

CURRENT AFFAIRS

May 2020



Summary and Multiple Choice Questions

Current Affairs – May 2020

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **May 2020**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

1. Ajay Tirkey assumed charge as Secretary of WCD Ministry

Mr. Ajay Tirkey, an Indian administrative Service officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre belonging to 1987 batch, assumed charge as Secretary in Ministry of Women and Child Development. He succeeds Rabindra Panwar who retired.



Prior to this appointment, Ajay Tirkey was holding the post of Special Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Ministry. He also worked as Joint Secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. He has also worked in Ministry of Defence as Director and Joint Secretary from 2004 to 2009.

2. Tarun Bajaj assumed charge as Economic Affairs Secretary

1988 batch IAS officer Tarun Bajaj assumed charge as the Economic Affairs Secretary. Prior to this, he was the Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office. Mr. Bajaj replaces Atanu Chakraborty, who retired.



Before joining Prime Minister's Office in 2015, Bajaj was Joint Secretary in Economic Affairs Department, looking after multilateral funding agencies division. He also worked as Joint Secretary and Director in Department of Financial Services.

3. India appointed new Ambassadors to Qatar, Bahrain

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed Deepak Mittal as India's next Ambassador to Qatar while Piyush Srivastava has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Bahrain. Mr Mittal and Mr Srivastava are 1998 batch of Indian Foreign Service (IFS).



Deepak Mittal is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr Mittal has served as a Joint Secretary in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. He will succeed P Kumaran, who is the current Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar. Mr Srivastava will succeed Alok Kumar Sinha, who retired in January 2020.

4. TS Tirumurti appointed India's Permanent Representative to United Nations

Seasoned diplomat TS Tirumurti has been appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. A 1985-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Mr Tirumurti, is currently serving as Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs. He will succeed Syed Akbaruddin who is due to retire shortly.



The government has also appointed senior diplomat Namrata S Kumar as India's next ambassador to Slovenia and Jaideep Mazumdar as India's ambassador to Austria.

5. Neeraj Vyas appointed as Interim MD and CEO of PNB Housing

PNB Housing Finance has appointed Neeraj Vyas as its interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a period of eight months. He will replace Sanjaya Gupta. Vyas has resigned as an independent director (from the company's board).



Vyas is a senior banking professional with over 36 years of experience in banking. Previously, he has worked as Deputy MD and COO of State Bank of India. PNB Housing Finance Limited is an Indian public limited housing finance company promoted by Punjab National Bank.

6. Shikha Sharma named advisor to Google Pay India

Former Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma has been named as an advisor to digital payments app Google Pay India. Google Pay is one of the leading applications on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India.



Sharma left ICICI Bank in 2008 to join Axis Bank. She led Axis Bank till 2018 and transformed the lender into a major banking entity of the country. Sharma has more than three decades of experience in the financial sector having begun her career with ICICI Bank in 1980.

7. President Trump nominated Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as OECD envoy

United States President Donald Trump has nominated senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as his envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Ms Singh is currently Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department.



Ms Singh has previously served as the acting Under Secretary of Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment and as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs at the State Department. Paris-based OECD is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 36 member countries to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

8. President Trump nominated Indian-American Ashok Michael Pinto as US representative to IBRD

US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Ashok Michael Pinto as a representative to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Pinto was nominated as US Alternate Executive Director of IBRD for a term of two years.



Pinto will replace Erik Bethel. Pinto currently serves as Counselor to the Under Secretary for International Affairs at the United States Department of the Treasury. The IBRD is the lending arm of World Bank Group.

9. B R Sharma appointed as Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir PSC

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Girish Chander Murmu has appointed former Chief Secretary and retired IAS officer Braj Raj Sharma as Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). Sharma is a 1984-batch IAS officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre.



Sharma was appointed the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Chairman in October 2019. On April 20, 2020, he was re-employed as the SSC Chairman for two more years up to April 30, 2022, post his retirement on April 30.

10. Government appointed Tarun Bajaj as Director on RBI central board

The government has appointed Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Bajaj replaced Atanu Chakraborty. The nomination of Bajaj is effective from May 5.



Prior to taking over as Economic Affairs Secretary, Bajaj, a 1988 batch IAS officer, was the Additional Secretary in Prime Minister's Office. He joined the Prime Minister's Office in 2015. Before joining the Prime Minister's Office in 2015, Mr Bajaj was Joint Secretary in Economic Affairs Department, overseeing the multilateral funding agencies division.

11. Krishnan Ramachandran appointed as MD & CEO of Max Bupa

Max Bupa Health Insurance has appointed Krishnan Ramachandran as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He replaced Ashish Mehrotra. Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the CEO of Apollo Munich Health Insurance.



Ramachandran has over 23 years of experience in health insurance, healthcare and life sciences segments. Max Bupa Health Insurance is a joint venture between True North, a leading Indian private equity firm, and the United Kingdom (UK)'s 70-year-old healthcare services expert, Bupa.

12. Lt Gen Raj Shukla assumed charge of Army Training Command

Lt Gen Raj Shukla assumed charge as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Army Training Command (ARTRAC). He succeeded Lt Gen P C Thimayya. Shukla was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery in December 1982. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy.



Shukla is a recipient of the Yudh Seva Medal and the Sena Medal. He has commanded a Medium Regiment in the Eastern theatre as part of a Mountain Division. He later took the regiment to the Desert as part of a Strike Corps.

13. DPS Negi took over as Director General Labour Bureau

D P S Negi took charge as Director General, Labour Bureau & Senior Labour & Employment Advisor in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Labour Bureau collects and analyse data related to workers, employment, and retail inflation. Negi is an Indian Economic Services (IES) officer of the 1985 batch.

Prior to this new assignment, Negi served as Advisor Finance (MSME). Earlier as Director, Social Security, Ministry of Labour and Employment, he pushed key reforms and amendments in five Social Security Legislations and Acts, including EPF & MP Act, 1952.



14. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury reappointed as Chairperson of PAC

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has reappointed Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury as Chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC). Members of the public accounts committee are elected every year. The 22-member panel includes 15 members from the Lok Sabha and seven from the Rajya Sabha.



The PAC examines accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for the expenditure of the Government of India, the annual financial accounts of the Government, and others.

15. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi takes charge as MNRE Secretary

Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi has assumed charge as new Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. The 1987 Batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre succeeded Anand Kumar. Anand Kumar took charge as Secretary, Ministry of Culture.



Prior to this appointment, Chaturvedi was serving as Additional Chief Secretary and Additional Secretary (Climate Change Department) of the Government of Jharkhand. He has extensive experience of working in other departments like Planning Commission, M/o Agriculture, M/o Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

16. IAS Manoj Ahuja appointed as new CBSE Chairman

1990 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, Manoj Ahuja, has been appointed as the new Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). He replaced Anita Karwal who was appointed as Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.



Prior to this appointment, Manoj was Special Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. The CBSE Chairperson is the Chief Executive of the Governing Body of CBSE and is assisted by fourteen Heads of Departments.

17. V. Vidyavathi appointed as new Chief of Archaeological Survey of India

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed 1991 batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer, V. Vidyavathi, as the new Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). She will be serving in the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.



In other appointments, K. Srinivas, a 1989 Gujarat-cadre officer, has been appointed as the new Establishment Officer for the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Rajesh Bhushan, an IAS officer of the 1987-batch of Bihar cadre, was appointed as the Officer of Special Duty (OSD) in the health ministry.

18. Zubair Iqbal appointed as new MD of Jammu & Kashmir Bank

Senior vice president of HDFC Bank, Zubair Iqbal was appointed as new managing director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank for a period of three-year tenure. Zubair was recently awarded at Silver Jubilee Celebrations by Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi for significant contribution to the banking industry.



Jammu and Kashmir Bank is a J&K - based private sector banking and financial services company. The appointment is a part of Reserve Bank of India's directions to separate the positions of Chairman and Managing Director for better governance.

19. Rajesh Goel became new DG of NAREDCO

National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) appointed Rajesh Goel as the new Director General of the real estate body. National Real Estate Development Council is self-regulatory body established in 1998 under the aegis of Housing And Urban Affairs Government of India.



Prior to this appointment, he served as Chairman and Managing director of Hindustan Prefab Ltd. He has experience of handling various portfolios such as Project Management, Project Financing, Real Estate, Information Technology, Disaster Management, Corporate Planning, Technology Promotion, etc., in NBCC, HUDCO and HPL.

20. Dilip Oommen became new President of Indian Steel Association

Indian Steel Association (ISA) appointed Dilip Oommen as its new President. Shri Dilip Oommen is the CEO of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. since 2011 and served as its Chief Executive Officer. He is also a Director on the Board of Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Ltd. and other group companies. He joined the company in 2003 as Chief Operating Officer (COO). He has more than 35 years of experience in Steel Industry.



Dilip Oommen received accolades from Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, Hadeed, Indian Institute of Metals for his outstanding contribution to the industry.

21. Govinda Rajulu Chintala appointed as chairman of NABARD

The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet appointed Govinda Rajulu Chintala as the Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) till his superannuation in July 2022. NABARD is an Apex Development Financial Institution in India. The appointments committee also cleared the appointment of Shaji KV as deputy managing director and Chief General manager P.V.S. Suryakumar as deputy managing director.



The fresh appointments have come when the institution is set to play a key role in financing the needs of the rural economy as part of the government's economic package dealing with the coronavirus pandemic's impact.

22. Carmen Reinhart appointed as Chief Economist of World Bank Group

World Bank Group appointed Carmen Reinhart as its new Vice President and Chief Economist. Reinhart is currently the Minos A. Zombanakis Professor of the International Financial System at Harvard Kennedy School. Previously, she was the Dennis Weatherstone Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for International Economics at the University of Maryland.



Carmen was Senior Policy Advisor and Deputy Director at the IMF and Vice President and Chief Economist of the investment bank Bear Stearns. Reinhart has been listed among Bloomberg Markets most influential 50 in finance.

23. Marcos Troyjo elected as new President of NDB

Marcos Prado Troyjo of Brazil has been appointed as the new President of New Development Banks (NDB). He will replace India's KV Kamath. The President is the chief of the operating staff of the NDB. Mr. Marcos recently served as Brazil's Deputy Economy Minister and Special Secretary for Foreign Trade and International Affairs and represented the Brazilian Government on the boards of multilateral development institutions.



The Board of Governors of the NDB also appointed Mr. Anil Kishora as Vice President of the Bank. NDB is formed by BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Awards

1. IIT Madras professor T Pradeep, chosen for Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Madras) Professor T Pradeep has been chosen for the Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020 in 'Science and Technology' category. He was awarded for his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification.



Prof T Pradeep's nanotechnology-enabled water filters have helped to deliver clean water for at a cost of just 2 paise per litre in India. The Nikkei Asia Prizes are conferred to those individuals who have contributed to the region's sustainable development.

2. Manipuri Doctor Thangjam Dhabali Singh conferred 'Order of Rising Sun' by Japan

Manipuri doctor Thangjam Dhabali Singh has been conferred with the 'Order of Rising Sun' by the Japanese government for his efforts in promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and bringing the two nations closer. Dr Singh is the founder of Manipur Tourism Forum (MTF).



The 'Order of the Rising Sun' is conferred on persons with achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, environmental preservation, welfare or achievements in their fields. It was constituted by Japanese Emperor Meiji in 1875.

3. JNCASR Professor elected as International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Professor Shobhana Narasimhan from the Theoretical Sciences Unit (TSU) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences honours scholars and leaders who have distinguished themselves in the sciences, arts, humanities and public life.



Prof Narasimhan heads the Computational Nanoscience group at JNCASR. She has done significant work on the rational design of nanomaterials, examining how the lowering of dimensionality and reduction of size affect material properties.

4. IIT Bombay Professor Saurabh Lodha received Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology 2020

Professor Saurabh Lodha of IIT Bombay has received the Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology for the year 2020 instituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India. He was honoured for his pioneering contributions in the development of logic transistor technologies beyond silicon and nano-electronic devices based on two-dimensional Van der Waals materials.



Prof. Lodha has developed new materials and processes to improve the thermal stability and reliability of the heart of the transistor- its thin (1-2 nm) gate dielectric, to lower the resistance of metal contacts to the transistor.

5. Three Indian journalists won Pulitzer Prize 2020 in feature photography

Three Indian photojournalists - Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand of the Associated Press (AP) were awarded the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in the field of feature photography for capturing life in Kashmir after the scrapping of Article 370. Yasin and Khan are based in the Kashmir valley and Anand in Jammu.



The 2020 Pulitzer Prize in the field of Investigative Reporting was given to Brian M. Rosenthal of The New York Times. The award is named after newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer.

6. Pulitzer Prize 2020 in the field of Books, Drama and Music

CATEGORY	WINNERS
Fiction	The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead
Drama	A Strange Loop, by Michael R. Jackson
History	Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America, by W. Caleb McDaniel
Biography	Sontag: Her Life and Work, by Benjamin Moser (Ecco)
Poetry	The Tradition, by Jericho Brown (Copper Canyon Press)
General Non-Fiction	The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America, by Greg Grandin
Music	The Central Park Five, by Anthony Davis

7. Ida B. Wells honoured with Special Pulitzer Prize Citation

African American journalist and civil rights activist Ida B. Wells received the Pulitzer Prize 2020 with Special Citation for her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching. The citation comes with a bequest by the Pulitzer Prize board of at least \$50,000 in support of her mission.



Wells was a journalist and publisher in the late 1800s and later helped found civil rights and women's suffrage groups. Wells passed away in 1931.

8. Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2020

Joseph J. Landsberg, Richard H. Waring and Nicholas C. Coops jointly won the 2020 Marcus Wallenberg Prize for a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate. Satellite imagery offers the possibility to scale up the model to show how different environmental conditions affect the world's forests.



Professors Joseph J. Landsberg, from Australia, and Richard H. Waring, from the USA, developed a model for forest growth that was based on simple plant physiological principles such as access to light, water, and nutrients. Professor Nicholas C. Coops added advanced satellite imagery analysis to the model.

9. Russian President Putin honoured Kim Jong Un with commemorative WWII Medal

Russian President Vladimir Putin has honoured North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with a commemorative World War II medal to mark the 75th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany. The medal was awarded to Kim for the role he played in safeguarding the memories of Soviet soldiers who died in the territory of North Korea.



Soviet troops helped drive Japanese forces out of the Korean peninsula in the final stages of WWII. The Soviet Union also played the main role in installing Kim Jong Un's grandfather, Kim Il Sung, as the first leader of the nascent Communist state in 1948.

10. Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge Awards

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh presented the award to the winners of "Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge".

Category	Winner	Purpose
Value Added Products	Krushak Mitra Agro Services Pvt. Ltd	For introducing value added dairy products.
Product Traceability	EmerTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd	For using technologies to track the journey of dairy products from farm to fork.
E-commerce Solutions	MoooFarm	For encouraging modern digital infrastructure
Breed Improvement & Animal Nutrition	Adis Technologies	For use of innovative technologies and quick genetic gain among Indian breeds.
Eliminating Milk Adulteration	White Gold Technologies LLP	For tackling milk adulteration.

11. Bengaluru airport voted as best regional airport in India & Central Asia

The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia. The airport was voted by customers for the third time in four years at the 2020 World Airport Awards.



The World Airport Awards are the most prestigious accolades for the airport industry. The Awards are based on the World Airport Survey questionnaires completed by over 100 nationalities of airport customers during the 6-month survey period.

12. Sania Mirza becomes first Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award

Sania Mirza became the first Indian to win the Fed Cup Heart Award for her successful return to the court post motherhood. Sania won the award for Asia/Oceania zone. Anett Kontaveit (Estonia) emerged victorious from Europe/Africa and Fernanda Contreras Gomez from the Americas region.



The Fed Cup Heart Award is an International Tennis Federation (ITF) initiative that was established in 2009 to recognise those Fed Cup players who represent their countries with distinction, show exceptional courage on court and demonstrate outstanding commitment to the ideals of the competition.

13. Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020

The Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020 was announced and it honored 17 journalists from 14 countries for their reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic. India's Siddharth Varadarajan was one of the recipients of the award. He is one of the founding editors of non-profit online newspaper The Wire.



Some of the other key winners are Mohammad Mosaed of Iran, Darvinson Rojas of Venezuela, Elena Milashina of Russia, Sergej Sazuk of Belarus, Blaž Zgaga of Slovenia, Ana Lalic of Serbia, Beatific Gumbwanda of Zimbabwe, David Musisi Karyankolo of Uganda, Nurcan Baysal and İsmet Çiğit of Turkey.

14. V. Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy 2020

Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School of the Southern Naval Command in Kochi was awarded the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020. The trophy was instituted in the year 2013 for the officer performing best in Tactics during the year-long Warfare Specialisation Course.



Book prizes were awarded by Vice Admiral A.K. Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief (FOC-in-C) of the SNC to Lieutenant Commander Anshu Bhau for standing second and to Lieutenant Commander Kuldeep Tyagi for the third position.

15. Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar won UK award for hydrography

Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar has been honoured with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the wider Indian Ocean region. Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar is the National Hydrographer to the Government of India.



The award was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence-sponsored UKHO. Vice Admiral Badhwar has extensive hydrographic surveying experience that includes work in the Gulfs of Kutch and Khambhat, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Bills and Acts

1. Ordinance passed by Uttar Pradesh to suspend labour laws

Uttar Pradesh passed the ordinance to suspend various labour laws in the state for a period of three years. A group of state ministers comprising labour minister Swami Prasad Maurya and MSME minister Sidharth Nath Singh presented recommendations on the labour laws. With the approval to the ordinance, more than 30 clause of labour laws were suspended.



The step has been taken to draw new investment to the state especially from China in the post-lockdown phase to support the depleting economy. New labour laws will help both existing and new industrial units.

2. Government to amend Essential Commodities Act

The government will amend Essential Commodities Act to enable better price realisation for farmers. The amendment will be largely towards de-regulating certain crops, like potatoes, cereals, and onions. It will enable merchants to directly purchase produce from farmers in large quantities.



Under existing rules, the Essential Commodities Act limits quantities that traders can buy from farmers and hold as stock. No stock limit shall apply for food processing units, value-addition corporations, and exporters.

3. Punjab government promulgates 'Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners Amendment Ordinance, 2020'

Punjab Government has promulgated 'The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Amendment Ordinance, 2020. As per new provisions, the temporary release of the prisoners has been allowed beyond the maximum period of 16 weeks in a calendar year. The step has been taken in view of containing the spread of COVID-19, with the intention to decongest the jails.



The decision was taken by the Government panel, chaired by Justice Rakesh Kumar Jain of the Punjab and Haryana High Court who is also the Executive Chairman of Punjab State Legal Services Authority.

4. Jammu & Kashmir government notified Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020

The Jammu & Kashmir government notified Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020. The rules provide a simple procedure for the issuance of the Domicile Certificate. As per the order, individuals who have resided in J&K for 15 years or have studied for seven years or appeared in examinations for class 10th or 12th can be eligible for the grant of a domicile certificate.



Under new rule, 15 days will be required for issuance of the domicile certificate. If the certificate is not issued within the stipulated time, the applicant shall be free to approach an appellate authority.

5. Cabinet approved J&K (Adaptation of State Laws) 2nd Order, 2020

Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the Jammu and Kashmir (Adaptation of State Laws) Second Order, 2020 issued under Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019.

This order has further modified the applicability of Domicile conditions to all level of jobs in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir under the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment) Act (Act No. XVI of 2010). The Jammu & Kashmir (Adaptation of State Laws) Second Order, 2020 was notified by the Home Ministry on April 3.



Books & Authors

1. Union Culture Minister released e-book “Prof. B. B. Lal - India Rediscovered”

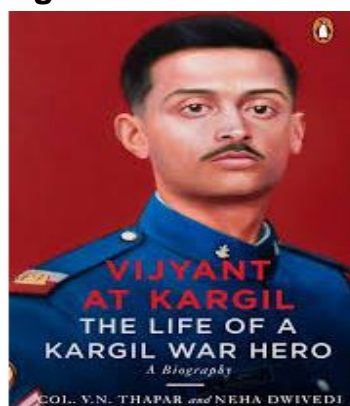
Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel released an e-book “Prof. B. B. Lal -India Rediscovered” on the occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal. The book is a tribute from Ministry of culture for his immense contribution to the field of archaeology.



Prof. B. B. Lal was Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1968 to 1972 and was conferred upon Padma Bhushan in the year of 2000. He excavated several important landmark sites including Hastinapura (U.P.), Sisupalgarh (Orissa), Purana Qila (Delhi), Kalibangan (Rajasthan).

2. Book titled Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil War Hero released

The book titled as ‘Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero’ was released. It is published by Penguin Random House. The book is authored by Vijyant’s father Colonel VN Thapar and writer Neha Dwivedi.



It is the 1st biography about Vir Chakra awardee (posthumously) Captain Vijyant Thapar’s journey to join the Indian Military Academy and the experiences that shaped him into a fine officer. It gives a rare insight into the heart and mind of one of India’s bravest soldiers.

3. Prince Harry-Meghan Markle's biography to be published

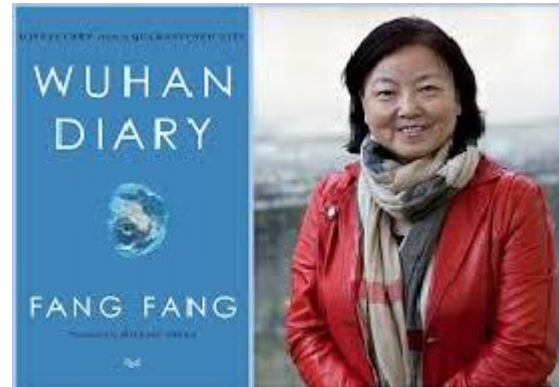
The first biopic on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s life, titled 'Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of A Modern Royal Family' is scheduled to be published on August 11, 2020. The book is written by royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand.



The book is said to explore how Harry and Meghan — whose lives have been under constant scrutiny — navigated royal life, from the time of their wedding in May 2018 to when they stepped down as working members of the royal family in January 2020.

4. A Book titled “Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City” released

The book called “Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City” penned by Chinese literary writer Fang Fang and published by Harper Collins was released. The book details about 60 days of lockdown journey during COVID-19 in China. It is compilation of online diary entries and social media posts about psychological impact of forced isolation, role of the internet as both community lifeline and source of misinformation and impact of deadly virus on lives of citizens.



Fang Fang documents the beginning of the global health crisis in real time. *Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City*, translated by Michael Berry, will be published in book format by Harper Collins in June 2020.

5. Ruskin Bond's new book released

Talking Club – the children's imprint of independent publishing house Speaking Tiger has released *Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes* written by Ruskin Bond in an e-book format. The book chronicles the author's travel adventures from childhood.



The illustrations for the new book have been done by Samrat Halder. Ruskin Bond has won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1993, the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014. For his first novel, he received the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize in 1957.

6. JK Rowling released children's book 'The Ickabog' online for free

"Harry Potter" author JK Rowling has announced a new story called "The Ickabog" to entertain children during coronavirus lockdown. The book will be released for free online. It is a fairy tale "about truth and the abuse of power".



The Ickabog will be serialised online in 34 daily free instalments. It will then be published as a book, ebook and audiobook in November. J. K. Rowling is a British author, film & TV producer, screenwriter and philanthropist.

Committees

1. Centre reconstituted empowered groups to fight COVID-19 activities

The Union Government has reconstituted the empowered groups for planning and ensuring implementation of COVID-19 activities. The reconstitution was necessitated due to appointment or transfer or superannuation of members of some of these Empowered Groups.

The eleven Empowered Groups of officers were constituted on 29th of March for ensuring comprehensive and integrated response to COVID 19. These groups were set up under Disaster Management Act. A total of 80 bureaucrats have been assigned to these groups which report to cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba.



2. Assam sets up consultation committee to revive state economy

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has set up an 8 member consultation committee to revive the state economy. The state government has appointed retired IAS officer Subhash Das as the Chairman of the Committee. The committee will have consultations with farmers, leading businessmen, experts from the industry and services sectors.



The committee will study various aspects of the economic activities in the state and advise the government to bring the economy back on track. The eight-member committee includes prominent economists and experts of the state.

3. SAI forms committee to prepare SOP to resume training post lockdown

Sports Authority of India (SAI) has formed the first committee, headed by Secretary, Sports Authority of India Rohit Bharadwaj. The committee will recommend the Standard Operating Procedures describing protocols and preventive measures to be observed by all stakeholders, including trainees and coaches once training resumes after the lockdown is lifted.



A separate committee has been formed to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure for swimming, since the sport requires athletes to train in water and may have different health risks involved, as compared to other sport.

4. SC ordered setting up of high-powered committee to consider restoration of 4G internet services

The Supreme Court ordered setting up of a high-powered committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to consider pleas seeking restoration of 4G internet services in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



The committee would include the Chief Secretary of the UT and the Secretary of Ministry of Communications to look into the demands by petitioners seeking restoration of 4G internet services to ensure balance of national security and human rights.

5. EC set up committee to examine Gujarat HC decision to invalidate Dholka election

Election Commission of India (ECI) has set up a three-member committee to examine the Gujarat High Court decision to invalidate the Dholka constituency election. The Gujarat High Court declared state minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama's election in 2017 as void on the grounds of malpractices and manipulation.



The panel will be headed by Umesh Sinha, secretary-general at the Election Commission. The other two members are Chandra Bhushan Kumar and Vijay Pandey. Congress candidate Ashwin Rathod had challenged his BJP rival's victory by a mere 327 votes.

6. Government implemented Shekatkar Committee recommendations on border infrastructures

Union Government implemented Lt. General D B Shekatkar Committee's recommendations related to creating border infrastructure. The recommendations were:



- Speeding up road construction leading to socio-economic development in the border areas
- Outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of Border Roads Organization Introduction of modern construction plants, equipment and machinery
- Use of new technology like blasting technology for precision blasting

- Geo-textiles for soil stabilization
- Adopt Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than 100 crore rupees

7. 15th Finance Commission reconvened its high level group on Health Sector

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has reconvened its high level group on Health Sector. The high level group, which is headed by Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi Dr. Randeep Guleria, will also now have Dr. S K Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences and Dr. Harsh Mahajan, Founder of Mahajan Imaging.

The decision comes in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity to formulate the way ahead to handle similar health challenges in the country. The high level group of the Finance Commission will review its original recommendations in the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic.



8. MoHFW constituted committee to reform Drug Regulatory System

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has constituted a 11 member high-level committee to reform the Drug Regulatory System. It is headed by Rajesh Bhushan and will submit its report within a period of one month from the date of its formation.



The committee has been tasked to examine the current drug regulatory system and submit recommendations for reforming the system to bring it in line with global standards. It will also address unimplemented recommendations suggested by RR Choudhary Committee on clinical trials and SN Mishra Committee on qualification of DCGI.

Deaths

1. Legendary footballer Chuni Goswami passed away

Legendary Footballer Chuni Goswami passed away at the age of 82 years. Chuni Goswami was the Captain of gold medal winning Indian football team of Jakarta Asiad held in 1962. He was awarded Arjun, Padmasree and several other prestigious awards for his outstanding contributions in the field of Sports.



Chuni Goswami also received Mohanbagan Ratna awards in 2005. The West Bengal Government conferred him the highest civilian award Banga Bibhusan in 2013. He was also the captain of Bengal Ranji Cricket team.

2. Lokpal member Justice A K Tripathi (Retd) passed away

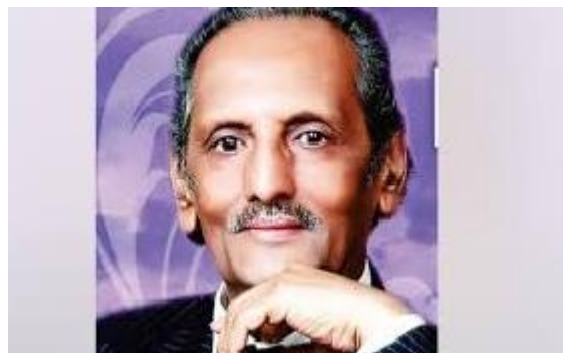
Serving Lokpal member Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi passed away at the age of 62 years after he tested positive for COVID-19. He was one of three judicial members of Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman.



Justice Tripathi also served as the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court. He had earlier served as the Additional Advocate General for Bihar. Later, he was elevated as Additional Judge of the Patna High Court and later the Chief Justice.

3. Renowned poet K S Nisar Ahmed passed away

Renowned Kannada poet Professor K S Nisar Ahmed passed away at the age of 84 years. His notable works include Nityotsava, Manasu Gandhi Bazaru, Sanje Aidara Male and Manadondige Mathukathe. He wrote several tremendously popular songs and poems. He was honoured with the Kendra Sahitya Akademi award in 2008.



Professor KS Nissar Ahmed won the Padma Shri award in 2008 for his immense contribution to Kannada literature. He was also a recipient of Rajyotsav Award.

4. Writer and columnist RV Smith passed away

Eminent author and Delhi's master chronicler Ronald Vivian Smith passed away at the age of 81 years. He was best known for his writings on Delhi. He wrote many books during his lifetime, *Lingering Charm of Delhi: Myth, Lore and History* and *Delhi: Unknown Tales of a City*.

R.V. Smith worked as a scribe for *The Statesman* and started writing on history. He won the Rotary Award, the Michael Madhusudan award for journalism and the Canon Holland Prize for general knowledge.



5. South African anti-apartheid veteran Denis Goldberg passed away

Veteran South African anti-apartheid activist Denis Goldberg passed away at the age of 87 years. He was one of Nelson Mandela's closest colleagues in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Goldberg was the only white person to be sentenced to life imprisonment for resisting white rule in South Africa in the 1964 Rivonia trials alongside Nelson Mandela. In 2009, Goldberg was awarded the Albert Luthuli medal for his fight against apartheid and in 2011 the German Federal Cross of Merit first class for his contribution to international understanding.



6. Former Union Minister Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away

Former Union Minister and former organising secretary of AIADMK, Dalit Ezhilmalai, passed away at the age of 74 years. One of the founding members of PMK, Ezhilmalai, was the first general secretary of the party in 1989. He became Union Minister of State for Health in Vajpayee government in 1998-99.

Ezhilmalai took part in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. He was a recipient of the K Sainik Seva Medal from the president for meritorious service in the Indian Army.



7. Veteran director & story artist Robb Gibbs passed away

Finding Nemo-Toy Story fame Robb Gibbs passes away. He was well known for successful animated film industry made Pixar films such as Toy Story 2, Finding Nemo, Monsters.Up, Wall-E, Inside Out to Onward, Incredibles 2, Monsters at Work series for Disney+ and Monsters University.



Robb Gibbs contributed to short film 'Tokyo Mater' in 2008, series 'Mater's Tall Tales' and 'Tales from Radiator Springs' of 2012. Robb Gibbs worked for 20 years as Pixar director, story artist and writer at Pixar studios.

8. Eminent historian Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away

Eminent historian Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away due to COVID-19. He was popularly known for his work on Russian and European history and Indo-Russian relations. He penned various books such as Shadows of Substance: Indo-Russian Trade and Military-Technical Cooperation (2010), Indo-Russian Relations: 1917-1947 and Footsteps of Afanasii Nikitin: Travels through Eurasia and India in the Early 21st Century (2015).



Vasudevan served as Chairman of Syllabus Committees and Textbook Development Committees for Social Sciences, NCERT, from 2005 to 2015 and as Consultant on Indo-Russian Trade for the Ministry of Commerce between 2006 and 2007.

9. Founding father of rock 'n' roll Little Richard passed away

Singer Little Richard, who was a founding father of rock 'n' roll, passed away at the age of 87 years. Richard started his career with "Tutti Frutti" in 1956 after which he cut a series of unstoppable hits "Long Tall Sally" and "Rip It Up".



In 2010, Time magazine listed Here's Little Richard as one of the 100 Greatest and Most Influential Albums of All Time. He was later inducted in the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003, and his classic "Tutti Frutti" was added to the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry years later.

10. US actor and comedian Jerry Stiller passed away

US veteran actor and comedian Jerry Stiller passed away at the age of 92 years. He played George Costanza's short-tempered father Frank on the smash TV show "Seinfeld," for which he won the Funniest Male Guest Appearance in a TV Series at the American Comedy Awards in 1998.



Stiller earned a 1997 Emmy nomination for his indelible Seinfeld performance. In 2007 Stiller and his wife Anne Meara received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2012, Stiller and Meara were honored alongside Harry Belafonte by The Actors Fund of America.

11. National Professor Anisuzzaman passed away

Noted literary personality and educationist Professor Anisuzzaman passed away at the age of 83 years. He was a reputed scholar and leading intellectual of Bangladesh who made great contribution in the field of Bangla language and literature.



Prof. Anisuzzaman was a liberation war fighter. He received many awards including the Ekushey Padak in 1985. Rabindra Bharti conferred an honorary D.Lit on him in 2005. He was awarded Padma Bhushan by the government of India in 2014.

12. Grammy winning-singer Betty Wright passed away

Iconic soul and R&B singer Betty Wright passed away at the age of 66 years. She was known for her hits "Clean Up Woman" and "Tonight Is the Night". She was nominated for six Grammys and won for best R&B song in 1975 for "Where Is the Love."



Wright started singing with the family gospel group, Echoes of Joy, and released her solo debut album, "My First Time Around," at age 15 in 1968. The album yielded a top 40 hit, Girls Can't Do What the Guys Do.

13. Sahitya Akademi winner Debesh Roy passed away

Veteran Bengali author Debesh Roy passed away at the age of 84 years. He was conferred the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Teesta Parer Brittanto'. His first book was "Jajati".



Some of the other memorable books written by Mr Roy are Borisaler Jogen Mondal , Manush Khun Kore Keno and Samay Asamayer Brittanto. He was also honoured by Bhasa Sahitya Parishad and Bhualka Purashkar.

14. Noted Marathi writer Ratnakar Matkari passed away

Noted Marathi dramatist, litterateur, theatre personality and National Award-winning director, Ratnakar Matkari passed away. He was honored with Sangeet Natak Akademi, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Sahitya Akademi award. He penned over 90 dramas including 20 for children, 25 novels and many mono-act plays.



Some of his popular Marathi dramas include 'Arannyak' based on Mahabharata, 'Lok Katha 78', 'Dubhang', 'Ashwamedh', 'Chaar Diwas Premache', 'Indira' and children's plays 'Albatya Galbatya' and 'Nimma Shimma Rakshas'. He worked as a columnist for newspapers and magazines in the 1970s.

15. Hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr passed away

Three-time Olympic champion and one of the greatest ever hockey players, Balbir Singh Dosanjh passed away at the age of 95 years. He is the lone Indian and hockey player to be included in the IOC's 'Olympic Icons', a select group of 16 all-time Olympic greats honoured during the London Olympics.



Balbir Singh is considered one of the best centre-forwards of all times. He was also the manager of the only World Cup winning Indian side in 1975. He is the first sportsperson to be awarded the Padma Shri (1957).

Defence

1. Rajnath Singh approved launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) with an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state of the art testing infrastructure. It would run for five years and envisages to setup 6-8 new test facilities in partnership with private industry.



The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75% government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'. The remaining 25% of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) whose constituents will be Indian private entities and State Governments.

2. Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57' commissioned into Indian Navy

Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57' was commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair. The indigenously designed ship has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilder and Engineers, GRSE, Kolkata. This is the seventh Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK-IV class to be inducted into Indian Navy.



The ship is an amphibious vessel with a designated primary role of transporting and deploying main battle tanks like Arjun, T72 etc. armoured vehicles, troops and equipments from ship to shore. The ship is fitted with state-of-art equipment and advanced systems, like Integrated Bridge System (IBS) and Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).

3. DRDO developed UV Disinfection Tower

Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with the help of M/s New Age Instruments and Materials Private Limited, Gurugram has developed a equipment named UV blaster. It is an Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Tower for rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas.



The UV based area sanitiser is useful for high tech surfaces like electronic equipment, computers and other gadgets in laboratories and offices that are not suitable for disinfection with chemical methods.

4. DRDO lab developed automated UV systems for sanitisation

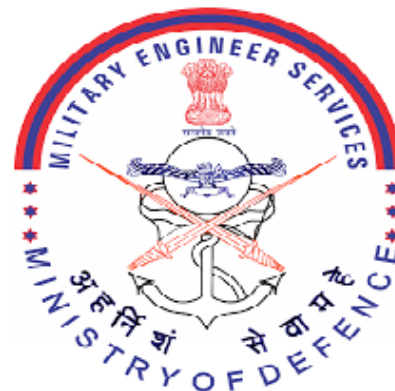
Hyderabad based Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO lab, has developed automated Ultraviolet systems to sanitise electronic gadgets, papers and currency notes. The device - Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser, DRUVS has been designed to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leaves, challans, passbooks, paper and envelopes. Bundles of currency notes can be sanitised using DRUVS.



DRUVS has contactless operation. It provides 360 degree exposure of Ultra Violet to the objects placed inside the cabinet.

5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved abolition of 9,304 posts in Military Engineering Service

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal of Engineer-in-Chief of Military Engineering Services (MES) for optimisation of more than 9,304 posts in the basic and industrial workforce. It is in line with the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, headed by Lt General Shekatkar.



The committee had recommended measures to enhance combat capability and rebalance defence expenditure of the Armed Forces. The recommendation was aimed at making MES an effective organisation with a leaner workforce, well equipped to handle complex issues in the emerging scenario in an efficient and cost effective manner.

6. Indian Coast Guard ships Sachet, C-450 and C-451 commissioned

Indian Coast Guard ships Sachet, C-450 and C-451 were commissioned into the Indian Navy at Goa. Ship ICGS Sachet is the first in a series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) being built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). The Interceptor Boats (IBs) - C-450 and C-451, are designed & built by the Larsen & Toubro Shipyard, Hazira.



Sachet is fitted with communication equipment, navigation, sensor, and machinery. The IBs are capable of achieving speeds in excess of 45 knots and designed for high-speed interception, close patrol and low intensity maritime operations.

7. Patent filed for low cost Personal Protective Equipment by Navy

Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell, IPFC, of Ministry of Defence in association with National Research Development Corporation, NRDC, an enterprise under Ministry of Science and Technology, has filed a patent for Medical Personal Protective Equipment, PPE developed by the Indian Navy. The low-cost PPE has been developed by a Doctor posted in Innovation Cell at Institute of Naval Medicine, Mumbai.



The PPE is made of a special fabric which affords high-level of protection and breathability as against other PPEs. The technology has also been tested and validated by ICMR approved Testing Lab.

8. Indian Army to implement “Tour of Duty”

The Indian Army is considering a proposal that entails allowing common citizens to voluntarily join the force for three years as part of a model called “Tour of Duty”. ToD is for those persons who do not wish to take defence services as a career, but still want to experience adventure and thrills in armed forces.



The proposed model of ToD will be on a trial basis/ internship for officers and other ranks in the army for a limited number of vacancies. With this scheme, the army is trying to attract youth from top academic institutes such as IITs.

9. GoI to convert world’s only horse serving cavalry into regular armoured regiment

The Government of India has approved a proposal to equip the 61st Cavalry with tanks. With this, the Indian Army’s only mounted cavalry regiment, one of the world’s last remaining horse-mounted cavalry regiments, is enroute to an end of an era. The Jaipur-based 61st Cavalry is likely to be equipped with T-72 tanks.



The 61st Cavalry is being converted into a regular armoured regiment on the basis of a recommendation made by the Lieutenant General DB Shekatkar (retd) committee. The regiment’s 300-odd horses will become part of a new equestrian node.

10. Indian Air Force announced to suspend three major acquisition projects

Indian Air Force announced to suspend three major acquisition projects worth 8000 crore rupees owing to higher costs and support 'Make in India'. The suspended projects include the Air force's plan to buy 38 Swiss Pilatus basic trainer aircraft from Switzerland, 20 additional Hawk planes from Britain, and a plan to upgrade 80 Jaguar fighter planes with engines from America.

Since Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in advanced stage of development of HTT-40 trainer planes, Indian Army would be buying some of this Made in India planes.



11. IAF inducts Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft in Squadron "Flying Bullets"

The Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted first Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft into the recently resurrected No 18 Sqn, the "Flying Bullets" at Air Force Station Sulur. The Squadron is the first in the IAF to induct this platform.

Tejas Mk-1 FOC is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, all weather multi role fighter aircraft. Several advanced technologies have been incorporated into the Tejas FOC including Air-to-Air refueling and Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile system.



1. Task Force on NIP submits final report to Finance Minister

The Task Force on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) submitted its final report for FY 2019-25 to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It has projected a total infrastructure investment of above Rs 111 lakh crore during the period FY 2019-25 to make India a \$5 trillion economy. The task force was headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary.



NIP is a first-of-its-kind, whole-of-government exercise to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

2. India's Gold demand falls 36% between January-March

According to Quarter-1 Gold Demand Trends report by World Gold Council, gold demand in India fell 36% in the January to March quarter of 2020, to 101.9 ton. The fall in demand is mainly due to volatile prices, economic uncertainties and corona-virus induced nationwide lock down towards the end of the quarter.



India's the first quarter gold demand, in terms of value, fell 20%, to Rs 37,580 crore. Jewellery demand saw a drop of 27% to Rs 27,230 crore. However, total investment demand in value terms, in the first quarter of 2020, rose 4%, to Rs 10,350 crore.

3. CRISIL projects 10% revenue decline and 15% profits erosion in FY 21 for India Inc

Domestic rating agency CRISIL has projected a 10% fall in revenues and at least 15% erosion in profits for India Inc. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rating agency estimated banks' non-performing assets to rise by up to 2% points to 11.5% and credit growth to slow down to 2%.



CRISIL also estimated that the lockdown will bring down the gross domestic product (GDP) by 3% points. It also warned that its base case of 1.8% growth for FY21 may fall to zero if the lockdown continues.

4. Index of Eight Core Industries for March, 2020

The output of eight core sectors of the Indian industry – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity stood at 137.0 in March, 2020 which declined by 6.5% compared to the index of March, 2019. Its cumulative growth during April to March 2019-20 was 0.6%.



The data on production of eight core industries of India is published monthly by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The current base year for the index of the series is 2011-12=100. These eight industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of the items included in the Index of Industrial Production.

5. CRISIL cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 1.8% for FY21

Domestic rating agency CRISIL has cut its GDP forecast for India to 1.8% for 2020-21 as against 3.5% projected in March. It has projected total losses of Rs 10 lakh crore or Rs 7,000 per person due to "disastrous" lockdowns to control COVID-19 pandemic.



According to CRISIL, the economic disruption amid novel coronavirus pandemic is likely to result in a permanent loss of 4% GDP for India. India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has also revised the FY2021 economic growth forecast for the country further down to 1.9%, the lowest in the last 29 years.

6. Moody's cut India's GDP growth to 'zero' in FY21

Global rating agency Moody's has cut India's GDP growth rate at Zero for the current fiscal -- 2020-21 owing to Covid-19 pandemic. Moody's also forecast India's GDP growth rate to bounce back to 6.6% in 2021-22.



The forecast by Moody's is lower than Fitch's forecast of 0.8%, IMF's 1.9%, World Bank's 1.5-2.8% and ADB's estimate of 4%. However, it is slightly better than contraction estimate up to 2% by ICRA and 0.4% by Nomura.

7. NTPC achieved 100% PLF at three of its power stations

NTPC Limited achieved 100% Plant Load Factor, PLF at three of its thermal power stations - NTPC Vindhyachal in Madhya Pradesh, NTPC Talcher Kaniha in Odisha and NTPC Sipat in Chhattisgarh. This demonstrates exceptional operational efficiency and optimum capacity utilisation despite lockdown on account of COVID-19 pandemic.



NTPC Koldam in Himachal Pradesh has emerged as one of the best hydropower stations in the country for financial year 2020-21. NTPC, India's largest power generator, has 70 Power stations comprising of 24 Coal, 7 combined cycle gas/liquid fuel, 1 Hydro, 13 renewables along with 25 JV Power Stations.

8. Foreign exchange reserves surged to USD 485.31 bn

India's foreign exchange reserves jumped by 4.235 billion dollars to reach billion 485.313 billion dollars in the week ended 8th May. Foreign currency assets rose by 4.233 billion dollars to 447.548 billion dollars. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by 1.622 billion dollars to end at 481.078 billion dollars. Gold reserves rose by 13 million dollars to end at 32.291 billion dollars.



India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund declined by three million dollars to 1.423 billion dollars, while the country's reserve position also dipped by 8 million dollars to 4.051 billion dollars.

9. Tata Power SED bagged Rs. 1200 crore contract from the Ministry of Defence

Tata Power Strategic Engineering Division (Tata Power SED) signed a contract with Ministry of Defence, Government of India, for modernisation of infrastructure of 37 Airfields of Indian Airforce, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. The contract needs to be executed over a period of next 4 years.



The contract is at an estimated value of about Rs. 1,200 crore. Tata Power is in the process of selling its defence business (Tata Power SED) to Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) through a Scheme of Arrangement.

10. Fitch Ratings project India economy to shrink by 5% in FY21

Fitch Ratings has projected the Indian economy to contract 5% from their earlier estimates of the economic growth at 0.8%. In its Global Economic Outlook (GEO) for May, Fitch projected growth to rebound to 9.5% in 2021-22.

The sharp cut in India forecast is due to slump in economic activities and very stringent lockdown policy. Fitch has predicted world GDP to fall by 4.6% in 2020.



11. India's unemployment rate drops to 23.97%

According to the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE), India's unemployment rate dropped to 23.97% in the week ended 10 May from 27.11% in the week ended 3 May. The decline was due to the ease in lockdown restrictions by the government on economic activity.

The urban unemployment declined to 27.83%, which is higher than the national job loss rate of 23.91%, while rural job loss rate was 22.35%. In week ended 3 May, urban unemployment was 29.22%.



12. Mahindra launched its digital sales platform 'Own-Online'

Mahindra has launched 'Own-Online', a digital sales platform that enables customers to purchase any of its vehicles without the need for physically visiting a dealership. Own-Online is a one-stop, 24X7 destination where the customer can finance, insure, exchange, accessorize and own a Mahindra vehicle in 4 simple steps, from the comfort of their homes.



The launch of Mahindra's digital sales platform comes after manufacturers like Hyundai, Tata, Honda and Volkswagen all introduced their respective online sales platforms.

13. CCI proposed amendments to combination regulations

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has proposed changes to combination regulations to do away with the requirement for disclosing certain non-compete restrictions while seeking the watchdog's approval. Combinations -- generally mergers and acquisitions -- beyond a certain threshold need clearance from the regulator under the Competition Act.



The CCI plans to omit part of the combination regulation that seeks information regarding non-compete restrictions agreed between the parties to combination and justification for the same. This would allow the parties flexibility in determining non-compete restrictions, while also reducing the information burden on them.

14. India's crude steel output slips 65%

According to the World Steel Association, India's crude steel output declined over 65% to 3.13 million tonnes (MT) during April. India had produced 9.02 MT of crude steel during the same month a year ago. India had posted a 14% in steel output at 8.65 MT in March as compared with 10.04 MT in March 2019.



Global steel output also declined 13% to 137.09 MT as compared with 157.67 MT in April 2019. China produced 85.03 MT steel in April, a marginal rise of 0.2%. US produced 4.96 MT of crude steel in April, 32% lower than 7.35 MT in the year-ago month.

15. WPI food inflation declined in April to 3.60%

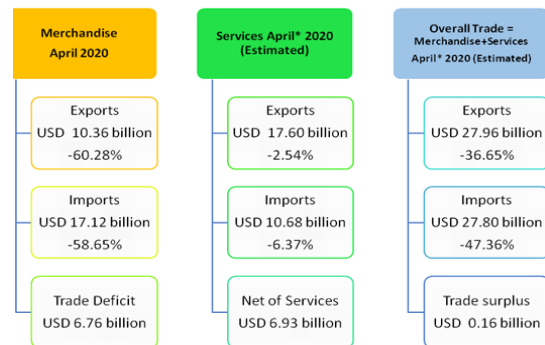
Union Government released truncated data for April wholesale price-based inflation as there was limited transaction of products in the market due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) deflation in primary articles was 0.79% in April, as against an inflation of 3.72% in March.



The fuel and power basket saw a deflation of 10.12% in April, against 1.76% deflation in the previous month. The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index decreased from 5.49% in March, 2020 to 3.60% in April, 2020.

16. India's Foreign Trade: April 2020

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-March 2019-20 are estimated to be USD 528.45 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of -1.36% over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-March 2019-20 are estimated to be USD 598.61 billion, exhibiting a negative growth of -6.33% over the same period last year.



Merchandise: Total exports was USD 10.36 billion down 60.28% while total imports was USD 17.12 billion down 58.65%. The trade deficit was USD 6.76 billion.

Services: Total estimated exports is USD 17.60 billion down by 2.54% while total imports was USD 10.68 billion down by 6.37%. The net of services was USD 6.93 billion.

Overall Trade: Total exports was USD 27.96 billion down by 36.65% while total imports was USD 27.80 billion down by 47.36%. The trade surplus was USD 0.16 billion.

17. NRAI collaborated with DotPe to build tech platform

National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) partnered with Gurgaon-based O2O fintech commerce startup DotPe to launch a digital platform that can support members and employees. The platform will ensure minimal human touch while ordering and settling the bill by enabling social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram to provide and ordering facilities and visibility for restaurant partners who could potentially be its members.



The initiative is a move to overcome severely impacted restaurants due to the country-wide lockdown announced to contain the spread of covid-19.

18. Flipkart collaborated with Bajaj Allianz for digital motor cover

Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company tied-up to offer a digital motor insurance policy to Flipkart's customers. Consumers can buy this motor-insurance policy using their Flipkart app. Bajaj Allianz motor insurance policies for privately owned 4-wheelers and 2-wheelers come with unique benefits to ensure their peace of mind and make them worry-free.



The unique benefits of insurance are motor inspection on the spot, hassle free renewal, 24*7 roadside instant assistance, transfer of no claim bonus etc.

19. NTPC and ONGC to set up joint venture company for Renewable Energy business

National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, ONGC, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU to set up a joint venture company for Renewable Energy business. The MoU will enable both companies to accelerate their footprint in renewable energy sector and setting up of offshore wind and other renewable energy projects in India and overseas.



NTPC and ONGC will explore the setting up of offshore wind and other Renewable Energy Projects in India and overseas. They shall also explore opportunities in the fields of sustainability, storage, E-mobility and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) compliant projects.

20. Airtel selected IBM and Red Hat to build Open Hybrid Cloud Network

Bharti Airtel selected IBM and Red Hat to build its new telco network cloud, designed to make it more efficient, flexible and future-ready to support core operations and enable new digital services.

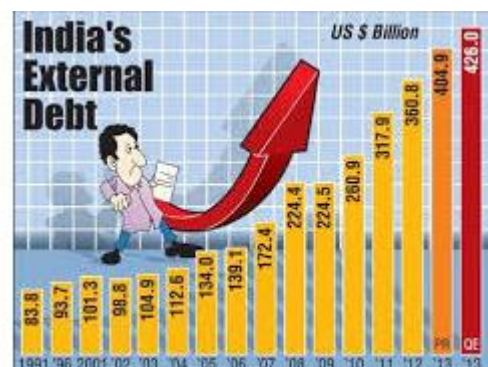


Using IBM and Red Hat's portfolio of hybrid cloud, Airtel plans to adopt open cloud architecture. The network cloud will also position ecosystem partners, including B2B and B2C application developers, to create value-added services, including new edge offerings.

21. 9th Edition of the Status Paper on Government Debt

The Government released the Ninth Edition of the Status Paper on the Government Debt, which provides a detailed analysis of the Overall Debt Position of the Government of India.

- The central government's debt as a percentage of GDP dropped marginally by 0.1% from 45.8% in fiscal 2017-18 to 45.7% or Rs 86.73 lakh crore in FY19.
- The general government debt to GDP ratio, which includes the combined debt of the Centre and states, declined by 0.1% from 68.7% in March 2018 to 68.6% or Rs 1.3 crore crore (Rs 130 trillion) in March last year.
- External debt stood at 2.7% of GDP or Rs 5.12 lakh crore in FY19.
- Around 94.1% of the Centre's liabilities consisted of domestic debt in FY19, of which 84.4% or Rs 59.68 lakh crore was made up of marketable securities.



1. Mass hatching of Olive Ridley turtles along Odisha coast

Mass hatching of Olive Ridley turtles began at Odisha's Rushikulya rookery, a major nesting site of these marine turtles. The newly born Olive Ridley turtles along the Odisha coast, made their journey back to sea.



Mother Olive Ridelys lay eggs in nests dug up in the beach sand. Each nest on average contains around 100 eggs. The eggs hatch in about 45 days. 3,23,063 mother Olive Ridley turtles nested this year at the major nesting site.

2. 2019-20 census unveiled increase in Royal Bengal Tigers to 96

As per the 2019-20 census by the West Bengal's forest department, the number of Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sunderbans has climbed to 96, up by eight from last year. The census was conducted between November, 2019 and January, 2020.



Highlights

- Sunderbans has mangrove cover in 2,125 sq km in India.
- The whole tract of forest reaches about 100-130 km inland.
- Out of 96 tigers, 23 were identified as male and 43 as female, while the sex of 30 big cats could not be determined.
- The survey unveiled the presence of 11 tiger cubs.

3. India's carbon emissions fall for first time in four decades

India has recorded a fall in CO₂ emissions for the first time in four decades. Emissions dropped by around 1% in the fiscal year ending March 2020. The study finds that Indian carbon dioxide emissions fell 15% in March, and are likely to have fallen by 30% in April.



Coal-fired power generation was down 15% in March and 31% in the first three weeks of April. Oil consumption was down 18% year-on-year in March 2020. Renewable energy (RE) generation increased by 6.4% in March and saw a slight decrease of 1.4% in the first three weeks of April.

4. Cyclone Amphan intensified into Super Cyclonic Storm

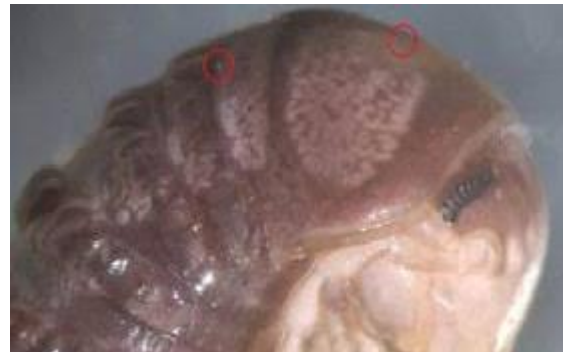
Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc in West Bengal and Odisha. Cyclone Amphan turned in to a "super cyclonic storm". Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan is a very powerful and deadly tropical cyclone that caused widespread damage over East India and Bangladesh in May 2020.



Amphan moved with a speed of 7 kms per hour and created havoc over west-central and adjoining central parts of South Bay of Bengal. It had maximum sustained wind speed of 165 to 175 kilometres per hour gusting to 185 kmph.

5. “Troglomycestwitteri” new species discovered

A new species of microscopic fungus dubbed “Troglomycestwitteri” was discovered by a biologist in Denmark. The fungi was found on the surface of the millipede. The discovery was confirmed by Millipede specimens from the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle in Paris. The researchers spotted an image of a millipede while scrolling through Twitter.



Troglomycestwitteri belongs to tiny fungal parasites that attack insects and millipedes and look like tiny larvae. These fungi live on the reproductive organs of millipedes.

6. Western Ghats to be declared Ecologically Sensitive Area

Union Minister of Environment interacted with Chief Ministers of six states viz, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to discuss issues relating to notification of Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) pertaining to Western Ghats.



To conserve and protect the bio diversity of Western Ghats while allowing for sustainable and inclusive development of the region, Government of India had constituted a High Level Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kasturirangan. The Committee had recommended that identified geographical areas falling in the six States may be declared as Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

7. New Fresh water fish “Punitus Sanctus” found

A new fresh water fish called Punitus Sanctus was found in Velankanni, Tamil Nadu. Punitus is a species of fish that are commonly found in the drains of western and eastern ghats and also in Eastern Himalayas. Sanctus means 'holy' in Latin.

The fish was silver in colour. It grows to a maximum length of 7 cm. It has an extended mouth. The Punitus belongs to the family of Cyprinidae. Cyprinidae is a family of fresh water fish.



1. HDFC Bank released song #HumHaarNahiMaanenge

HDFC Bank released a new song #HumHaarNahiMaanenge to celebrate the firm spirit of citizens around the country amid the nationwide lockdown. Through the campaign, the bank also aims to draw attention to the importance of standing together for a cause and supporting more people during these tough times through the PM-Cares Fund.



The song has been composed by Oscar and Grammy Award-winning musician A.R. Rahman and the lyrics by Praseen Joshi.

2. NBFCs asked RBI for one-time restructuring of all loans till March 2021

Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have asked the Reserve Bank of India to allow them one-time restructuring of all loans till March 2021, as their borrowers are facing funding issues amid the Corona virus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown.



Currently, RBI has allowed banks and NBFCs for a one-time restructuring of existing loans to MSMEs till December 2020. NBFCs want the one-time restructuring to be allowed to all other borrowers too.

3. RBI cancelled licence of The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd, Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd. The bank's financial position had become unsustainable and also not in a position to pay its depositors. The bank, as per RBI's observation, also did not have any concrete revival plan or proposal for merger with another bank.



On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rupees Five Lakh only from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

4. Ameyo launched video KYC platform for banking and finance sector

Gurgaon based Ameyo has launched video-based KYC (Know Your Customer) that eliminates the need for physical KYC following the latest RBI guideline. The platform could be useful to banking and finance sector. It will enable enterprises to reduce video KYC completion drop-offs by 20% and reduce the cost of operations by up to 90%.



Ameyo's video KYC is an end-to-end solution with omnichannel capabilities of scheduling and reminding customers to complete the KYC process. Ameyo is an all-in-one software based communication solution that manages end-to-end customer journeys.

5. Finance Ministry launched F and O contracts on BSE's India INX & NSE's NSE-IFSC

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman launched INR-USD (Rupee-Dollar) Futures and Options contracts on the two International Exchanges, BSE's India INX and NSE's NSE-IFSC, at GIFT International Financial Services Centre in Gandhinagar. This will be available for 22 hours across all time zones for all global participants from GIFT IFSC.



The launch of INR-USD contracts at the exchanges in GIFT-IFSC is a step of economic activity and employment gains for India. The trading will bring larger global participation in India through IFSC and connect India's IFSC globally and bring volumes to India.

6. SC placed Cooperative banks under SARFAESI Act

A five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court of India ruled that the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 will be applicable to state and multi-state cooperative banks. The bench was headed by Justice Arun Mishra.



The reference to the question of law on the applicability of the 2002 Act in the cooperative banking sector was made to the Constitution Bench in 2016. Co-operative banks come within the definition of "Banking Company" under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

7. SBI General Insurance rolled out health insurance policy “Arogya Sanjeevani”

State Bank of India General Insurance launched a standard health insurance policy named “Arogya Sanjeevani”. Arogya Sanjeevani Policy will cover the hospitalisation treatment cost of COVID-19. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.



IRDAI has mandated all general and health insurance companies to offer a Standard Health Insurance Product- Arogya Sanjeevani Policy. Sum insured involved in this policy ranges from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs, thus making it affordable health care. The policyholder will have to pay 5% of the bill amount compulsorily.

8. Kotak Mahindra Bank became first bank in India to allow video KYC

Kotak Mahindra Bank became 1st bank in India to allow video Know your customer (KYC) facility for customers opening savings accounts on Kotak 811 – the banks digital banking platform. In January 2020, the Reserve Bank of India amended the Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and introduced the video-based KYC option to onboard customers.



With Video KYC, verification of KYC documents and recording of the customer’s signature are completed via a video call with the bank. After the Video KYC is completed, the customer gets a full-fledged bank account with no restrictions on deposits or account balances.

9. NABARD released Rs 20,500 crores of funds for Kharif and pre-monsoon operations

With a view to augment the resources of Cooperative banks and RRBs to enable them to extend credit to farmers for taking up pre-monsoon and kharif 2020 operations, NABARD has extended Rs 20,500 crore with Rs 15,200 crore to Cooperative Banks and the balance of Rs 5,300 crore to RRBs as special liquidity facility in various states.



The Fund is given as a means of front loading the resources of these banks so as to ensure adequate liquidity with them for financing farmers. The banks issued about 12 lakh new KCC cards.

10. RBI slashed lending rates and extended moratorium on loan repayment by 3 months

The Reserve Bank of India slashed the repo rate by 40 basis points from 4.4% to 4%, reducing the reverse repo rate at 3.35% to maintain accommodative stance. The measures were divided into four categories – to improve functioning of markets, to support exports and imports, to ease financial stress by giving relief on debt servicing and better access to working capital and to ease financial constraints faced by State Governments.



The RBI extended Rs 15,000 crore line of credit to EXIM Bank. It enabled states to meet about 45% of redemption of their market borrowings which are due in 2020-21.

11. NPCI launched AI virtual assistant PAi

National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched an artificial intelligence (AI) based chatbot, PAi, to create awareness around its products like FASTag, RuPay, UPI, AePS on a real time basis. PAi is developed by Bengaluru based startup CoRover Private Limited.



Presented By:
SHRAWNA SINGH
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NPCI was incorporated in 2008 as an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. NPCI has created bouquet of retail payment products such as RuPay card, IMPS, UPI, BHIM, NETC Fastag and Bharat BillPay.

12. Airtel Payments Bank tied up with Mastercard

Airtel Payments Bank has teamed up with Mastercard to develop customised financial products for Indian farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The aim is to build a digital platform which provides farmers with knowledge about advanced farming techniques and connection to marketplaces, while simultaneously enabling them to receive payments directly in their Airtel Payments Bank account.



Airtel Payments Bank and Mastercard will work together to create differentiated card solutions, including solutions for contactless payments via NFC (Near Field Communication) for customers and merchants.

Important Days

1. World Press Freedom Day 2020

The World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on 3rd May across the world. The day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom. It also reminds that many journalists brave death or face jail to bring daily news to the public.

The theme of this year's day is "Journalism without Fear or Favour". The host for 2020 is the Netherlands. The sub-themes for this year are:

- Safety of Women and Men Journalists and Media Workers
- Independent and Professional Journalism free from Political and Commercial Influence
- Gender Equality in All Aspect of the Media



WORLD PRESS
FREEDOM DAY
3 MAY 2020

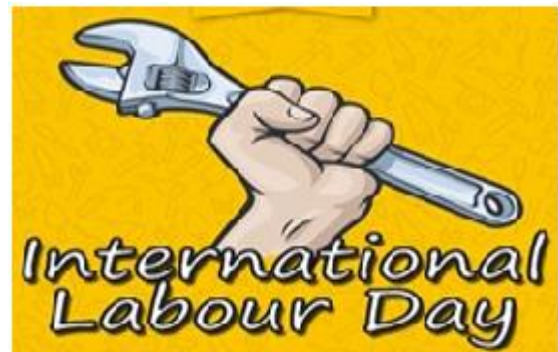
#WorldPressFreedomDay



2. International Labour Day 2020

The International Labour Day, also known as May Day, is celebrated annually on 1st May. The day is also known as International Workers' Day. The day is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement.

In India, the day is celebrated as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas. In India, the first May Day was celebrated in Madras (now known as Chennai) by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923.



3. Ayushman Bharat Diwas

The Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated across the country every year on 30th April. The day marks the start of Ayushman Bharat (AB) Yojana, which is also referred as AB-National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPM) or ModiCare or AB-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The Ayushman Bharat Yojana was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2018. The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database.



4. International Firefighters' Day 2020

International Firefighters' Day or IFFD is observed annually on May 4 to remember those firefighter's who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. The day was instituted after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.



The symbol for International Firefighters' Day is a red and blue ribbon. The red colour symbolises fire and blue water. The colors are also recognized world-wide to signify emergency services.

5. World Tuna Day 2020

The World Tuna Day is observed every year on 2nd May to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices. It was observed for the first time in 2017. Many countries depend heavily on tuna resources for food security and nutrition, economic development and employment.



Tuna is a large fish. They include approximately 40 species occurring in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea. They have been known to team up with dolphins for protection from sharks. The fish are threatened by an overwhelming demand.

6. International Day of the Midwife

The International Day of the Midwife is celebrated on May 5 each year to focus on the role of midwives and midwifery. Midwives are women who possess practical knowledge about helping pregnant women during childbirth. The theme for 2020 is 'Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilize, unite - our time is NOW!'

The day recognises the brave Midwives and raise awareness about their status and the vital role they play in the lives of new mothers and infants. The day has been celebrated by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) since 1992.



7. World Hand Hygiene Day 2020

The World Hand Hygiene Day is observed annually on May 5. The main aim of the day is to make people across the globe more aware of the importance of hand hygiene in health care facilities. The theme of the day this year is "SAVE LIVES: Clean your hands".

According to WHO, hand hygiene is a 'single most important measure' to prevent the transmission of bacteria in hospitals and other places. The aim of WHO and partners through the campaign of 2020 is to make hand hygiene as a global priority.



8. World Asthma Day 2020

The World Asthma Day is observed every year on the first Tuesday of May to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. The event is annually organised by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). The theme of World Asthma Day 2020 is "Enough Asthma Deaths".

Asthma is a chronic lung disease which causes breathing difficulties and affects sufferers to varying degrees, asthma is caused by swelling and inflammation of the bronchial tubes. The first World Asthma Day was observed in 1998.



9. World Athletics Day 2020

The World Athletics Day 2020 was observed on 7th May. The day is organized by the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation). It is celebrated every year in May. The date is decided by IAAF every year.

The day aims to popularize sports among the youth and encourage athletics as the foundational sport in schools and educational institutions. International Association of Athletics Federations is a track-and-field organization of national associations of more than 160 countries. It was founded in 1912 at Stockholm.



10. World Red Cross Day 2020

World Red Cross Day is observed on May 8. The day is observed every year to celebrate the good work that the Red Cross Movement does around the world. The objective is also to pay tribute to the volunteers for their unprecedented contribution to the people in need. This day also marks the birth anniversary of Henri Dunant, the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross.



On the occasion of World Red Cross Day, Union Health Minister flagged off the distribution of relief materials across the country by Red Cross volunteers from IRCS Head Quarters in New Delhi.

11. Time of Remembrance for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the World War II observed

Every year during May 8-9, the United Nations marks the Time of Remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War. Second World War was "one of the most epic struggles for freedom and liberation in history.



The day pays tribute to all the victims of the Second World War. 2020 is the 75th Anniversary of World War II. The victory over fascism and tyranny in May 1945 marked the beginning of a new era.

12. World Thalassaemia Day 2020

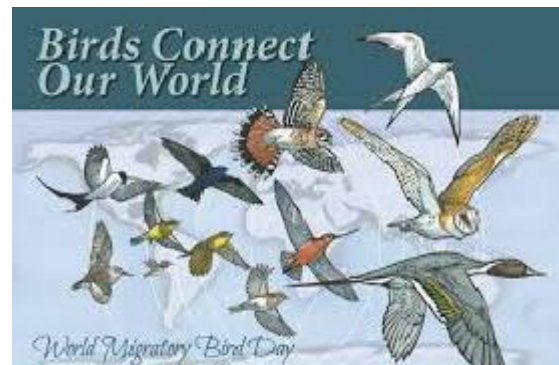
World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated annually on May 8. This day is observed to raise awareness about thalassaemia disease, its preventive measures and to avoid transmission and the importance of vaccination for children's health, society and among the people throughout the world.



The theme of 2020 was "The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients". Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder that causes your body to have less hemoglobin than normal. Hemoglobin enables red blood cells to carry oxygen.

13. World Migratory Bird Day 2020

The World Migratory Bird Day 2020 was celebrated across the world on 9th May. The theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "Birds Connect Our World". This year's theme was chosen in order to highlight the importance of conservation and restoration of ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems that support the movement of these birds.



It is a 2-day event annually held on the second weekend of May to highlight the need to protect migratory birds and their habitats. The day is celebrated to raise awareness about conservation and ecological importance of such birds in the global ecosystem.

14. National Technology Day

The National Technology Day is observed every year on 11th May. On this day in 1998, India successfully tested Shakti-I nuclear missile in the Indian Army's Test range in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The aim to celebrate National Technology Day is to highlight the achievements of our scientists and engineers in the field of science and technology.



The focus of the day this year is 'Rebooting the economy through Science and Technology.' The day was named by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

15. International Nurses Day 2020

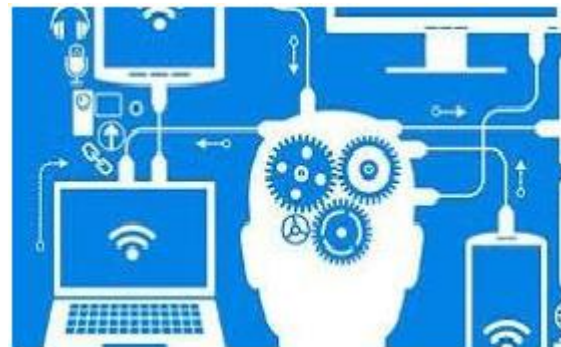
International Nurses day is observed on 12th May every year to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, who is widely called as the founder of modern nursing. The theme this year was "Nurses A Voice to Lead – Nursing the World to Health".



International Nurse's Day was first celebrated by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in the year 1965. ICN represents the voice of nurses around the world. This year the day marked the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

16. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020

The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed annually on 17th May. The day marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union. The theme for 2020 is "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".



The purpose of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is to help raise awareness of the possibilities of the Internet that can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

17. National Dengue Day

National Dengue Day is observed in India on May 16 to create awareness about dengue; and to intensify preventive measures and preparedness for the control of disease in the country before transmission season starts.



Dengue is a viral disease, transmitted by the infective bite of a particular mosquito known as *Aedes Aegypti*. It is very common after rainy season. It is highly contagious and spreads from one person to another through mosquito bites. It is widespread in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

18. International Day of Living Together in Peace

The International Day of Living Together in Peace is celebrated every year on May 16th. The day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.



The UN General-Assembly, in its resolution 72/130, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

19. International Family Day 2020

The International Day of Families is observed annually on 15th May to highlight the role of families and family-oriented policies, all caregivers in families, be it parents, grandparents or siblings and the importance of parental upbringing for the welfare of children.

The theme of 2020 is 'Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing+2'. Every year, the day is used as a platform to highlight the various issues plaguing families around the world and measures that can be taken to resolve these and build euphony.



20. International Day of Light 2020

The International Day of Light is observed globally on May 16th. 2020 is the global celebration of the third edition of the event. The day marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.

The International Day of Light celebrates the role light plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications, and energy. This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development.



21. International Museum Day celebrated on 18 May

International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums. Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples. Museum's day 2020 theme was 'Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion'.

ICOM proposed a three-day celebration, coinciding with the Long Night of Museums, and ICOM's 74th anniversary on November 16, 2020.



22. World Bee Day 2020

The World Bee Day is observed annually on May 20. The day aims to raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development. The theme of the day for the year 2020 is "Bee Engaged".



The theme highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge related to beekeeping, the use of bee-derived products and services, and their importance in achieving the SDGs. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend on animal pollination along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land.

23. International Tea Day observed globally on 21st May

International Tea Day is observed globally May 21 on the recommendation of India. Tea is a beverage made from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. Tea is the world's most consumed drink, after water. The first International Tea Day was celebrated virtually and was opened by FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu.



The day brought together the world's countries where tea cultivation is an important source of jobs and incomes. The purpose of International Tea Day is to encourage the status of tea workers, workers' rights, daily wages, social security, employment security, and health.

24. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development observed on 21 May

Held every year on 21 May, the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrates not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development. It represents an opportunity to celebrate culture's manifold forms, from the tangible and intangible to creative industries.



The impact of COVID-19 on the cultural sector is being felt around the world. This impact has affected the fundamental right of access to culture, the social rights of artists and creative professionals, and the protection of a diversity of cultural expressions.

25. World Metrology Day observed globally on 20th May

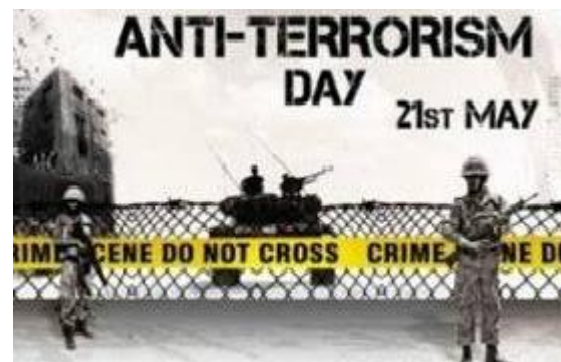
World Metrology Day is observed globally on 20th May every year. World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations. The Convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal applications.



2020 theme for World Metrology Day was 'Measurements for global trade'. This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in facilitating fair global trade, ensuring products meet standards and regulations, and satisfying customer quality expectations.

26. Anti-Terrorism Day 2020 observed on 21st May

The Anti-terrorism Day is observed in India on May 21, which is also the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He was killed in Tamil Nadu in a campaign by the Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) a terrorist group. After this assassination, V.P. Singh government has decided to observe 21st May as Anti-Terrorism Day.



This day pays tribute to those who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the motherland from the evil of terrorism. The day recalls all countries to come together to isolate nations that support and abet terrorism in any form.

27. World Turtle Day 2020

The World Turtle Day is celebrated every year on May 23 since 2000. The purpose of World Turtle Day is to educate people about the things that they can do to protect the habitats of turtle and tortoises. The day was founded by American Tortoise Rescue.



Turtles origin dates back to the time of dinosaurs, which is nearly 200 million years back, which makes them significantly older than snakes, crocodiles and alligators. There are a total of 300 species of turtles in the entire world, out of which 129 species are endangered.

28. International Day of Biodiversity 2020

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on 22nd May to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for 2020 is "Our Solutions are in Nature". The theme emphasizes hope, solidarity and the importance of working together at all levels to build a future of life in harmony with nature.



The year 2020 which is also the "SUPER YEAR FOR BIODIVERSITY", as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity with 20 global Aichi targets adopted in 2010 ends in 2020. This is called Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

29. International Day of UN Peacekeepers

The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is celebrated every year on 29th May. The day is observed to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication, and courage and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.



UNAMID commemorated the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers under the theme "Women in Peacekeeping – A Key to Peace". The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 29 May 1948.

1. PM Modi attended virtual summit of Non Aligned Movement on COVID-19 pandemic

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the virtual summit of the Non Aligned Movement, NAM, on COVID 19 pandemic. The Summit had been organised at the initiative of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev to enhance coordination of member states in fight against COVID-19.



The Azerbaijan President is the current chair of NAM. This was the first NAM meeting that Mr Modi took part after becoming Prime Minister in 2014. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.

2. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson opened virtual global conference on COVID-19

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson opened a virtual global conference on COVID-19 by calling on all countries to step up their efforts and work together on fighting the corona virus pandemic, the "most urgent shared endeavour of our lifetimes".



The Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference was co-hosted by the UK and eight other countries and organisations including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the European Commission. At the conference, Johnson confirmed the UK's pledge of 388 million pounds aid funding for research into vaccines, tests and treatments.

3. Russia to launch first satellite to monitor Arctic climate this year

Russia will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year. The satellite will be launched using a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket with the Fregat booster.



The remote-sensing and emergency communications satellite will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth, which will allow improving weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change. The second Arktika-M satellite is still under development and will be launched in 2023.

4. US Navy to host world's largest maritime exercises in Hawaii

The United States Navy will host the world's largest maritime exercises in Hawaii, but the drills will only be held at sea because of the Corona virus. The Navy has held the Rim of the Pacific exercises in Hawaii every two years since the early 1970s.



RIMPAC- 2020 would not include social events on shore. RIMPAC, the Rim of the Pacific Exercise, is the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise. RIMPAC is held biennially during June and July of even-numbered years.

5. Germany designated Hezbollah as terrorist organization

Germany has designated Iran-backed Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation and banned all the activities of the organisation on its soil. The United States has already designated the heavily armed Shi'ite Islamist group a terrorist organisation. The EU classifies Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist group, but not its political wing.



Hezbollah is a Shia Islamist political party and militant group based in Lebanon. Hezbollah's paramilitary wing is the Jihad Council, and its political wing is the Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc party in the Lebanese parliament.

6. US placed India on priority watch list for Intellectual Property protection

The United States has placed India on the 'Priority Watch List' for lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its Intellectual Property framework on the "long-standing" and "new challenges" that have negatively affected American right holders over the past year. The US placed 10 countries including India and China on the list.



The countries placed on the list by the Trump administration on Intellectual Property (IP) related issues are Algeria, Argentina, Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Venezuela.

7. Bangladesh received 500 million dollar ADB loan to manage COVID-19 impact

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved an additional loan of 500 million dollar to Bangladesh to manage the impact of Corona virus on its economy and public health. The loan will benefit 15 million poor and vulnerable people of Bangladesh.



The assistance is part of the dollar 20 billion extended assistance for developing countries' response to the pandemic announced by ADB on 13th April 2020. Earlier, ADB had approved 100 million dollar concessional loan for Bangladesh to support its immediate public health requirement arising out of Corona outbreak.

8. Israeli SC allows Benjamin Netanyahu to form government

Israel's Supreme Court has ruled that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may form a new government while under indictment for corruption charges. The SC ruling cleared the way for him and his rival-turned-uneasy ally, Benny Gantz, to join together in a controversial power-sharing deal.



Under the deal, Netanyahu and Gantz would be sworn-in together, with Netanyahu serving first as Prime Minister and Gantz as the Designated Premier. After 18 months, the two are to swap positions. Because of the nature of arrangement, the Knesset must pass new legislation before they take office.

9. UN appeals for USD 6.7 billion to fight corona virus pandemic in poor countries

The United Nations increased its appeal to fight the corona virus pandemic in fragile and vulnerable countries from 2 billion US Dollars support to 6.7 billion US Dollars. Earlier, in its original appeal on March 25, the United Nations has raised 1 billion US Dollars support efforts across 37 fragile countries to tackle COVID-19.



The appeal launched includes nine additional vulnerable countries: Benin, Djibouti, Liberia, Mozambique, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe.

10. Iraqi Parliament chose Mustafa Al Kadhimi as new Prime Minister

Iraq's Parliament chose American-backed former Intelligence Chief, Mustafa al-Kadhimi as the new Prime Minister. Kadhimi was a journalist who returned from exile in London to Iraq after the U.S. toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. He served as head of Iraqi National Intelligence Service (Inis) from 2016 until April 2020.



The previous Prime Minister, Adel Abdul-Mahdi, was forced to resign after hundreds of unarmed protesters were killed by security forces. The President of Iraq is Barham Salih.

11. China launched next-generation space capsule on Long March 5B rocket test flight

China launched the Long March 5B rocket from its Wenchang launch site. The rocket is a deep-space spacecraft to operate a permanent space station and also to send astronauts to moon. The same vehicle will carry the country's Mars mission, dubbed Tianwen.



China intends to launch its Tianwen-1 mission, which will send the country's first lander and rover to Mars, as well as a spacecraft that will orbit the Red Planet. China will also launch its next mission to the Moon, called Chang'e 5.

12. Iran introduced new currency to tackle inflation

Iran's parliament has passed a bill allowing the government to slash four zeros from the rial. The national currency will be changed from the rial to the Toman, which is equal to 10,000 rials, under the bill.



The Iranian currency was trading at about 156,000 rials per dollar on the unofficial market. The value of Iran's currency has been steadily declining since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 but that drop has accelerated in recent years fueled by U.S. sanctions.

13. UK announced 'once in a generation' transport sector investment

UK government has announced a 'once in a generation' transport sector investment of around 2 billion pound. The major chunk has been ear-marked for emergency improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure for the country's green recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.



Pop-up bike lanes, wider pavements, safer junctions, and cycle and bus-only corridors will be created in England within weeks as part of a 250 million pound emergency fund. It is the first part of the 2 billion pound package.

14. US unemployment rate rose to 14.7% in April

The unemployment rate of the United States has risen to 14.7%, with 20.5 million jobs lost in April after the Corona virus pandemic devastated the economy. The US unemployment rate rose to 14.7% from just 4.4% in March and a near 50-year low of 3.5% in February before the US was hit by the virus.



The jobless rate is now worse than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The coronavirus pandemic led 20.5m Americans to lose their jobs in April.

15. WHO, UN postal agency released commemorative postage stamp

World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN's postal agency have released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox. In May 1980, the 33rd World Health Assembly issued its official declaration that the world and all peoples have won freedom from smallpox.



It ended after a 10-year WHO-spearheaded global effort that involved thousands of health workers around the world to administer half a billion vaccinations to stamp out smallpox.

16. US reported record monthly deficit of over \$737 billion in April

The United States government has reported a record monthly deficit of 737.9 billion dollars in April. It is due to drop in revenue and a massive increase in spending to fund efforts to deal with the corona virus pandemic.



The previous record monthly deficit was 235 billion dollars set in February. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that all the spending, the government has done to deal with the pandemic, will push the deficit for the entire year to 3.7 trillion dollars.

17. German economy shrinks by 2.2% in first quarter

The German economy shrank by 2.2% in the first quarter compared to the previous three-month period owing to the lockdown due to COVID-19. The latest data, released by the federal statistics authority Destatis, also showed revisions to 2019 fourth-quarter figures from zero growth to a contraction of 0.1%.



The decline in the January-March period was the biggest since 2009. This means Germany is now in a recession, defined as two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth.

18. Saudi Arabia to raise VAT from 5% to 15% from 1st July

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has decided to raise value added tax (VAT) from 5% to 15% starting from 1st July and has taken a decision to suspend cost of living allowance starting from 1st June.



The announcement came after the kingdom got into a \$9bn (£7.2bn) budget deficit in the first three months of the year. The oil revenues in the period fell by almost a quarter from a year earlier to \$34bn, pulling down total revenues by 22%.

19. Italy developed 'iFeel-You' bracelet for social distancing

An Italian start-up, Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), has developed an electronic bracelet that informs users when they are too close to others. The bracelet is named 'iFeel-You'. It will help users respect social distancing rules.



The device also tells users if they have come into contact with someone who later tests positive—key to tracing cases. The smart band prototype is also capable of monitoring human body parameters and sending an alert when the body temperature is higher than 37.5 degrees.

20. Slovenia becomes first European nation to declare an end to its coronavirus epidemic

Slovenia became the first European country to proclaim an end to the coronavirus epidemic at home. Prime Minister Janez Jansa declared to open the borders. According to data from Slovenia's Ministry of Health, the reproductive number for the virus — known as the R rating or R0 — was below 1.



Despite the announcement, public gatherings remain banned while social distancing rules and mask-wearing remain mandatory in public spaces. Experts clarified that the disease was still present in the country.

21. Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania referred as travel bubble

The Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have opened their borders to one another, creating a coronavirus "travel bubble". All three have been successful at managing the Covid-19 outbreak and remaining comparatively safe. It would help all three countries to step up economy by allowing the members of the group to rejoin trade ties with each other.



Baltic States is a group the three sovereign states in Northern Europe on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea.

22. India gives \$2 million aid for Palestinian refugees' welfare

The Government of India has contributed US\$ 2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's core programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services. About 3.1 million Palestine refugees depend on health services provided by the UNRWA.



India had increased its annual financial contribution to UNRWA from US \$1.25 million in 2016 to US\$ 5 million in 2018 and 2019, and pledged another US\$ 5 million for 2020. With this contribution, India opened the way to become a member of the Agency's Advisory Commission.

23. WHO will initiate Independent Inquiry in handling of COVID-19

World Health Organization (WHO) has announced to initiate an independent review into its handling of the coronavirus pandemic. More than 100 countries including India backed a resolution drafted by the European Union calling for an independent inquiry into the pandemic.



The motion 'Resolution on COVID 19 Response' calls for a review of the coronavirus origin with the aim to put an end to the international blame game about its origin and the response. The motion also requests examination of the route of transmission of the virus to the human population, including the possible role of intermediate hosts.

24. Nepal approved new map including Lipulekh, Kalapani

Nepal has officially launched its new political map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as parts of their territory amid the ongoing dispute with India. India's map has long shown these areas within India, though Kathmandu insists this is a violation of the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli.



The Lipulekh pass is a far western point near Kalapani. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory - India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

25. US Senate passed a bill to delist Chinese companies from American stock exchanges

US Senate has passed a bill to delist Chinese companies from American stock exchanges. The senate unanimously approved the bill brought by Republican Senator John Kennedy and Democrat Senator, Chris Van Hollen. The move may result in Chinese companies like Alibaba Group Holdings Ltd. and Baidu Inc. being barred from listing on US stock exchanges.



The legislation requires companies to certify that they are not owned or controlled by a foreign government. They would be required to submit to an audit that can be reviewed by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, which has been objected to by China.

26. India's KHUDOL initiative declared one of Top 10 Global Initiatives to fight COVID-19

The United Nations has listed Khudol initiative of Manipur, India among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. KHUDOL is a crowd-funded initiative of Imphal (Manipur) based NGO Ya_All.



Through the Khudol initiative, the NGO aims to provide food, hygiene and health of LGBTQ community, daily wage workers, and people with AIDS. Through the network of 100 volunteers, the organization has provided over 1,000 health kits, 6,500 sanitary pads and 1,500 condoms to 2,000 families and individuals.

27. US announced to exit Open Skies Treaty

The United States has announced to pull out of the Open Skies treaty after US accused that Russia had repeatedly violated its terms. The 34-nation agreement allows the U.S., Russia and other countries to fly their aircraft over each other's territory – increasing transparency and reducing the chances for perilous miscalculations.



The Open Skies treaty has been in effect since 2002. It gives host countries a level of control over the flights in their airspace. USA has withdrawn from two other major international military pact: Iran nuclear deal and the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty.

28. Russia began building first Stealth Bomber

Russia has started construction of a prototype of its first stealth bomber under the Perspective Aviation Complex for Long-Range Aviation (PAK DA) programme. The plane will be able to carry "cruise missiles, precision bombs and hypersonic weapons".

The aircraft will compete with America's B-2 stealth bomber, which entered service in 1997. China is also working on a stealth bomber, the Xian H-20. Russia has already developed its own stealth fighter, the Sukhoi-57.



Miscellaneous

1. World renowned essayist and novelist, Ruskin Bond, narrated his own short stories on All India Radio over the programme "Bonding Over The Radio".
2. Ministry of Coal (MoC) launched a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for facilitation of early operationalisation of coal mines allocated by the Central Government.
3. During the nation-wide lockdown, Chhattisgarh is currently leading in the country in terms of providing employment to villagers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act- MGNREGA.
4. FIFA launched #WeWillWin campaign to appreciate health workers.
5. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched 'Vikas Abhaya' loan scheme to provide some relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers whose business activities are disrupted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Freedom fighter and Padma Shri Gandhian Hema Bharali passed away at the age of 101 years.
7. The Centre has directed Arunachal Pradesh government to take up as a "matter of priority" the alleged exclusion of 65,875 Chakmas and Hajongs from the state's "economic package for vulnerable sections in these difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic".
8. Government of India announced that the Rebate of State and Central Scheme arrears are to be provided in the form of scrips. It is to be provided by the Department of Revenue Communication.
9. International Astronomy Day is celebrated twice a year -- one in autumn (in 2020-May 2) and another in spring (in 2020-September 26) to create awareness and educate people about the beautiful universe.
10. The Delhi state government imposed a "special corona fee" of 70% of the MRP on all categories of liquor to boost government revenue.
11. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued a notification regarding ban on the export of alcohol-based hand sanitisers to ensure its availability in the domestic market.
12. The Minister of State for North East Development held Bamboo Conclave through video conference to boost the economy of the country with the help of Bamboo resources.
13. The West Bengal government has rolled out an "Exit App" for people from other states stuck in West Bengal amid the nationwide lockdown and desire to return to their native place.
14. Tamil Nadu government increased the retirement age of the government staff, teachers and those in public sector units from 58 years to 59 years.
15. Principal Secretary in the Maharashtra Urban Development Department, Iqbal Chahal, was appointed as Mumbai's new Civic Chief, replacing Praveen Pardeshi.
16. The Madhya Pradesh state government will honour all those policemen who rendered their services for thirty days in the fight against Corona with Karmaveer Medal.
17. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has launched Pranavayu programme to create awareness on the need to self examine the respiratory health for Bangaloreans.
18. Founder of Kodava Family Hockey Tournament, Pandanda Kuttappa passed away.
19. Mother's day is celebrated on every second Sunday of month of May. In 2020, it was celebrated on 10th May. The day is widely known to salute the motherhood, to extend the influence of mothers within the society.

20. Former Lok Sabha MP and senior Janta Dal (S) leader Raja Rangappa Naik passed away.
21. The Gujarat government has mandated the digital payment for all home delivery services in Ahmedabad to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through currency notes.
22. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda held a video conference on "Tribal livelihoods and safety" with States/UTs in New Delhi.
23. Technology Development Board (TDB) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have jointly organised a Digital Conference "RE-START".
24. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has organised the Indo-Bangladesh "Virtual Conference".
25. Former national table tennis champion Manmeet Singh Walia passed away at the age of 58 years.
26. Sikkim celebrated its 45th statehood day on 17th May. It marks the day in 1975 when Sikkim transitioned to become the 22nd state of the country from being a monarchy earlier.
27. The Indian Railways has made the Aarogya Setu app mandatory for the passengers to travel by train.
28. Federal Bank Limited has tied-up with MoneyGram Payment System to offer a cost-effective direct-to-bank account credit option for customers in India.
29. A virtual conference of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation member countries was held to deliberate on cooperation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
30. The second edition of Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meet was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.
31. The 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting was held through Video Conference.
32. Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May of all six branches of the U.S. military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard and the Marine Corps.
33. Canara Bank has started a special business vertical dedicated to gold loans. This business vertical for gold loans to meet the financial needs of its customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
34. The International Cricket Council's (ICC) Cricket Committee has recommended banning on the use of saliva to shine the ball.
35. India Post released a Special Postal Cover dedicated to the migrant workers with an objective of paying tribute to them.
36. US biotech firm Moderna revealed the first data from a human trial: its COVID-19 vaccine triggered an immune response in people.
37. Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced that China will provide \$2 billion over two years to help other countries respond to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. President Xi made the announcement at the 73rd World Health Assembly.
38. The Union Territory, Ladakh has become corona virus free as the region have not reported any fresh case since 3rd May 2020.
39. Legendary singer Lata Mangeskar has sung a song titled as JAYTU BHARATAM saluting the spirit of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
40. The flagship healthcare scheme of the union government, Ayushman Bharat, has achieved a new milestone after over one crore people have availed treatment under this programme since its launch in September 2018. Treatment worth over Rs 13,400 crore has been provided to the beneficiaries.

41. The Competition Commission of India approved acquisition of 100% of the total issued and paid up share capital of Emami Cement Limited, on a fully diluted basis, by Nuvoco Vistas Corporation Limited.
42. Two Indian Power lifters namely Savita Kumari & Ankit Shishodia have been provisionally suspended by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA). The power lifters have been provisionally suspended for violating the anti-doping rules.
43. In order to spread awareness about psychological impact of lockdown and measures to be adopted to overcome them, Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K has started an initiative 'SUKOON' - COVID-19 Beat the Stress".
44. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated 'Everybody will get employment' scheme through video conferencing.
45. Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute developed and launched commercially a RNA extraction kit "Agappe Chitra Magna" for detection of COVID 19. It is the first indigenous kit based on magnetic nanoparticles- based extraction kit in the market and is different from the imported kits based on magnetic particle based-technologies.
46. HIL (India) Limited, a PSU under Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, is now in process of production and supply of 25 MT Malathion Technical for supply to locust control programme to Iran under Government to Government arrangement.
47. Experts have marked Kangra tea as a potential coronavirus blocker as it may also be able to boost immunity against coronavirus by blocking the virus activity.
48. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is likely to replace hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) with anti-HIV drugs to improve immunity and possibly reduce viral replication, in the revised protocol.
49. The first Solar Lift Irrigation Plant of Kargil with 5KW Solar Plant and 3HP Submersible Pump was inaugurated at Yak Breeding Farm, Bodh Kharboo.
50. S&P has projected the Indian economy to contract by 5%.
51. Flipkart has signed a MoU with Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation, to empower mango farmers to sell their produce online.
52. SN Rajeswari has been elected as the Chairman and MD of the Oriental Insurance Company by the Banks Board Bureau (BBB).
53. The Sri Lanka Cricket Board has suspended fast bowler Shehan Madushanka from all forms of cricket with immediate effect after he was arrested for alleged possession of illegal drugs.
54. Former Tamil Nadu footballer and coach R. Shanmugam passed away.
55. According to a World Gold Council (WGC) report, around 37% of Indian women have never bought gold. The report titled 'Retail Gold Insights: India Jewellery' also noted that 60% of the Indian women already own gold jewellery.
56. Aarogya Setu has become world's largest contact tracing app reaching over 11 crore 40 lakh people in 40 days.
57. India has handover the war game centre named as "INDIA" to Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF).
58. Fintech startup Zagggle has partnered with "Visa" to launch innovative payment solutions for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups.
59. World Thyroid Day is observed globally on 25 May annually.
60. Rajiv Joshi has bagged the prestigious NYIPLA "Inventor of the Year award" for the year 2020 for his contribution to advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.
61. The Mizoram Cabinet cleared the Sports and Youth Service department's proposal to recognise sports as an 'industry' in the state.

62. FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) has appointed Assam-based entrepreneur Jahnabi Phookan as its National President.
63. Abhas Jha has been appointed as the World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.
64. Australian tennis star Ashley Cooper passed away.

1. Government launched “The Saras Collection” on GeM portal

Government launched “The Saras Collection” on the Government electronic Marketplace (GeM) portal. The Saras Collection showcases daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs) and aims to provide SHGs in rural areas with market access to Central and State Government buyers.



It is a unique initiative of GeM and the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Under this initiative, the SHG sellers will be able to list their products in five product categories namely handicrafts, handloom and textiles, office accessories, grocery and pantry and personal care and hygiene.

2. Third phase of lockdown with relaxations in green, orange and red zones come into effect

The third phase of lockdown with different relaxations in green, orange and red zones came into effect till the 17th of May, 2020. The Health Ministry has divided over 700 districts of the country into Red, Orange and Green zones and Centre's guidelines will be followed according to the zone.



The classification takes into consideration incidence of cases, doubling rate, extent of testing and surveillance feedback to classify the districts. A district will be considered under Green Zone, if there are no confirmed cases so far or there is no reported case since last 21 days in the district.

3. CSIR launched Kisan Sabha App

CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi has launched Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation Management System.



- The portal connects the farmers, transporters, Service providers.
- The portal acts as a single stop for every entity related to agriculture.
- KisanSabha also works for people in agriculture services sector such as dealers of fertilizers/ pesticides.
- It would also prove to be useful for those associated with cold store(s) or godown(s).

4. Five more States, Union Territories (UTs) integrated under 'One Nation, One Ration Card' plan

The Union Government has approved the integration of five more States and Union Territories with the National Cluster under the One Nation, One Ration Card plan. These States and UTs are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.



Twelve states have already been integrated under One Nation, One Ration Card plan namely - Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura.

5. CAIT to launch national e-commerce marketplace 'bharatmarket' for retail traders

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has announced to launch a national e-commerce marketplace 'bharatmarket'. The marketplace will integrate capabilities of various technology companies to provide end-to-end services in the logistics and supply chains from manufacturers to end consumers, including deliveries at home.



The e-commerce portal aims to bring 95% of retail traders across the country onboard the platform, who would exclusively run the portal. The traders' body is looking to enroll about one crore retailers on this e-marketplace in 2020 and make it the world's largest e-marketplace ever.

6. New health warnings on tobacco packs

The Union Health Ministry on Monday notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs by making an amendment to the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008. This amendment will come into force from 1 September 2020.



The notification states that all tobacco products that have been packaged on or after September 1, 2020 will have to display the first image and the products which are packaged on or after September 1, 2021 will have to display the second image.

7. CCI approves proposed acquisition of Tech Data Corporation by Tiger Midco LLC

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed acquisition of 100% shares and control of Tech Data Corporation by Tiger Midco LLC. Tiger Midco is a special purpose vehicle set up and managed by investment funds managed by affiliates of Apollo Management, L.P.



Tech Data, a NASDAQ listed corporation, is active globally in the wholesale distribution of technology products and solutions to resellers. Tech Data is present in India through a subsidiary, Tech Data Advanced Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd. ("Tech Data India").

8. CCI approved BP Global proposed 49% acquisition of RBPML

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved Proposed Combination between BP Global Investments Limited (BP Global) and Reliance BP Mobility Limited (RBPML).

The Proposed Combination relates to the subsequent proposed acquisition by BP Global of an aggregate 49% of the fully diluted paid-up equity share capital and voting rights in and of RBPML. BP Global is an investment holding company and holds shares in subsidiaries and associated companies. It currently does not conduct any business operations in India.



9. IDEathon on 'The Future of River Management'

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) recently organised an IDEathon to explore how coronavirus pandemic can shape River Management strategies for the future. The IDEathon examined how the social angle of rivers can be leveraged on to address other crises.

National Mission for Clean Ganga had initiated this IDEathon to garner more attention towards river management and also highlight the interconnectivity of Cities with the River.



10. GIR approved GI tagging of Kashmiri saffron

The Registrar of Geographical Indication, Government of India has granted Certificate of Registration to Department of Agriculture Kashmir for Kashmiri saffron. The Geographical Indication (GI) tag of the Kashmiri saffron symbolizes its exclusivity in the international market.



Geographical Indication Registry has approved the GI tagging on the saffron with GI no 635. Directorate of Agriculture has been declared as a registered proprietor of the GI of saffron. Kashmiri saffron is known for its quality and aroma worldwide.

11. DST launched YASH programme with focus on COVID-19

National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' with focus on COVID-19. The programme is aimed at minimizing risks at all levels with the help of public communication and outreach activities.



YASH will envisage specific outcomes, like improved risk understanding amongst target groups including working with local sensitivities, belief systems, traditions, and indigenous knowledge. It also aims to introduce practices based on authentic knowledge duly verified by scientific processes.

12. GI tag to Manipur black rice, Gorakhpur terracotta

Chak-Hao, the black rice of Manipur and the Gorakhpur terracotta have bagged the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Chak-Hao is a scented glutinous rice and is characterised by its special aroma. It is normally eaten during community feasts and is served as Chak-Hao kheer.



The terracotta work of Gorakhpur is a centuries-old traditional art form, where the potters make various animal figures like, horses, elephants, camel, goat, ox, etc. with hand-applied ornamentation.

13. All India Institute of Ayurveda launched AYURAKSHA

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Delhi Police organised AYURAKSHA programme for Delhi Police personal at New Delhi. The joint programme titled AYURAKSHA "Corona Se Jung - Delhi Police Ke Sang" aims to fight against corona through simple and time tested Ayurveda immunity boosting measures.



Delhi Police has come forward with a proposal for maintaining the health of front line COVID warriors like Delhi police personal through Ayurveda immunity boosting measures. The proposal would be implemented in a phase wise manner.

14. AarogyaSetu Mitr Telemedicine Portal launched

The Government of India has launched a new initiative - the Aarogya Setu Mitr telemedicine portal, to offer free telemedicine and consultation services for coronavirus-related inquiries. This would help make Aarogya Setu a one-stop solution for all healthcare and Covid-19 prevention needs.



Aarogya Setu Mitr would also allow the users to book doorstep lab tests. The Aarogya Setu app has partnered with Swasth Foundation, Project StepOne, Tata Bridgital Health and Tech Mahindra's healthcare initiative Connectsense Telehealth to offer tele-consultation service from verified doctors.

15. Microwave steriliser to disintegrate novel Coronavirus developed

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, a deemed university supported by Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a microwave steriliser named as 'ATULYA' to disintegrate (COVID-19). The virus gets disintegrated by differential heating in the range of 560 to 600 Celsius temperatures.



The product is cost effective solution, which can be operated in portable or fixed installations. This system was tested for human/operator safety and has been found to be safe. The time of sterilisation is from 30 seconds to one minute.

16. Environment Ministry approved way for new Parliament building

The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)'s has approved the "expansion and renovation" of the existing Parliament building. The project has an estimated cost of Rs 922 crore.



The new Parliament building is a part of the government's controversial and ambitious Rs. 20,000 crore Central Vista project. The plan includes constructing a new triangular Parliament opposite the existing heritage structure and building a central secretariat for all Ministries.

17. USAID announced additional \$3 million grant to India

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), announced an additional \$3 million to India to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. USAID is providing these funds to the Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.



To date, USAID has provided \$5.9 million to assist India in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Through the PAHAL project, USAID will support the National Health Authority to establish a financing facility that can mobilise resources from the private sector to assist over 20,000 health facilities enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

18. DGCA launched GARUD portal to fast-track approval to COVID-19 related drone operations

The Union Civil Aviation Ministry and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have launched the GARUD (Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones) portal for providing fast track conditional exemptions to government agencies for COVID-19 related drone operations. The step has been taken to aid government entities in addressing the challenges posed by COVID-19 and will remain in force until further orders.



The government is using various surveillance techniques to ensure that people are strictly adhering to lockdown restrictions in red and orange zones and are following social distancing norms in green zones.

19. CSIR-IGIB and TATA Sons sign MoU for licensing 'KNOWHOW' for rapid diagnosis of Covid-19

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) constituent lab, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and TATA Sons signed a MoU for licensing of KNOWHOW for FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA) for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19. The license shall include transfer of the knowledge for scaling up the KNOWHOW in the form of a kit that can be deployed for COVID-19 testing.



FELUDA for COVID-19 has been designed for mitigating the ongoing COVID-19 situation and cater to mass testing. Its main advantages are its affordability, relative ease of use and non-dependency on expensive Q-PCR machines.

20. Facebook and Bollywood come together for I For India concert

Social media networking site Facebook collaborated with some of the biggest names in Indian entertainment to put together a home-to-home fundraiser concert, 'I For India'. Entire proceeds from the fundraiser concert will go to the India COVID Response Fund managed by GiveIndia, to support on-ground relief efforts.



GiveIndia (www.giveindia.org) is India's largest giving platform with reach across 23 states. It is associated with over 100 NGOs. The four-hour-long concert was broadcasted live globally on Facebook on May 3.

21. Health ministry launched Aarogya Setu IVRS facility

The Union Health Ministry has launched Aarogy Setu Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to include citizens with feature phones and landline connections. It is a toll-free service, wherein citizens can give a missed call to the number 1921 and they will get a call back requesting for inputs regarding their health.



The toll-free service is implemented in 11 regional languages. The government has also launched AarogyaSetu MitR portal from where users can get free consultancy from doctors on Covid-19 in addition to ancillary services like home collection of samples for Diagnostics and Medicine delivery at home.

22. Government conducted Vande Bharat Mission to bring back stranded Indians from 12 abroad

The Government has conducted one of the largest evacuation exercises named Vande Bharat Mission to bring home nearly 14,800 Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the Corona virus lockdown. The government operated nearly 64 flights between 7th and 13th of May.



The 64 flights included ten flights from UAE, seven each from Bangladesh, Malaysia, United Kingdom and United States, five each from Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Philippines and Kuwait along with two each from Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

23. Indian Navy launched operation 'Samudra Setu'

In one of the largest evacuation exercise of its kind, Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu to repatriate stranded Indian citizens from overseas. The phase one of the operation commenced with evacuation of Indian citizens from Maldives.



Navy Ships INS Jalashwa and Magar were sent to Male in Maldives to repatriate close to 1000 persons in the first trip. The ships were suitably provisioned for the evacuation operation viz., basic amenities and medical facilities.

24. CCMB tied up with Bengaluru-based company to research on COVID-19

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad has tied up with a Bengaluru-based company, Eystem Research Private Limited, to take up research activities on COVID-19. Through this research collaboration, an attempt will be made to grow novel coronavirus in human cell lines, which will enable in vitro testing of potential drugs and vaccines against the COVID-19.



The research team will use Eystem's human lung epithelial cell culture system provided as part of its Anti-COVID Screening (ACS) platform to understand the molecular and pathological characteristics of the novel coronavirus.

25. National Gallery of Modern Art presented the virtual program "NGMA KE SANGRAH SE"

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi presented the virtual program "NGMA KE SANGRAH SE". It aims to showcase the rarely seen or maybe unseen jewels from its repository. This program is based on various weekly or daily themes from NGMA's prestigious collections.



National Gallery of Modern Art presents the virtual program "NGMA KE SANGRAH SE"

The theme for the week ended 10th May was ARTIST BY ARTISTS and was dedicated to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. It coincided with the maestro's 159th birth anniversary on 7th May 2020.

26. Niti Aayog started 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan'

Niti Aayog in association with Piramal Foundation has launched a campaign 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan'. It aims to ensure the well-being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. Piramal Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Piramal Group.



'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan' is aimed at creating awareness about various aspects of senior citizens' health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioral changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic. It focuses on behaviour change, access to services, early detection & tracking of COVID-19 symptoms.

27. Coir Board signed MoU with IIT Madras

The Coir Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, to establish a Centre of Excellence for Coir Applications. Centre of Excellence aims at furthering the research work done so far in the coir sector with the support of IIT, Madras.



Coir Board will provide a financial assistance of five crore rupees initially for a period of two years for the establishment and running of the Centre of Excellence. In all, 27 areas of Research and Development have been identified for the coir industry, which will be taken up by this Centre of Excellence.

28. NIT Trichy, six Central Universities selected for Prime Minister's Research Fellows scheme

National Institute of Technology, Trichy and six Central Universities have been selected for the prestigious Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme 2020. The scheme was announced in the 2018 - 19 Budget.



Each Institute will get around 20 PMRF scholars who are eligible to get a fellowship of Rs. 70,000 per month for the first two years, Rs. 75,000 per month for the third year and Rs. 80,000 per month in the fourth and fifth year. A research grant of Rs. 2 lakh per year will also be provided to each of the fellows for all five years.

29. IIT- Kanpur and BDL sign MoU for development of ventilators for Covid-19

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has joined hands with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment. The MoU was signed between BDL, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kanpur's incubator Foundation for Innovation and Research in Science and Technology and Nocca Robotics Private Limited (NRPL), an incubated start-up of IIT Kanpur.



NRPL has designed and developed a high-end and affordable indigenous ventilator. The ventilator's design also has unique features to safeguard the frontline healthcare workers from exposure to the virus.

30. PNB Housing Finance signed MoU with IIT-Delhi to develop PPE kits

PNB Housing Finance has signed a pact with IIT-Delhi for developing sustainable and reusable personal protective equipment (PPE) kits for healthcare workers. Under the agreement, the PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNBHFL) will support research and development of a unique prototype material to be used in manufacturing sustainable (washable and reusable) PPE surgical gowns and masks.

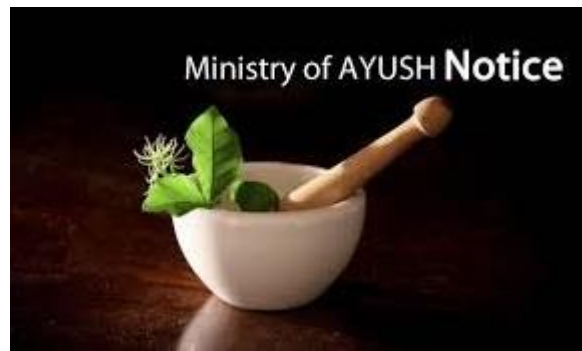


PNBHFL is promoted by Punjab National Bank and is registered with state owned bank and regulation authority of India - National Housing Bank (NHB).

31. GOI launched three AYUSH based Researches

The Ministry of AYUSH launched following three studies related to COVID-19:

- **Ayurvedic Interventions:** The research will study Ashwagandha and its prophylaxes against COVID-19. It will compare Aswagandha with Hydroxychloroquine.
- **Population based research:** The research will find solutions to improve quality of life of the people in high risk areas. This research is to be carried out through four research
- **Sanjivani application:** The Sanjivani Application will help generating data from around 5 million people. The data will help in learning the acceptance of the people in using AYUSH as a cure to COVID-19.



32. GoI calls for making integrated soil nutrient management a farmers' movement

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has called for making integrated soil nutrient management a farmers' movement. He directed running mission mode awareness campaigns on increasing use of bio and organic fertilisers and reducing chemical fertilisers strictly based on recommendations of Soil Health Card.



The movement will cover more than 1 lakh villages. It is to be launched and implemented in 2020-21. It also aims at promotion of Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP).

33. Bureau of Energy Efficiency initiatives saved Rs 89,122 Cr in FY19

According to a report on "Impact of energy efficiency measures for the year 2018-19," the energy efficiency initiatives by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) led to savings worth Rs. 89,122 Cr in FY19. The findings of the report reflect that the implementation of various energy efficiency schemes has led to total electricity savings to the tune of 113.16 Billion Units in 2018-19, which is 9.39% of the net electricity consumption.



The efforts also contributed to reducing 151.74 Million Tonnes of CO2 emissions. This report was prepared by an Expert agency PWC Ltd.

34. IMD includes PoK in its weather forecast

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has started referring to its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir as "Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad". Muzaffarabad is part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir while Gilgit-Baltistan is also under illegal Pakistani occupation.



The IMD move comes within days of the Pakistan Supreme Court's decision to allow the federal government to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan. On April 30, Pakistan's top court had allowed the federal government's application to set up a caretaker government and conduct provincial assembly elections.

35. India and AIIB signed USD 500 million "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project"

India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank signed a 500 million dollar "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project" in New Delhi to strengthen its public health preparedness. This is the first ever health sector support from the Bank to India.



Funds will address the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies. It will help strengthen country's Integrated Disease Surveillance Program, revamp infectious disease hospitals and medical college hospitals.

36. India Post partnered ICMR for delivery of COVID-19 testing kits

India Post partnered with ICMR for delivery of its Covid-19 testing Kits from its 16 regional depots to the 200 testing labs in the country. Indian Council of Medical Research set a target of carrying out around one lakh tests across the country per day. These kits are being delivered packed in dry ice.



India Post committed to ensure that the delivery of kits is made as per requirements even in far-flung areas like Mizoram, Aizawl, Durgapur, Churu, Jhalawar, Kolkata etc.

37. TRIFED and AOL inked MoU to promote tribal enterprises

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India, TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art of Living, AOL Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote Tribal Enterprises. The Art of Living Foundation has agreed to provide Free Ration Kits to Needy Tribes India Artisans.



TRIFED Regional Offices have compiled the list of needy tribal artisans and have identified 9,409 needy tribal artisans located across the country for distribution of ration kits under I Stand With Humanity campaign of AOL. This is being coordinated with the AOL offices in all States.

38. Khadi and Village industries turnover reached Rs. 90,000 Crore in 2019-20

The turnover of Village Industries products reached to Rs. 84,675.39 crore in 2019-20, registering a growth of over 19% from the previous year, i.e. 2018-19, which was at Rs. 71,077 crore. The village industry sector witnessed a phenomenal growth with production and sale going up by nearly 100 % in the last five years.



The turnover of Khadi registered a growth of 31% from Rs. 3215.13 crore in 2018-19, to Rs. 4211.26 crore in 2019-20. The production of Khadi, the most eco-friendly product of sustainable development, has more than doubled in the last five years.

39. CSIR approved project to develop human monoclonal antibodies

CSIR through NMITLI program approved a project towards development of human monoclonal antibodies (hmAbs) that can neutralise SARS-CoV-2 in patients. The project aims to generate hmAbs to SARS-CoV-2 from convalescent phase of COVID-19 patients and select high affinity and neutralising antibodies. It focuses on generation of neutralising human monoclonal antibodies as a therapeutic strategy.



The project aims to anticipate future adaptation of the virus and generate hmAbs clones that can neutralise the mutated virus so that could be readily used for combating future SARS-CoV infections.

that could be readily used for combating infections.

40. Union Health & Family Welfare Minister launched “AYUSH Sanjivani” App

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Health & Family Welfare Minister launched the 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19. The app will generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of COVID 19. It is developed by Ministry of AYUSH and MEITY and shall reach out to a target of 50 lakh people.



The two AYUSH based studies include collaborative clinical research study on Ayurveda interventions as prophylaxis and Interdisciplinary Ayush Research and Development Task Force headed by Dr. Bhushan Patvardhan, Vice Chairman, University Grant Commission (UGC).

41. Government panel suggested setting up National Land Management Corporation

A government panel on National Infrastructure Pipeline has recommended setting up a National Land Management Corporation. It will help to monetise state-owned surplus land assets in a systematic and specialised way. The Task Force recommends setting up the corporation under Companies Act. The Corporation will also manage the lands that are owned by the Government of India.



The task force made following recommendations:

- Hire a CEO and a technical team
- Raise capital from the equity market
- Liaison with various government departments including Railways and Defence Ministry to Utilise their surplus land assets

42. IIT Delhi startup launched ‘Reusable Antimicrobial Mask’

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered acute shortage of face masks, which is an important tool to contain transmission from one person to another. An IIT Delhi startup "Nanosafe Solutions" launched an antimicrobial and washable face mask "NSafe", which is reusable up to 50 launderings, thus greatly cutting down the cost of use.



NSafe mask is a highly engineered triple-layered product. It enhances protection through three different mechanisms: mechanical filtration, antimicrobial decontamination and repulsion of aerosol droplets. It has 99.2% bacterial filtration efficiency.

43. ICMR, Bharat Biotech to develop a fully indigenous vaccine for Corona Virus

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and a Hyderabad based leading Vaccine manufacturing company Bharat Biotech International Limited have partnered to develop a fully indigenous vaccine for COVID-19. The vaccine will be developed using the virus strain which has been isolated at ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.



The details of the virus strain have been successfully transferred from NIV, Pune to Bharat Biotech. NIV will provide continuous support to Bharat Biotech

for vaccine development.

44. CSIR received approval for clinical trial of two drugs to treat COVID-19

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has received approval for clinical trial of two drugs to treat COVID-19. The Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) has given approval for the clinical trials of the drugs namely, Phytopharmaceutical and Favipiravir.



Favipiravir is a proven anti influenza drug used in Japan, China, and other countries while Phytopharmaceutical is a herbal medicine extracted from plants. It is a cocktail of different compounds but has a biological origin from a plant.

45. BRO opened new 80-km road for Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) completed construction of 80 km road stretch that connects Dharchula to Lipulekh (China Border), popularly known as Kailash-Mansarovar yatra route. The Darchula-Lipulekh road is an extension of Pithoragarh-Tawaghat-Ghatiabagarh road. On this road, the altitude rises from 6000 feet to 17,060 feet.



Border Roads Organization

Nepal has however, raised objection over construction of the road. Lipulekh pass is a far western point near Kalapani. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory – India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Darchula district.

46. India launched "Mission Sagar"

India launched Mission Sagar as part of the government's outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Indian Naval Ship 'Kesari' departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros, to provide food items, COVID-19 related medicines including Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) tablets.



This deployment as 'Mission Sagar' is in line with India's role as the first responder in the region. It is in consonance with the Prime Ministers' vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region 'SAGAR' promulgated in March 2015.

47. Coal India signed MoUs with Russia for coking coal

Coal India signed MOUs with two Russian entities in the areas of coking coal mining in the Russian Far East and the Arctic Region. Coal India signed the first MoU with Far Eastern Agency for Attracting Investments and Supporting Exports (FEAAISE).



Coal India Limited

A Maharatna Company

CIL signed the second MoU with Eastern Mining Company (FEMC) of Russian Federation for exploring, identifying, sourcing, negotiating and consummating mutually beneficial investment opportunities in the mining sector in the Russian Far East. Coal India is also looking at acquiring coking coal assets in Russia, Canada and Australia.

48. CSIR to develop human monoclonal antibodies (hmAbs) that can neutralize SARS-CoV-2

CSIR through its flagship New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) program, has approved a project towards development of human monoclonal antibodies (hmAbs) that can neutralise SARS-CoV-2 in patients. The team comprises of academic institutes and industry with participants from NCCS, IIT-Indore, PredOmix Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL).



The project aims to generate hmAbs to SARS-CoV-2 from convalescent phase of COVID-19 patients and select high affinity and neutralising antibodies.

49. Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba's shadow terror outfit in Kashmir: The Resistance Front

'The Resistance Front', which owns up terror attacks in Kashmir, is an offshoot of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Toiba. It is also associated with other terror outfits such as Hizbul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammed.



The TRF is believed to be launched by Pakistan after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to protect itself from the being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and further face international pressure while increasing the terror activities in the Valley.

50. NIT Tiruchirappalli sanctioned cutting edge Super Computer

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli was sanctioned a cutting edge Super Computer at a cost of Rs. 17 crores, by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.



The NSM has been formed with the aim of empowering engineering and technology institutions with high-performance computing capabilities, that can be used for solving intensive and multi layered problems. Super Computer will increase the academic and research quality for research scholars and faculty, who are working on projects involving high-end computing.

51. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched Central University of Odisha helpline 'Bharosa'

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched the Central University of Odisha Helpline 'Bharosa' to relieve distress of student community during the difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic. Central and State Universities and other institutions of Higher Education across the country will implement the Bharosa initiative.



The helpline number (080 46 80 10 10) aims at providing Cognitive Emotional Rehabilitation Services to all University Students of Odisha. This helpline would also help the mental health concern of the students.

52. Central Panel recommended ban of use of TB drugs on crops

The Registration Committee that was set up under the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) recommended ban of streptomycin and tetracycline use by 2022-end for crops for which no alternatives were available for bacterial disease control. However, the antibiotics could be used on crops strictly as per the label claim.



The report has requested the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to initiate research on better and safe alternatives. The final report containing recommendations were accepted.

53. CAPF canteens to sell only indigenous products

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) canteens have announced to sell only indigenous products from 1st June, 2020. 50 lakh families of about 10 lakh CAPF personnel will use indigenous products. The CAPFs -- CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles -- canteens together sell products worth about ₹2,800 crore annually.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi had highlighted the importance of local products and local manufacturing for a self-reliant India.

54. ICMR, NCDC to initiate a population-based Sero-survey in selected districts

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) are in the process of initiating a population-based serosurvey that involves testing of blood serum of a group of individuals to monitor the trend in prevalence of COVID-19 infection at district level. The survey will include 200 samples a week and 800 samples per month.



Data on demographic characteristics will be collected on a specifically designed standard data collection form. The data will be analysed locally for action using standard indicator formats.

55. MSME Ministry launched CHAMPIONS portal

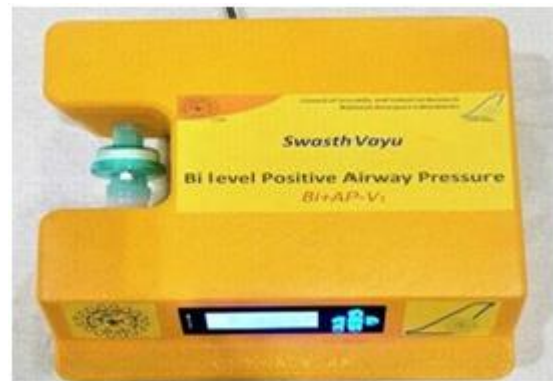
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME Ministry has launched CHAMPIONS portal www.Champions.gov.in, a technology driven control room-cum-management information system. The initiative is aimed at assisting Indian MSMEs to march into big league as national and global champions.



The CHAMPIONS stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength. The portal is basically for making the smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.

56. CSIR-NAL developed Non-Invasive Ventilator to treat COVID-19 patients

CSIR - National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore, a constituent of lab of CSIR has developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients. BiPAP Non-Invasive ventilator is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible "3D printed manifold and coupler" with HEPA filter (Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter).



These unique features help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread. The system has been certified for safety and performance by NABL accredited agencies.

57. Centre released Rs. 6,195 crore to 14 states

The Union Government has released over Rs. 6,195 crore to 14 states as the second equated monthly installment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant. The amount will provide the States additional resources during the COVID-19 crisis.



The government on May 11, 2020 released Rs 6,195.08 crore to 14 states as the second equated monthly installment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. This would provide them additional resources during the Corona crisis.

The grant was recommendation by the 15th Finance Commission. The grant has been released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

58. United States CDC provided USD 3.6 million to India

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has committed \$3.6 million to assist the Government of India's response to the COVID19 epidemic. It will support prevention, preparedness, and response activities in India.



The first tranche of funding is going to help in further strengthening India's efforts to increase laboratory capacity for SARS-COV-2 testing, and also help in molecular diagnostics and serology. The funds will also support the development of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) centers that can improve the ability of hospital networks to detect Covid-19 cases.

59. Centre launched online dashboard to monitor movement of migrant workers

The Centre has launched online portal National Migrant Information System (NMIS) for capturing the information on movement of migrants and for better inter-State co-ordination. The portal has been developed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the existing NDMA-GIS portal.



The portal will maintain a central repository and help the sending as well as receiving State and district to ask for and give their acceptance in an online format seamlessly.

60. Government amended Export policy regarding Masks

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended its Export policy regarding Masks. The new guideline allows export of non-medical and non-surgical masks made up of cotton, silk, wool and knitted materials. All medical masks will however, continue to remain prohibited for export.



India's merchandise exports plunged 60.3% and imports fell 58.7% resulting in a trade deficit of \$6.8 billion. Of the 30 major exporting items, only iron ore (17.5%) and pharmaceuticals (0.25%) recorded positive growth in April.

61. HRD Minister e-launched seven titles on "Psycho-Social Impact of Pandemic and Lockdown and How to Cope With"

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched e-editions of titles on "Psycho-Social impact of pandemic and lockdown and how to Cope With". The titles have been launched under the corona studies series published by National Book Trust (NBT) India.



The Corona Studies Series has been especially conceptualised by NBT to document and to provide relevant reading materials for all age-groups for the post-Corona readership needs, under the first-sub series of books focused on 'Psycho-Social Impact of Pandemic and How to Cope With' prepared by a Study Group comprising of seven psychologists and counsellors constituted by NBT.

62. Government launched 'GOAL' programme to provide online mentorship to tribal youth

Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda has launched the "GOAL - Going Online As Leaders" programme in partnership with Facebook. The GOAL programme is designed to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.



The digitally enabled programme envisages to act as a catalyst to explore hidden talents of the tribal youth, which will help in their personal development as well as contribute to all-round upliftment of their society. The programme intends to upskill and empower 5,000 tribal youths in the current phase.

63. Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated COBAS-6800 testing machine to the nation

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan dedicated the COBAS-6800 Testing Machine for COVID-19 cases to the nation. This is the first such testing machine that has been procured by the government for testing of COVID-19 cases and is installed at the National Centre for Disease Control, NCDC.



COBAS-6800 is a fully automated, high end machine for performing real time PCR testing COVID-19. It will provide quality, high-volume testing with around 1,200 samples in 24 hours.

64. Government introduced new scheme of interest subvention on working capital loans for dairy sector

Union Government has introduced a new scheme of Interest Subvention on Working Capital Loans for Dairy sector for supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations engaged in dairy activities for implementation during 2020-21. Interest subvention will be given on working capital loan taken from banks and financial institutions during FY 2020-21.



The scheme has made provisions for providing interest subvention of 2% per annum, with an additional incentive of 2% per annum interest subvention to be given in case of prompt and timely repayment. The modified scheme envisages a budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crore.

65. Total food grain production estimated at 295.67 million tonnes

According to the third Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2019-20, the total food grain production is estimated at record 295.67 million tones. It is higher by 10.46 million tonnes from previous year.



The total production of Rice and Pulses during 2019-20 is estimated at around 118 and 23 million tonnes respectively. It is higher by over 8 and 2.19 million tonnes than the five years' average production respectively. The production of Wheat is estimated at record over 107 million tones, higher by 3.58 million tonnes as compared to previous year.

66. World Bank approved USD 1 billion aid to India

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$750 million of \$1 billion proposed for "Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Programme" to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households, severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Total commitment from the Bank towards emergency COVID-19 response in India is two billion US dollars. This new support will be funded in two phases – an immediate allocation of \$750 million for fiscal year 2020 and a \$250 million second tranche that will be made available for fiscal year 2021.

67. NDB approved USD 1 billion Emergency Assistance Program Loan to India

New Development Bank (NDB) approved USD 1 billion Emergency Assistance Program Loan to India. It is aimed to support India in its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and reduce human, social and economic losses caused by the coronavirus outbreak.



The Program is the Bank's second emergency assistance program to fight COVID-19. The scope of financing includes Healthcare Sector Emergency Response and Strengthening Social Safety Net for expenditures already incurred since January 1, 2020 so far, and the expected public health expenditures for onward transmission containment up to the March of 2021.

68. ICCR released new song 'United We Fight'

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched a new song to help people stay united and encourage them to think positive amid the coronavirus pandemic.



The song 'United We Fight' is written and composed by Joe Alvares and is sung by Usha Uthup, Salim Merchant, Shefali Alvares Rashid, Benny Dayal, Sonam Kalra, Chandan Bala Kalyan, Joe Alvares, Salome, and Samira. The music is created by Tubby, Pandit Ravi Chari, Pandit Rakesh Chaurasiya, and Ustad Faisal Qureshi.

69. Government sets up new body to promote rice exports

The Union Government has set up a new body – Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF) to promote rice exports. REPF has been set up under the aegis of the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (APEDA). India is the second largest producer of rice in the world.



As per reports, rice, both basmati and non-basmati variety, is the largest commodity in India's agri-export basket with shipments at \$7.77 billion in 2018-19. Rice production has touched a record 117.47 million tonnes in 2019-20.

70. IIT Gandhinagar researchers developed Covid-19 dashboard

A team of researchers and students at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) have developed an interactive "COVID-19 Dashboard". The dashboard called "MIR AHD Covid-19 Dashboard," is aimed at helping various stakeholders in optimised testing efforts and post-lockdown operations to contain community infection.



The dashboard, first of its kind for Indian cities, assesses the local risk factors to give a city-scale projection of COVID-19 incidence, while accounting for various social distancing scenarios.

71. Rs 18,253 crore transferred to farmers under PM-KISAN scheme during lockdown

The government has disbursed Rs. 18,253 crore to 9.13 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme during the ongoing nationwide lockdown. Under the PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) scheme, each farmer gets Rs. 6,000 in a year in three equal installments directly in bank account.



Under the scheme, an income support of Rs. 6,000/- per year is provided to all farmer families across the country in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 every four months.

72. Rs. 3,100 crore allocated from PM CARES Fund for fight against COVID-19

PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust allocated Rs. 3100 Crore for fight against COVID-19. Out of Rs. 3100 crore, a sum of approximately Rs. 2000 crore will be earmarked for the purchase of ventilators, Rs. 1000 crores will be used for care of migrant labourers and Rs. 100 crores will be given to support vaccine development.



The PM CARES Fund, formed by the cabinet on March 27, is managed by a trust with PM Modi as its chairperson and senior cabinet members as trustees.

73. Centre declared six cities as five-star garbage free cities

Centre declared Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Mysore, Indore and Navi Mumbai as five-star garbage free cities. Six cities were rated 5 Star, 65 Cities rated 3 star and 70 cities rated 1 Star. The star rating protocol was launched by the Ministry in January 2018 to institutionalise a mechanism for cities to achieve garbage free status and to motivate cities to achieve higher degrees of cleanliness.



The assessments were made based on 1.19 crore citizen feedbacks, visit of 5,175 solid waste processing plants by 1,210 field assessors and 10 lakh geo-tagged pictures collection.

74. CSIR-CMERI developed disinfection sprayers to combat COVID-19

Scientists at CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) developed two mobile indoor Disinfection Sprayer units named as Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection (POMID), and Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS). These units can be used for cleaning and disinfecting pathogenic micro-organism effectively, especially in hospitals.



Intermittent usage of these disinfecting units can help minimise the risk of transmitting coronavirus to people who inadvertently come in contact with those surfaces. These units are unique in dual-chamber storage for disinfectants and better nozzle design, better arrangement of nozzles and lesser droplet sizes.

75. CySecK launched first accelerator programme “H.A.C.K” for Cyber Security Start-ups

Karnataka’s Centre of Excellence in cyber security (CySecK) launched first accelerator for cyber security start-ups called as “H.A.C.K”. H.A.C.K is the Karnataka’s first cybersecurity-specific accelerator programme comprising of 21 start-ups on board across three cohorts: 10x cohort, 0-1 cohort and virtual cohort.



This accelerator programme will support mature Indian start-ups to accelerate their growth through government and market connections, and nascent start-ups to mature through an innovative incubation ecosystem and marquee mentorship. CySecK is housed on the campus of Indian Institute of Science, which is the anchor institute.

76. Ministry of Finance released Rs. 5,005 crore untied basic grants in advance for non-million-plus cities

Ministry of Finance has released over Rs. 5,005 crore as first installment of untied basic grants in advance for non-million-plus cities to 28 states of the country for the year 2020-21. Non-million-plus city refers to the city having less than one million population.

The urban local bodies grant was released to the State Governments following the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission. The basic grants are untied and can be used by local bodies for location-specific needs, except for salary or other expenditure.



वित्त मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

77. Cabinet approved Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

The Union Cabinet has approved Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. The scheme aims to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries section in the country. It will be implemented at a total investment over Rs. 20 thousand crore.

The investment will comprise of Central share of Rs. 9, 407 crore, State share of Rs. 4,880 crore and beneficiaries' share of Rs. 5,763 crore. The scheme will be implemented during a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The scheme will address the critical gaps in the fisheries sector and realise its potential.



78. Cabinet approved extension of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) up to 31st March, 2023

Union Cabinet has approved extension of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, PMVVY for the welfare of and to enable old age income security for senior citizens up to 31st March, 2023. The government will allow an assured rate of return of 7.40% per annum initially for the year 2020-21 and thereafter, to be reset every year.

Finance Minister will approve annual reset rate of return at the beginning of every financial year. PMVVY is a social security scheme for senior citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension to them based on an assured return on the purchase price.



79. Cabinet approved additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore through introduction of ECLGS

The Union Cabinet has approved additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers by way of "Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)." It will have 100% guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.



For this purpose, corpus of Rs. 41,600 crore shall be provided by the government spread over the current and the next three financial years. The Scheme would be applicable to all loans sanctioned under GECL Facility during the period from the date of announcement of the Scheme to 31.10.2020, or till an amount of Rs. 3,00,000 crore is sanctioned under the GECL, whichever is earlier.

80. CCEA approved waiver of interest of Rs. 7.59 crore on GoI loans of HOCL

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its ex-post facto approval for waiver of interest of Rs. 7.59 crore on Government of India loans of Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, HOCL, as on 31st March, 2005. This is in addition to the Waiver of penal interest and interest on interest up to 31st March, 2005.



**HINDUSTAN ORGANIC
CHEMICALS**

As this is almost 10 years old case, the interest amount of 7.59 crore ruppees has already been written off in the books of accounts of the Government and HOCL.

81. Government launched National Test Abhyas mobile app

Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a new mobile app named - the 'National Test Abhyas'. The App has been developed by National Testing Agency-NTA to enable candidates to take mock tests for upcoming exams such as JEE Main and NEET under the NTA's purview.



The app has been launched to facilitate candidates' access to high quality mock tests as there was a demand for making up the loss to students due to closure of educational institutions and NTA's Test-Practice Centers due to the lockdown.

82. Centre launched scheme for 100% solarisation of Konark Sun Temple & Konark town in Odisha

Union Government has launched scheme for 100% solarisation of Konark Sun Temple and Konark town in Odisha. The scheme is launched with an objective to take forward the Prime Minister's vision to develop the historical Sun Temple town of Konark as Surya Nagri.



The scheme envisages setting up of 10 Megawatt grid connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications like solar trees and solar drinking water kiosks. Rs 25 crore has been earmarked for this project. The project will be implemented by Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency.

83. Cabinet approved proposal to launch Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFCs & HFCs

The Union Cabinet approved to launch a new Special Liquidity Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to improve liquidity position of the NBFCs/HFCs. The direct financial implication for the Government is Rs. 5 crore, towards the equity contribution to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).



A large public sector bank would set up an SPV to manage a Stressed Asset Fund (SAF), whose special securities would be guaranteed by the government and purchased by the Reserve Bank of India only. The proceeds thereof, would be used by the SPV to acquire the debt of at least investment grade of short duration (residual maturity of upto 3 months) of eligible NBFCs / HFCs. The total amount of securities outstanding will not exceed Rs. 30,000 crore.

84. Cabinet approved "Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME)"

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to "Scheme for Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)" for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore.

Salient features are as follows:

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Expenditure to be shared by Government of India and States at 60:40.
- 2,00,000 micro-enterprises are to be assisted with credit linked subsidy.



- Scheme will be implemented over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- Micro enterprises will get credit linked subsidy @ 35% of the eligible project cost with ceiling of Rs.10 lakh.
- Beneficiary contribution will be minimum 10% and balance from loan.
- On-site skill training & Handholding for DPR and technical upgradation.

85. Cabinet approved Sovereign portfolio guarantee of up to 20% of first loss for purchase of Bonds

The Union Cabinet has approved the Sovereign portfolio guarantee of up to 20% of first loss for purchase of Bonds or Commercial Papers (CPs) with a rating of AA and below. It includes unrated paper with original or initial maturity of up to one year issued by NBFCs or MFCs or Micro Finance Institutions by Public Sector Banks through an extension of the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme, PCGS.



The window for this one-time partial credit guarantee offered by Gol will remain open till 31st March, 2021 for purchase of pooled assets and for the period as specified under the Scheme for purchase of Bonds/CPs, or till such date by which Rs. 10,000 crore worth of guarantees, provided by the Government, whichever is earlier.

86. Cabinet approved modifications in the existing "Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS)"

The Union Cabinet has approved modifications in the existing "Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS)" on purchase of pooled assets, increasing its coverage by—

- Making NBFCs/HFCs reported under SMA-1 category on technical reasons alone during the last one year period prior to 1.8.2018 eligible.
- Relaxing the net profit criteria to the extent that the concerned NBFC/HFC should now have made a profit in at least one of the financial years of FY2017-18, FY 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Relaxing the criteria regarding date of origination of assets to include new assets originating up to at least six months prior to the date of initial poolrating.
- Extending the Scheme from 30.6.2020 to 31.3.2021 for purchase of pooled assets.



87. CCEA approved methodology for auction of coal & lignite mines/ blocks

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the methodology for auction of coal and lignite mines or blocks for sale of coal or lignite on revenue sharing basis and increasing the tenure of coking coal linkage. This methodology provides that bid parameter will be on revenue sharing basis.



The bidders would be required to bid for a percentage share of revenue payable to the Government. The floor price shall be 4% of the revenue share. The methodology is oriented to make maximum coal available in the market at the earliest. It will allow discovery of market prices for the blocks and faster development of coal blocks.

88. SCR developed “RAIL-BOT” (R-BOT) to assist in patients care in hospitals

South Central Railway zone has developed a robotic device, “RAIL-BOT” (R-BOT) to assist in hospital management functions towards patient care in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. R-BOT is being used to provide medicines, medical accessories and to serve food to the patients, without any need for physical contact.



The R-BOT is operated through a unique mobile application. It supports sensor-based features, which are capable to read patients’ body temperature. It enables real-time video camera facility with Pan and Tilt functions. It boasts a speed of 1 Km per hour with a load-carrying capacity of 80 kg.

89. Indian Railways operationalised its most powerful 12000 HP made in India locomotive

The Indian Railways has put into operation, its first 12000 HP made in India Locomotive, manufactured by Madhepura Electric Loco Factory situated in Bihar, from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn Station. The loco is named WAG12 with Number 60027.



With this India became sixth country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horse power locomotive indigenously. Railways got the locomotive from Alstom as part of a 3.5 billion euros ‘Make in India’ deal. The locomotive achieved a maximum speed of 120 km per hour.

90. Central government released Rs. 92,077 crore towards devolution of central taxes

Central government released Rs. 92,077 crore towards devolution of central taxes and Duties to states for April and May 2020. These releases are according to projections of receipts in Budget Estimate 2020-21 and have not been adjusted for the actual tax collections, impacting the Centre's cash balances. It is to ensure that the states' cash flows remain undisturbed at this crucial time.



The Budget had projected the share of the states in taxes at Rs 7.84 lakh crore for 2020-21. The 15th Finance Commission had recommended the share of states at 41% of the divisible pool.

91. Fifteenth Finance Commission discussed Health Sector and Fiscal Consolidation

A committee under Chairmanship of N K Singh of 15th Finance Commission discussed the fiscal consolidation roadmap of the central and state for the period - 2021-22 to 2025-26.

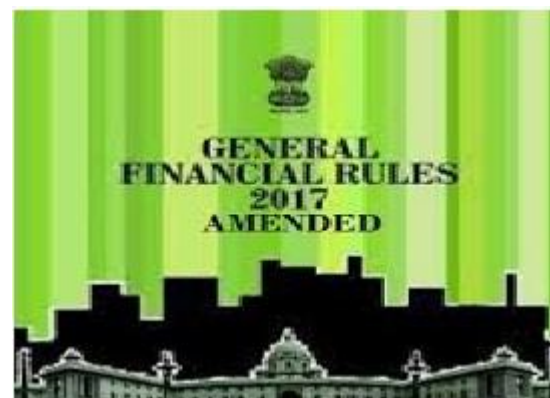


The recommendations are as follows:

- Government's financial outlay on the health sector must increase significantly from the current 0.9% of GDP.
- Improving the reach of the Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- Centre's reform conditions to allow States to exceed their current borrowing limits.
- The vertical devolution be reduced from 42% to 41%. Vertical devolution is the share of tax revenue that is shared by the centre with the states.

92. Center amended General Financial Rules to ensure procurement from domestic firms

Government notified amendments to General Financial Rules (GFR) to ensure that goods and services valued less than Rs. 200 crore are being procured from domestic firms. Center has notified the amendments to the GFR 2017 to ensure that henceforth global tenders will be disallowed in government procurement up to 200 crore rupees. It will be a big boost to domestic suppliers especially MSMEs.

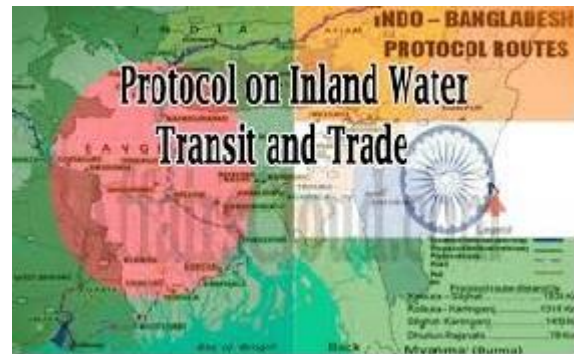


The amendment is taken to support

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package for micro, small and medium enterprises, which includes disallowing global tender for government procurement up to 200 crore rupees.

93. India-Bangladesh signed Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol

India and Bangladesh signed the second Addendum of the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol in Bangladesh. The Protocol parameters were revised in the second addendum with inclusion of new routes and declaration of a host of new Ports of Call to facilitate trade between both the countries.



The Protocol on Transit and Trade through inland waterways was first signed between People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India in 1972. Sonamura-Daudkandi route on Tripura's River Gomti and Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi routes were added to the list of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol routes. With this, Tripura got its first ever international waterway.

94. Exploration underneath Assam National Park receives Environmental Clearance

Oil India Limited received environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for extension drilling and testing of hydrocarbons at seven locations under the 765 sq. km. park straddling eastern Assam's Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.



The clearance is given based on the fact that activity will be performed 1.5 km outside the demarcated area of the national park and 3.5 km underground without disturbing surface life of Assam's Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. Dibru-Saikhowa is an island bounded by the Brahmaputra, Lohit and Dibru rivers.

95. PM announced Rs. 1000 crore assistance for relief and rehabilitation work

The Centre announced Rs. 1000 crore advance financial assistance to West Bengal for post-Amphan restoration work and an advance financial assistance of Rs. 500 crore for cyclone-battered Odisha. The compensation includes 2 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of the dead and Rs. 50,000 for the injured.



Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan was a very powerful and deadly tropical cyclone that caused widespread damage in East India and Bangladesh in May 2020. The well-established processes in Odisha to face such natural calamities saved many lives.

96. IMD launched weather services in UMANG app

Seven services hosted on website of Indian Meteorological Department, IMD have been onboarded to UMANG application. These services are Current Weather, Nowcast, City Forecast, Rainfall Information, Tourism Forecast, Warnings, Cyclone. The Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance, UMANG, is a unified, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.



The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi launched the UMANG App in 2017 to bring all government services on a single mobile App with a larger goal to make the government accessible on the mobile phone of our citizens.

97. India became second largest manufacturer of PPE in the world

India became the world's second-largest manufacturer of personal protective equipment (PPE) body coveralls within a short time span of two months. China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls, crucial to safeguard against the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides textile committee, Mumbai too is authorised to test and certify PPE body coveralls required for healthcare workers.



PPE that covers the clothing and skin and completely protects mucous membranes is required when caring for patients with viral infections. It can include items such as safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, rubber boots, face shields etc.

98. Emission norms for L7 (Quadricycle) category for BS VI notified

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued notification GSR 308(E) regarding the emission norms for L7 (Quadricycle) category for BS VI. These norms are applicable from the date of notification. This completes the process of BS VI for all L, M and N category vehicles in India. The emission norms are in line with European Union's World Motorcycle Test Cycle (WMTC).



A quadricycle is the size of a three-wheeler but with four tyres and is fully covered like a car. Bajaj Auto Ltd. was the first to commercially launch 'Qute' under this segment.

99. India launched five initiatives in conserving biodiversity

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar launched following five key initiatives towards conservation of biodiversity:

- The “Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme” that aims to engage 20 students in post graduate programme for a period of one year.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) campaign called Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species.
- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau campaign called Not All Animals Migrate by Choice.
- A Webinar series on “Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002”.
- The World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties.



100. India set to locally produce RT-PCR testing kits for Covid-19

India is set to locally produce RT-PCR testing and rapid antibody detection test kits for Covid-19, reducing dependence on imports. National Biomedical Resource Indigenisation Consortium, NBRIC, in partnership with Richcore Life Sciences Company has developed two enzymes namely Taq Polymerase and Reverse Tranase needed for RT PCR test kits.



The two enzymes form a key to India’s efforts to produce the test kits. Once these enzymes are approved and certified by cGMP, India can produce millions of test kits in a few weeks.

101. PFC signed MoU with NBPCL

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) entered into an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd. (NBPCL) to fund projects worth Rs. 22,000 crore. NBPCL is a wholly-owned company of Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The funds will be deployed by NBPCL for setting up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW and power components of 12 major multipurpose projects in Madhya Pradesh.

Some of the major multipurpose projects that will be financed under the MoU are Basaniya Multipurpose Project Dindori, Chinki Boras Multipurpose Project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara, Dudhi Project Chhindwara Hoshangabad, etc.



Persons in News

1. Russian PM Mikhail Mishustin tests positive for Coronavirus

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin tested positive for the coronavirus. Mishustin has played a leading role in Russia's response to the coronavirus pandemic. He was named prime minister in January.



President Vladimir Putin signed a decree appointing First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov as a temporary replacement. In Russia, the prime minister oversees the economy and answers to the president. President Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov has been hospitalised with coronavirus.

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2. Indian-Origin Girl Vaneeza Rupani Names NASA's First Mars Helicopter

Indian-origin girl Vaneeza Rupani has earned the honour of naming NASA's first Mars helicopter. The helicopter has been officially named Ingenuity. It will be the first aircraft to attempt powered flight on another planet.



NASA's Perseverance rover and Ingenuity helicopter are currently undergoing final assembly and checkout at the agency's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. They will launch on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 41 at nearby Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in July and land at Mars' Jezero Crater on February 18, 2021.

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3. Actress Dia Mirza's term as UN goodwill ambassador extended till 2022

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) extended the term of Bollywood actress and environmentalist Dia Mirza as the Goodwill Ambassador of India till 2022. She has contributed to UNEP campaigns and initiatives such as #BeatPlasticPollution and Circular Fashion. She is also considered as United Nations Sustainability Development Goal Advocate.



The United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for co-ordinating the UN's environmental activities focusing on sustainable development, climate, biodiversity and more. UNEP is the leading environmental authority in the United Nations system.

4. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan took charge as Chairman of WHO Executive Board

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan took over as the chairman of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board. He took charge at a time of global crisis on account of this pandemic. India has a mortality of 3% only. In a country of 1.35 billion, there are only 0.1 million cases of COVID19. The recovery rate is above 40% and doubling rate is 13 days.



WHO's Executive Board comprises of 34 members elected for three-year terms. The Chair of the Executive Board is elected by its members on being nominated by the Regional Committees of the six WHO Regions, by rotation.

Places in News

1. Visakhapatnam Gas Leak

The LG Polymers chemical plant in R. R. Venkatapuram village near Gopalapatnam on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh met a gas leak incident. The incident is referred to as the Visakhapatnam gas leak or Vizag gas leak. The main cause of deaths due to the gas leak is considered to be Styrene Gas.



The Andhra Pradesh state government formed a high-level committee, headed by the Special Chief Secretary (Environment and Forests), to probe into the mishap. The government also announced an ex - gratia payment of ₹one crore each to the kin of those killed in the incident.

2. 'Nirbhaya Squad' of Jaipur police played important role in COVID-19 containment zones

The all-women 'Nirbhaya Squad' of the Jaipur police played an important role in COVID-19 containment zones in the Jaipur. The bike-borne squad was trained in martial arts for warding off any threat faced by women. Team of 200 women police personnel carried out flag march in COVID-19 hit areas of wall city of Jaipur



The team is also helped in distributing ration to the needy and supporting medical teams, assisted pregnant women and distributed sanitary napkins to needy women.

3. Israel named street in Tel Aviv after Rabindranath Tagore

Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday. The street starts right opposite the main gates of Tel Aviv University.



The decision to name a street after Tagore was taken by the Tel Aviv Municipality in 1961. This was done to commemorate the centenary of his birth. Every year, Rabindra Jayanti is celebrated on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh.

4. BRO builds tunnel below Chamba town

The Border Roads Organisation achieved a significant milestone by digging up a 440m long tunnel below Chamba town on Rishikesh-Dharasu road (NH 94). The construction of this 6 km road and 450 m tunnel is being done at a cost of Rs. 88 crore.

Char Dham road project aims to connect the char dhams, the four pilgrimage places that are highly revered by the Hindus- Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri. The total budget of the Char Dham project is Rs 12000 crore.



Regional

1. Rajasthan issued notifications regarding implementation of 'Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance -2020'

Government of Rajasthan has issued notifications regarding the implementation of the 'Rajasthan Epidemic Diseases Ordinance - 2020'. COVID-19 has been declared an epidemic under this ordinance and several provisions have been made to prevent the spread of Corona infection.



Key Points are given below:

- Every person at public places and work places are required to wear masks and maintain social distance.
- Sell of tobacco products and spitting on roads as well as drinking liquor at public places is strictly prohibited.
- Maximum 50 persons allowed to attend wedding function and maximum 20 to attend the funeral.

2. Madhya Pradesh government announced amendments in Mandi Act to benefit farmers

The Madhya Pradesh state government has amended its Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi Act to allow initiatives like setting up agriculture marketing yards and letting farmers sell their produce from their farms or doorsteps. The state government has also implemented e-trading system under which the rates at mandis all over the country will be accessible.



The government has also revived the practice of 'sauda patrak'. Discontinued in 2009, it allowed farmers and traders to buy outside the premises of designated mandis but the sales were recorded in mandis.

3. Umaria police in Madhya Pradesh launched 'Sankalp Scheme'

The Umaria police in Madhya Pradesh launched a Sankalp Scheme to provide 24-hour help to the elderly. Under the Sankalp Scheme, Superintendent of Police has instructed all police officers to identify and help one or two elderly families who are living alone and are worried about their everyday needs during the lockdown.



The Umaria Police had also conducted activities such as painting and poetry writing in the past as an initiative to connect the children towards creative activities.

4. ADB provides \$346 million loan for rural electricity in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$346 million loan to India to help provide efficient and reliable power connection to rural agriculture customers in Maharashtra. The loan will be under ADB's results-based lending (RBL) modality, where fund disbursements are linked to the achievement of agreed program results rather than to upfront expenditures.



This is first ADB-financed RBL program in South Asia's energy sector. The Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) will arrange for counterpart funding of \$357.1 million equivalent toward the \$703.1 million total cost of the project.

5. Maharashtra became first state to provide free and cashless insurance premium to people of the state

Maharashtra became the first state in the country to provide free and cashless insurance premium to the people of the state. Everyone in the state will be provided free health treatment under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Aarogya Yojana. Documents such as ration card and domicile certificate are essential to apply for the scheme.



At present, the scheme covers 85% of the population; but benefits are now extended to the remaining 15%. The government has signed a MoU with the General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA) for treatment of COVID-19 patients at private hospitals in Pune and Mumbai.

6. Himachal Pradesh government launched 'Nigah' to aware family members of migrant returnees

The Himachal Pradesh state government has launched a new programme, Nigah, to sensitize and educate the family members of the people coming to the state from other parts of the country. The government will create general awareness in maintaining social distancing during home quarantine.



Under the Nigah programme a team of ASHA, Health and Anganwadi workers would sensitize the family members of persons arriving from other States regarding the importance of social distancing, so that they could be saved from any possible infection.

7. HP government to launch Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna

The Himachal Pradesh state government announced to launch 'Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna' for urban employment. As a part of the scheme, the government will provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.



The scheme will help revive the economy of the state affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. People employed under the scheme will also be imparted training to increase their skills as and when required.

8. Karnataka announced Rs. 1,610 crore package for farmers, construction workers, weavers, auto and taxi drivers

The Karnataka state government announced a 1610 crore rupees package for farmers, construction workers, weavers, auto and taxi drivers to compensate them for their incurred losses due to lockdown. The government will give compensation as per the following details:



- Flower growers: Rs. 25,000 per hectare
- Washermen, barbers, construction workers, auto and taxi drivers: Rs. 5000
- MSMEs: Electricity fixed charges waived off for two months

The state government also announced a new Naikar Samaan Yojana that will provide 2000 rupees financial assistance to the weavers.

9. Assam started community surveillance in view of COVID-19 outbreak

The State Health Department of Assam started a Community Surveillance in the state in view of Corona virus outbreak. 28 thousand villages were covered in the first phase. ASHA, Auxiliary Nurse Midwife and the Surveillance Team visited door to door in this process.



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

The objective of the initiative was to treat the symptomatic minor flu cases at homes. It also helped in strengthening the surveillance for other diseases associated with fever like Malaria, Dengue, Japanese Encephalitis and Measles among others.

10. Annual Capex Budget of 232.42 crore rupees approved for year 2020-2021 in Ladakh

After the formation of Union Territory of Ladakh, the first Annual Capex Budget of 232.42 crore rupees for the year 2020-2021 was approved during a meeting of the Executive Council under the chairmanship of the Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan.



The budget comprises of a total allocation of 10,637.73 lakh rupees under the Engineering Sector and 12604.27 lakh rupees under the Non-Engineering Sector for execution of major works and the purchase of Machinery and Equipments and Motor Vehicles.

11. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath launched 'Ayush Kavach-Covid' App

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Ayush Kavach-Covid' app to help people get health remedies which can be useful in fight against COVID-19. The app has been developed by AYUSH ministry.



The 'Ayush Kavach-Covid' App provides for measures to boost immunity based on natural resources. The app is designed to tell users how commonly available kitchen ingredients such as tulsi, clove and cinnamon can be used to enhance the body's immunity to fight against COVID-19. It also offers users the opportunity to seek advice from experts.

12. Jharkhand government launched three schemes to boost rural employment

The Jharkhand state government launched three schemes under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in a bid to "revive the rural economy", affected by the lockdown in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

The three initiatives are:

- Birsa Harit Gram Yojana for rural plantations.
- Neelambar Pitambar JAL Samridhi Yojana for water conservation.
- Poto Ho Khel Vikas Scheme for making playgrounds.



The government has set a target of creating 25 crore man-days for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) scheme with about Rs. 20,000 crore under the three schemes.

13. Delhi government launched e-token system for liquor sale

Delhi Government launched e-token system for liquor sale in the national capital to ensure social distancing and to stop overcrowding. The decision was taken to encourage people to avoid long queues by applying for an e-token with time slot at any nearby shop to buy liquor.



Any person can apply for an e-token through the link www.qtoken.in. Name and phone number will be required while applying and the e-token will be sent at the registered mobile number.

14. UP became first state to provide facility of beds with ventilators in each district of state

Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide the facility of beds with ventilators in hospitals of each and every district of state. With this, all 75 districts of state can provide higher level of care to the patients of COVID-19.



The state government has also constituted Village Supervision Committee or Gram Nigrani Samiti in every village to curb the spread of Corona. These committees will also supervise the persons who are coming from other states during their quarantine period and will inform accordingly to the Administration.

15. Hygienic masks available via ATM like vending machine in Tamil Nadu

A new initiative for supplying hygienic masks, using machines similar to the popular ATMs has been started in the Thuthukudi Municipal Corporation of Tamil Nadu. Under the initiative, five automatic vending machines for supplying masks have been installed in various busy points of the town.



Hygienic masks can be purchased from the machines on payment of Rs Five for each mask. Each machine has the capacity of storing up to 120 mask at a time.

16. Tripura CM launched online portal scholarships.gov.in

Chief Minister of Tripura, Biplab Kumar Deb, has launched an online portal scholarships.gov.in under 'Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana' at the state secretariat. As a part of the scheme, the state government will provide Rs. 5,000 to 14,608 youths who are in final year in colleges or Universities as a grant for Smart Phones.

The scheme will help empower the youth digitally and leverage the advantages of an interconnected world. The total cost of the scheme is expected to be Rs. 7.30 crore.



17. India's first Covid-19 test bus launched in Maharashtra

India's first test bus for the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic was flagged off on Maharashtra Day. The bus is an initiative by the C19 Taskforce of IIT Alumni Council, health department of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), and Krsnaa diagnostics.

The COVID-19 test bus is based on "indigenous technology" and the "first vehicle of its kind in the world with onboard genetic testing, Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technology and contactless sample collection". The bus has 384 sqft of lab space onboard. It also has a wireless robotic tele-operated ultrasound lung probe and nanopore gene sequencer.



18. Madhya Pradesh became first state to provide Mid-Day Meal ration

Madhya Pradesh became the first state in the country to provide mid-day meal ration with the help of Anganwadi workers, Panchayat representatives and local teachers. To provide mid-day meal to school children in the corona outbreak, an amount of Rs. 117 crore was transferred online in the bank account of the parents of 66,27,000 students of primary and secondary school government. In addition, under door-to-door mid-day meal scheme, ration was provided to 56,87,000 children.



The Mid-day Meal Scheme is a school meal programme of the Government of India designed to better the nutritional standing of school-age children nationwide.

19. Uttar Pradesh government launched 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' App for migrant workers of state

The Uttar Pradesh State Government has launched the 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' App for migrant workers of state who are returning from different parts of country amidst lockdown. The multipurpose App is aimed at providing benefits of government schemes to the migrant workers and it will also help in monitoring their health besides providing jobs and livelihood, related to their skills.



The app will have full details of the persons staying in the shelter homes and also of those migrants who have reached their homes directly from other states.

20. Jharkhand banned 11 brands of pan masala for one year

The Jharkhand state government banned 11 brands of pan masala for one year, as products contain magnesium carbonate which can cause acute hyper magnesemia and sometimes cardiac arrest. Jharkhand became third state in the country after Maharashtra and Bihar that banned Pan Masala.



The Jharkhand state government has already imposed a ban on all tobacco products to prevent spitting in public places that could increase the threat of the spread of novel coronavirus infection.

21. Madhya Pradesh launched India's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar' Yojana

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra launched country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana'. Under this scheme, head constables will lodge FIR on the spot. Dial 100 vehicle would have trained head constables. FIRs in complaints of general nature will be lodged on the spot.



Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to implement such an innovative scheme. 'FIR Aapke Dwar' scheme has been started as a pilot project in 23 Police Stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters.

22. GI tag for Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Telia Rumal

The Geographical Indications Registry has given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Telia Rumal. The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.



Telia Rumal cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white.

23. Haryana and J&K to provide tap water to every household by Dec 2022

Haryana and Union Territory (UT) Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) are geared to provide tap water connection to all rural households by December, 2022 under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Haryana is likely to get Rs 290 Crores as Central share under JJM for this financial year while J&K is likely to get Rs 680 crore.



Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented by Government of India with the aim to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024-25.

24. Union Government and West Bengal Government signed agreement with AIIB

Government of India, West Bengal Government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), signed a loan agreement for a 145 million dollar project to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area in West Bengal.



The total value of the project is \$413.8 million, co-financed between the AIIB (\$145 million), IBRD (\$145 million) and the Government of West Bengal (\$123.8 million). The \$145 million loan from the AIIB has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.

25. Uttarakhand CM launched 'HOPE' portal

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a portal aimed at creating employment avenues for the trained youth as well as offering them skill development opportunities to increase their employability. The portal is called 'HOPE' - Helping Out People Everywhere.



The portal will contain data on the youths staying in the state as well as migrant youths. It will help potential employers find human resources as per their requirements. The youths can also use it for job hunting and skill development through its database.

26. West Bengal government launched "Matir Smristi" scheme

The state government of West Bengal has launched "Matir Smristi" scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in six districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture. It will benefit around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal in Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore districts.



Farmers will be involved in constituting co-operative societies, which will get financial support from the co-operative banks. The government would give preference to locals for carrying out the project.

27. Gujarat government launched "Atmanirbhar Gujarat Yojana"

The state government of Gujarat has launched Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojna (AGSY) under which people in lower middle income group can avail guarantee-free loan of Rs. 1 lakh from banks at 2% annual interest. The tenure of the loan will be three years and the payment of installments will begin only after six months of disbursal.



The AGSY scheme is launched in line to the Rs. 20 lakh crore 'atmanirbhar' scheme of central government. It will benefit small businessmen, skilled workers, auto-rickshaw owners, electricians and barbers, among others.

28. Delhi Police launched Thermal Corona Combat Headgear

Delhi Police launched Thermal Corona Combat Gear (TCCH) through which police personnel will be able to detect the temperature of a large number of people from a distance of 10-15 metres. The initiative was launched by the police in collaboration with Indian Robotics Solution (IRS).



The Delhi Police has also launched a 'Thermal Corona Combat Drone-(TCCD)' in collaboration with Indian Robotics Solution (IRS). The drone is fitted with a day-vision camera, a disinfectant tank a spotlight with a night utility camera as well as a loudspeaker.

29. Chhattisgarh launched Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana

The Chhattisgarh government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana by transferring Rs 1,500 crore into the accounts of more than 18,000 farmers. Under the scheme, based on registered area and area under cultivation during Kharif crop season 2019, Rs 10,000 per acre will be deposited in the bank accounts of farmers as agriculture assistance grant for sowing crops.



The state government had allocated Rs. 5,756 crore in the budget 2020-21. The money will be given to the farmers in four installments.

30. Madhya Pradesh launched Charan Paduka initiative for migrant labourers

Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind of initiative, launched CharanPaduka campaign for the migrant labourers passing through the state. Under this campaign, the migrant labourers going barefoot were provided shoes and slippers to reduce their pain. The migrant labour crisis arose out of the refusal of businessmen to pay wages during lockdown due to Covid-19.



The campaign is being conducted by the police at most places. The Charan Paduka campaign started from the Rau Police Station of Indore. The campaign is being executed by other district's police authorities also.

31. Uttar Pradesh state launched ‘Startup Fund’ to encourage youth for entrepreneurship

Uttar Pradesh government launched the ‘Uttar Pradesh Startup Fund’ to encourage the youth of the state for entrepreneurship. The first installment of Rs. 15 crore was handed over to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) at a function in Lucknow by Chief Minister of state.



The MoU between the state government and SIDBI will further strengthen the possibilities of job creation in state. A large number of migrant workers had come to the state and that they needed to be given jobs on the basis of their skills.

32. “Didi Vehicle Service” launched in Madhya Pradesh

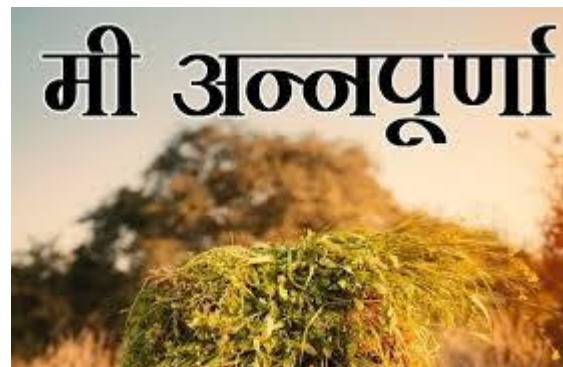
In the tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, the women of Rural Livelihood Mission launched Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery and emergency services. This vehicle service started for 29 villages of 10 Gram Panchayats of Petlavad development block of Jhabua, is completely free of cost. The women of Rural Livelihood Mission are bearing the expenses of Didi vehicle service through the interest, they earn on their savings.



National Rural Livelihood Mission is a poverty alleviation project implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

33. “Mee Annapurna” initiative launched in Maharashtra

Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited (IRIBL), announced ‘Mee Annapurna’ for farmers welfare across Maharashtra state. Under this scheme, the farmers will have to be given an adequate loan to cover the input expenditure for farming. It revolves around the three commandments – Expertise, Engagement and Entitlement.



Maharashtra is the most affected state with the total number of cases surpassing 30,000 and the death toll nearing 1,100 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Integrated Risk Insurance Brokers Limited is an IRDAI Licensed Insurance Broking Company since 2004.

34. Naxal-affected Balaghat district secured 1st position in providing employment under MNREGA in MP

Naxal-affected Balaghat district has secured the first position in the state of Madhya Pradesh in terms of providing employment to rural job card holders under MNREGA. In the current financial year 2020-21, an amount of Rs 20 crore has been spent on wages for MGNREGA works in this district while 1,23,064 laborers got employment.



A total of 5,246 works are in progress in 684 gram panchayats in Balaghat district. The works of MGNREGA had started in the district from April 20 and 17 lakh days of employment has been created.

35. Ladakh Police came into existence after LG approved new insignia of Police

After the formation of Union Territory of Ladakh, separate Ladakh Police has come into being. Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur has approved the new insignia of Ladakh Police.



- **Formation Sign:** A backdrop of blood red color symbolising sacrifice in golden border and ribbon, a snow leopard is designed in motion.
- **Logo:** Ashoka with Satyameva Jayate, LP in symmetric design and Juniper leaves covering the Ashoka and LP.
- **Flap Pattern:** Name of Ladakh as common practice with police forces across the country.
- **Police Flag:** Red and blue colored with 'Khidmat aur Himmat,' reads service and courage is ready to fly high.

36. AP Government released first tranche of Rs. 450 Crore under 'ReStart Package'

The Andhra Pradesh Government has launched Rs. 1,110-crore 'ReStart Package' and released the first tranche of Rs. 450 crore to help reopen lockdown-hit MSMEs. The first tranche will help clear the pending industrial incentives that would benefit nearly 98,000 units.



The second tranche of Rs. 454 crore will be cleared on June 29. Under the "ReStart Package", government will waive off all the minimum power demand charges of MSMEs of the months of April, May and June. It will provide input capital of Rs. 200 crore to the firms at low-interest rates in partnership with SIDBI.

37. Uttar Pradesh government to develop 800 km roads as Herbal roads

Uttar Pradesh government will develop 800 km roads as Herbal roads in the state. These herbal roads will have medicinal and herbal trees along with the land on their both sides. These herbal roads will have trees like like Peepal, Neem, Sehjan along with other herb varieties like Brahmi, Ashvagandha and Jatrofa.



The 800 kilometer roads will be along national and state highways passing through state. PWD Department will also make arrangement for rain water recharging system on these herbal roads.

38. ADB signed 177 million dollars loan to upgrade major roads, highways in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$177 million loan agreement with India to upgrade 450 kilometers (km) of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra State. The project will also finance the development of a road maintenance planning system and build the capacity of the Maharashtra Public Works Department (MPWD).



Asian Development Bank

The Government of Maharashtra will

contribute \$78.99 million equivalent toward the \$255.99 million total cost of the project. This loan complements ADB's ongoing assistance through the Maharashtra Rural Connectivity Improvement Project.

Reports

1. Ramayan sets record as most-watched entertainment program globally

Ramanand Sagar's epic show Ramayan became the most-watched show in the world with 77 million impressions on April 16, according to data issued by BARC India. In the same week, DD National had garnered 2.68 billion viewership for the week.



The re-telecast of the TV show started on Doordarshan National in March soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown. Ramayan was first aired on Doordarshan in 1987 and acquired a cult status over the years.

2. India is placed third among countries in scientific publication

As per the R&D Statistics and Indicators 2019-20 based on the national S&T survey 2018 brought out by the National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST):



- During 2018, India was ranked at 3rd, 5th and 9th in scientific publication output as per the NSF, SCOPUS and SCI database respectively.
- India occupies 3rd rank in terms of number of Ph. D.'s awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) after USA (39,710 in 2016) and China (34,440 in 2015).
- The Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) in the country has been consistently increasing over the years and has nearly tripled from Rs. 39,437.77 crore in 2007- 08 to Rs. 1,13,825.03 crore in 2017-18.
- India's Patent Office stands at the 7th position among the top 10 Patent Filing Offices in the world

3. IBP survey placed India at 53rd position in budget transparency, accountability

According to Open Budget Survey conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP), India has been placed at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and accountability. India's Union Budget process scored a transparency score of 49 out of 100, which is higher than the global average of 45.



New Zealand tops the chart with a score 87. The open budget survey rates the level of transparency in budget across nations on a scale of 0-100. It is based on various normative and internationally comparable indicators.

4. Global Report on Food Crises 2020

The Global Network Against Food Crises released the annual Global Report on Food Crises. The report indicates that at the close of 2019, 135 million people across 55 countries and territories experienced acute food insecurity. Additionally, in the 55 food-crisis countries covered by the report, 75 million children were stunted and 17 million suffered from wasting in 2019.



More than half (73 million) of the 135 million people covered by the report live in Africa; 43 million live in the Middle East and Asia; 18.5 million live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. UNICEF released 'Lost at Home' report

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released the findings of the 'Lost at Home' report. According to the report, over 5 million people got internally displaced in India in 2019. Nearly 33 million new displacements were recorded in 2019 worldwide, of which, around 25 million were due to natural disasters and 8.5 million as consequence of conflict and violence.



India constituted the highest number of new internal displacements in the world during the period followed by the Philippines, Bangladesh and China.

6. CMIE reports India's unemployment rate at 27.1%

The Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) has reported India's unemployment rate at 27.1% in the week ended 3 May. This is the highest unemployment rate so far. The unemployment rate in the month of April 2020 was 23.5%, nearly 121.5 million Indians.

The unemployment rate seems to have risen because of a surge in the labour participation rate from 35.4% in the week of April 21 to 36.2% in the week ended May 3. Their addition to the labour force merely raised the unemployment rate.



7. IAMAI reports India has more internet users in rural areas than urban

According to the 'Digital in India' report by the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), internet users in rural areas surpassed those in urban areas for the first time. As of November 2019, there were 227 million active internet users in rural areas which is 10% more than around 205 million in urban areas. In total, India had 504 million active internet users.

The increase in female internet users (26 million) was more than that of male internet users. It was an increase of 21% which is much higher than the 9% increase in male internet users.



8. IEA released Global Energy Review 2020

The International Energy Agency released Global Energy Review 2020. The report highlights the global energy demand in 2020 and carbon dioxide emissions. The report was based on an analysis of electricity demand over more than 100 days, during which much of the world has entered lockdown in a bid to control the corona pandemic.

The report predicted that global energy demand would fall 6% in 2020, seven times more than during the 2008 financial crisis. Global oil demand in 2020 is projected to drop by 9%, coal demand by 8%.



9. IMR data released by Registrar General of India

Registrar General of India released data on the national birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate for the year 2018.

Highlights are as follows:

- National birth rate in 2018 stood at 20 and death rate at 6.2
- Infant mortality rates stood at 32.
- Bihar state topped birth rate list while Andaman and Nicobar remained at the bottom.
- Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate, while Delhi has the lowest.
- Madhya Pradesh has the worst infant mortality rate in the country while Nagaland has the best.
- IMR declined at an all-India level from 50 to 32 in the last decade.

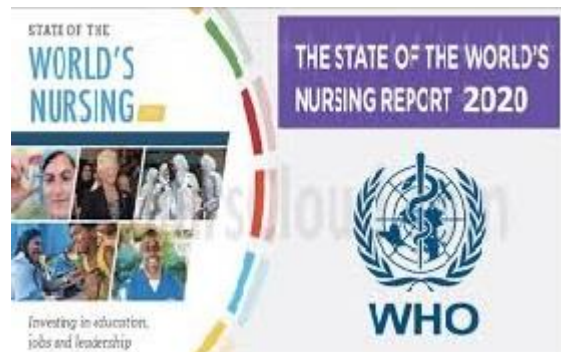


10. State of the World's Nursing Report 2020

The World Health Organization and the International Council of Nurses released the State of World's Nursing report.

Some of the key findings of the report are:

- There are 36.9 nurses per 10,000 people.
- There are 1.56 million nurses in India. However, only 67% nurses are professional nurses.
- Nurses comprise of 47% of medical staff in India.
- The worldwide shortage of nurses is to increase to 5.7 million nurses.



11. India ranked at 74th position in Global Energy Transition Index

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual rankings, India has improved its ranking by two places and moved to 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI). India improved on all key parameters of economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability.

Sweden has topped the index followed by Switzerland and Finland in the top three. France (ranked 8th) and the UK (7th) are the only G20 countries in the top ten. The index benchmarks 115 economies.



12. World Economic Situation and Prospects 2020 report of the UN

According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2020, UN slashed India's projected growth rate to 1.2%. The report predicts the global economy to contract by 3.2% as the COVID-19 pandemic paralyzes the world. The report has forecast India to recover slightly and clock a 5.5% growth rate in 2021. China is expected to grow at 1.7%.



All other economies in the world, including the US (-4.8%), Japan (-4.2%), European Union (-5.5%) and the United Kingdom (-5.4%) are projected to shrink this year.

13. Investment Capacity of India in renewable sector reached 500-700 billion USD

According to a study by the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, India has increased its potential of renewable energy investments to 500-700 billion USD. This is mainly on account of solar power.



According to the study, the ultra-mega solar parks in the country have attracted foreign capital. The Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan is the largest solar park in the world. It is spread over 14,000 acres. The capacity of the park is 2245 MW of power.

14. Global Forest Resources Assessment, 2020 of the FAO

The Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2020 released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented a synoptic view of the world's forests and the ways in which the resources have changed in the period 1990-2020.



According to the report, around 178 million hectares of forests was lost in the last 30 years. However, the rate at which the forests are being destroyed has reduced. The rate of forest loss has declined to 10 million hectares between 2015 and 2020.

15. WHO released Global Nutrition Report, 2020

The World Health Organization released Global Nutrition Report, 2020. According to the report, India is one among the 88 countries that are to miss global nutrition targets set for the year 2025.

Malnutrition is responsible for more ill health than any other cause. 20 million babies are born of low birth weight each year. Around 9% of under-5 children in India are stunted and 20.8% are wasted. At least, 21.6% of Indian women and 17.8% of Indian men were anaemic.



Resignations & Retirements

1. Peter Ebdon announced retirement from professional snooker

Former world champion Peter Ebdon announced his retirement from professional snooker because of injury. Ebdon won the 2002 world championship, beating Stephen Hendry and reached the 1996 and 2006 finals. He won eight other ranking events, including the 2006 UK Championship.

Ebdon, nicknamed 'The Force', twice achieved a career high world ranking of number three while his last victory at a ranking event came at the 2012 China Open.



2. Para-athlete Deepa Malik announced retirement

Para-athlete Deepa Malik announced her retirement from active sports in order to serve as the president of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) in accordance with the National Sports Code. Deepa is India's lone woman Paralympics silver medalist.

According to the National Sports Code, an active athlete is not eligible to hold an official post in any federation. Deepa is the only woman para-athlete to have been given the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. She is also a recipient of the Padma Shri and Arjuna Award.



3. WTO Chief Roberto Azevedo to resign a year before his term expires

The Head of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Roberto Azevedo has announced to resign, a year before his term expires. Mr. Azevedo, a former diplomat from Brazil, will step down on August 31st. He has held the director-general post since 2013. His second four-year term was scheduled to end in September 2021.

The 25-year-old organisation's main function is to help negotiate multilateral trade deals. It also aims to settle cross-border commercial squabbles in its dispute resolution body and monitor trade flows.



4. Alibaba's Jack Ma resigned from SoftBank board

Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma resigned from SoftBank board of directors. He served for 13 years in the board. Prior to this, he retired as the Executive Chairman of Alibaba in September 2019. Other board member who resigned from board members was Tadashi Yanai founder and CEO of Uniqlo parent Fast Retailing.

SoftBank Group Corp. is a Japanese multinational conglomerate holding company headquartered in Tokyo. SoftBank reported record financial loss of USD 13 billion recently.



5. Thomas Thabane resigned as Prime Minister of Lesotho

Prime Minister of Lesotho, Thomas Thabane, has formally resigned after his coalition government fell apart. He was named as a suspect in the murder of his ex-wife. His current wife was charged in connection with the killing in February.

Thabane had formally handed in his resignation to King Letsie III, the top traditional leader of the kingdom. Finance Minister Moeketsi Majoro is expected to replace Thabane as Prime Minister of the nation.



6. Spanish Striker Aritz Aduriz announced retirement

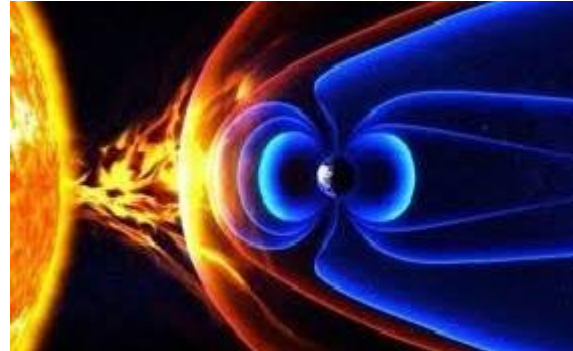
Athletic Bilbao striker Aritz Aduriz announced his retirement from football. He was a member of Spain's squad at the 2016 European Championship in France. He has won 13 caps for Spain and also become the Spain's oldest goal-scorer in 2016, scoring at the age of 35 years and 275 days.

Aduriz started his senior career with Athletic Bilbao but also, enjoyed spells with Real Valladolid, Real Mallorca and Valencia. He is Bilbao's sixth-highest scorer with 172 goals.



1. Indian scientists develop new simulation code to Earth's Magnetosphere

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) have developed a generalized one-dimensional fluid simulation code capable of studying a wide spectrum of coherent electric field structures in near-earth plasma environment or earth's magnetosphere, which can be useful in planning of future space missions.



The study of complex and nonlinear wave phenomena in the magnetosphere by IIG team will help advance the knowledge of plasma waves, instabilities, and coherent effects associated with wave-particle interactions that are useful in planning of future space missions. It can also lead to precisely controlled fusion laboratory experiments for ever-expanding energy needs of humanity.

2. IIBR developed antibody or passive vaccine which can attack virus responsible for COVID-19

The Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) has developed an antibody or passive vaccine, which can attack and neutralise the virus responsible for COVID-19 within the bodies of those infected. The antibody attacks the virus in a monoclonal way and can neutralise it within the bodies of those ill.



IIBR had tested its antibody-based vaccine prototype on rodents. IIBR is working to patent its COVID-19 antibody and secure a contract for its commercial development.

3. Indian Scientists developed energy efficient photodetector for security applications

Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research fabricated an economical and energy-efficient wafer-scale photodetector (thin slice-based) using gold – silicon interface, for security applications. It could help detect weak scattered light as an indication of unwanted activity. Photodetectors are employed for a wide variety of applications ranging from controlling automatic lighting in supermarkets to detecting radiation from outer galaxy as well as security-related applications.



The invention by JNCASR scientists provides a simple and cost-effective solution-based fabrication method for high-performance photodetector. The detector exhibits a rapid response of 40 microseconds and can detect low light intensities.

4. NIV developed ELISA test kit for diagnosis of novel Corona Virus

National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune has developed first indigenous antibody-based ELISA test kit, COVID KAVACH, for diagnosis of novel Corona Virus. The NIV Pune has transferred the technology to Zydus Cadila for mass-scale production. The Drug Controller General has granted commercial production & marketing permission to Zydus.



The anti-SARS-Cov-2 human IgG ELISA kit has the advantage of testing 90 samples together in a single run of 2.5 hours. Healthcare professionals can proceed quickly with necessary next steps on their patients' triage paths.

5. NIPER-Guwahati designs innovative 3D products to fight COVID-19

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research - Guwahati (NIPER-G) have developed following two products of help in the fight against COVID-19.



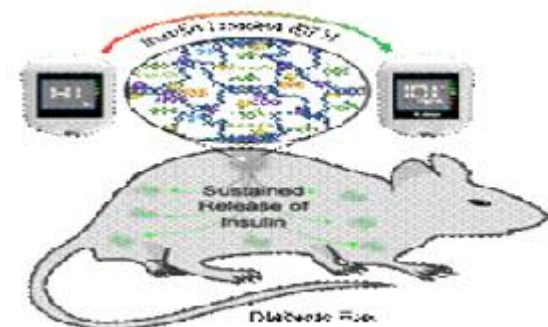
- **3D-printed hands-free object:** It could be used to help open or close doors, windows, drawers or press elevator buttons, and laptop/desktop keyboards, including turning the switch buttons on/off.



- **3D-printed antimicrobial face-shield:** It helps control the spread of novel coronavirus. It was designed after a thorough study to understand how viruses spread through oral, ophthalmic, olfactory and other body cavities.

6. JNCASR scientists developed injectable Silk Fibroin-based hydrogel

Scientists at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have recently developed an injectable Silk fibroin-based hydrogel for sustained insulin delivery in diabetic patients. A patent application has also been filed for this invention.



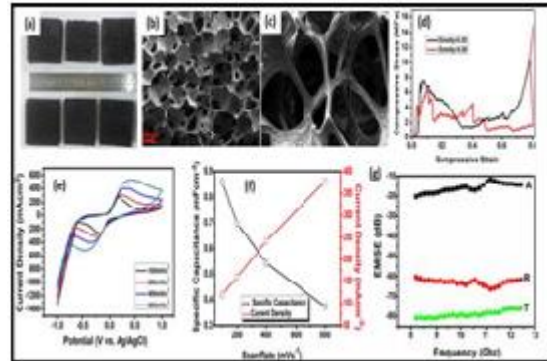
Prof. T. Govindaraju and his research team from JNCASR have developed the silk fibroin (SF) formulation using biocompatible additives and prepared an injectable SF hydrogel (iSFH) that can ease insulin delivery

in diabetic patients. The iSFH has demonstrated successful delivery of active insulin in rats, and the results have been published in the journal ACS Applied Bio Materials.

7. DST INSPIRE Faculty from Bhopal developing lightweight carbon foam

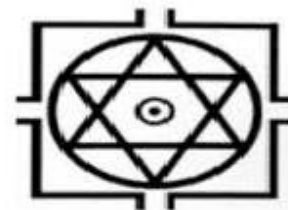
Dr. Rajeev Kumar from CSIR-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute, Bhopal, is developing porous carbon materials which have the potential to replace lead grid in lead-acid batteries. Dr. Rajeev, along with his research group, have developed lightweight carbon foam with a density of less than 0.3g/cc, high porosity of over 85%, good mechanical strength.

The carbon foam can also be useful for heat sinks in power electronics, electromagnetic interference shielding in aerospace, hydrogen storage and electrode for lead-acid batteries and water purification systems.



8. ARI developed novel process for synthesis of Quantum Dots used in photographing cellular organelles

Researchers at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune have developed a new process for the synthesis of quantum efficient and biocompatible quantum dots (QDs) used in capturing images of cellular organelles and processes within visible wavelength ranges across the electromagnetic spectrum. The process which involves continuous flow and is active micro-reactor assisted has been published in the journal Advances in Colloid and Interface Science recently.



महाराष्ट्र विज्ञान परिषदी
आधारकर अनुसंधान संस्थान
Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science
AGHARKAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Currently, bioimaging applications such as visualisation of cellular organelles, tracking cellular processes, etc. are reliant on traditional fluorophores which are fluorescent chemical compounds that can re-emit light upon excitation.

9. “Sundaram Ventago” developed jointly by TVS Group, Sundaram Med & IIT-M

TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation and IIT-Madras have jointly developed a low-cost, automated respiratory assist device called Sundaram Ventago. The device has been developed to provide respiratory support to patients through the controlled and automated squeezing of a self-inflating or AMBU bag.



This versatile and mobile device will assist the clinicians in constantly monitoring and reporting respiratory parameters. The device comprises various functionalities to control respiratory rate (breaths per minute), tidal volume, pressure parameters and I:E ratios.

10. CFTRI developed Spirulina groundnut Chikki to boost immunity

The Mysuru-based Central Food Technological Research Institute, CFTRI has developed Spirulina groundnut Chikki that can provide micro-nutrients and boost immunity of people. CFTRI has used Spirulina as well as the tasty, nourishing groundnuts to prepare Chikki that is rich in micro-nutrients such as Vitamin A, Beta Carotene and easily digestible algal proteins.



CFTRI has developed other nutritious snacks such as nutri mango fruit bar and cardamom flavoured water. The mango bar is rich with carbohydrates, carotene, Vitamin C and Zinc to improve the immunity. Cardamom flavoured water with traditional herbs to have immune booster qualities.

11. Astronomers discovered Super Earth

An international team of astronomers at the University of Canterbury discovered a close-in super-Earth exoplanet in the HD 164922 planetary system towards the center of the galaxy. Super earth orbits ancient star. The Saturn-like planet has a mass 0.3 times that of Jupiter and an orbital period of 1,201 days at a distance of 2.2 AU. The planet would have a 'year' of approximately 617 days. The planet has magnified light, like a lens, a phenomenon called gravitational microlensing.



The first super-Earths were discovered by Aleksander Wolszczan and Dale Frail around the pulsar PSR B1257+12 in 1992.

12. ISRO to tap startups to build local tech for Gaganyaan

ISRO plans to tap startups to build local tech for Gaganyaan future missions. Such startups will develop food and medicines for astronauts, help them build products and solutions, thermal protection technologies for spacecraft, spacesuit, better tools to access machines in a spacecraft and green engines for its maiden humanspace flight Gaganyaan-1.

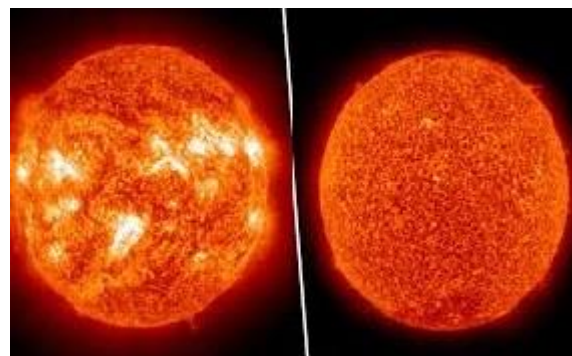


Gaganyaan is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft of ISRO. Under the programme, three air force pilots will be

carried to space in 2022.

13. Sun enters 'Solar Minimum' state

Space authorities have reported that the sun has gone into the 'Solar Minimum' state and about to enter the deepest period of sunshine recession. It has been almost 100 days this year when the sun has shown zero sunspots.



NASA had predicted the sun entering 'solar minimum' back in 2017. It is a part of the sunspot cycle. Sun has a cycle that lasts on average 11 years, the current time being the peak of that cycle. The sun's magnetic field weakens and it provides less shielding from the cosmic rays creating threat to the

astronomers travelling through space.

14. ANITA finds high energy particles from ice

NASA's Antarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna (ANITA) has succeeded in detecting a "fountain of high-energy particles erupting from the ice" in Antarctica, which could be proof of a parallel universe. The ANITA has so far made four major cosmic ray detections. The cosmic rays that are coming from the sky are reflected off the ice.



ANITA is a radio telescope, which is used to detect ultra-high energy cosmic-ray neutrinos from a scientific balloon flying over Antarctica. ANITA is the first NASA observatory for neutrinos of any kind.

15. IIT Madras creates light-weight alloy to replace steel, aluminum in cars

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) have developed a magnesium alloy with significantly improved properties that can replace steel and aluminium in automotive and aerospace components. The new engineered alloy is strong, highly ductile and its superplasticity is achieved at higher strain-rates.

Lightweight vehicles need lesser fuel to run and are therefore more fuel-efficient. Magnesium alloys are potential candidates to replace steel and aluminum alloys in automotive and aerospace components, since their density is two-thirds of aluminum and one-quarter of steel.



1. J. Arunkumar appointed USA men's head coach

Former Karnataka cricketer, J. Arunkumar has been appointed the head coach of the USA national team. Arunkumar had guided the team to back-to-back domestic trebles -- Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and the Irani Cup -- for two years in succession, in 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons.

Arun Kumar had also worked as the batting coach for Kings XI Punjab in the Indian Premier League. This will be the first international assignment for Arunkumar. He has scored over 7,200 runs in first-class cricket and over 3,000 runs in List 'A' games.



2. ICC banned Deepak Agarwal for two years

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Deepak Agarwal from all cricket for two years. He accepted one charge of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. Deepak is one of the team owners of the Sindh's franchise in the 2018 T10 league.

Aggarwal's name had also come up in the investigations related to approaches made to former Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan in 2017-18 during the course of the Bangladesh Premier League and the 2018 edition of the Indian Premier League. Hasan had admitted to being approached by Aggarwal.



3. ANZ Cricket Awards announced by New Zealand Cricket

The New Zealand Cricket announced the Annual New Zealand Cricket Awards. The awards were presented online for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The key winners:

Category	Winner
ANZ International Men's ODI Player of the Year	Kane Williamson
ANZ International Women's ODI Player of the Year award	Suzie Bates
ANZ International Men's T20 Player of the Year	Ross Taylor
ANZ International Women's T20 Player of the Year	Sophie Devine
New Zealand's Umpire of the Year award	Kim Cotton
ANZ International Test Player of the Year	Tim Southee
Sir Richard Hadlee Medal Winner	Ross Taylor

4. Australia restricts use of saliva, sweat to shine ball under COVID-19 guidelines

The Federal Government of Australia has restricted the use of saliva or sweat for shining the ball under COVID-19 guidelines. Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in consultation with doctors has come up with guidelines, banning the utilisation of saliva and sweat to shine the ball.



The framework, which outlines a staged return to play, has three stages -- Level A, Level B and Level C. Currently, restrictions on sport are outlined as being at "Level A", which restricts all training except that of the individual kind.

5. India lose top spot to Australia in ICC Test Rankings

India lost the top spot in the ICC Test rankings to Australia. It dropped to the third spot after New Zealand. Australia now has 116 points and is followed by New Zealand (115) and India (114). England is the top ranked team in the ODI team rankings followed by India at second.



The T20I team Rankings is topped by Australia with 278 points. Australia tops the list for the first time since the T20I rankings were introduced in 2011. England is second in the ranking followed by India at third and Pakistan at fourth.

6. Egyptian tennis player Youssef Hossam banned for life

The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) banned Egypt's tennis player Youssef Hossam from professional tennis for life after being found guilty of "multiple match-fixing" and other corruption charges. Hossam was found guilty for 21 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, which included eight cases of match-fixing, six cases of facilitating gambling, two cases of soliciting other players not to use best efforts, three failures to report corrupt approaches, two failures to co-operate with a TIU investigation.



Hossam is currently ranked No. 820 in the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) singles rankings and reached number 291 in December 2017, his career-best ranking.

7. FINA postpones 2021 Fukuoka Aquatics World Championships to May 2022

The world governing body of swimming, Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA), has postponed the 2021 aquatics world championships, Fukuoka, Japan from 13-19 May, 2022. The decision follows the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Masters Championships will take place across the island of Kyushu from May 31 to June 9 of 2022. The current FINA President is Julio Maglione.



8. Discus thrower Sandeep Kumari got banned for four years

Discus thrower Sandeep Kumari has been banned for four years by WADA's Athletics Integrity Unit for flunking a dope test. The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) had failed to detect the banned substance — a steroid — which was present in her blood sample, collected by NADA officials during the National Inter-State Championships in June 2018 in Guwahati.



Kumari had won the gold with a throw of 58.41m. Her four-year ban will begin from 26 June, 2018 — the date of her sample collection.

9. Commonwealth Youth Games postponed to 2023

The 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games was postponed to 2023, because of clash of dates with the Tokyo Olympics. The seventh Commonwealth Youth Games were scheduled to take place from August 1 to 7, 2021, in Trinidad and Tobago. Tokyo Olympics have now been scheduled to take place from July 23 to August 8, 2021.



The Commonwealth Youth Games are organised by the Commonwealth Games Federation. As per the current Commonwealth games format, this international-multi sport event takes place every four years.

10. Badminton World Championships 2021 postponed to November-December

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has postponed the World Championships in August 2021 to November 2021. It is now scheduled to be held from November 29 to December 5 at the Carolina Marin Stadium in Huelva, Spain. India's PV Sindhu will be defending her title in Huelva in 2021.



The World Championships was postponed due to the delay in the Tokyo Olympics. The Games were postponed to 2021, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

11. Kumar Sangakkara set to serve second term as MCC President

Former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara is set to serve his second term as the President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). Sangakkara became the first non-British President of MCC, when he took the office on October 1, 2019. Sangakkara was part of the MCC XI that toured Pakistan in February this year.



Presidents of MCC have traditionally only served 12-month terms. Marylebone Cricket Club is a cricket club founded in 1787 and based since 1814 at Lord's Cricket Ground, which it owns, in St John's Wood, London.

12. Narinder Batra's term as FIH President extended to May 2021

Narinder Batra will remain President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) until May 2021. The terms of Batra and the Executive Board members, which were due to end in October 2020 have now been extended. Batra's first four-year stint at the helm was set to expire at the gathering of the FIH membership, initially scheduled for October 28 to November 1.



International Hockey Federation (FIH) has decided to postpone the 47th FIH Congress, initially planned on 28 October - 1 November 2020 in New Delhi to May 2021, in India's capital city.

13. FIFA postponed Under 17 (U-17) Women's World Cup in India to February 2021

FIFA has postponed the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India to February 17 to March 7, 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. The tournament was originally scheduled to be held from November 2 to 21, 2020.

The tournament will be held at five venues in the country -- Kolkata, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad, and Navi Mumbai. 16 teams will participate in the tournament. Host India is an automatic qualifier and it will be the country's maiden appearance in the U-17 Women's World Cup.



14. China won FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup

China won the inaugural FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup after they defeated USA. The FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup was a team competition held from May 5-10, 2020 on Chess.com featuring Russia, USA, Europe, China, India, plus a team representing the "Rest of the World."

Co-organised by FIDE and Chess.com, the event had a peak of over a million concurrent viewers across all languages and broadcast partners.



15. French Cyclist Remy Di Gregorio banned for four years

French cyclist Remy Di Gregorio has been hit with a four-year doping ban related to a positive drugs test for EPO (Erythropoietin) in 2018 by International Cycling Union (UCI). He had tested positive for the hormone during a long-distance trip from Paris to Nice during a doping test on March 8, 2018. He will be suspended until 7 March 2022.



Erythropoietin is a hormone, which can increase endurance. It is injected under the skin and stimulates red blood cell production, which speeds up the delivery of oxygen to muscles.

16. Indian boxer Akhil Kumar re-inducted into NADA disciplinary panel

Former Commonwealth Games gold-winning boxer Akhil Kumar has been re-inducted into the National Anti-Doping Agency's Disciplinary Panel. He was formerly in the panel from 2017 to 2019. Akhil, an Arjuna award-winning Olympian, has also been the government observer for the sport between 2017 and 2019.



The NADA ADDP also features track-and-field Arjuna awardee Ashwini Nachappa among others. Mr. Vineet Dhanda is the Chairman of the Anti Doping Disciplinary Panel. The primary objective of NADA is to implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code, regulate dope control programme and create awareness about doping and its ill effects.

17. Bundesliga of Germany became world's first sports competition after COVID-19 lock down

The Bundesliga primary football league of Germany becomes the world's first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lockdown. The restart plan was approved by Angela Merkel's government. The game resumed with disinfected balls, mandatory COVID-19 tests and elbow bumps.



The Bundesliga is a professional association football league in Germany and the football league with the highest average stadium attendance worldwide. It comprises 18 teams. Bayern Munich has won the Bundesliga the most, winning the title 28 times.

18. SAI deposited Rs 30,000 in Khelo India Athletes accounts

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has deposited Rs. 30,000 each as a pocket allowance in the accounts of as many as 2,749 'Khelo India' athletes. The total budget adds up to Rs. 8.25 crore. The sports allowance has been provided for the athletes to travel to their home town, to keep up their diet at home and for other miscellaneous expenses.



The allowance is reportedly allotted for the first quarter of the 2020-21 year. The Out of Pocket Allowance under Khelo India scholarship is Rs. 1.20 lakhs annually.

Atma Nirbhar Bharat – Special

Atmanirbhar Bharat: Rs. 20 lakh crore package

The overall package stood at Rs. 20,97,053 crore. It included the Rs. 1.92 lakh crore stimulus from measures announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently such as the Pradhan Matri Garib Kalyan Package worth Rs. 1,70,000 lakh crore. The biggest chunk worth Rs. 8,01,603 lakh crore of the economic package belonged to the various measures by the Reserve Bank of India in February, March and April this year to inject liquidity. It also included the revenue lost due to tax concessions announced in March 22 worth Rs. 7,800 crore.

1. First tranche – Rs. 5,94,550 crore

- Rs. 3,00,000 crore emergency W/C Facility for businesses including MSMEs.
- Rs. 20,000 crore for subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs.
- Rs. 50,000 crore equity infusion for MSMEs through Fund of Funds.
- Rs. 2,800 EPF Support for Business and Workers.
- Rs. 6,750 crore for reduction in EPF rates.
- Rs. 30,000 crore liquidity relief measures for NBFCs, HFCs etc.
- Rs. 45,000 crore partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 for Liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs. First 20% loss borne by government.
- Rs. 90,000 crore of liquidity injection for power distribution companies (DISCOMs like PFCs and RECs).
- Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) rate for non-salary payments reduced by 25% till 31st March 2021. The reduction in TDS/TCS rate would release about Rs 50,000 crore in the hands of people.

2. Second tranche – Rs. 3,10,000 crore

- Second tranche of measures catered to migrant workers and street vendors.
- 'One nation one ration card' introduced to allow migrant workers to buy ration from any depot in the country.
- A special credit facility of Rs. 5,000 crore was announced to support around 50 lakh street vendors who will have access to an initial Rs. 10,000 working capital.
- Rs. 2 lakh crore will be given to farmers through Kisan credit cards.
- Rs. 3,500 crore to fund the food grain supply to migrant workers for two months.
- Rs. 30,000 crore of additional emergency working capital through NABARD.
- Rs. 70,000 crore towards Credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS) for middle income families (Rs. 6-18 lakh a year).
- Rs 1,500 crore for Interest Subvention of 2% for prompt-payers of Mudra Shishu Loan.

3. Third tranche – Rs. 1,50,000 crore

- The third tranche focused on the agriculture and allied sectors including dairy, animal husbandry and fisheries.
- Rs. 1 lakh crore agriculture infrastructure fund for farm-gate infrastructure including using it for setting up cold chains and post-harvest management infrastructure.
- Rs. 20,000 crore Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for the development of marine and inland fisheries. While, Rs. 11,000 crore will be earmarked for activities in marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture, Rs. 9,000 crore will be

earmarked for infrastructure creation such as fishing harbours, cold chain and markets. This will help double exports to Rs. 1 lakh crore.

- Rs. 10,000 crore to formalize micro food enterprises.
- Rs. 4,000 crore to promote herbal cultivation in about 10 lakh hectares of area. The scheme will help generate 5,000 crore rupees income for farmers. Along the bank of Ganga, a corridor of medicinal plants will be developed over 800 hectares area.
- Rs. 15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund to support private investment in dairy processing, value addition and cattle feed infrastructure.
- Rs. 500 crore for bee-keeping related infrastructure development.
- Rs. 500 crore towards extension of Operation Greens from TOP (Tomato, Onion and Potato) to TOTAL (all fruits and vegetables).
- Essential Commodities Act to be amended to “deregulate” agricultural foodstuffs and allow clamping of stock limits on these only under “very exceptional circumstances”.
- Formulation of a central law that will not bind farmers to sell crop only to licensed traders in the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandis.

4. Fourth and fifth tranches – Rs. 48,100 crore

- The final tranche comprised of reforms for sectors including coal, minerals, defence production, air space management, airports, MRO, distribution companies in UTs, space sector, and atomic energy.
- Additional Rs. 40,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for job creation. This was on top of the Rs. 61,000 crore allocated in the budget.
- Defence FDI hiked to 74% from 49%.
- Limit of state borrowings increased to 5% from 3% of GSDP.
- Maximum number of enterprises in strategic sectors will be limited to four.
- PM-e-Vidya programme for multi mode access to digital online education will be launched shortly, which will consist of e-content and QR coded textbooks for all grades.
- One TV channel per class from 1 to 12 will be operated and extensive use of Radio and Community Radio will be encouraged.
- Top 100 universities will be permitted to automatically start online courses by 30th May.
- An initiative by the name of 'Manodarpan' will be launched for psychological support of students, teachers and their family for mental health and emotional well being.
- **Coal Sector:** Private sector participation in coal sector through a revenue sharing mechanism to enable bidding for a coal block and selling it in the open market by private entities. 50 blocks will be available for bidding at the earliest. Finance Minister also added that 500 mining blocks will be offered through an open and transparent auction process. A detailed roadmap for investment of Rs. 50 thousand crore towards development of Infrastructure for evacuation of coal has also been outlined.
- **Aviation:** Easing of restrictions on further utilisation of the air space as currently only 60% of the Indian airspace is available for commercial flights. It will rope in a benefit of Rs. 1,000 crore as it will drastically reduce the time and fuel consumed by the commercial flights. 6 more airports will be put up for auction under the PPP model for their operation and management. Additional investment

of Rs. 12 thousand crore is expected in the 12 airports already proposed for development by the private players. Rationalise the tax regime for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MROs) of the Aircrafts in the country. Earlier, the aircrafts had to fly abroad for the MROs.

- **Space sector:** Allow private sector to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capabilities. Future projects for planetary exploration and outer space travel has also been opened to the private sector. This will also witness liberalisation of geo-spatial data policy for providing remote-sensing data to tech-entrepreneurs.
- **Atomic energy sector:** Establishment of research reactors on PPP basis for production of medical isotopes. This decision will lead to opening up of various affordable treatment facilities for cancer and other major diseases.
- **Social-infrastructure projects:** Boost private sector investments in social-infrastructure projects, like hospitals. The total outlay for this has been projected to be at Rs. 8,100 crore after an increase in the Viability Gap Share to 30 per cent in all such projects.

5. Other Key Announcements:

- The ongoing National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis will look at 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against Foot and Mouth Disease at an outlay of Rs. 13,343 crore rupees.
- Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board to improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency among Ordnance Suppliers.
- Finance Minister announced that a list of weapons or their parts would no longer be imported and their indigenous production will be ensured within the country. Government will notify year-wise timelines to ban such imports.
- The due date for filing income tax returns for 2019-20 extended till 30 November, 2020. The date for filing Income Tax return for the last financial year has also been extended till 30th November, while last date for filing tax audits has been extended from 30th September to 31st October.
- The statutory provident fund contribution by both employers and employees has been reduced to 10% from existing 12% for the next three months. This will result in a liquidity ease of Rs. 6,750 crore.

6. Tabular Representation:

Overall Stimulus provided by Atmanirbhar Bharat Package			
SN	ITEM		(Rs. Cr.)
1	Part 1		5,94,550
2	Part 2		3,10,000
3	Part 3		1,50,000
4	Parts 4 and 5		48,100
		Sub-Total	11,02,650
5	Earlier Measures incl PMGKP	(earlier slide)	1,92,800
6	RBI Measures (Actual)		8,01,603
		Sub Total	9,94,403
		GRAND TOTAL	20,97,053

Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-1		
SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1	Emergency W/C Facility for Businesses, incl MSMEs	3,00,000
2	Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs	20,000
3	Fund of Funds for MSME	50,000
4.	EPF Support for Business & Workers.	2800
5.	Reduction in EPF rates	6750
6.	Special liquidity Scheme for NBFC/HFC/MFIs	30,000
7.	Partial credit guarantee Scheme 2.0 for Liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs	45,000
8.	Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs	90,000
9.	Reduction in TDS/TCS rates	50,000
	Sub Total	5,94,550

Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-2		
SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1.	Free Food grain Supply to Migrant Workers for 2 months	3500
2.	Interest Subvention for MUDRA Shishu Loans	1500
3	Special Credit Facility to Street Vendors	5000
4	Housing CLSS-MIG	70,000
5	Additional Emergency Working Capital through NABARD	30,000
6	Additional credit through KCC	2,00,000
	Sub-Total	3,10,000

Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-3		
SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
1.	Food Micro enterprises	10,000
2.	Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana	20,000
3.	TOP to TOTAL: Operation Greens	500
4.	Agri Infrastructure Fund	1,00,000
5.	Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund	15,000
Stimulus provided by announcements in Part-4 and Part-5		
SN	ITEM	(Rs. Cr.)
¹	Viability Gap Funding	8,100
²	Additional MGNREGS allocation	40,000
	Sub-Total	48,100