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### Awards and Honours

<b>Recipient Name</b>	<b>Award name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Dr Bushra Ateeq, Dr Surajit Ghosh and Dr Ravi Manjithaya.	2020 CDRI Award	The CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow awarded young researchers with CDRI Award for their outstanding contribution in drug discovery and development.
Harvey J. Alter(America), Charles M. Rice (America) and Michael Houghton (Britain)	Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020	The head of the Nobel Committee, Thomas Perlmann has announced the winners in Stockholm.
Ales Bialiatski, Nasrin Sotoudeh, Bryan Stevenson and Lottie Cunningham	Right Livelihood Award 2020	The Right Livelihood Award Foundation has announced the four winners of the 2020 Right Livelihood Award 2020 which is also known as the alternative Nobel Prize in Stockholm.
Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez	Nobel Prize in Physics 2020	Roger Penrose for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity. The other half jointly to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna	Nobel Prize for Chemistry, 2020	The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden.
Louis Gluck	Nobel Prize in Literature, 2020	She is an American poet. She has won the major literary awards of US such as National Book Award, Pulitzer Prize, National Humanities Medal, Bolligen Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award.
World Food Programme (WFP).	Nobel Prize in Peace 2020	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization

		addressing hunger and promoting food security. In 2019, the WFP provided assistance to close to 100 million people in 88 countries who are victims of acute food insecurity and hunger.
Nityananda Nayak	Sarala Puraskar	NOTED Odia poet Nityanand Nayak will be conferred the prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba', published in 2017.
Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson	Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2020	Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020 to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats".
Bank of Ghana	Central bank of the year award 2020	"Bank of Ghana" has won the Central bank of the year award 2020. Apart from this, Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) has won the Governor of the year at the Central bank of the year award 2020.
Aishwarya Sridhar	Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award	A 23-year-old, Mumbai based girl, Aishwarya Sridhar became the first Indian woman to win the 2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award. It is the 56th year of the prestigious award.
Dr Jajini Varghese	Outstanding Young Person 2020	UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, Dr Jajini Varghese has been named an 'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020' by a non-profit NGO for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.
India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan	UK engineers' body award	India-assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric project in Bhutan has been awarded

		the Brunel Medal-2020, an award conferred by the UK's top engineering body, Institute of Civil Engineers.
Dr Satish Mishra	Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award-2020	Dr Satish Mishra for "Dr.Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020". He is awarded for his research work on Malaria parasite's life cycle which is a complex process involving two hosts and three invasive stages.
Anzar Mustaeen Ali	Special prize in Global Art Competition	A six-year-old Bangladeshi boy, Anzar Mustaeen Ali won a special prize of USD 1000 for his artwork in the global art competition organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

## Appointments

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Sourav Ganguly	Bengal Peerless - brand ambassador	Kolkata based Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited appointed Former National Cricket Team Captain and Current President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly as it's Brand Ambassador.
Charanjit Attra	State Bank of India - Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	The post fell vacant after Prashant Kumar was appointed Yes Bank CEO in March. SBI had sought applications for the role in June. Attra, who joined the bank, has also served as CFO at ICICI Securities.
Siddhant Chaturvedi	Skechers India - brand ambassador	The campaign video features newly launched performance footwear styles from the Skechers GO RUN series and emphasises the importance of running as a sport to remain fit and encourages people to stay active in their day-to-day routine.
Devyani Khobragade	India's Next Ambassador To Cambodia	Ms Khobragade, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the ministry at its headquarters in Delhi.
MA Ganapathy	Director-General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)	He is a 1986 batch IPS officer of Uttarakhand cadre. The post of BCAS chief fell vacant after Rakesh Asthana was appointed as the Director-General of Border Security Force in August.
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Chairman of SBI	His appointment is effective from October 7. Currently, Khara is the Managing

		Director in-charge of Global Banking & Subsidiaries.
J Venkatramu	MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank	He will succeed Suresh Sethi, who served the post till March 2020. Venkatramuis presently working as the chief digital officer in Equitas Small Finance Bank.
Rajeshwar Rao	Deputy Governor of RBI	The post fell vacant in March 2020 when the previous Deputy Governor N R Vishwanathan resigned citing health issues before his term completed. His term completes in September 2020.
Nilesh Shah	Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).	He was earlier elected as the Chairman for 2019 – 2020. Nilesh Shah would also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI Financial Literacy Committee, being the Chairman of AMFI. These decisions were taken by AMFI, the industry body of SEBI-registered mutual funds at its Board Meeting.
Bishr al-Khasawneh	Jordon - Prime Minister	His appointment comes after King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz.
Piyush Goyal	gets additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs	The Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been assigned the additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution in addition to his existing portfolios, following the death of union minister Ram Vilas Paswan.
Sadyr Zhaparov	Kyrgyzstan - prime minister	Kyrgyzstan's parliament named Sadyr Zhaparov the prime minister, who was freed from prison on by his supporters protesting against

		the results of the Oct. 4 parliamentary elections.
Amit Banerjee	Director (Rail and Metro Business) and Member on the Board of BEML Limited.	A graduate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT (BHU), Varanasi, Banerjee had joined BEML as assistant engineer in 1984, the company said in a statement.
Chetan Anand	Brand ambassador for Indian brand ‘Transform’	Chetan Anand has been roped in as the brand ambassador for India’s first-ever homegrown professional badminton brand “Transform”.
Aava Murto	Finland’s PM post for a day	As part of the United Nations International Day of Girl Child (11th October 2020), a 16-year old Aava Murto assumed the post of Finland’s Prime Minister for one day on 7th October 2020 to raise awareness about gender equality.
Vishal V Sharma	India’s next permanent representative to UNESCO	Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the Permanent Delegation of India to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the rank of Ambassador.
Michael Irani	Interim President of the International Weightlifting Federation(IWF)	Michael Irani was appointed following the resignation of IWF President Tamás Aján.
Rajkiran Rai	Chairman of Indian Banks’ Association (IBA)	He succeeds Rajnish Kumar as the IBA Chairman after Kumar recently retired as SBI Chief.
Jacinda Ardern	New Zealand’s PM	The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, won a landslide victory in the country’s general election, to be elected as the PM for the second consecutive three-year term.

Neena Malhotra	Ambassador to Republic of San Marino	She will have a residence in Rome. Presently, she is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy.
Saad al-Hariri	Lebanon Prime Minister	Hariri received 65 parliamentary votes out of 118, giving him the mandate to form his new government. In October 2019, Hariri announced his resignation amid 2019-20 mass-protests.
Rohit Sharma	Vega - brand ambassador	Vega, for its men's personal grooming electronics range under the 'Vega Men' brand. Rohit Sharma will feature as the brand ambassador for 'Vega Men' range in the upcoming digital campaign.
Wavel Ramkalawan	President of Seychelles	India born Wavel Ramkalawan was elected as the President of Seychelles. This is the first time, the opposition candidate has won elections in Seychelles since 1977. Seychelles is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean.
Nanda Kishore Sahoo	Director General Dental Services - Colonel Commandant of Army Dental Corps	During his distinguished military career of 37 years, he has held multiple important appointments including Command of a unit in Kashmir Valley, Command Advisor of Western, Central and Southern Commands.
Alpha Condé	President of Guinea	Alpha Condé, the incumbent president of Guinea and leader of Rally of the Guinean People (Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen – RPG) party won the 3rd term as the President of Guinea by winning the 2020 presidential elections.

Bimal Julka	Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports – Chairman	In his new role, Julka will work closely with all the stakeholders to further strengthen the operating standards of the Indian fantasy sports industry.
Luis Arce	Bolivia’s president	He captured 55.1% of the total votes. Arce will take the charge of the office on 8 November 2020. He would succeed Jeanine Anez, who is serving as the interim President of Bolivia.
Shashi Kiran Shetty	Chairman of the Society and Board of Governors (BoG) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE)	Shashi Kiran Shetty, chairman of Allcargo Logistics and Gati, has been appointed by the Ministry of Education, Government of India
Rajesh Nambiar	Chairman and Managing Director of India – Cognizant	Nasdaq-listed IT firm Cognizant has appointed Rajesh Nambiar as the Chairman and Managing Director of India and a member of Cognizant’s Executive Committee effective November 9, 2020.

### Banking & Finance

#### Yes Bank tie-up with BSE to empower small business companies

Yes Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to empower the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes. Under this MoU, both BSE and Yes Bank will conduct knowledge events for SMEs, export promotion of SME scale companies, in addition to providing banking and financial solutions.

#### ICICI Bank shuts down operations in Sri Lanka

ICICI Bank has shut down his operations in Sri Lanka after getting approval from the Sri Lankan monetary authority. The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, having considered the request made by ICICI Bank, has granted approval to close down the business operation of the bank in Sri Lanka and cancel the licence issued to it.

#### NPCI launches “RuPay Festive Carnival”

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched ‘RuPay Festive Carnival’. The ‘RuPay Festive Carnival’ will give compelling advantage and interesting discounts to RuPay users. It aimed at contactless, motivating safe and cashless payments.

#### BharatPe launches digital gold on its platform

A leading merchant payment network, BharatPe has announced the launch of digital gold on its platform. The launch of this new category of fintech product is in line with the company’s commitment to offering the entire gamut of financial products to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

#### NABARD inks 3 MoUs with SBI to extend credit support

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has inked three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Bank of India (SBI) to extend credit support for various NABARD projects.

#### ADB approves 300 million US dollar loan for Rajasthan’s water supply

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a 300 million US dollar loan to finance inclusive and sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in 14 secondary towns of the state of Rajasthan.

#### ADB and India inks USD 177 million loan for Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a loan agreement worth USD 177 million, to upgrade 450 km of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.

#### SEBI constitutes committee for market data sharing

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a Standing Committee, Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) to recommend appropriate policy for access to securities market data, identify segment-wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommend data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data.

### **India extends \$ 1 billion Line of Credit to Central Asia**

India announced an additional \$ 1 billion Line of Credit for Central Asian countries to widen connectivity and energy partnership among other sectors at the meeting of India-Central Asia Dialogue held virtually with participation of Afghanistan

### **Indian Bank launched Green-Tech Initiative “IB-eNote”**

Indian Bank has launched a green initiative named “IB-eNote” to enable a total paperless working environment. This tool enables processing and tracking of notes put up by various offices digitally. The bank for this initiative has customised SharePoint, one of the features of Microsoft Office. The Bank also launched ‘Ind Guru’, an e-learning platform for its employees.

### **India Post Payment Bank achieves 3.6 crore customers**

The India Post Payment Bank, even amid COVID-19 pandemic, has attained 3.6 crores of customers. Till September 15, 2020, the bank had completed 38,500 crores of financial transactions.

### **Exim Bank extends USD 400 million soft loan to Maldives**

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on behalf of the Government of India has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 400 million (about Rs 2,932 crore) to the Maldives.

### **HDFC Bank to launch ‘The HealthyLife Programme’ for its customers**

India’s leading private sector bank, HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals have collaborated to launch the “HealthyLife Programme”, a holistic healthcare solution. This programme will be launched for HDFC Bank customers, to make healthy living accessible and affordable while making the process convenient and easy for the customers.

### **NABARD launches special refinance facility for WASH programme**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced a special refinance facility of Rs 800 crore for Fiscal Year 2021. With this, NABARD will support the Government of India’s Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme.

### **Axis Bank tie-up with Vistara to launch co-branded forex card**

Axis Bank in partnership with India’s full-service carrier, Vistara launched a Co-Branded Forex Card, ‘Axis Bank Club Vistara Forex Card’ to cater to the needs of international travellers. This is the 1st-ever collaboration by a bank and an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card.

### **Axis Bank launches ACE Credit Card in partnership with Google Pay**

Axis Bank has launched a new entry-level credit card named Axis ACE Credit Card, with a focus on increasing participation of users in the digital economy. It also aims to bring a seamless, digital experience to users from application to issuance. The card has been launched in collaboration with Google Pay and will run on Visa (Signature) platform.

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### **Indian Bank, IIT-Madras in pact for start-up funding**

Indian Bank has introduced an initiative for funding start-ups, 'IND Spring Board', in collaboration with the IIT-Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC). The Chennai-headquartered bank seeks to bridge the gap in funding for start-ups through this collaboration with IITMIC.

### Indian Affairs

#### **PM Modi to inaugurate Atal Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel in the World on 3rd October**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall inaugurate Atal Tunnel, Rohtang at 10 AM on 3rd October 2020; Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the World; The 9.02 Km long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall.

#### **Amnesty International halts operations in India**

The Amnesty International India has stopped its operations in the country, after the government of India froze the bank accounts of the organisation on September 10, for allegedly breaking rules on foreign funding laws. The organization has laid off more than 100 staff members and ceased its human rights campaigns and research work in India.

#### **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches “ASIIM”**

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launched the “Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)”. The mission has been launched under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in order to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

#### **South Eastern Railway launches ‘Operation My Saheli’**

The South Eastern Railways (SER) has launched the project, “Operation my Saheli” to enhance the security of women passengers in the train throughout the entire journey from the originating point to their destinations.

#### **National Institute of Nutrition Changes Average Weight, Height Measurements for Indian Men and Women**

Average weight for Indian men has been increased to 65kg, while that of Indian women has been changed to 55kg. The new average height for Indian men is 5.8 feet (177 cm), and that for women is 5.3 feet (162 cm). The definition of reference Indian adult with regard to age has also been changed to 19-39 years.

#### **Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda to launch largest market of Tribal Products ‘Tribes India E-Marketplace’**

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda will virtually launch India’s largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, Tribes India E-Marketplace ([market.tribesindia.com](http://market.tribesindia.com)) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2, 2020) in the presence of Renuka Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Deepak Khandekar, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

#### **Nirmala Sitharaman to chair 42nd GST Council meeting**

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair the 42nd Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting at 11 am. Minister of state (MoS) for finance Anurag Thakur and finance ministers of states and union territories (UTs) will also be present at the meeting.

### **Meity holds Conference to unveil 2020 RAISE**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) unveiled ‘RAISE 2020’, a Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Electronics Niketan, New Delhi. The Mega Virtual Summit AI, RAISE 2020 is organized by the MEITY and NITI Aayog.

### **Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand’s 1st Ramsar site**

Asan Conservation Reserve has become Uttarakhand’s first Ramsar site, making it a ‘Wetland of International Importance’, announced the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state.

### **PM Modi inaugurates “Arogya Van” in Kevadia, Gujarat**

PM Modi inaugurated “Arogya Van” in Kevadia, Gujarat. The Prime Minister is on a two day visit to the state and will participate in the Ekta Diwas celebrations that is to be held on October 31, 2020.

The van (forest) has hundreds of medicinal plants. It also provides information about the usage and importance of the medicinal plants.

### **Indian Railways launches OPERATION MERI SAHELI**

Indian Railways has launched on operation “Meri Saheli” for focused action on the security of women across all zones to provide safety & security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.

### **Plastic Premier League tournament to be played in Indore**

A unique Plastic Premier League (PPL) tournament is being played in Indore, Madhya Pradesh to free the city from single-use plastic. Indore is known for its innovative efforts regarding cleanliness. Indore has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country four times so far.

### **IIT Kanpur, ASI sign MoU with Italian institutes for restoration of monuments**

The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) and the Archaeological Survey of India have signed an agreement with two institutions from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments.

### **‘e-Dharti Geo portal’ launched to integrate maps and lease plans.**

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the ‘e-Dharti Geo Portal’. The portal will integrate the legacy drawings including the maps and lease plans in the

management information system. The portal will make the maps and lease plans geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.

### **NCERT and ISLRTC to sign MoU to help deaf children access education material**

The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) and Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to make the education material accessible to the deaf children.

### **Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton**

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

### **AMHUB: India's first advanced manufacturing hub**

The World Economic Forum and Guidance will jointly establish AMHUB in the state of Tamil Nadu. AMHUB is Advanced Manufacturing hub and is first of its kind in the country. Guidance is the nodal investment promotion agency of the state of Tamil Nadu.

### **Eight Indian Beaches get 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. All the eight beaches have now been provided with the Blue Flag label.

The eight beaches that received the flag 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.**

### **FM Nirmala Sitharaman announced LTC cash voucher scheme**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced leave travel concession (LTC) cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme for government employees with an aim to increase consumer spending.

She announced proposals regarding consumer spending and capital expenditure. Under consumer spending, she announced proposals within two components: LTC cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme.

### **e-Dharti Geo portal' launched to integrate maps and lease plans.**

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the 'e-Dharti Geo Portal'. The portal will integrate the legacy drawings including the maps and lease plans in the management information system. The portal will make the maps and lease plans geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.

### **SVAMITVA Scheme: PM Modi launches physical distribution of Property Cards**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the programme of physical distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA scheme through video conferencing.

The Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) is a Central Sector Scheme, which was launched in April 2020 to provide the 'record of rights to document the residential properties' to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.

### **PM Narendra Modi releases Rs 100 coin to commemorate 100th birth anniversary of Vijaya Raje Scindia**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released Rs 100 commemorative coin in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia in a special programme on October 12, 2020, on the occasion of her 100th birth anniversary. Vijaya Raje Scindia, also popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior, was one of the founding members of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

### **What is KAPILA Campaign?**

The Union Education Minister Ramesh pokhriyal nishank recently launched KAPILA campaign. It is Kalam Programme for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign. The campaign was launched to celebrate the 89 birth anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. His birth anniversary is celebrated as World Students Day all over the world.

### **RPF launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative on AP Express**

Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam has started implementing 'Meri Saheli' initiative in AP Express (Visakhapatnam to New Delhi), in order to provide proactive security to women passengers.

### **Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launched "Life in Miniature" project**

Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C), Prahlad Singh Patel has virtually launched the "Life in Miniature" project, a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & culture.

## Cabinet News

### **Draft Electricity (Change in Law, Must-run status and Other matters) Rules 2020**

The Ministry of Power had released Draft Electricity (Change in Law, Must-run Status and Other Matters) rules, 2020.

The ministry of power has issued draft rules to bring in quick compensation to power plants. This is because both the Gencos and Discoms are at financial distress. It aims at avoiding long regulator procedures for incontestable cases.

It also aims to reduce the litigation and help regulator commissions to focus on genuine disputes.

### **Union Cabinet approves bonus for central govt employees, 30.67 lakh to benefit**

The Union Cabinet on October 21, 2020 approved bonus for central government employees for the year 2019-2020. Around 30.67 lakh employees are expected to benefit from the announcement. The cabinet was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **Delhi Cabinet approves Tree Transplantation Policy**

The Delhi Cabinet approved the 'Tree Transplantation Policy' for the preservation of trees in the Capital. The Cabinet also approved the installation of the second smog tower in the world at Connaught Place within ten months. The project seeks to prevent large-scale felling for development projects.

### **Union Cabinet approves Rs 5,718 crore World Bank's Project STARS**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the project STARS aided by the World bank. The cabinet has approved Rs 5,718 crores of aid from World Bank to implement project STARS. STARS is Strengthening Teaching Learning and Resources for States.

The project is to be implemented by department of school education and literacy operating under Ministry of Education. The project will also setup and support the PRAKH, the national assessment centre.

### **Cabinet approves MoU signed between India and Cambodia**

The union cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Cambodia on cooperation in the field of medicine and health. The MoU will increase the cooperation between the countries through joint initiatives and technological developments in health sector. Also, it will strengthen bilateral ties between the countries.

### **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project approved by Union Cabinet**

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Phase II and Phase III Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). These two phases are to be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank and AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).

### **Union Cabinet approves norms for Mandatory Packaging in Jute Materials**

The Union Cabinet approved by PM Modi approved that 20% of sugar and 100% of food grains should be mandatorily packed in jute bags. However, when in shortage of jute bags, the Ministry of Textiles can ease the provisions to 30% of food grains (to be packed).

### **Union Cabinet approves Mechanism for Procurement of Ethanol**

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Mechanism for the public sector oil companies to procure ethanol. Under the new mechanism, the prices of ethanol obtained from sugarcane based raw material has been increased for the forth coming sugar cane season.

### **India-Japan Cooperation in ICT approved by Union Cabinet**

The Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed between India and Japan on Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technologies.

The agreement will also help in cooperation in the field of telecom security, 5G, submarine cable, utilization of latest wireless technologies, Disaster relief, block chain, spectrum management, standard certification of communication equipment and cooperation on multilateral platforms.

### **India-UAE Defence Cooperation enhanced through Joint Production**

India and United Arab Emirates recently held a webinar to boost defence production and exports between the countries. The webinar was organised to help India achieve its target of reaching 5 billion USD of defence exports in five years.

### **Krishi Upad Mandi (Amendment) Bill 2020**

Chhattisgarh Assembly passed an amendment Bill to invalidate the Centre's recently-notified agriculture legislations in one day session. The Assembly passed the Chhattisgarh Krishi Upad Mandi (Amendment) Bill 2020. It gives strength to the state government to control all agricultural produce markets.

### **Gujarat Disturbed Area Act (Amendment) bill, 2020**

The president Ramnath kovind assented the Gujarat Distributed Area act (Amendment) Bill 2019. The amendment will prohibit transfer of assets that is the immovable property in disturbed areas. Also, it will protect the tenants from vacating the property.

Gujarat prohibition of transfer of immovable property and provision for protection of tenants from eviction from premises in disturbed areas act 1991 is commonly referred to as Disturbed Areas act.

### **Cabinet approves Rs. 5718 crore World Bank-supported STARS project**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) project.

STARS is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education for improving the quality of education, in the Indian School Education System.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Australia for collaboration in making impact for sustainable groundwater management**

Union Cabinet approved the MoU signed with Australia for the various purposes and it mainly focuses on our sustainable growth. The MoU between India and Australia focuses on various fields like research and development, capacity building and sustainable growth.

### State Related Affairs

#### Assam CM launches ‘Kritagyata’ for online pension submission and tracking

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

#### Tamil Nadu Government to implement Smart Black Board Scheme

The Tamil Nadu State government is to implement the smart blackboard scheme in more than 80,000 Government schools. This is to ensure better teaching environment.

The smart blackboard scheme aims to use audio visual teaching material that can be integrated along with digital classrooms. It will create materials that can be fed into computer screens using pen drives.

#### Delhi Government launches “Green Delhi” mobile application

The Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Arvind Kejriwal launched the Green Delhi mobile application. The application will help the citizens to inform the state government about the pollution causing activities.

It is to act as a platform of communication between the Delhiites and the State government. The application can be downloaded from Google Play Store.

#### India’s First Sand Dune Park to Come Up in Goa

The World Bank has sanctioned Rs 3 crores to the Goa state government for the project. Now Goa is set to be home to the country’s first sand dune park under a project funded by The World Bank which has accepted the proposal of the Biodiversity Board of the state and has sanctioned a sum of 3 crores for the project.

#### West Bengal launches “Pathashree Abhijan” scheme for road repair

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

#### CM Manohar Lal Khattar launches Gram Darshan

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

#### Odisha CM Launches ‘Sumangal’ & Student Scholarship Web Portals To Aid Beneficiaries

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, October 27 launched two web portals. Patnaik launched ‘Odisha State Scholarship Portal’ and ‘Sumangal Portal’. The former portal is to help eligible students of the state to avail scholarship benefits in a seamless and transparent manner, while the latter one is to help people avail inter-caste marriage incentives.

### **CM Arvind Kejriwal launched ‘Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh’ campaign**

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has announced the launch of the anti-pollution campaign ‘Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh’ to reduce the pollution level in Delhi. An anti-dust campaign is being initiated by the Delhi government to settle the dust.

### **Puducherry airport becomes AAI’s first 100% solar-powered airport**

The Puducherry airport has become the first airport of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) which is entirely solar-powered. The 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant was commissioned on 2nd October 2020.

### **India’s first Multi-Modal Logistics park in Assam**

The Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of the first multi modal Logistic Park of India in Assam. The park is being developed under the ambitious bharatmala pariyojana.

### **Telangana CM Chandrasekhar Rao launches ‘Dharani’ Portal**

Telangana Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao has launched the web portal ‘Dharani’ for land and property registrations. The state government will now undertake all the property transactions, including registrations and mutations, through a web portal.

### **Kati Bihu festival celebrated across Assam**

Kati Bihu is one of the sets of three Bihu festivals (agricultural festivals) was celebrated in the state of Assam. The Kati Bihu is also known as Kangali Bihu, the festival of the poor (the word “Kongal” means “poor”) is celebrated in mid-October when the crops are at growing stage and the granaries of the farmers are depleting.

### **Tamil Nadu Government to implement Smart Black Board Scheme**

The Tamil Nadu State government is to implement the smart blackboard scheme in more than 80,000 Government schools. This is to ensure better teaching environment.

The smart blackboard scheme aims to use audio visual teaching material that can be integrated along with digital classrooms. It will create materials that can be fed into computer screens using pen drives.

### **Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand’s 1st Ramsar site**

Asan Conservation Reserve has become Uttarakhand’s first Ramsar site, making it a ‘Wetland of International Importance’, announced the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

Change. The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state.

### **Famous chilli of Sikkim “Dalle Khursani” gets GI Tag**

The red cherry pepper chilli of Sikkim which is locally known as the “Dalle Khursani” has earned the geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union department of Industry promotion and internal trade. Notably, it is considered as one of the hottest chillies in the world. Dalle Khursani fetches as much as Rs 480 per kg in the local market today.

### **Meghalaya Govt partners with Israel to set up ‘Centre of Excellence’**

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

### **Goa Govt ties up with India Post to get farmers enrolled in PM-KISAN scheme**

The Goa Government has tied up with India Post to get 11,000 farmers enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sanman Nidhi scheme. This is the first such exercise in India to enrol farmers in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, whereby the postman will be utilised to benefit farmers.

### **Odisha launches ‘Sujal’ Mission to provide tap water fit for drinking**

Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated “Sujal”, ‘Drink from Tap Mission’ scheme, to provide round the clock supply of quality tap drinking water in all urban areas of the state.

### **Vulture conservation centres to be established in 5 states of India**

The National Board for Wildlife recently approved an action plan for vulture conservation, 2020-20-25. Under the new National Action Plan for Vulture Conservation, five new conservation centres are to be established in five different state. The new vulture conservation centres are to be established in the states of **Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.**

### **Kerala becomes first state to fix floor price for vegetables**

Kerala has become the first state to set floor prices for vegetables which would be 20% above the production cost, CM Pinarayi Vijayan said. It would come into effect from November 1. “In all, 16 varieties of vegetables would be covered in the first phase and there’s a provision to revise the floor price on a regular basis,” he added.

### **Mission Shakti launched in Uttar Pradesh**

The Uttar Pradesh Government launched “Mission Shakti” for women empowerment in the state. It aims to reduce crime against women in the state. Under the scheme, the state will have a separate room for women complainants in 1,535 police stations spread all over the state.

### **IIT Madras startup launches ‘mooPay’ for dairy farmers in Rajasthan**

The IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup, “Stellapps” has launched a first-of-its-kind, fully-automated direct payment platform, ‘mooPay’, for dairy farmers in Rajasthan. The Digital technology solutions provider Stellapps is a first of its kind end-to-end dairy technology solutions company of India. It is also one of the technology pioneers of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

### **Goa: First State to provide 100% Tap Water Connections**

The Ministry of Jal Shakti announced that Goa has become the first state in India to provide 100% tap water connections in rural areas. Around 2.3 lakh households were covered in the state.

### **Jagananna Vidya Kanuka Scheme launched in Andhra Pradesh**

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched Jagan Anna Vidya kanuka scheme. The state government has allocated Rs 650 crores for the scheme. Under the scheme the state government will provide school kits to 43.32 to lakh government school students.

### **Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana launched in Uttarakhand**

The Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat recently launched Mukhyamantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana in Dehradun. The scheme promotes self-employment of the youth. It also promotes production of green energy.

### **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches ‘Mo Bidyut’ portal**

Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik has launched the electricity consumer service portal ”Mo Bidyut” and a mobile app through video conference. The bilingual online electricity integrated consumer service portal [www.mobidyut.com](http://www.mobidyut.com) developed by the Energy Department and dedicated to the public under 5T (Teamwork, Transparency, Technology, Time leading to Transformation) initiative of the state government.

### **Gujarat govt signs MoU with Denmark in water sector**

Gujarat Government has signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Denmark in the water sector. The state government arm Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board has signed the MoU with ‘Danish Water Forum’ through an online interactive platform.

### **Gujarat govt announces to set up the world’s biggest Zinc Smelter project**

Gujarat government has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a greenfield zinc smelter in the state.

This facility will entail an investment of Rs 5000- 10,000 crore in phases, creating more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and will be operational by 2022.

The proposed 300 (kilo tonnes per annum) production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area.

### **J&K L-G announces 'My Town My Pride' programme**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has announced that the government is coming up with a movement called "My Town My Pride" from October 19 to provide governance at the doorsteps in urban areas on the pattern of the "Back to Village" programme.

### International Affairs

#### **Kuwait Prime Minister Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah Resigns**

The Kuwaiti government, headed by Prime Minister (PM) Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah submitted its resignation to Emir Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah in anticipation of the upcoming general elections that are due to be held in November 2020. He took charge as the PM in 2019.

#### **India to be third-largest economy in world by 2050, says study**

Indian economy will become the third-largest in the world by 2050 after the United States and China, a study published in the Lancet journal has said. Currently, India is at fifth spot followed by France and the United Kingdom.

#### **Prince William launches “Earthshot Prize” to boost climate innovation**

Britain’s Prince William and Naturalist David Attenborough have launched an “Earthshot Prize”, with an aim to encourage change and support to repair the planet.

The Earth shot Prize aims to “incentivize change and help to repair our planet over the next 10 years,” and “turn pessimism into optimism” by rewarding innovative solutions to environmental problems.

#### **Andorra Joins International Monetary Fund as 190th Member**

Europe’s Andorra formally joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 16 th October, becoming the crisis lender’s 190th member state as the tourism and trade-dependent principality struggles with the coronavirus pandemic.

#### **India gets Chairmanship of ILO Governing body after 35 years**

India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization (ILO), after a gap of 35 years. The Labour and Employment Secretary, Apurva Chandra, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020- June 2021. Chandra is a 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Maharashtra Cadre. He would preside over the upcoming the Governing Body’s meeting, to be held in November 2020.

#### **Russia approves 2nd coronavirus vaccine “EpiVacCorona”**

Russia has given regulatory approval to a second Covid-19 vaccine, named ‘EpiVacCorona’, after early-stage studies. The new coronavirus vaccine comes two months after a similar move for Russia’s first vaccine Sputnik V prompted widespread criticism from scientists both at home and abroad.

#### **NATO to set up new Space Centre in Ramstein, Germany**

The North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a new Space Centre in Ramstein, Germany. The centre is to serve as a co-ordination Centre for space observation.

### **India to become free of Trans Fat by 2022**

The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that India has set a target of becoming trans-fat free by 2022. This target is year ahead of the target of World Health Organisation.

The announcement was made when the Minister presided over an event organised by the food safety and Standards Authority of India to celebrate the World Food Day. The World Food Day is celebrated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation every year on October 16.

### **Indo-Pacific: Japan and Vietnam sign Agreements**

Japan and Vietnam signed agreements to ensure “free and open Indo-Pacific”. Also, the agreement will allow Japan to export its defence equipment to Vietnam. Recently, the QUAD grouping held in Tokyo, reaffirmed the significance of “free and open Indo-Pacific” and raised concerns over increasing Chinese influence in the region.

### **ISA Solar Awards conferred for the first time**

For the first time, since the inception of the framework agreement of ISA, the Solar Awards were presented during the third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to the countries of the region as well as institutions working for solar.

### Foreign Relation

#### **India, Netherlands sign SoI on Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda**

The policy think tank of the Government of India, NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi, signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) on 28 September 2020. The aim is to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.

#### **India, Australia conducted meeting to strengthen partnership on Skilling Agenda**

The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the High Commission of Australia conducted meeting for Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training.

The aim is to support Vocational Education and Training (VET) in India and Australia. Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey and Mr Barry O'Farrell, Australian High Commissioner, participated in the virtual meeting.

#### **QUAD Foreign Ministers meet held in Tokyo**

The foreign ministers of India, Japan, US and Australia held the Quad foreign ministers meet. India was represented by the External Affairs minister S Jai Shankar.

#### **12th BRICS Summit to be held on 17 November virtually**

The 12th BRICS Summit is scheduled to be held on 17th November 2020 via video conference. This is the first time in the history of the forum that the meeting will be held virtually, due to the global COVID pandemic. The Summit is being held under the Chairmanship of Russia.

#### **India-Japan sign Agreement for cooperation in AI, 5G, Critical Information Infrastructure**

India and Japan signed agreements of cooperation in Artificial Intelligence, 5G technology. The countries also agreed to give momentum to the supply chain initiative in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### **India-US to sign the BECA pact during 2+2 Dialogue**

The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and external affairs minister Jay Shankar will hold 2+2 dialogue with their United States counter parts mark as per and Mike Pompeo. The dialogue is to be held between October 26 2020 and October 27 2020.

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

The National Maritime foundation of India and Taiwan Asia Exchange Foundation recently signed a memorandum of understanding to foster cooperation in the Indo-pacific region. The two groups are major think tanks of the countries.

### **India, Maldives sign LOC agreement of \$400 mn for GMCP implementation**

India and Maldives on October 12, 2020 concluded the Line of Credit (LOC) Agreement of USD 400 million for the implementation of the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). It is the single largest connectivity and infrastructure project in the island nation.

### **Sixth Session of India-Norway Joint commission held**

The Sixth Session of India-Norway Joint Commission was held. India was represented by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The ministers welcomed the establishment of COVAX during the meet. Both the countries agreed to engage in regular consultations on the issues of United Nations Security Council.

### **India to host Seventh Justice Ministers Meet of SCO**

The Union Minister of law and Justice Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad is to host the seventh meeting of ministers of justice of Shanghai cooperation organisation.

### **India and France get re-elected as President and Co-president of ISA**

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has informed that India has been re-elected as President while France as the Co-President of International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the virtual meeting of ISA's Third Assembly. The tenure will be for a time period of two years.

### **India to host India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on October 27**

The Ministry of External Affairs informed on October 21, 2020, that India will be hosting the third India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on October 27 in New Delhi.

According to the official statement from the External Affairs Ministry, India will host the third India-US Ministerial Dialogue for which U.S Secretary of Defence, Mark T. Esper, and U.S. Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo will be visiting India on October 26-27 to participate.

### **India-Indonesia: 5th Joint Working Group on Coal to be held in November, 2020**

India and Indonesia are to hold the fifth joint working group on coal. The virtual meeting is to deliberate on Indian Coal policy reforms such as coal exploration and commercial coal mining, research and development and potential in off Indonesia India business cooperation on coal in the post covid-19.

### **India to host India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue on October 27**

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### **India Post, US Postal Service sign pact for electronic exchange of customs data**

The Department of Posts and United States Postal Service signed an agreement for electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments between the two countries, an official statement said.

The agreement was signed by Department of Posts Deputy Director General (international relations and global business) Prannoy Sharma and United States Postal Service's Global Business Managing Director Robert H Raines Jr.

### **India-Mexico holds 8th Joint Commission Meeting**

India and Mexico recently held the eighth Joint Commission Meeting. The countries appreciated the recent progress in the bilateral trade between them. The bilateral cooperation includes areas such as trade, agriculture, investment, health and education.

### Ranks

#### **Economic crimes on rise in Maharashtra, Mumbai tops metropolitan cities**

According to the national crime records bureau (NCRB), Maharashtra registered an increase in economic offences in 2019 from 14,854 cases registered in 2018 and 13,941 cases logged in 2017.

Rajasthan topped the list for economic offences with 26,920 cases registered in 2019 followed by Uttar Pradesh with 19,968 cases. NCRB statistics claimed that Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra accounted for 38 % of all economic crimes registered in India in 2019.

#### **Who are the world's highest-paid actresses of 2020 as per Forbes?**

Sofia Vergara is the world's highest-paid actress of 2020, with earnings of \$43 million (₹315 crore), as per Forbes. She's followed by Angelina Jolie and Gal Gadot, with \$35.5 million (₹260 crore) and \$31.5 million (₹230 crore) earnings respectively. Meryl Streep and Melissa McCarthy are also in top 5. Notably, no Indian actress has featured on the list this year.

#### **HDFC Bank's Ravi Santhanam in Forbes list of World's Most Influential CMOs**

Ravi Santhanam, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), HDFC Bank has been recognised in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'. Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others.

#### **Public Affairs Index: Kerala, Goa & Chandigarh best governed states**

The Public Affairs Index, 2020 was released by Public Affairs Centre, a non-profit organisation. According to the index, Kerala was the best governed the state. The report was released by the committee headed by a former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman Kasturirangan.

Kerala was awarded with the top most ranking and Uttar Pradesh with the bottom most ranking.

#### **Who are India's youngest billionaires as per Forbes India Rich List 2020?**

BYJU'S 39-year-old Founder Byju Raveendran is India's youngest billionaire with \$3.05 billion wealth as per Forbes list of India's 100 Richest People. Paytm's 42-year-old Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma is second-youngest billionaire with \$2.35 billion wealth. He's followed by Patanjali Ayurved's 48-year-old Chairman Acharya Balkrishna with \$2.22 billion wealth and 50-year-old realtor Vikas Oberoi.

#### **Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019**

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism.

### **Mukesh Ambani tops the Forbes India Rich List 2020**

The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani, has topped the Forbes India Rich list for 2020. He has retained his position as the wealthiest Indian for the 13th consecutive year on Forbes India list. The tycoon added \$37.3 billion to his net worth, to bring his total fortune to \$88.7 billion, a rise of 73% over the previous year.

### **Argentina becomes 1st nation to approve genetically modified wheat**

Argentina has approved HB4 drought-resistant GMO wheat by biotechnology firm Bioceres, making it the first country in the world to approve a strain of GMO wheat. Bioceres said it will only begin marketing HB4 once it's approved for importation by Brazil. Argentina's government said the HB4 technology provides seeds that are more tolerant to drought and helps minimize production losses.

### **Haryana tops Anemia Mukht Bharat Index in country**

Haryana is the best State in Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index with 46.7 among 29 states in the country. Further, in the year 2019-20, the state had achieved 93 per cent of immunization.

### **India ranked 2nd in OECD International Migration Outlook report**

India has acquired the second rank in terms of the number of migrants going to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries. China retained its top spot with 4.3 lakh migrants, which was 1 per cent lower than the 2019 report.

### **Samsung Tops Forbes' list of World's Best Employer 2020**

South Korea based electronics conglomerate, Samsung Electronics has topped the list of 'World's Best Employer 2020' published by Forbes'. Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and LG are among the top 5 in the list respectively. The global list features 750 multinational and large corporations headquartered in 45 countries.

### **India Ranks 129 in CRI Index released by Oxfam**

India has been ranked 129 among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index. The third edition of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19.

The 2020 CRI index has been topped by Norway. South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at 158th position.

### **Kerala becomes 1st state to have completely digital, hi-tech classrooms**

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

### **PM SVANidhi Scheme: UP secures the top rank**

The Government of India announced that Uttar Pradesh secured the top rank PM SVANidhi Scheme. The state has approved the highest number of loans so far. Uttar Pradesh government has secured the top ranking in all categories of the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

The categories include sanction, applications, disbursements of loans. Under the scheme more than 6,22,167 application were received. Out of this, 3,46,150 were given.

### **Global Hunger Index, 2020**

The Global hunger index was launched. It is jointly prepared by Welhunger life and Concern Worldwide. According to the report, India ranked 94th among 107 countries. The report put India under serious category with the score of 27.2.

### **Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019**

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in 2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020, released by the Ministry of Tourism.

In terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.

### **India 4th most powerful country in Asia Power Index 2020**

India has been ranked at 4th position, with a score of 39.7 out of 100, in the Asia Power Index 2020, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The Asia Power Index 2020 ranks 26 countries and territories to assess the relative power of states in Asia.

### **NTPC ranks 1st among Indian PSUs in Forbes' World's Best Employer 2020**

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes.

In the recent past, the company has initiated an 'NTPC Series' on success stories beyond official work, 'Ambition, Growth, Success Beyond Work', a series on the achievements of employees beyond their official assignments.

### **DBS named Asia's Safest Bank for 10th consecutive year**

DBS Bank announced that it has been named "Safest Bank in Asia" for the tenth consecutive year by New York-based trade publication Global Finance. DBS is also fourth-safest among the world's commercial banks and 14th on Global Finance's list of the World's 50 Safest Banks.

### **Business related Affairs**

#### **Tata Steel & CSIR signs MoU to collaborate for CCUS**

Tata Steel and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) have signed an MoU to collaborate in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS).

The MoU has been signed considering the importance of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS) in India's fight against Climate Change and Global Warming, meeting the growing energy demands and building a strong ecosystem to meet commitments under Paris Agreement.

#### **Amazon India ties up with IRCTC to start online train ticket bookings**

Amazon India has partnered with 'Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation' (IRCTC), to provide its customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on Amazon. With this launch, the e-commerce company's digital payments arm Amazon Pay adds another travel category, thereby offering its customers a one-stop-shop for booking flights, bus and train tickets.

#### **Microsoft & AICTE collaborate to empower students and educators**

Microsoft and All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE) have partnered to empower students and educators in new-age technologies. This technology including artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data science and cloud computing.

#### **IIT Jodhpur, NHAI sign MoU for betterment of Highway Infrastructure**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share expertise for the betterment of highway infrastructure.

#### **NTPC Ltd. enters into foreign currency loan agreement under GREEN initiative**

In the first funding for NTPC Ltd under Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC)'s GREEN or Global Action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environment preservation initiative, India's largest power producer entered into foreign currency loan agreement with Japanese Government's financial institution for JPY 50 billion (approx. USD 482 million or Rs. 3,582 crore).

#### **JK Tyre join hands with ITC's Choupal for rural market**

JK Tyre and Industries has announced a collaboration with the e-Choupal network operated by ITC in the rural areas. According to the pact, JK Tyre will leverage the network of Choupal Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, according to a joint statement by the JK Organisation firm and ITC.

#### **Microsoft & NSDC tie-up to empower 1 lakh women with digital skills**

Microsoft has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to impart digital skills to more than one lakh underserved women in India over the next ten months.

This initiative is an extension of Microsoft's partnership with NSDC to provide digital skills to over 1 lakh youth in the country.

### **IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services**

Tech giant IBM said it has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to transform the latter's customer experience using digital tools. Around 12,400 IOCL distributors covering about 130 million consumers can now use the IndianOil One mobile app and portal, developed by IBM Services, a statement said.

### **8000MW renewable park to light up India-Pak border areas in Rajasthan**

India's border areas with Pakistan in Rajasthan would soon be illuminated with renewable energy as the state government will soon ink an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to establish Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park, government officials said.

## Defence News

### 2nd edition of India-Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise “Bongosagar”

The second edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar commences in Northern Bay of Bengal. Exercise Bongosagar, is aimed at developing inter-operability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.

### US Military Aircraft refuels in India for the first time

For the first time in Indian history, the United States long range maritime patrol aircraft refuelled at India’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The P-8 Poseidon aircraft landed in Port Blair for refuelling support

### Malabar Exercise to be held in Bay of Bengal

The first phase of Malabar Exercise is to be held in Bay of Bengal between November 3, 2020 and November 6, 2020. The navies of India, Japan, US and Australia are to participate in the exercise. The second phase of the exercise is to be held between November 17, 2020 and November 20, 2020.

### Indian Coast Guard 7th Offshore Patrol Vessel ‘Vigraha’ launched

The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), “Vigraha” was formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.

### India-Sri Lanka to hold SLINEX military exercise

India and Sri Lanka are to begin a three-day military exercise “SLINEX”. The eighth edition of the exercise is to be held off coast of Trincomalee. It is to be conducted in non-contact at-sea only format. This strategy has been adopted due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### INS Kavaratti: Indigenously built ASW stealth corvette commissioned into Indian Navy at Vishakhapatnam

The Indian Army Chief General, Manoj Mukund Naravane on October 22, 2020, commissioned the last of the four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare-ASW stealth corvette ‘INS Kavaratti’ into Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Vishakhapatnam.

### Indian Army launches Secure Messaging Application

The Indian Army launched a messaging mobile application called the SAI. The application will provide secure voice, video and text calling services to the soldiers of Indian Army.

The SAI model is much similar to other commercial applications such as Telegram, WhatsApp, SAMVAD. It uses end-to-end encryption messaging protocol.

### **India successfully test fires SANT Missile**

India successfully test fired the Stand-Off Anti-Tank Missile called SANT. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization for the Indian Air Force. The missile was test fired at the Chandipur test range.

### **Australia to join Malabar-2020 Naval Exercise with India, US & Japan**

India has invited Australia to participate in its trilateral naval exercise “Malabar-2020” which is scheduled to be held in November 2020, in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. In 2020, the exercise will be held in a ‘non-contact – at sea’ format. It aims to increase cooperation and enhance safety and security in the maritime security domain.

### **Russia successfully test-fires Tsirkon hypersonic missile**

Russia successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile in the Arctic. The Missile was fired from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate in the White Sea, Russian Arctic. The missile covered a distance of 450 km with the maximum altitude of its trajectory at 28 km.

### **India test fires RUDRAM Anti-Radiation Missile successfully**

India test fired the new generation anti-radiation missile called Rudram 1. The Missile has been generated to kill enemy radar. The Rudram missile can be launched from Sukhoi 30MKI fighter jets. It has speed of 2 mach. This is twice the speed of the sound.

The weapon was developed by Defence research and development organisation. It was tested in the Balasore test range located off the coast of Odisha in Bay of Bengal.

### **Indigenously developed RUSTOM II Drone Test Fire Successful**

The Defence Research Development Organisation tested Rustom 2 drone successfully. The Drone is capable of carrying payloads depending on the mission objectives. This includes aperture radar, situational awareness systems and electronic intelligent systems.

### **DRDO test fires Nirbhay Cruise Missile successfully**

The Defence Research Development Organization successfully test fired the Nirbhay Cruise Missile. Nirbhay was the tenth missile to be fired by India in the last 35 days. This says that India is firing an average of one missile in every four days. This is a response to mobilisation of troops and support elements by China in the Ladakh region.

The missile tested uses Manik Engine. It is a Turbo Fan Engine.

### **DRDO successfully flight tests “Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo”**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested the “Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo” (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

### **DRDO test fires Naval Version of BRAHMOS missile successfully**

The Defence Research Development Organization test fired the naval version BRAHMOS missile from INS Chennai successfully. The missile was test fired from an indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai. The missile hit a target in Arabian Sea

### **Test fire of new version and nuclear capable “Shaurya Missile” successful**

India successfully test fired the new version of nuclear capable Shaurya missile in Balasore, Odisha. After the success of the test firing, the missile is to be inducted into Indian Armed Forces to complement the existing missiles.

### **Indian Army celebrates 74th Infantry Day in J&K**

Every year, October 27 is celebrated as Infantry Day by the Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir (known by the nickname, Chinar Corps). The Chinar Corps celebrated the 74th Infantry Day on October 27, 2020, to honour the supreme sacrifice of the gallant soldiers in fighting the Pakistani invaders, in Jammu and Kashmir, in 1947.

### Science and Technology

#### **SHUKRAYAAN: ISRO to launch Venus Mission in 2025**

The French Space Agency CNES announced that it is to participate in ISRO's Venus Mission, SHUKRAYAAN that is to be launched in 2025. The ISRO chairman and his French Counter held talks to review the areas of cooperation between the countries.

#### **NASA launches SS Kalpana Chawla Cargo Spacecraft**

NASA launched a commercial spacecraft named after Indian Origin deceased NASA Astronaut "Kalpana Chawla". The spacecraft carried 4 tonnes of cargo including refined radishes for the International Space Station.

#### **PARAM Sidhi-AI: India's fastest AI Super Computer**

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) commissioned the largest HPC-AI supercomputer. HPC-AI is High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence.

#### **China to send first-ever 'asteroid mining robot' into space**

An IEEE Spectrum report, the Beijing-based company is set to send the world's first mining robot named 'asteroid mining robot' into space by November 2020 to identify and extract resources. The mining robot will be launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket.

#### **NASA-ISRO to launch NISAR satellite in 2022**

India and US recently held the two plus two dialogue. During the meet the country's decided to share space situational awareness information. This will catalyse efforts in creating safe and sustainable space environment

A joint statement issued after the dialogue read that the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar called the NISAR is to be launched by 2022.

#### **ISRO to launch Earth Observation Satellite EOS-1 and 9 Customer Satellites**

The Indian Space Research Organisation is to launch Earth observation satellite, RISAT-2BR2 and nine other customer satellites by November 7, 2020.

The Earth observation satellite has been code named EOS-01. It aims to support applications in Forestry, agriculture and disaster management.

#### **BepiColombo Spacecraft crossed Venus**

The BepiColombo SpaceCraft has crossed the Venus in its journey towards Mercury.

BepiColombo is a joint mission of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to the smallest planet Mercury. The mission comprises two

satellites launched together: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and MercuryMagnetospheric Orbiter, MMO(MIO)

### **India conducts successful night trial of nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile**

India has successfully conducted the night trial of its nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, off Odisha coast. The user flight trial was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command of the armed force under the watch of DRDO scientists as part of a training exercise.

### **ICMR approves “COVIRAP” test developed by IIT Kharagpur**

The Indian Council of Medical Research recently approved the covid-19 test called COVIRAP. It is a Diagnostic machine that was developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. This kit gives close test results as produced by RT-PCR.

### Books

#### **“Baahubali” series author Anand Neelakantan pens debut kids’ book**

The author of Baahubali series, Anand Neelakantan has authored his first kid’s book titled “The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids”, published by Puffins Publishers Private Limited under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

#### **Delhi’s Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launches a book “Bapu-The unforgettable”**

On the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled “Babu – The Unforgettable” over the virtual event.

#### **PM Modi releases autobiography of Balasaheb Vikhe Patil**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released the autobiography of former Union Minister Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil through video conferencing. The autobiography of Dr Patil has been titled ‘Deh Vechwa Karani,’ means ‘dedicating one’s life for a noble cause.’ Dr Patil served as Member of Lok Sabha for multiple terms. He died in 2016 at the age of 84.

#### **A book titled ‘The Battle of Belonging’ authored by Shashi Tharoor**

Renowned Author and Politician, Shashi Tharoor is set to release his new book titled “The Battle of Belonging” is set to be released in November 2020. Aleph Book Company publishes the book. Shashi Tharoor described this book as his “magnum opus” on the Theory, evolution and practice of Nationalism across the globe and especially in India.

#### **NK Singh launches his autobiography ‘Portraits Of Power’**

Veteran Economist and bureaucrat N K (Nand Kishore) Singh has released his autobiography titled “Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside”. The book portrays the life of NK Singh who played an active role in the development of the Indian economy.

He is currently serving as the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. The book is published by Rupa Publications India.

#### **Suman Dubey debut novel to tell story of ex-cricketer turned fixer**

Cricket, power and crime dominate the plot of an upcoming book, “The Fixer”, which promises to narrate a thrilling tale of an ex-cricketer-turned-fixer. The debut novel of author Suman Dubey will hit the stands on October 26, announced publishing house Rupa.

#### **Author Sarbpreet Singh’s latest book is on the Sikh massacre of 1984**

‘Night of the Restless Spirits’ is author Sarbpreet Singh’s recounting of the Sikh massacre of 1984

Like most Indians who were not in Delhi during those three fateful days in November 1984, Sarbpreet Singh considered any account of the massacre as an instance of civil unrest blown out of proportion.

### **World's first scientoon book "Bye Bye Corona" on Coronavirus released by UP Governor**

World's first scientoon book entitled "Bye Bye Corona", written by 'scientoonist' Dr Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, was released at a function held at Raj Bhawan, Lucknow, by Anandi Ben, Governor, Uttar Pradesh.

## Sports

<b>Name</b>	<b>Tournament name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Alyssa Healy	Breaks MS Dhoni's wicketkeeping record in T20Is	Australian woman cricketer and wicketkeeper, Alyssa Healy broke the record of "Most Dismissal by Wicket Keeper" by MS Dhoni's who made 91 dismissals in 98 T20 Internationals(T20Is) for India.
Visnu Shivaraj Pandian	5th International Online Shooting Championship	The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria, who had shot the best qualification score of 631.4, took the third place.
Iga Swiatek	French Open title	With the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tour-level title: the French Open.
Nihal Sarin	Junior Speed Chess Championship	Indian teenager created history (October 10) by winning the Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship, defeating Russia's Alexey Sarana 18-7 in the final.
Rafael Nadal	French Open 2020	Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win the men's 2020 French Open Title. This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title.
Lewis Hamilton	2020 Eifel Grand Prix	This is Hamilton's 7th win of the season and 91st career race victory, which was till now achieved only by Michael Schumacher.
C M Chang	Nagaland's Environment Minister	Nagaland's environment minister, C M Chang passed away due to COVID-19. He was a retired IAS officer and former Member of

		Parliament, Lok Sabha (2009-13).
Lakers	17th NBA Championship	This is the 17th NBA title win for LA Lakers and also their first since 2010, after late Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago.
Nozomi Okuhara	Women's Singles title at Denmark Open	In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara clinched the Denmark Open title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles.
Elavenil Valarivan	Gold - International Air Rifle Championship	In Shooting, the world number one Elavenil Valarivan of India won the gold medal in women's event of the 2020 Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship. The event was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (BSSF).
Lewis Hamilton	Portuguese Grand Prix 2020	This was the 12th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship. This is Hamilton's 8th win of the season and 92nd career race victory.

## Obituary

<b>Name</b>	<b>Associated Field</b>
Pushpa Bhawe	Veteran social activist
Mulayam Singh Yadav	Veteran Samajwadi Party leader
Vishal Anand	Veteran Bollywood Actor
Najeeb Tarakai	Afghanistan right-handed batsman
Eddie Van Halen	Rock legend and guitar hero
Ashwani Kumar	Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland, and ex-CBI Director
Mario Molina	Nobel Prize winner scientist
Ram Vilas Paswan	Minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet
KK Usha	First woman chief justice of Kerala
B. Vijaya Reddy	Veteran film-maker
Carlton Chapman	Former Indian Football Captain
Charlie Moore	Olympic 400 hurdles champion
Shoba Naidu	Renowned Kuchipudi dancer
John R Reid	Former New Zealand cricketer
Bhanu Athaiya	First Indian to win Oscar
Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri	Legendary Malayalam poet and Jnanpith laureate
Kishore Bhimani	Cricket journalist and commentator
Kapil Deo Kamat	Bihar Panchayati Raj Minister
Pradip Ghosh	Veteran Bengali Vocal Artiste
Vijayalakshmi Ramanan	IAF's first woman officer
Zarina Roshan Khan	Veteran TV Actress
Vijayalakshmi Ramanan	IAF's first woman officer
K J Mohammed	Playback singer and actor
Lee Kun-Hee	Samsung Chairman
Mahesh Kanodia	Veteran Gujarati Film Musician, Former MP
Naresh Kanodia	Veteran Gujarati Actor
Sir Sean Connery	Oscar winner and 1st actor to play James Bond

### **Important Days**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Themes</b>
International Day for the Elderly	October 01	Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?
International Day of Non-Violence	October 02	
Wildlife Week	October 02 – 08	Exploring Human-Animal Relationships.
World Animal Welfare Day	October 04	
World Habitat Day	October 05	Housing for All-A better Urban Future
World Space Week	October 04-10	Satellites Improve Life
World Teachers’ Day	October 05	Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future
World Cotton Day	October 07	
Indian Air Force Day	October 08	
World Post Day	October 09	
World Mental Health Day	October 10	
World Migratory Bird Day	October 10	Birds Connect Our World
National Postal Day	October 10	
International Day of the Girl Child	October 11	My voice, our equal future
World Arthritis Day	October 12	
International Day for Disaster Reduction	October 13	
World Standards Day	October 14	Protecting the planet with standards
World Students Day	October 15	Learning for people, prosperity and peace.
International Day of Rural Women	October 15	Building rural women’s resilience in the wake of COVID-19
World Food Day	October 16	Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	October 17	Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all
World Osteoporosis Day	October 20	THAT’S OSTEOPOROSIS
World Statistics Day	October 20	Connecting the world with data we can trust
International Chef’s Day	October 20	
Police Commemoration Day	October 21	
World Polio Day	October 24	A win against polio is a win for global health
World Development Information Day	October 24	

## CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – OCTOBER 2020

United Nations Day	October 24	
59th ITBP Raising Day	October 24	
World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	October 27	Your Window to the World
Vigilance Awareness Week	27 October to 2 November 2020	
International Animation Day	October 28	
World Psoriasis Day	October 29	
International Internet Day	October 29	
World Cities Day	October 31	
National Unity Day	October 31	