intzaar Aap Ka' Social Media Campaign by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board

In order to attract tourists in the state, the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has started a social media campaign. The name of the campaign is '**Intzaar Aap Ka**' meaning '**Waiting for You**'. The campaign will be conducted by describing the characteristics of the tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh through photographs and videos.

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to be upgraded into a National Park

After months of Controversy, the **Assam State Government** has decided for the up-gradation of the status of the **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to National Park**. The decision was taken on 6th July 2020 and was announced by the Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal.

Rajasthan launches the first plasma bank of the state

Rajasthan Government is to set up the **first plasma bank** of the state in Jaipur. The first ever plasma bank of India was established in Delhi. Following Delhi, the state governments of Kerala, Odisha started plasma banks. Maharashtra Government recently announced that about its launch of plasma banks in Malegaon and Dharavi.

Haryana to host Khelo India Youth Games 2021

Haryana Chief Minister, **Manohar Lal Khattar**, and the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Kiren Rijiju** on July 25 announced that Haryana will host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG). The games are currently scheduled to take place after Tokyo Olympics.

Karnataka launches Weavers' Sammaan Yojana

The State Government has allocated **10.96 crore** rupees under the programme. There are 40,634 handloom weavers registered with Seva Sindhu software. Out of them 37,314 applications for financial assistance have been approved. Chief Minister said that all the eligible handloom weavers will be given financial assistance under Weavers Sammaan Yojana.

Odisha becomes First State in India to Use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for Safeguarding Government Lands

To monitor all Government lands in the state capital Bhubaneswar, web and mobile-based solution named '**BLUIS**'- **Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System** was launched on 8th July 2020.

The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik launched BLUIS. BLUIS was launched due to the lack of adequate transparency and accountability in the current manual mode of mechanism that is being used for decades for the detection of encroachments in government lands.

UP Govt launches "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for SCs

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched "**Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana**" for all-round **development of the Scheduled Castes**.

He also transferred financial assistance of 17.42 crore online to 3,484 people under the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana' and interacted with some beneficiaries from Rae Bareli, Gorakhpur, Basti, Meerut, Azamgarh and Moradabad districts through video conferencing.

International Affairs

World's first-ever Online B.Sc. Degree in Programming and Data Science launched by IIT Madras

The World's first-ever Online B.Sc. Degree in Programming and Data Science is prepared and to be offered by the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras**. The Online Course was launched through a virtual event by the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** on 30th June 2020.

Uganda becomes the first African country to submit REDD+ results to the UNFCCC

Uganda has become the first African country to submit REDD+ results to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), paving the way to potential results-based payments.

In its recent submission of the REDD+ Technical Annex to the biennial update report (BUR), a reporting requirement for results-based payments, Uganda submitted Emission Reductions of 8 million tCO₂ for 2016-2017.

Bangladesh launches "Digital Haat" for sacrificial animals

'Digital Haat' platform has been launched by the **government of Bangladesh** for online sale and purchase of sacrificial animals ahead of the festival of Eid-ul-Azha.

The platform has been launched to save the cattle farmers and traders from financial loss amid the Corona pandemic. It also aims to avoid crowding in order to stop further transmission of the COVID-19 in the country.

Russian COVID Vaccine: Russia becomes first nation to complete clinical trials of Coronavirus vaccine

Russia has become the first nation to successfully complete the human trials of COVID vaccine. Russia's COVID vaccine has proven to be effective, as per the results of the trials.

Chief Researcher **Elena Smolyarchuk** informed on July 12, 2020 that the human trials of Russia's COVID vaccine have been completed and the volunteers will be discharged soon. Smolyarchuk is the head of Center for Clinical Research on Medications at Russia's Sechenov University.

China's Kuaizhou-11 rocket fails hours after Long March booster soars to space

China confirmed its **Kuaizhou-11 rocket** failed after launching (July 10) from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The cause for failure is currently being evaluated.

This failure comes just one day after the country launched another rocket type successfully from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest Sichuan China.

Singapore PM Lee returns to power with 'clear mandate'

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has secured a “clear mandate” with his ruling People’s Action Party (PAP) winning 83 of the 93 contested parliamentary seats in the general election held amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Opposition gaining ground by winning a record 10 seats.

The ruling party, in power since independence in 1965, secured 61.24 per cent of the total votes cast in the election, down from 69.9 per cent in 2015. About 2.6 million Singaporeans voted.

China plans to build 6-8 nuclear reactors a year till 2025

China plans to build **six to eight nuclear reactors per year between 2020 and 2025** to raise its total capacity to 70 gigawatts, 43.5 percent up from the end of May 2020, as per reports.

According to China’s Nuclear Energy Association, the nation’s total installed nuclear capacity will be 52 GW by the end of 2020. The earlier set target for 2020 was 58 GW target.

46 million girls went missing in India, says UNFPA report

Among the 142 million women “missing” globally, over 46 million are in India, a UN health agency said. According to the **United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA)**, the “missing females” are women cumulatively missing from the population due to postnatal and prenatal sex selection.

The State of World Population 2020 report of UNFPA said India has the highest rate of excess female deaths (13.5 per 1,000 female births), suggesting that an estimated one in nine deaths of females below five may be attributed to postnatal sex selection.

United States submits notice to U.N Secretary-General to withdraw from WHO by 6th July 2021

The formal notification to the United States Congress was provided on 7th July 2020 by President Donald Trump-led Administration on the decision of ending the United States relations with the World Health Organization (WHO: Specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for public health globally).

As per the notification, the United States Government has submitted its notice to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to withdraw from the WHO by the 6th of July 2021.

World’s Second Largest Tier IV Designed Data Centre ‘NM1’ Inaugurated at Navi Mumbai

India’s & Asia’s Largest and World’s Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated virtually on 7th July 2020. The Data Centre is named ‘Yotta NM1 or NM1’ is located inside the 600-Acre Hiranandani Fortune City at **Navi Mumbai’s Panvel region**.

Inside the Hiranandani Fortune City, a Data Centre Park named Panvel Data Centre Park or Integrated Yotta Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park has been developed, NM1 is located inside the Panvel Data Centre Park.

Sri Lanka and Maldives becomes the First Two Countries from South-East Asia Region of WHO to Eliminate Both Rubella and Measles

Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) has announced on 8th July 2020 that Sri Lanka and the Maldives have eliminated Rubella Virus. With this, **Sri Lanka and the Maldives** became the **first two countries from the South East Asia Region** of WHO to have successfully eliminated both the Measles and Rubella Virus.

Google Plus relaunched by Google as “Google Currents”

“Google+” a social networking platform of internet search giant “Google” has been rebranded as “**Google Currents**”. Google Currents is a platform which enables its users to **connect with their colleagues, exchange documents** and interact with like-minded people who have similar interests. It also helps the users to track what is happening in other departments across the organisation. Presently, the app is only available for the G Suite customers.

Pakistan, China sign agreement for “Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project”

Pakistan and China have signed an agreement for the **700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project** on the Jhelum river in **Sudhoti district** of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The \$1.5-billion project is the second power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The first agreement, for the 1,100 MW Kohala project, was signed on June 23. That project, worth \$2.3 billion, too will come upon the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad.

Nicaragua becomes the 87th Country to sign ISA agreement

The Central American country, Republic of **Nicaragua** became the **87th country** to sign the **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement**. The agreement was signed by the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations Jaime Hermida Castillo at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York.

Foreign Relation

India-Bangladesh form 50:50 Joint Venture Company for LPG business in Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh signed an agreement for the formation of a **50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) for LPG business in Bangladesh.**

The agreement was signed between the IOC Middle East FZE, Dubai, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and RR Holdings Ltd., Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, the holding company of Beximco LPG of Bangladesh.

5 MoUs Signed between India and Afghanistan for Developing Educational Infrastructure

In Afghanistan's Capital City **Kabul**, on 5th July 2020, 5 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed under the **High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP)** programme. The 5 MoUs consisted of Tripartite Agreements that were signed between the Government of India, Afghanistan's Ministry of Economy and Afghanistan's Ministry of Education.

India-EU Summit to be held in virtual mode on July 15

India-European Union Summit will be held in a virtual mode on July 15, 2020. The summit was scheduled to take place earlier this year but was postponed because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The **15th edition of the summit** will be co-chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, President of the European Commission **Ursula Von der Leyen**, and President of the European Council **Charles Michel**.

Iran drops India from Chahbahar Rail Project, reports funding delay

India has been dropped out from the construction of a railway line **from Chahbahar port to Zahedan**, along the border with Afghanistan, as the Iranian government has decided to proceed with the construction on its own.

The agreement was signed by **Iran and India four years ago** to build a railway line. As per the Iranian government, the decision has been taken **because of the delay in funding** and the start of the project from the Indian government.

India-Israel sign agreements on Cyber Security

India and Israel signed agreements to expand their collaboration in dealing with **cyber threats**. The agreement was signed between Director General of Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD) and India's Ambassador to Israel Sanjeev Singla.

Finance Minister attends 3rd G20 FMCBG Meet

The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held under the Saudi Arabian Presidency through Video Conferencing. India was represented by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in the meeting. During the meet, the participants deliberated on the global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 pandemic crisis along with other **G20 Finance Track priorities for the year 2020**.

India-Maldives sign agreement to establish “Emergency Medical Services”

India and Maldives have signed an agreement for the establishment of ‘**Emergency Medical Services**’ in Male, Maldives. The Emergency Medical Service is financed by India under grant assistance of 20 million USD for neighbouring countries.

This will help to increase the collaboration between the countries, especially in the areas of health care facilities, disaster responses during critical times, etc.

India-US conduct PASSEX Exercise

The **US Navy carrier USS Nimitz** conducted maritime drills with Indian warships in the Middle East. The **PASSEX exercise** comes during a period when India and China are locked in tensed border.

The USS Nimitz (world’s largest aircraft carrier) was on its way from South China Sea. The naval carrier recently participated in the military exercise conducted in the South China sea along with USS Ronald Reagan.

India agrees for \$400 million currency swap with Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka agreed for **US \$400 million currency swap agreement**. The agreement signed by Reserve Bank of India extends the swap facility for Sri Lanka till November 2022.

The development comes as a relief to Sri Lanka amidst COVID-19 and will help in its post-pandemic economic recovery.

India extended medical assistance worth about USD 1 million to North Korea

Government of India (GoI) has sent **\$1 million** worth of anti-tuberculosis medicine to **North Korea** per a request from the World Health Organization (WHO).

India has extended medical assistance worth about \$1 million to North Korea in response to a request received from WHO. The information was announced by the Union Ministry of External Affairs.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB

Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman attended the **5th Annual Meeting** of the **Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** through video conference in New Delhi on 28 July.

- The Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors (BoG) meet to take key decisions that impact the Bank's future every year.
- The ministers discussed the meeting broadly covered official business including the election of the President of the AIIB.
- The discussion was based on the theme '**AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade**'.

Indian government hands over 10 diesel locomotives to Bangladesh

India handed over 10 diesel locomotives to **Bangladesh** on July 27, 2020. The move will provide the neighboring country mobility solutions for both the intra-country and inter-country movement.

The virtual event of handing over the locomotives was flagged off in the presence of Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal and his Bangladeshi Counterpart Md Nurul Islam Sujon, External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar and his Bangladeshi counterpart, AK Abdul Momen and Suresh Angadi, Minister of State for Railways.

PM Narendra Modi, PM of Mauritius Mr.Pravind Jugnauth inaugurated the new SC Building

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building in Mauritius through video conference on 30 July. New Supreme Court building is first India assisted infrastructure project in Mauritius to be inaugurated after the Covid-19 pandemic.⁴

Ranks & Indices

India's foreign exchange reserves 5th largest in world

India's foreign exchange reserves, which currently stand at more than USD 500 billion, are the **fifth largest in the world after China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia**, as per the **International Monetary Fund**.

India's foreign exchange reserves are equivalent to almost one fifth of the country's gross domestic product. They are considered to be enough to cover 13 months of imports.

Germany is first major economy to phase out coal and nuclear

German lawmakers have finalized the country's long-awaited **phase-out of coal as an energy source**, backing a plan that environmental groups say isn't ambitious enough and free marketeers criticize as a waste of taxpayers' money.

Bills approved by both houses of parliament Friday envision shutting down the last coal-fired power plant by 2038 and spending some 40 billion euros (\$45 billion) to help affected regions cope with the transition.

Jaipur to get world's 3rd largest cricket stadium with 75,000 capacity

Jaipur shall soon be getting one of the largest cricket stadiums in the world, with a seating capacity to accommodate around **75,000 spectators**.

The world-class green stadium shall have modern grand pavilion stands, corporate boxes, plush sports field, modern club house and many other world class features for indoor games and sports training facilities, said Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) Secretary **Mahendra Sharma**.

Sharma informed that this will be the third largest stadium **after the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad** and the **Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia**. While Motera has a seating capacity of 1.10 lakh, the MCG can accommodate 1.02 lakh spectators.

India stands third largest contributor to e-waste in 2019, China tops: UN Report

A United Nations led report has found that **India is the third largest contributor to e-waste** in the world in 2019. As per the report titled 'Global E-waste Monitor 2020', the world dumped a record 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste in 2019. Of this, just 17.4 percent was recycled.

China was the biggest contributor to e-waste in the world, contributing 10.1 million tonnes of e-waste. **United States was second** with 6.9 million tonnes. India, with 3.2 million tonnes, was third.

India ranked 34th in JLL and LaSalle's biennial GRETI

Sustainability Initiatives and regulatory reforms have enhanced higher levels of transparency in the real estate industry of India as a result of which India improved its ranking to **34th place in the biennial Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRET)**.

Deepika becomes 3rd Indian to cross 50-million mark on Instagram

Actress Deepika Padukone crossed the 50 million followers mark on Instagram and became third Indian to do so. Cricketer **Virat Kohli (over 67 million)** and actress **Priyanka Chopra Jonas (over 54 million)** are the other two Indians who have more than 50 million followers on Instagram. Deepika is followed by Shraddha Kapoor with over 49 million followers.

Hyderabad Airport gets India's 1st contactless car parking

The GMR Hyderabad International Airport (GHIAL) has introduced **India's first-ever fully contactless airport car parking** to provide a safe airport amid COVID-19. GHIAL has also scaled up its NETC (National Electronic Toll Collection) FASTag Car Parking in collaboration with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).

Mahaveer: Book on 1962 Indo-China war becomes a bestseller

In the midst of the rising tensions between India and China, a novel that tells the tale of the Indo-Chinese battle of Nuranang in 1962 has been making headlines in the Indian publishing industry.

Authored by award-winning AK Srikumar along with his wife, Rupa Srikumar, the novel tells the tale of one of – Jaswant Singh Rawat, one of India's greatest soldiers from the war.

Tamil Nadu tops market borrowings among States so far, in 2020-21

According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Tamil Nadu has raised **₹30,500 crores** in the fiscal 2020-21 and has topped market borrowings among States in the country.

Tamil Nadu, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans), has been followed by Maharashtra ₹25,500 crores (14%), Andhra Pradesh ₹17,000 crores (9%) and Rajasthan ₹17,000 crores (9%).

India ranks eighth for cancer preparedness among 10 Asia-Pacific countries: EIU

India has been **ranked eighth for cancer preparedness** among 10 Asia-Pacific countries, according to a new report.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report on **“Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control”**, sponsored by Roche, examines the findings from the EIU's Index of Cancer Preparedness.

Himachal's Nadaun police station among best in country

Nadaun Police Station, Himachal Pradesh has been ranked as one of the **best Police Stations of the country** and the best Police Station of the State. Nadaun Police Station is situated at Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh.

The Certificate of Excellence was provided to this Police Station by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The ranking of police stations is carried out by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and the same was released by the Union Home Minister in a ceremony during DGPs Conference, recently.

India ranks 3rd in Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020

India is the third top-most country in the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020. The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield, to rank the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas, and the Asia-Pacific. Each of the countries has been assessed in four key areas: Bouncebackability, Conditions, Costs and Risks.

International Trade Union Confederation: India ranked among 10 worst countries for working people

The International Trade Union Confederation released its ranking of **144 countries** on degree of respect for workers' rights. Unfortunately, **India was among the least performing 10 countries in the list.**

The other least performing countries include Brazil, Bangladesh, Columbia, Kazakhstan, Honduras, Philippines, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Turkey.

India among top 10 countries gaining forest area in the world: FAO

India has **ranked third** among the **top 10 countries** that have **gained in forest areas in the last decade**, the latest **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)** brought out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has said.

FAO has brought out this comprehensive assessment every five years since 1990. This report assesses the state of forests, their conditions and management for all member countries.

Business

Intel Capital Invests Rs 1894.50 crore in Jio Platforms

United States-based Intel Corporation's investment arm Intel Capital will invest **Rs 1,894.50** crores in Reliance Industries Limited's (RIL's) subsidiary company Jio Platform. The announcement was made by Reliance Industries Limited on 3rd July 2020. With this investment, equity value in Jio Platforms rose to Rs 4.91 lakh crore, while Rs 5.16 lakh crore its enterprise value.

Google to buy 7.73% stake in Jio Platforms

IT giant, Google to buy **7.73% stake** in Reliance Industries Limited(RIL)'s Jio Platforms for **Rs 33,737 crores**. For this purpose, they have signed a binding partnership and an investment agreement. This investment will strengthen the existing efforts of Google and Jio Platforms to expand the benefits of digitization across India.

According to exchange filing, Google is investing at an **equity valuation of Rs 4.36 lakh crore**. With this, the total investment from financial and strategic investors into Jio Platforms stands at Rs 1,52,056 crore.

Mukesh Ambani's RIL becomes first domestic firm to cross Rs 11.5 lakh cr m-cap mark

Reliance Industries Limited added another feather to its cap as its market valuation crossed Rs 11.5 lakh crore mark, the first by any domestic company. The market heavyweight stock jumped 3.57 per cent to close at Rs 1,851.40 on the BSE. During the day, it rose by 3.94 per cent to a record high of Rs 1,858.

On the NSE, it gained 3.75 per cent to settle at Rs 1,855. The company's market valuation rose by Rs 40,508.8 crore to Rs 11,73,677.35 crore at close of trade on the BSE.

Mukesh Ambani's RIL overtakes Exxon to become world's no 2 energy company

Reliance Industries Ltd., controlled by Asia's richest man, toppled **ExxonMobil Corp.** to **become the world's largest energy company after Saudi Aramco**, as investors piled into the conglomerate lured by the Indian firm's digital and retail forays.

Reliance, which manages the biggest refinery complex, **gained 4.3% in Mumbai** adding **\$8 billion** to take its market value to **\$189 billion**, while Exxon Mobil erased about \$1 billion. Reliance's shares have jumped 43% this year compared with a 39% drop in Exxon's shares as refiners across the globe struggled with a plunge in fuel demand. Aramco with a market capitalization of \$1.76 trillion is the world's biggest energy company.

Defence News

DRDO develops P7 Heavy Drop System for IL 76 aircraft

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the **P7 Heavy Drop System** which is capable of **para dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight** class from IL 76 aircraft.

The design of this fully indigenous system has been developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), a Research & Development (R&D) lab of DRDO based in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

India forms “Air Bubble” with US, UK, UAE, Germany and France

The Union Civil Aviation Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** announced that India is to resume operation of international commercial flights with France and US.

The Government of India has signed agreements with US, UK, France and countries in UAE. Negotiations with Germany is in its final stages. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has planned to bring down the air travel charges by 25%.

Indian Army gets ‘Bharat’ drones for accurate surveillance

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has provided drones named **‘Bharat’ to the Indian Army**. The indigenously developed drones are sent in order to provide accurate surveillance along the Line of Actual Control in high altitude and mountainous terrains of Eastern Ladakh.

Govt sanctions permission for grant of permanent commission to women officers in Indian Army

The Central government has given the formal sanction letter for the grant of **permanent commission to the women officers in the Indian Army**. The step has paved the way for empowering them to carry larger roles in the organization.

Indian Army Spokesperson, Colonel Aman Anand informed that the order by the government specifies the grant of permanent commission Short Service Commissioned (SSC) women officers in all the ten streams of the Indian army.

IAF to procure HAMMER missiles under emergency acquisition powers

The Indian Air Force has decided to procure **HAMMER missiles** from France to further boost its combat capabilities. The order is currently being processed by the government under the emergency financial powers given to the armed forces amid the India-China border standoff.

82nd Raising Day of Central Reserve Police Force

The **82nd Raising Day of Central Reserve Police Force** was observed on **27 July 2020**. The CRPF was founded as Crown Representative’s Police on July 27, 1939 and became the Central

Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the enactment of the CRPF Act on December 28, 1949. CRPF has the mandate to secure internal security scenario and is at the forefront to keep our nation safe.

Fleet of 5 Rafale multi-role combat jets arrived in India

A fleet of five French-manufactured Rafale multi-role combat jets arrived in India. Rafale Jets landed at the **Ambala Air Force base** after covering a distance of 7,000 km from the Merignac airbase in French port city of Bordeaux.

Two Sukhoi 30 MKIs escorted the fleet of Rafale jets after they entered the Indian air space. The fleet, which comprises three single seater and two twin seater aircraft, would be inducted into the IAF as part of its Ambala-based No 17 Squadron, also known as the ‘Golden Arrows’.

DRDO launches ‘Dare to Dream 2.0’ contest

An innovation contest ‘**Dare to Dream 2.0**’ has been launched by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The contest was launched on the **5th death anniversary** of former President and noted scientist **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**. ‘Dare to Dream 2.0’ has been launched as an open challenge to promote the innovators and startups of the country.

India, Indonesia Defence Ministers’ Dialogue: India, Indonesia agree to enhance bilateral defence cooperation

India-Indonesia Defence Ministers’ Dialogue was conducted in New Delhi on July 28, 2020 between Indian delegation led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and visiting Indonesian delegation led by Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto.

Science & Technology

RMRC lab, Assam becomes 4th to isolate COVID-19 virus strain in India

Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) **Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC)** located in Lahowal in Dibrugarh district of Assam has successfully isolated the SARS-CoV-2, COVID-19, virus **becoming the fourth such facility in the country to achieve the feat.**

The other 3 hospitals that isolated the virus were: **National Institute of Virology, Pune Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad**

Accelerate Vigyan Scheme launched by SERB

Department of Science and Technology's (DST's) **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** has launched a scheme named 'Accelerate Vigyan' on 1st July 2020.

The scheme was launched with the objective to provide a single platform that will encourage high-end scientific research in the country by providing a common forum for conducting workshops. Internships and capacity building programs for research scholars and students.

Zydus Healthcare's COVID-19 vaccine gets DCGI approval for Human Clinical Trials

On 2nd July 2020, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given approval for human clinical trials to **Ahmedabad based Cadila Healthcare Limited (Zydus Healthcare)**. The permission is for the Phase-I and Phase-II clinical trials of the vaccine.

Zydus Healthcare's COVID-19 vaccine **become the 2nd Indigenously developed vaccine** to get the **permission of the DCGI** for human clinical trials after Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN. The human clinical trials for the vaccine are expected to be completed in three months as per media reports.

Mylan gets DCGI Approval to launch its Generic Version of Remdesivir 'DESREM' at Rs 4800

Global pharmaceutical company Mylan N.V was given approval by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for the launch of its generic version of Gilead Sciences Remdesivir drug for the treatment of COVID-19 positive patients in India. Mylan N.V is currently the second-largest company in the world for the manufacturing of generic and specialty pharmaceuticals.

DCGI approves India's 1st homemade Pneumonia vaccine

India's first fully indigenously developed **Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine** (Pneumonia vaccine) has received the approval from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). It will be utilized for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by "**Streptococcus pneumonia**" among infants.

Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine) has been developed by **Serum Institute of India Pvt Ltd, Pune**. It is **India's first indigenously developed**

vaccine in the field of pneumonia. With the DCGI's approval, Serum Institute of India has been granted permission to manufacture the vaccine domestically.

Israel successfully launched its Intelligence Satellite Ofek-16 into LEO

From Central Israel's Palmachim Airbase Israel has successfully launched its intelligence satellite 'Ofek-16' into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This is the 12th Satellite launched by Israel under its Ofek family of satellites. The Ofek-16 Satellite was launched as a payload of the rocket- Shavit 2. Ofek-16 is an **optoelectronic reconnaissance (intelligence) satellite**.

Mylab launched machine to Automate the manual processes of Molecular Diagnostic Tests

Mylab launched machine to Automate the manual processes of Molecular Diagnostic Tests. Pune-based Mylab Discovery Solutions has launched '**Compact XL**', a machine to **automate the manual processes of molecular diagnostic tests** including Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests for COVID-19. The machine will be available for pre-ordering from 13 July 2020.

UAE to become first Arab nation send probe to Mars

The **United Arab Emirates** has decided to send a probe to Mars, in a **first for the Arab world**. The UAE's Mars probe aims to provide a comprehensive image of the weather dynamics in Mars' atmosphere and pave the way for scientific breakthroughs.

'Itolizumab' Injection gets DCGI Approval for Treatment of Moderate to Severe ARDS Patients

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given its approval to '**Itolizumab**' injection for the treatment of COVID-19 patients with restricted emergency use only in case of moderate to severe **Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)** patients. DCGI has made it clear that written informed consent of the patient will be required by the authorities before administering the Itolizumab injection.

ISRO prepares to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite aboard PSLV in August this year

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is gearing up to lift off Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite next month onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). As per a report in the Financial Express, Amazonia-1 will be the first satellite for Earth Observation that is designed, assembled and tested in Brazil.

China successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite

China successfully launched "APSTAR-6D" telecommunication satellite via a Long March 3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center. China Academy of Space Technology has developed the commercial satellite 'APSTAR-6D'. APSTAR-6D marked the 18th Rocket Launched by China in the year 2020.

SHUDH: UV Sanitizing Device developed by IIT Kanpur

The IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultra Violet Sanitizing product called “Shudh”. The device is capable to disinfect 10 ×10 square feet room in just 15 minutes.

The disinfection helper, SHUDH is smartphone operated and is handy. It has six UV lights. Each UV light is of 15 watts. The device can be used to assist at highly prone places such as hotels, hospitals, malls, offices and schools.

India launches World’s Most Affordable COVID-19 kit “COROSURE”

The Union Minister of Human Resource and Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishnak launched world’s most affordable COVID-19 kit. The kit was developed by IIT Delhi. The test called “COROSURE” has been billed as the world’s most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit. The base price of the kit is **Rs 399**.

South Korea launched its first-ever military communications satellite

South Korea launched its first-ever military communications satellite “ANASIS-II” by private operator SpaceX on 21 July 2020. The information was passed by Seoul’s Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA). The move by the country aims to build up its defence capabilities.

India successfully test fires “Dhruvastra” anti-guided missiles

The trials of the helicopter launched Nag Missile (**HELINA**) were successful. The missile has now been renamed as “Dhruvastra”. Helina is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile mounted on Advanced Light Helicopter.

The missile system can engage targets in direct hit mode and attack mode. Also, the system has all-weather day and night capability, defeat battle tanks with conventional armour and explosive reactive armour.

India-Israel to develop 30 seconds rapid COVID-19 test

The cooperation between the countries will merge India’s mass production and technological expertise of Israel. To achieve this, Israel is to send high level research delegation to India. The team will conduct series of final stages of testing and this is a part of the cooperation.

Some of the tests to be conducted in India have already been passed in Israel. However, in order to prove the success of the test, it is essential to test on wide range of people and this is to be done in India.

ASTHROS Mission: Football Stadium sized balloons of NASA to study Cosmos

NASA is to launch **ASTHROS Mission** from Antarctica in December 2023. The mission is to spend three weeks observing air currents above the continent. The **ASTHROS Mission** will send a **football stadium sized balloons into the stratosphere**. The balloon will observe wavelengths of invisible light from the earth. The balloon has a telescope, sub systems, science instruments, electronic systems and cooling system.

Sports

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Ravindra Jadeja	India's most valuable Test player in 21st century by Wisden	With an MVP rating of 97.3, the 31-year-old Jadeja was also rated as the second-most valuable Test player worldwide, behind Sri Lanka legend Muttiah Muralitharan.s
G Akash	Becomes India's 66th chess Grandmaster	Akash's GM title was confirmed at the second council meet of International Chess Federation (FIDE) for the year 2020 held recently.
Lewis Hamilton	Styrian Grand Prix 2020	Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Britain) has won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg, Austria . Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) finished second while Max Verstappen (Red Bull-Belgium) was third.
Real Madrid	34th La Liga title	Spanish professional football club, Real Madrid has been crowned La Liga Champions for the 34th time after defeating Villarreal 2–1 at Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano in Madrid.

Obituary

Name	Associated Field
Upa Rokamlova	Former speaker of Mizoram legislative assembly
Saroj Khan	Ace Choreographer
Carl Reiner	Comedian, actor and director
Ennio Morricone	Oscar-winning Italian film composer
Earl Cameron	First Black actors to perform in mainstream British films
Nick Cordero	Actor
Jagdeep	Veteran actor-comedian
Amadou Gon	Ivory Coast's Prime Minister
Jack Charlton	Member of England's 1966 World Cup Winner
Nagindas Sanghvi	Veteran Gujarati journalist, columnist, writer
Neela Satyanarayanan	Former Maharashtra Election Commissioner
Ramesh Tikaram	Arjuna awardee para-athlete
C S Seshadri	Eminent mathematician
Rajat Mukherjee	Bollywood Filmmaker
Bijay Mohanty	Veteran Odia Actor
Lalji Tandon	Madhya Pradesh Governor
Nusrat Zaheer	Celebrated Urdu Writer and Translator
Annie Ross	Legendary Jazz Singer
Amala Shankar	Eminent danseuse & choreographer
Kumkum	Veteran Bollywood actor
Parvez Khan	Bollywood action director
Sonam Tshering Lepcha	Padma Shri awardee

Important Days

Day	Date	Themes
National Doctor's Day	July 01	Lessen the Mortality of COVID 19
World Sports Journalists Day	July 02	
World UFO day	July 02	
International Day of Cooperatives	July 04	Cooperatives for Climate Action
World Zoonoses Day	July 06	Raises awareness for the risk of zoonotic diseases.
World Chocolate Day	July 07	
National Fish Farmers Day	July 10	
World Population Day	July 11	
World Youth Skills Day	July 15	Skills for a resilient youth
World Day for International Justice	July 17	
Nelson Mandela International Day	July 18	
World Chess Day	July 20	
Space Exploration Day	July 20	
World Hepatitis Day	July 28	Find the Missing Millions
World Nature Conservation Day	July 28	
Global Tiger Day	July 29	Their Survival is in our hands
International Day of Friendship	July 30	
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	July 30	Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking”