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Awards and Honours

Recipient Name	Awards	Extra Information
Paul Zacharia	Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020	Noted Malayalam writer, Paul Zacharia has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the Kerala government's highest literary honour.
MM Naravane	Honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army	The Chief of Army Staff General, MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari. He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Hariharan	JC Daniel award for lifetime contributions in Malayalam cinema	Noted filmmaker Hariharan has been selected for the JC Daniel Award, the state government's highest honour for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. The award carries a purse of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a sculpture.
Dilip Rath	National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) – Chairman	He has been associated with IDF for the last 10 years as Member Secretary of Indian National Committee and as a member of the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics.
S Hareesh	JCB Prize for Literature	Malayalam author, S Hareesh has won the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 for his novel Moustache. It has been translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil & published by HarperCollins India.
Ruskin Bond	Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award	Ruskin Bond, one of India's most cherished authors was conferred Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020. He has a

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		substantial body of work, close to 100 books – across genres for children and adults.
Sadat Rahman	International Children’s Peace Prize	Bangladeshi teen Sadat Rahman has been awarded the International Children’s Peace Prize for his work to stop cyber bullying of teens. The award was given away by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai during a ceremony in the Netherlands.
Dr Susanta Kar	Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award-2020	Dr Susanta Kar, Senior Scientist, Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI) was honoured with “Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020” by Society of Biological Chemists (India), Bengaluru.
Douglas Stuart	Booker Prize 2020	The shortlist of Booker Prize consisted of five more titles such as Burnt Sugar. The Burnt Sugar was published in India as “Girl in White Cotton”.
Dr Pokhriyal	Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award	This award will be conferred to the Minister for writing, poetry and other literary works. The Minister has penned more than 75 books on wide-ranging issues, which have also been translated into many national and foreign languages.
Naseeruddin Shah	Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar	Veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah has been honoured with the 2020 Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar at annual Sangit Kala Kendra Awards.

		“Theatre” is the central theme, for this year’s awards.
K Sivan	Doctor of Science Honorary Doctorate	Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala presented Doctor of Science honorary doctorate upon ISRO Chairman K Sivan. The Visvesvaraya Technological University has conferred the doctorate to him.
Pilibhit Tiger Reserve	TX2 International Award	The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department bagged the first international award TX2. The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve was awarded for doubling its number of tigers in four years. The target set was to double the numbers in ten years.
Delhi Crime	Best Drama Series at the International Emmy Awards	Delhi Crime is the first web-series from India to win an International Emmy Award. The show is written and directed by Richie Mehta and features actress Shefali Shah as the main character.

Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Ms Harpreet Singh	CEO of Alliance Air Aviation	Air India has appointed new chiefs in some of its subsidiaries. Ms Harpreet Singh, Executive Director, Air India, will hold the CEO's charge in the Alliance Air Aviation Limited till further orders.
Rajiv Jalota	Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust	Maharashtra cadre 1988 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Rajiv Jalota has been appointed as the chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) under the Union ministry of shipping.
PVG Menon	CEO - Electronics Sector Skill Council of India	The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI) announced appointment of PVG Menon as its chief executive officer.
Tummala Srinivasa	INCOIS Director	Tummala Srinivasa Kumar took charge as the new Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS) Director. INCOIS is an autonomous organization of the Government of India, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	New Chief Information Commissioner	The Government of India is set to appoint former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and Information Commissioner Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha as the new Chief Information Commissioner.
KP Anbalagan	Tamil Nadu's Agriculture Portfolio	Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit allotted the Agriculture portfolio, held by the late R Doraikannu in the K Palaniswami-led state cabinet

Priyanca Radhakrishnan	New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister	Priyanca Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern inducted five new ministers into her executive. Born in India, Radhakrishnan, 41, went to school in Singapore before moving to New Zealand to further her education.
Duarte Pacheco	President of Inter Parliamentary Union	Duarte Pacheco was elected as the new President of Inter Parliamentary Union. He will serve as the president of the union between 2020 and 2023. India was represented by the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla at the session.
Jagbir Singh	Vodafone Idea – CTO	Vodafone Idea has appointed Jagbir Singh as chief technology officer following Vishant Vora's departure. In another top-level appointment, the telco has named Manish Sansi as the new chief legal officer.
AK Gupta	MD and CEO of ONGC Videsh	AK Gupta, the new Managing Director and CEO of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) took charge. Before this, he was Director (Operations) of the company. Gupta was also the Head of New businesses in Marketing in ONGC and Head Business development in ONGC Videsh, both for the domestic and international markets.
Alassane Ouattara	Ivory Coast President	The incumbent President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara, has won a third 5-year term in a landslide victory, gaining more than 94 per cent of the votes polled. The 78-year-old, Mr Ouattara was first sworn in

		as the president in 2010 and then re-elected in 2015.
Vidisha Maitra	UN Advisory Committee	In a significant victory for India at the United Nations, Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elected to the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.
Gyanendro Ningombam	President of Hockey India	Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam was elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India, while former President Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad is back in the Hockey India Executive Board after being Elected Unopposed for the Senior Vice President post. Earlier, Gyanendro Ningombam has been serving as the Officiating President of Hockey India since July 2020.
Joe Biden	US presidential election	Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. has defeated Donald Trump to become the 46th U.S. president. Biden will become the oldest president-elect in U.S. history and the first to oust a sitting commander-in-chief after one term since Bill Clinton defeated George H.W. Bush in 1992.
Michael Holding	Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation – Patron	Former West Indies fast bowler, Michael Holding has been appointed as a new patron of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Foundation. The 66-year-old Holding is a passionate advocate for equality in cricket and the wider community.

MM Kuttu	Chairperson of Commission for Air Quality Management(CAQM)	The CAQM was formed on October 28 after dissolving several pollution-monitoring bodies, including most prominently the 22-year-old, Environment Pollution Prevention & Control Authority (EPCA) that has so far addressed air pollution in the Delhi NCR. This body will perform the job of coordinating activities between the State.
Kash Patel	Chief of Staff to acting US Defence Secretary	Indian-American Kash Patel has been named as the Chief of Staff to the Acting US Defence Secretary Chris Miller. The new appointment comes a day after Donald Trump fired Defence Secretary Mark Esper and designated Chris Miller, as the Acting Secretary.
Aung San Sui Kyi	Myanmar Elections	Myanmar's ruling party led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi claimed a resounding victory. National League for Democracy (NLD) party has won close to 400 seats while the opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has secured only 21 seats. Around 38 million voted to select the National League of Democrac
Nitish Kumar	Bihar Chief Minister	Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as the Bihar Chief Minister for a fourth straight term at a ceremony in Patna. The oath was administered by Governor Phagu Chauhan. While Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President JP Nadda were present at the ceremony, RJD decided to boycott the event.

Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi	Deputy CMs of Bihar	Former Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi had earlier tweeted, “BJP and Sangh Parivar gave me so much in political life of 40 years that possibly no other leader has gotten. I’ll discharge whatever responsibility I’m given.”
Navneet Munot	MD and CEO	He will succeed the present Managing Director Milind Barve, whose extended term ends in January next year. Munot is currently the Chief Investment Officer at SBI Mutual Fund, where he has worked for 12 years.
Kris Gopalakrishnan	Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub	Kris Gopalakrishnan, the former co-chairman and co-founder of Infosys was appointed as the first Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub.
Smriti Mandhana	Equitas Small Finance Bank – Brand Ambassador	Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a women-centred product ‘Eva’. The Bank has roped in Indian Woman cricketer Smriti Mandhana as the brand ambassador for its newly launched product ‘EVA’.
Greg Barclay	ICC Chairman	Auckland-based commercial lawyer and director of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) since 2012, Greg Barclay has been elected as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), after the second round of voting.
Harpal Singh	Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army	Lt Gen Harpal Singh has appointed new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army. He is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation and would take over his new appointment on 1 December.

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AR Rahman	India ambassador for BAFTA	Music composer AR Rahman has been announced as the India ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Breakthrough Initiative.
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Banking & Finance

RBI imposes monetary penalty on DCB Bank for rule violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty on DCB Bank and Jio Payments Bank for various rule violations. The central bank has imposed a penalty of Rs 22 lakh on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc.

HDFC Bank, IndusInd in 'red flag' list on nearing foreign investment cap

HDFC Bank & IndusInd Bank have been put in the 'red flag' list, a system used for monitoring foreign portfolio investor (FPI) limits. A listed company enters the list when the available legroom for overseas investment is less than 3% of the permissible limit. FPIs can invest up to 74% in both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank.

LIC launches 1st digital app 'ANANDA'

Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched a digital application for agents for onboarding to get a life insurance policy. The Digital Application is called "ANANDA", which is an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application.

The Digital application is a tool for the onboarding process to get the life insurance policy through a paperless module with the help of the agent or intermediary.

YES Bank launches 'SMS Pay' on POS Terminals

Private lender YES Bank has launched an 'SMS Pay' functionality on POS terminals, which would allow merchants to accept contactless and remote payments from their customers. YES Bank has collaborated with French payment services company Worldline to launch the new facility.

RBI imposes Rs 1 crore penalty on Punjab National Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Punjab National Bank for violating the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Punjab National Bank was operating a bilateral ATM-sharing arrangement with Druk PNB Bank Ltd., Bhutan, since April 2010 without prior approval or authorisation from India's banking regulator.

SBM Bank India set to launch a neo banking platform

SBM Bank India, the wholly-owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius has partnered with Fintech PayNearby to launch a neo banking platform. Both firms signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build an "open banking" network towards delivering basic banking solutions as well as advanced financial services, to their customers.

GoI & NDB sign MoU for USD 500 Million for Public Transport System in NCR

The Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB) have signed a loan agreement for lending USD 500 million for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project'. This Regional Rapid Transit System provides fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the National Capital Region (NCR).

CCI Approves Acquisition of Bharti AXA by ICICI Lombard

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

RBI to evaluate impact of 'RBI Kehta Hai' campaign

The Reserve Bank of India will evaluate the impact of multi-media public awareness campaign 'RBI Kehta Hai', which was launched in 14 languages to educate the public about safe banking and financial practices.

As part of the campaign, messages have been launched on basic savings bank deposit accounts, customer liability in unauthorised electronic banking transactions, safe digital banking practices, banking facilities for senior citizens, banking ombudsman scheme, and cybersecurity, among others.

IFSCA approves draft banking regulations at IFSC

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) conducted a meeting on November 11 in New Delhi. The IFSC Authority approved the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020 in the meeting.

The draft banking regulations approved at the meeting opens the way for making rules for the various aspects of banking operations that would be permissible at the IFSC. As banking plays an important role at IFSC, banking regulations will help it in reaching its desired potential.

Paytm launches "Payout Links" for small businesses

Paytm has launched "Payout Links" for businesses, enabling them to instantly process payouts to customers, employees and vendors, without collecting their bank details. It is aimed at helping small businesses in sectors like gaming, retail, export, manufacturing and e-commerce.

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ADB approves USD 132.8 mn loan to improve power distribution in Meghalaya

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 132.8 million loan to Meghalaya, to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in the state. The fund will help in

improving the distribution system & financial sustainability of the Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL).

RBI imposes six-month ban on Manta Urban Cooperative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has banned the Manta Urban Cooperative Bank in Jalna district of Maharashtra for six months for payment of money and loan transactions. The central bank has given some instructions to this bank, which will be effective for six months since the bank closed on 17 November 2020.

SEBI increases Overseas Investment limits for Mutual Funds

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has enhanced the investment limits for Mutual Fund companies for overseas investments. Mutual Funds can make overseas investments subject to a maximum of US \$ 600 million per Mutual Fund, within the overall industry limit of US \$ 7 billion. Earlier it was USD 300 million.

Whatsapp Partners with 5 Banks for UPI Payment

WhatsApp has partnered with five Indian banks to process its payment services. These are State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Jio Payments Bank.

The Facebook-owned messaging platform, WhatsApp Inc., has received the approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) based payments services in India, to let users send or receive money across the country.

HDFC Bank launches SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0 for SMEs

HDFC Bank has announced the launch of “SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0” for Small and mid-size enterprises. This solution allows merchants and self-employed professionals to instantly open a current account and start accepting payments in-store, online, and on-the-go.

RBI creates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to boost financial inclusion

The Reserve Bank of India has created a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). The aim of Innovation Hub is to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment which would facilitate and foster innovation.

RBIH will collaborate with financial sector institutions, technology industry and academic institutions and coordinate efforts for exchange of ideas and development of prototypes related to financial innovations.

Project Kirana launched by Mastercard and USAID

Mastercard and United States Agency for International Development launched “Project Kirana”. The programme will enable women entrepreneurs to grow, launch and thrive.

Under Project Kirana, a two-year programme is to be rolled out in selected cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh. The project will work to increase revenue, digital payments and expand financial inclusion.

RuPay Card Phase II jointly launched by India and Bhutan

PM Narendra Modi and Bhutanese PM Lotay Tshering jointly launched RuPay card Phase II that will allow Bhutan citizens to access RuPay network in India. The phase I was launched in August 2019.

DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has signed an agreement with the World Bank, to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.

DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of the value of 100 crore and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.

India-World Bank sign 120 million USD agreement to implement Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project

India and World Bank signed 120 million USD to modernise transport sector in the state of Meghalaya. The project aims to improve 300 km of strategic road segment through climate resilient and nature-based solutions.

Indian Affairs

India's first 'tyre park' to come up in West Bengal

In West Bengal, Kolkata will soon feature India's first "Tyre Park", where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display. The West Bengal Transport Corporation will launch this Tyre Park.'

PM Modi launches India's first seaplane service in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the country's first seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. He travelled in the maiden flight of the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam and landed at Sabarmati riverfront where a water aerodrome has been set up.

Dharmendra Pradhan co-chairs 4th Meeting of the OPEC-India Dialogue

The 4th High-Level Meeting of the OPEC-India Dialogue was hosted by the OPEC Secretariat. The Meeting was co-chaired by HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, Secretary-General of OPEC and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel.

India's first 'Moss Garden' comes up in Nainital district

The Uttarakhand forest department has dedicated the newly-built Moss Garden to the people, claiming that it is the country's first such garden, spread over 10 hectares in Kumaon's Nainital district.

Ravi Shankar Prasad launches International version of UMANG App

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the UMANG mobile app International version in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs for select countries that include USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Netherlands, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Honey FPO Program Was Launched

Under the "Establishment and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs" Scheme, Honey FPO was established. An FPO, formed by a group of farm producers, is a registered body with producers as shareholders in the organisation. It deals with business activities related to the farm produce and it works for the benefit of the member producers.

President inaugurated All India Presiding Officers Conference at Kevadia, Gujarat

Two days All India Presiding Officers' Conference has been organized at Kevadia, Gujarat. The conference was inaugurated by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind on 25th November. The conference is held on the occasion of Constitution Day.

South India's 1st private art museum to be digitally launched in B'luru

South India's first major private art museum called the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) will have its digital launch in a week-long virtual festival from December 5-11, 2020 in Bengaluru. The physical site, which is a five-storied museum, was planned to be opened in December but will now open next year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

PM Modi to launch Ro-Pax Ferry Service in Gujarat

PM Modi is to launch Ro-Pax ferry service between Ghogha and Hazira in Gujarat through video conferencing. The Ro-Pax ferry vessel called the "Voyage Symphony" is a three-deck vessel. It has a load capacity to load thirty trucks, 100 passenger cars and 500 passengers.

Finance Minister announces 'Aatmanirbhar' Package 3.0

The Finance Minister of India, Smt Nirmala Sitaraman has announced the 'Aatmanirbhar' Package 3.0. Addressing a press conference to announce more stimulus measures to boost growth. According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman, PMI rose to 58.9 in October 2020 indicating strong recovery of the economy from COVID-19 crisis.

Ministry of Textiles launches "Local4Diwali" campaign

The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali- "Local4Diwali". The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft which is the cultural heritage of the country and also a source of livelihood for many. As per the available data, the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.

First Solar Powered Textile mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district, Maharashtra

The chairman of Jai Bhawani Women cooperative textile mill announced that the mill will soon operate on solar power. With this, the mill will become the first Solar Power enabled textile mill in Asia. The mill is located in Parbhani district of Maharashtra.

Keetham lake in Uttar Pradesh added to Ramsar sites

The Keetham lake, also known as Sur Sarovar, in Agra of Uttar Pradesh has been added to the list of Ramsar sites. More than 106 species of migratory birds rest in Sur Sarovar lake. The water of the lake is obtained from Agra Canal. The canal originates from Okhla barrage on River Yamuna in Delhi.

Ladakh gets largest solar project at Leh Indian Air Force station

The Union Territory of Ladakh has got the largest solar power project set up under the Centre's 'Make In India' initiative at Leh IAF station to provide sustainable energy alternative to fossil fuel and traditional methods of energy generation.

The project namely 'Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Powerplant 1.5 MW' has been completed within 12 months well before the completion deadline of March 31, 2021.

Metro Neo

The Government of India is planning to approve national standard specifications and rules for Metro Neo targeted at tier 2 & tier 3 cities. Metro Neo is a no-frills, low-cost urban rail transit system.

This Metro opts for traffic demand places where there are 8,000 passengers or above one way in peak time. These Metro systems are smaller and lighter than conventional Metro trains.

Udyam Scheme: 11 lakh MSMEs registered

The Government of India announced that over 11 lakh MSMEs have registered on the new online system of Udyam Registration. It was launched in July 2020. According to GoI, over 3.72 lakh have been registered under manufacturing category and 6.31 lakh have registered under service sector.

Of these registered enterprises, 93.17% were micro enterprises, 5.62% were small enterprises and 1.21 were medium enterprises. Around 7.98 lakh enterprises were owned by male, 1.73 lakh enterprises were owned by female entrepreneurs. Around 11,188 enterprises were owned by Divyangjan.

Ayodhya Airport to be renamed as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has cleared the proposal to rename the Ayodhya airport as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The proposal for the same will be sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation after it is passed by the state Assembly.

Jio named title sponsor for BCCI's Women T20 Challenge 2020

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced Jio as the Title Sponsor of the 2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge. The partnership will also have the support of Reliance Foundation Education and Sports For All (RF ESA).

India's 1st solar-powered miniature train launched in Kerala

India's first of its kind solar energy-driven miniature train was inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village, Kerala by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The train, which would be an attraction for children especially, was part of a string of projects totally worth Rs 60 crore taken up to elevate the facilities at the panoramic destination to international standards.

Ministry of Shipping renamed to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed the Ministry of Shipping to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on November 8, 2020. PM Modi announced the renaming of the ministry at the inaugural virtual event of Ro-Pax terminal at Surat's Hazira.

He also flagged-off the Ro-Pax ferry service between Hazira and Ghogha in Gujarat in the event. This ferry service between Hazira and Ghogha will reduce the distance of 370 km to 90 km by seat route. Also, the journey time is now reduced to 3-4 hours from 10-12 hours earlier.

‘Karkhanisanchi Waari’ only Indian entry at Tokyo Film Festival

Marathi film, Karkhanisanchi Waari (Ashes on a Road Trip), the 149-minute film tells the story of the Karkhanis, the last joint family of Pune. The movie was directed by Mangesh Joshi. The movie will have its world premiere at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival. It is the only Indian entry at the festival.

WHO: A Traditional Medicine Centre to be set up in India

The World Health Organization announced that it is to set up a traditional medicine centre in India. The announcement of establishing the centre was made during the inaugural ceremony of two future ready Ayurveda institutions. These institutions were inaugurated in Jamnagar and Jaipur.

IRCTC to start ‘Bharat Darshan Yatra’ on December

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will be starting ‘Bharat Darshan–Dakshin Bharat Yatra’ from December 12. The Bharat Darshan Yatra will start from Hyderabad and Secunderabad from December 12 to 18. The theme of this yatra will be ‘Show India to Indians’.

PM Modi unveils “Statue of Peace”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled “Statue of Peace”. The statue is being unveiled to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.

PM Modi addresses 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum through video-conferencing. The forum witnessed discussions on refuelling the economy and charting a course for the future, as the world economy is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Asia’s 1st solar power-enabled Textile Mill to be unveiled in Maharashtra

The first solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia is set to be set up in Parbhani district, Maharashtra. Spread across 30 acres of land, the Jai Bhawani women’s cooperative textile mill will be first in Asia that will operate entirely on solar power. The overall cost of setting up the project is around Rs. 100 crore.

Ravi Shankar Prasad releases “My Stamp on Chhath Puja”

Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law and Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad has released a “My Stamp on Chhath Puja”. My Stamp is an innovative concept initiated by the Department of Posts. Any common person or corporate organisation can now book order and get a personalised photograph or an image of a Postage Stamp.

PM Modi launches “Har Ghar Nal Yojana” in Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, November 22, launched the 'Har Ghar Nal Yojana' (Tap Water to Every Household) for the residents of Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra and Mirzapur district. Government was committed to solving the water scarcity problem and hence the scheme of worth ₹5,555 crores was launched in the state.

Iconic Volkswagen Beetle becomes India's first vintage car to go electric

The canary yellow Beetle, a 1948 model, is the first vintage car in India to be converted into an electric vehicle (EV).

The Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air (CERCA) at IIT Delhi is behind this test case to promote electric mobility.

Thaawarchand Gehlot e-launches National Portal for Transgender Persons

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot has e-launched a 'National Portal for Transgender Persons' and e-inaugurated a 'Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' in Vadodara, Gujarat.

Bengaluru's Bowring Medical College named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute in Bengaluru have been named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The institute was set up in 2018-19 on the campus of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar in the heart of Bengaluru.

Cabinet Affairs

Union Cabinet: MoU signed between India and Israel in Health and Medicine approved

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Israel in the field of Health and Medicine. To exchange and train medical doctors and other professionals.

Union Cabinet: MoU between India and UK in Medical Product Regulation approved

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the MoU signed between India and UK in the field of medical product regulation. The MoU was signed between United Kingdom Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

Union Cabinet: Capital Infusion of Rs 6,000 crores into NIIF approved

The Union Cabinet approved Rs 6,000 crores of capital infusion into the National Infrastructure Investment Fund. This is a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The move will leverage to create financial pipeline of Rs 1 lakh crore.

Cabinet approves RBI's proposal to merge Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank

Union Cabinet has approved the merger of capital-starved Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS Bank India. The Reserve Bank of India on 17 November proposed the merger of the lender with the Indian arm of Singapore's DBS Bank.

Centre issues draft Merchant Shipping Bill for public consultation

The Ministry of Shipping announced on November 26, 2020, that it has issued a draft of the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020 for public consultation. The draft bill by the government aims to replace and revoke the Merchant Shipping Act of 1958.

Union Cabinet: MoU between India and UK in ICT approved

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and UK. The MoU was signed in the field of Information Communication Technologies and Telecommunications.

Cabinet approves PLI scheme worth ₹1.46 lakh crore for 10 sectors

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme worth nearly ₹1.46 lakh crore over a period of 5 years for 10 sectors.

These include pharmaceuticals, food products, automobile, electronics and speciality steel. "The scheme will make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investment and enhance exports," the government said.

Union Cabinet: MoU between India and Spain in Astronomy approved

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Spain. The MoU will facilitate scientific and technical collaborations between the countries in the field of Astronomy.

Union Cabinet: Rs 1810 crore Luhri Hydro Power Project approved

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Rs 1810 crore investment proposal of 210 MW of Luhri Stage I Hydro Power Project. The hydro power project is to be constructed on River Sutlej. The project will generate 758.2 million units of electricity annually.

Right to Recall Panchayat Member Bill of Haryana

The Haryana Government passed a bill on November 6 which provides a right to recall an elected member of Panchayati Raj Institutions if they fail to perform their duties well. The state government also provided 50% reservation to women in these bodies.

Cow Cabinet: A new cabinet in Madhya Pradesh to conserve cows

The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the State Government is to constitute 'Cow Cabinet' to conserve and promote cow cattle in the state. The first meeting of the cabinet is to be held on November 22, 2020. The meeting is to be held at Gau Sanctuary Salaria Agar Malwa.

State Related Affairs

Punjab inks mou with game to support msme, in partnership with omidyar network India

In another significant step towards ensuring ease of doing business by simplification, digitization and decriminalization of compliances, Punjab Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME).

1st cow hospital of Northeast inaugurated in Assam

A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated Northeast's first-ever cow hospital, on the occasion of Gopashtami. The hospital, Surbhi Aarogyashala, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh. The hospital will provide services in 30 km radius. There are 368 cows in the shelter.

Himachal Pradesh govt launches 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan'

Himachal Pradesh government has launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize the people regarding Covid-19 pandemic and also to collect information regarding symptoms of diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure by the door to door campaign throughout the State.

Lonar Lake in Buldhana district declared Ramsar site, second for Maharashtra within a year

Lonar crater lake in Buldhana district, 500 kilometres (km) from Mumbai, has been declared Maharashtra's second Ramsar site. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (held for the first time in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971), which aims to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands.

Punjab withdraws general consent to CBI

Punjab had revoked/withdrawn the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). From now, CBI will have to take permission from the state government to investigate any case. This comes within a week after Jharkhand and Kerala decided to withdraw the general consent to CBI.

Country's longest motorable single-lane bridge inaugurated in Uttarakhand

India's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge has been inaugurated in Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand. The Dobra-Chanti Jhula (suspension) bridge, was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat to mark the 20th foundation day of the state on 9th November 2020.

Maha Awas Yojana launched in Maharashtra

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddav Thackeray launched “Maha Awas Yojana”. The project aims to build 8.82 lakhs of rural houses in 100 days. The project includes construction of toilets as well. The cost of the project has been estimated as Rs 4,000 crores.

The Government of India recently announced Affordable housing Scheme for the migrant workers affected by COVID-19. This was launched under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Assam: Tezpur Litchi gets GI tag

The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has announced that Assam’s Tezpur Litchi has been given the geographical indication (GI) tag, though the litchis name in the GI tag list is there since 2015.

The application for GI tagging was made on 28th August 2013 by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd (NERAMAC).

CM Naveen Patnaik launched a mobile app “Secha Samadhan”

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched ‘Secha Samadhan’, a bilingual mobile application, to address the irrigation problems faced by farmers without them having to visit the offices concerned.

With the launching of the application, farmers need not run to the offices of the Water Resources department and can send their grievances through photographs or videos. The farmers will be informed about the status of their complaints through SMS.

Tamil Nadu: 100% Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption to EVs

The State Government of Tamil Nadu recently notified that it will grant 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for Electric Vehicles. Earlier, the State Government had issued orders for 50% concessional rate to EV taxes. It has now been made to 100%.

PRASAD Scheme: Tourist Facilitation Centre at Guruvayur, Kerala inaugurated

The Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the “Tourist Facilitation Centre” at Guruvayur, Kerala. The centre was constructed under the PRASAD Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

Kerala launches “Parivarthanam” scheme for better livelihood of fisherfolk

The government of Kerala has launched a pioneering eco-sustainable programme called ‘Parivarthanam’, to improve the livelihood of the fishing community. The scheme aims at improving the livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline and also enable socio-economic uplift of the fishermen community.

First Solar based Integrated Multi Village Water Supply Project inaugurated in Arunachal Pradesh

Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the country's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Arunachal Pradesh. While dedicating the project, Shekhawat said that the project is as per the vision of PM Modi for the utilization of multiple resources. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu was also present at the event.

Pema Khandu also launched the "Arunachal Jal Sankalp" programme in this event. This is a state-government programme to supplement Jal Jeevan Mission.

Nagaland's Hornbill Festival to be celebrated virtually

Nagaland govt decides to celebrate Hornbill Festival virtually this year, amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the country. This festival is also called the Festival of Festivals.

It is held every year from December 1 to 10, showcases the culture, heritage, food and customs of Naga tribes. 16 tribes come together to celebrate their traditions with dance performances. Tourists from across the globe attend the 10-day gala.

Haryana CM Launches 'Project Air Care' in Gurgaon

Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar has virtually unveiled 'Project Air Care' to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon. 65 Wing Augmentation Air Purifying Units (WAYU) would be set up at areas with high Air Quality Indices (AQI) in Gurgaon to improve the air quality.

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

India's first Sandalwood Museum is being established in Aranya Bhavan in Ashokapuram, Mysuru, Karnataka. The museum is set up by the Regional Forest Department to educate farmers about the significance of cultivation of sandalwood.

This will also provide technical support, information on the availability of saplings, marketing facilities, pest control measures, incentives and schemes provided for sandalwood growers by the government.

MP govt launches 'Roadmap to Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh'

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched a roadmap to "Aatma Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh 2023" through a virtual event. Under the roadmap, a special focus will be on health and education in the state.

Delhi Government launches Jeevan Seva App for transportation of COVID-19 patients

The Health Minister of Delhi, Satyendar Jain on November 12, 2020, launched the Jeevan Seva App for the safe and timely transportation of Corona patients to the healthcare facilities and hospitals. It has been launched in collaboration with EVERA Cab services.

International Affairs

Panna (India), Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll (Maldives) join UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme included Panna in India and Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll in the Maldives, to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. For India it is the twelfth entry, whereas for Maldives second and third after Baa Atoll.

Shane Watson retires from all forms of cricket

Australian all-rounder, Shane Watson has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 39-year-old will hang up his boots after an illustrious career during which he won two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups and two ICC Champions Trophy titles. He played 59 Tests, 190 ODIs and 58 T20Is.

FIFA cancels U-17 Women World Cup in India

FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) cancelled the Women Under-17 world cup due to COVID-19 pandemic. It has been postponed to 2021. The 2020 FIFA Women Under-17 World Cup was to be held in India.

Japan and Australia sign Defence Pact to counter China

Japan and Australia signed the "Reciprocal Access Agreement" to counter the growing influence of China in the South China sea and in the Pacific Island Nations.

The defence agreement has taken six years of negotiations. This will bring the countries closer amidst militarization in South China sea and series of disputes over islands in East China sea.

G20 Leaders Summit to be On 21 November

At the invitation of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be attending the 15th G20 Summit chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Malaysia hosts APEC Summit

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation was recently hosted by Malaysia. Several leaders of the cooperation joined the summit. The Summit was attended by the US President Donald Trump as well. The next APEC meeting is to be hosted by New Zealand.

Quarantine' named Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2020

Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as Word of the Year 2020. The word has been named the word of the year based on data that showed that it was one of the most highly searched words on the Cambridge Dictionary this year.

China's proposed Hydropower project in Brahmaputra, Tibet

Under the 14th five-year plan that is to be implemented from 2021, China has proposed hydro power project on Brahmaputra river in Tibet. The project has been proposed by the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party of China. The Committee prepared the fourteenth five-year plan, 2021 to 2025 and the long-term goals through 2035 of China.

Hayabusa2 Spacecraft of Japan

The Hayabusa2 spacecraft of Japan is nearing the earth after a yearlong journey from asteroid Ryugu. The asteroid is located at a distance of about 300 million kilometres from the Earth. The spacecraft is to reach the earth in Southern Australia on December 6, 2020 carrying precious samples from the asteroid .

Hualong One: China's entry in Nuclear Power Sector

China recently connected its first indigenously developed third generation nuclear power reactor called Hualong one to its national grid. The Hualong One nuclear power reactor is first of its kind.

Arab Gulf's first coal-based power plant being developed in Dubai

The first coal-based power plant of Arab Gulf country is being developed in Saih Shuaib, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The 2,400MW Hassyan clean coal power station will be built at an estimated cost of \$ 3.4 billion.

Foreign Relation

Assam CM Sarbanada Sonowal lay the foundation stone of Indo-Israeli agriculture project worth Rs. 10 crores

The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbanada Sonowal along with Ambassador of Israel to India, Ron Malka on November 2, 2020, laid the foundation stone of the Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at Khetri, Assam.

The latest center will be built under the Agricultural Project of India and Israel at a cost of Rs. 10.33 crores and will have the facilities such as an automated irrigation system, high-tech greenhouse, and insect-proof net house.

United Nations: India sponsored Nuclear Disarmament Resolutions adopted

Two resolutions were adopted by United Nations namely “Convention on Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons” and “Reducing Nuclear Danger”. The resolutions were sponsored by India.

India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments

India and UAE held the High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments. The task force was created in 2012. India and UAE recently strengthened their Defence Cooperation. This will help India achieve its target of 5 billion USD of defence exports in five years.

India-GCC Troika Dialogue

India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika held an annual Political Dialogue. India was represented by the External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar at the dialogue.

India-Indonesia 5th Joint Working Group on Coal held virtually

The India-Indonesia fifth joint working group on coal was held. The meeting of the working group was held through video conference. During the meeting, the countries discussed on Indian Coal Policy reforms, commercial mining of coal in India and coking coal exploration.

India-Italy Virtual Bilateral Summit 2020

The Bilateral Summit between India and Italy was held virtually on 6th November 2020. The Summit was attended by the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Prof. Giuseppe Conte.

The two leaders reviewed the broad framework of the bilateral relationship and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation against common global challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

4th India-Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation

The 4th India- Philippines Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation was held virtually on November 6. The meeting was co- chaired by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Teodoro Locsin Jr, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Philippines.

Australia-India Water Centre inaugurated virtually

Australia-India Water Centre (AIWC) has been inaugurated in a virtual event to promote water-related research, teaching, and training between the two countries. This Water Centre is led by IIT Guwahati from the Indian side and the University of Western Sydney from the Australian side. Along with this, the centre has 21 partners from India and Australia.

India and Maldives sign four agreements

India and the Maldives have signed four agreements, during the visit of Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to the Maldives. Shringla is on a two-day visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago.

These MOUs will help to improve the relations between the two countries. Maldives tourism industry has been greatly affected by COVID-19 and because of this India provided a loan of \$250 million to the country in September 2020.

Indian Astronomers collaborate with 2020 Nobel Physics Nobel Laureate

Indian astronomers have collaborated with the 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez for the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project. The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) is a proposed extremely large telescope (ELT) which is planned to be installed at Maunakea on the island of Hawaii.

India contributes 1 million USD to Covid-19 ASEAN Response Fund

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cochaired India-ASEAN summit along with the Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc. ASEAN is Association of South East Asian Nations. During the summit, PM announced that India is to contribute 1 million USD to COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.

Dr Harsh Vardhan attends 8th BRICS STI Ministerial Meet

The 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held through a virtual platform for Science and Technology cooperation among the member countries, which are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Russian Federation. (Russia is the Chair for 12th BRICS Summit).

S. Jaishankar Represents India at 15th East Asia Summit 2020

The External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has represented India at the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) on behalf of PM Modi. The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc because Vietnam is ASEAN Chair in 2020 (ASEAN holds the central role and leadership in the forum). All the 18 EAS countries participated in the virtual Summit.

India and Finland sign MOU on environmental protection

India and Finland signed an MoU for developing cooperation in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The MoU was signed by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar from the Indian side and his Finnish counterpart Krista Mikkonen through video-mode.

Indo-Thai CORPAT, Coordinated Patrol held

The 30th Indo-Thai CORPAT is being held between Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy from November 18, 2020 to November 20, 2020. INS Karmuk, HTMS Kraburi along with the Dornier maritime aircraft are to participate in the CORPAT. The countries have been holding CORPAT along the International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005.

India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue held

India and European Union held Counter Terrorism Dialogue. During the dialogue, the strategic partners condemned terrorism in all forms. The dialogue also reviewed threats posed by UN-sanctioned terrorist entities. India and European Union are to soon conclude the Free Trade Agreement.

India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit

India and Luxembourg held the first stand alone summit in two decades. The countries appreciated the launch of four Luxembourg satellites by Indian Space Research Organization in 2019. India welcomed Luxembourg's decision of joining International Solar Alliance.

PM Modi & Bhutanese PM Jointly launch RuPay Card Phase-II

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering virtually launched RuPay card Phase-II, to allow Bhutanese cardholders to access RuPay network in India. In August 2019, PM Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart jointly launched Phase-I of the project.

India-US extend MoU for Cooperation on Nuclear Energy

India and the United States have extended the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Energy agreement for another ten years. The agreement is also called the 123 agreement. India buys the nuclear material from United States based on this agreement. The extension of the agreement was signed at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP).

India-Vietnam Defence Ministers hold discussions

The Defence Ministers of India and Vietnam recently discussed the collaboration in the defence industry. The discussions include training, capacity building and cooperation in United Nations Peace keeping operations. The countries reaffirmed the strong India-Vietnam Defence cooperation during the discussion.

India to build Shahtoot dam in Afghanistan

The Union Minister of External Affairs Shri S Jaishankar recently announced at the Geneva Donors conference that India is to construct the Shahtoot Dam across the Maidan river, a tributary of river Kabul in Afghanistan. The negotiations to build the dam across the river began in 2016.

In 2016, India had funded for the Salma dam across Hari river (Herat province) of Afghanistan. The dam is also called the Afghan-India Friendship Dam.

Ranks & Indices

Second National Water Awards: Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Rajasthan secure top positions

The Vice President Venkaiah Naidu announced the second National Water Awards. Tamil Nadu won the first place followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan at second and third places respectively.

Tamil Nadu also topped in all India level micro irrigation awards under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. The state was followed by Karnataka and Gujarat in second and third places respectively.

India Ranks 77 in TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020

India is placed at 77th position in the TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2020. India has achieved a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020. India's rank stood 78 positions in 2019.

It was a better performance than neighbouring nations such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and China. But, Bhutan scored better than India and got 48th place in the list.

India's Param Siddhi ranked 63rd in most powerful supercomputers

According to the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian supercomputer, Param Siddhi has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world. Param Siddhi is the high-performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer established under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at C-DAC.

EIU's Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL) Index 2020 announced

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released its biannual 'Worldwide Cost of Living (WCOL)' report of the World's Most Expensive Cities in 2020, based on their cost of living. Hong Kong (China), Paris (France) and Zurich (Switzerland) share the top spot as the most expensive cities in the list, which comprises of 133 cities.

India becomes 4th nation to get IMO nod for navigation satellite system

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the Indian Ocean Region.

India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China.

Mexico and Italy back in Top 10; India at 104th in FIFA ranking

Despite the lack of movement at the summit, there are some familiar faces back in the Top 10, with Mexico (9th, +2) and Italy (10th, +2) making their return after nine and four years respectively. Croatia (11th, -2) and Colombia (15th, -5) are the two teams dropping out.

The Indian national team are ranked 104th in the September 2019 edition of the FIFA Rankings released.

IATA: Shanghai becomes the most connected city in the world

The International Air Transport Association recently announced that Shanghai is the world's most connected city in the world. Along with Shanghai, three other cities such as Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou have emerged as the most connected cities in the world

Business Related Affairs

Indian Oil and IISc join hands for Hydrogen Generation Technology

The IISc and the Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.

Freecharge joins hands with SafeGold to launch digital gold offering

Perfectly timed for the upcoming festive season, Freecharge announced the launch of digital gold offering for its customers. The service is launched in collaboration with SafeGold. This offering will enable customers to easily buy gold online, eliminating the hassles related to transparency, security and storage of gold.

AAI hands over Lucknow airport to Adani group

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has handed over the Lucknow airport to the Adani group on lease for a period of 50 years. Apart from this, the Adani group has taken over/will take over operations of 5 more airports.

IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

Tech giant IBM stated 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.

IREDA and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy sign Memorandum of Understanding

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set key targets for the year 2020-21.

AAI Signs MoU With NTPC Subsidiary, NVVN

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), to promote usage of electric vehicles and set up solar power plants at the airports managed and operated by AAI.

Mercedes-Benz joins hands with SBI to target HNI customers

Mercedes-Benz has joined hands with State Bank of India (SBI) to offer financial benefits to the lender's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customers. This collaboration will give the luxury automobile manufacturer access to State Bank of India's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits at the time of booking a Mercedes-Benz car.

L&T bags Rs 7,000-cr order to construct part of Bullet Train project

Infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has bagged an order worth over Rs 7,000 crore to construct a part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR), also known as the Bullet Train Project. The scope of the order includes the construction of viaducts, one station, major river bridges, maintenance depots, and other auxiliary works.

Singapore's DBS Group completes takeover of Lakshmi Vilas Bank

Singapore's DBS Group said it has completed its takeover of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB), helping it expand from over 30 branches in India to having more than 550 now. DBS confirmed it would continue to employ around 4,000 LVB staff. Rebranding of LVB branches has begun and ATM screens have also been reconfigured to reflect DBS's logo.

IRDAI approves ICICI Lombard acquisition of Bharti Axa General

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given its in-principle approval for the merger of Bharti AXA General Insurance with ICICI Lombard. The merged entity will have a market share of around 8.7 per cent on a proforma basis in the general insurance business.

Defence News

Indian Coast Guard Ship C-452 to be commissioned in Indian Navy

The ICGS C-452, designed and built by L&T is to be commissioned in the Indian Navy. The ship was indigenously built in India under the Make in India initiative.

Earlier, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh had commissioned the ICGS Sachet and two other interceptor boats namely C-451 and C-450 in Goa.

Mission Sagar-II: INS AIRAVAT enters Port Sudan

The Indian Naval Ship Airavat entered Port Sudan as part of Mission Sagar Phase II. Under Mission Sagar, India is currently providing assistance to its friendly foreign countries to help them overcome COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities. INS Airavat was carrying a consignment of 100 tonnes of food aid.

Indian Naval Ship ‘Airavat’ reaches Port Sudan under ‘Mission Sagar-II’

As a part of Mission Sagar-II, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Airavat has reached Sudan with 100 tonnes of food aid. Under Mission Sagar-II, INS Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The government of India has launched this initiative to provide assistance to friendly foreign countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic.

Bangladesh, United States jointly launch naval exercise ‘CARAT Bangladesh 2020’

The navies of the United States and Bangladesh have jointly launched on November 4, 2020, the ‘Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020’ in order to broaden relationships and expand maritime awareness between the two nations.

India successfully test-fires enhanced version of PINAKA rocket system

The enhanced version of PINAKA rocket system was successfully flight tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. This enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets. While Mk-1 had a range of 40 km, the new variant can hit a target 45 to 60 km away.

Two-day joint coastal security exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’ begins

A two-day joint coastal security exercise, “Sagar Kavach” was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha. The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments.

Indian Navy launches 5th Scorpene Submarine “Vagir”

The Indian Navy has launched the fifth Scorpene submarine “Vagir” at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai. The submarine is capable of taking missions such as anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and area surveillance.

2nd Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 held in Andaman Sea

The 2nd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 was conducted from in the Andaman Sea. The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Indian Navy (IN) Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the exercise.

India-Singapore Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20

The 27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 has been organised from 23 to 25 November 2020 in the Andaman Sea. Indian Navy (IN) is the host for the 2020 edition of SIMBEX.

The SIMBEX series of exercises are being held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), annually since 1994. The exercise aims at enhancing mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices from each other.

DRDO launches first Varunastra, a heavy weight Torpedo

The Defence Research Development Organization recently flagged off the first Varunastra, the heavy weight torpedo. The torpedo was designed and developed by the BDL, Vishakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy.

Indian Army successfully testfires Land-attack version of BrahMos missile

Indian Army successfully test-fired a land-attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory. The supersonic cruise missile successfully hit its target, which was on another island.

Science & technology

China successfully launches 13 satellites in a single rocket

China launched 13 satellites in a single rocket successfully. Of these 13 satellites, 10 were from Argentina. This is the biggest launch of foreign satellites by the country.

The satellites were launched on the Long March 6 carrier rocket. This was the 351st satellite launch of the Long March series.

ISRO launches PSLV C49 with 10 satellites

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the 51st mission of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). This is the first mission by ISRO in 2020. The carrier vehicle PSLV C49 will deliver 10 satellites in all with EOS-01 as the primary one.

It is the 51st mission of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The carrier was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

China launches ‘world’s first 6G experiment satellite’

China has sent into space the world’s first 6G experiment satellite. The 6G satellite was among three Chinese satellites successfully launched into orbit, along with 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by Argentinian company Satellogic. This was the 351st rocket of China’s Long March series.

SpaceX Crew-1 Mission: Four Astronauts launched into space

On November 16, 2020, SpaceX launched four astronauts into the space under Mission Crew 1. The Crew Dragon capsule becomes the first spacecraft to be certified by NASA after 40 years. Being the first in a series, there will be regular flights by the SpaceX to the International Space Station.

NASA-ESA successfully launches Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite

The US space agency NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) successfully launched ‘Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite’, to monitor the rising global sea level. The joint US-European satellite lifted off on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

China’s Change-5 Lunar Mission to bring back rock samples from the moon

China recently launched the Change-5 Lunar Mission. The mission is the first probe in four decades to bring back rock samples from the moon from its previously unexplored portions. Change-5 is the first probe to land on the far side of the moon.

Books

A book titled “Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy” by T. Bandyopadhyay

Tamal Bandyopadhyay has authored a book titled “Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy” and will be released on November 09, 2020. This book, published by Roli Books, provides an understanding of the challenges and economic potential of India.

‘Till We Win’: Book on Covid-19 by AIIMS Director

A new book titled “Till We Win” by AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria and two other doctors will give a definitive account of India’s fight against Covid-19 and how to deal with the pandemic in the days to come.

Ex-SPG officer pens novel “Rasaathi” on transgenders

Ex-SPG officer, Sasindran Kallinkeel’s has penned a novel named “Rasaathi: The Other Side of a Transgender”. The main character in the novel, published by BookMitra, is a transgender named Rasaathi born in a well-to-do family in South India.

Rasaathi, meaning princess, is in the late 40s who wants people to treat transgenders like human beings by showering love, affection, sympathy and recognise their pathetic and horrible life.

Thavaasmi book launched by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu

Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu has launched the book titled “Thavaasmi: Life and Skills through the lens of Ramayana”. The book was authored by Rallabandi Srirama Chakradhar and co-author by Amara Sarada Deepthi.

Anupam Kher’s new book titled ‘Your Best Day Is Today!’

Actor Anupam Kher’s latest book is titled “Your Best Day Is Today!”. He had announced the book, in which he experiences during the coronavirus-induced countrywide lockdown. Through this book, Kher will recount his experiences during the lockdown, several ups and downs, including the time when his mother Dulari and brother Raju Kher had contracted the virus.

Maharashtra Governor releases a book ‘Majhi Bhint’

Maharashtra Governor, Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released the book ‘Majhi Bhint’ (My Wall) authored by former Maharashtra Minister of Education Rajendra Darda at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. The book is a compilation of selected Facebook posts of Rajendra Darda pertaining to a range of issues written over the last four years.

A New Book on Gulzar “Boskiyana” by Radhakrishna Prakashan

‘Boskiyana’, a new Hindi book on Gulzar, veteran Indian poet-lyricist has been published by Radhakrishna Prakashan. The book portrays the life of Gulzar through his films, poetry, philosophies, lifestyle, likes and dislikes. The 228- page book is edited and compiled by Yashwant Vyas. ‘Boskiyana’ is the name of the house of Gulzar in Mumbai.

Sonu Sood’s autobiography to be titled ‘I Am No Messiah’

An actor, producer and humanitarian, Sonu Sood is set to pen his autobiography titled “I Am No Messiah”. The book will be co-authored by Meena Iyer.

The book will account the experience of Sonu Sood during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book is set to be published by Penguin Random House India and released in December 2020.

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PM Modi releases book on the Life of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and first of its ten gurus. The book has been penned by Kirpal Singh Ji. Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi was also present during the book release.

Sports

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Lewis Hamilton	F1 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020	This was his 9th win of the season and 93rd F1 win of his career. Valtteri Bottas finished second while Daniel Ricciardo finished third. Mercedes won the seventh consecutive constructors' title for 2020.
Daniil Medvedev	Paris Master 2020	Russian, Daniil Medvedev has won Paris Master 2020 title in badminton, when he beat Alexander Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 in Paris. He became the fourth Russian to capture the Rolex Paris Masters title.
Mumbai Indians	IPL 2020	Mumbai Indians won the IPL 2020 Trophy for the fifth time. The team has so far won the title in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. Rohit Sharma was the captain of the team.
Chen Meng	ITTF Women's World Cup title	The world number one Chen Meng beat Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha to win her maiden International Table Tennis Federation(ITTF) Women's World Cup table tennis title in held in Weihai, China. The 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup was the 24th edition of the ITTF-sanctioned event.
Novak Djokovic	ATP Tour No. 1 trophy	With this, he has become the only second player in tennis history, after Pete Sampras, to receive the trophy sixth time.
Daniil Medvedev	ATP Tour 2020	In Tennis, Daniil Medvedev (Russia) beat Dominic Thiem (Austria) to win the 2020 ATP Tour Finals, held in London. This is the biggest title of his career. The 24-year-old will finish

		the year at fourth position in the world rankings.
Virat Kohli	Becomes fastest to reach 22,000 international runs	Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli scripted another record in the game. He broke Sachin Tendulkar's record and became the quickest batsman to complete 22,000 runs. He reached the milestone in his 462nd innings. Tendulkar batted 493 times to reach that mark.

Obituary

Name	Associated Field
R Doraikkannu	Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister
Mesut Yilmaz	Former Turkish Prime Minister
Ashish Kakkad	Filmmaker-actor
TN Krishnan	Violin Maestro, Padma Awardee
Satish Prasad Singh	6th & shortest served CM of Bihar
Faraaz Khan	Bollywood Actor
Sudarshan Rattan	Bollywood filmmaker
Sheikh Khalifa	Bahrain's Prime Minister
Ken Spears	'Scooby-Doo' Co-creator
Carlos Gonzalez Valles SJ	Veteran Gujarati columnist
Sanchaman Limboo	Former CM Of Sikkim
Asif Basra	Bollywood actor
Soumitra Chatterjee	legendary Bengali Film Actor
Ravi Belagere	Noted journalist and writer
Masatoshi Koshiha	Japanese Nobel-prize-winner
Lt Guv Chandrawati	Former Pondicherry
Bhanwarlal Meghwal	Rajasthan Social Justice and Empowerment Minister
Shaik Khaja Hussain	Noted Telugu poet, journalist, scriptwriter, and Kendra Sahitya Academy award winner
Tarun Gogoi	Former Assam Chief Minister
Diego Maradona	Football Legend
James Wolfensohn	Former World Bank President
FC Kohli	Father of Indian IT industry
David Prowse	British Actorss

Important Days

Days	Date	Theme
World Vegan Day	November 01	
International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	November 02	Protect Journalists, Protect the Truth
World Tsunami Awareness Day	November 05	
International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	November 06	
National Cancer Awareness Day	November 07	
World Urbanism Day	November 08	
International Day of Radiology	November 08	Radiologists and radiographers supporting patients during COVID-19
National Legal Services Day	November 09	
World Science Day for Peace and Development	November 10	Science for and with Society
National Education Day	November 11	
Public Service Broadcasting Day	November 12	
World Pneumonia Day	November 12	
World Kindness Day	November 13	Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness.
National Ayurveda Day	November 13	
Children’s Day	November 14	
World Diabetes Day	November 14	“The Nurse and Diabetes.”
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	November 15	
International Day for Tolerance	November 16	
National Press Day	November 16	
World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	November 18 - November 24	United to Preserve antimicrobials
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	Third Sunday in the month of November.	
National Epilepsy Day	November 17	
3rd Naturopathy Day	November 18	
World COPD Day	November 18	Living Well with COPD- Everybody, Everywhere
World Children’s Day	November 20	
National Newborn Week	November 15 2020 - November 21	

CURRENT AFFAIRS DAILY DIGEST – NOVEMBER 2020

World Fisheries Day	November 21	Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain
World Television Day	November 21	
Aviation Safety Awareness Week	November 23 – November 27	
National Pharmacy Week	November 16 – November 22	Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect	November 25
Constitution Day	November 26	
National Milk Day	November 26	
National Organ Donation Day	November 27	
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	November 29	
Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	November 30	