APPOLO STUDY CENTRE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2020

INDEX

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1st May	International Labour Day or Worker's day	--
1st May	Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day	--
2nd May	World Tuna Day	--
2nd May	International Astronomy Day	--
3rd May	World Press Freedom Day	: "Journalism Without Fear or Favour."
4th May	International Firefighter's Day	--
5th May	World Asthma Day	"Enough Asthma Deaths"
5th May	International Day of Midwife	Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilize, unite-our time in NOW!
5th May	World Hand Hygiene Day	--
7th May	Vesak Day	--
7th May	World Athletics Day	--
8th May	World Red Cross Day	--
8th May	World Thalassaemia Day	"The dawning of a new era for thalassemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients."
9th May	World Migratory Bird Day	'Birds Connect Our World'

11th May	National Technology Day	--
12th May	International Nurses Day	'Nursing the World to health'
15th May	International Family Day	--
16th May	Armed Forces Day	--
16th May	International Day of Light	--
16th May	National Dengue Day	--
17th May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	'Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
17th May	World Hypertension Day	'Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control it, live longer.'
18th May	International Museum Day	'Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion'
20th May	World Bee Day	Bee Engaged
20th May	World Metrology Day	Measurements for Global Trade
21st May	World day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	--
21st May	International Tea Day	--
21st May	National Anti-Terrorism Day	--
22nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Our Solutions are in Nature
23rd May	World Turtle Day	'Adopt, Don't Shop'

25th May	World Thyroid Day	--
25th May	International Missing Children's Day	--
28th May	International Day of Action for Women Health	--
28th May	World Hunger Day	--
29th May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Women in Peacekeeping: A key to Peace
30th May	Statehood Day of Goa	--
31st May	World No Tobacco Day or Anti-Tobacco Day	Protecting Youth from Industry Manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use.

Date	Day	Theme
1st June	World Milk Day	The theme of 2020 is '20th Anniversary of World Milk Day'
1st June	Global Day of Parents	The theme for Global Day of Parents 2020 is "Appreciate all parents throughout the world"
2nd June	Telangana Formation Day	--
3rd June	World Bicycle Day	--
4th June	International Day of Innocent Children of Aggression	--
5th June	World Environment Day	The theme for 2020 is "Time for Nature". The host nation for 2020 WED is Colombia in partnership with Germany.
6th June	Russian Language Day	--
7th June	World Food Safety Day	Theme 2020: Food Safety, Everyone's Business
8th June	World Oceans Day	**Theme:** Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean
9th June	World Accreditation Day (WAD)	**Theme:** Accreditation: Improving Food Safety
12th June	World Day against Child Labour	"COVID-19 – Protect children from child labour now, more than ever".
13th June	International Albinism Awareness Day	**Theme:** Made to Shine
14th June	World Blood Donor Day	**Theme:** 'Safe Blood Save Lives'
15th June	World Elder Abuse Day	"Lifting Up Voices".
15th June	World Wind Day	--
16th June	International Day of Family Remittance	**Theme:** 'Building resilience in times of crisis

Date	Day	Theme
17th June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	**Theme:** Food, Feed, Fibre- The links between consumption and land
18th June	Sustainable Gastronomy Day	--
18th June	Mask Day	--
19th June	International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	--
20th June	World Refugee Day	**Theme:** Every Action Counts
21st June	International Day of Yoga	**Theme:** Yoga for Health- Yoga at Home
21st June	International Day of the celebration of the Solstice	--
21st June	World Music Day	--
21st June	World Hydrography Day	**Theme:** Hydrography enabling autonomous technologies
23rd June	World Olympic Day	The Olympic Day 2020 theme is "Move, learn and discover"
23rd June	UN Public Service Day	Theme of 2020 is 'On the frontlines: honouring public servants in the COVID-19 pandemic response.
23rd June	International Widows Day	'Invisible Women, Invisible Problems'
25th June	Day of Seafarer	The theme of 2020 campaign is Seafarers are Key Workers.
26th June	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	a crime against humanity.
26th June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	**Theme:** Better Knowledge for Better Care

27th June	Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Day	"COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and its impact on Small Business"
29th June	National Statistics Day	SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).
30th June	International Asteroid Day	--
30th June	International Day of Parliamentarism	--

Date	Day	Theme
01 July	National Doctors' Day:	Lessen the mortality of COVID 19
01 July	Chartered Accountants Day	
01 July	National Postal Worker Day	
01 July	Canada Day	
02 July	World UFO Day	
02 July	World Sports Journalists Day	
03 July	International Plastic Bag Free Day	
28 June to 4 July	World Allergy Week 2020	Allergy care does not stop with COVID-19
04 July	International Co-operative Day	Cooperatives for Climate Action
04 July	Independence Day USA	
06 July	World Zoonoses Day	

Date	Day	Theme/Details
07 July	World Chocolate Day	
July 11	World Population Day	**Theme:** "How to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now"
July 12	World Malala Day	
July 14	International Shark Awareness Day	
July 15	Educational Development Day	The birthday of late Chief Minister K Kamaraj on July 15 is celebrated as 'Educational Development Day' since 2007.
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	**Theme:** "Skills for a Resilient Youth"
July 17	World Day of International Justice	
July 17	The World Emoji Day	
July 18	International Nelson Mandela Day	
July 20	The first International Chess Day	Theme: "Teach someone how to play chess."
23 July	National Broadcasting Day	
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	
26 July	Maldives celebrates 55th Independence Day	
27 July	CRPF Observes 82nd Raising Day	
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	Theme: 'Find the Missing Millions'.
26 July	International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem	
28 July	World Nature Conservation Day	
29 July	International Tiger Day	The Slogan for 2020: "Their survival is in our hands".
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons :	Theme: "Committed to the Cause – Working on the Frontline to End

		Human Trafficking"
30 July	International Friendship Day	

Date	Day	Theme
1 August	World Lung Cancer Day:	
1-7 August	World Breastfeeding Week 2020:	**Theme**: "Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet"
03 August	World Sanskrit Day 2020:	
6 August	Hiroshima Day (Anti Nuclear Day)	On 6 August, the US dropped the first bomb – code named **Little Boy** - on Hiroshima. The attack was the first time a nuclear weapon was used during a war.
7 August	National Handloom Day	The first National Handloom Day was held on 7th August 2015 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Chennai. August 7 was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on this day in 1905
8 August	Quit India Movement Day	

9 August	Nagasaki Day	The United States on 9 August, 1945 dropped a second bomb on Japan at Nagasaki and the bomb is also known as '**Fat Man**'.
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:	**Theme**: COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience.
10 August	World Biofuel Day:	**Theme:** 'Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'
10 August	World Lion Day	
12 August	World Elephant Day	
12 August	International Youth Day	**Theme:** Youth Engagement for Global Action
13 August	International Lefthanders Day	
13 August	World Organ Donation Day	
19 August	World Humanitarian Day	**Theme:** #RealLifeHeroes
19 August	World Photography Day	
20 August	World Mosquito Day	
20 August	Indian Akshay Urja Day	To raise awareness about the development of renewable energy in India. It is a campaign

		that is celebrated since 2004. This day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
20 August	Sadbhavana Diwas	to commemorate the birth anniversary of late erstwhile Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.
21 August	World Senior Citizen Day	
21 August	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	
22 August	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	
24-28 August	World Water Week 2020:	Theme Home is 'Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action'.
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests:	
August 29	National Sports Day	
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	

TAMILNADU

❖ <u>Anna University</u> – has secured the fifth rank in Education World India Government Universities Rankings 2020-21 among 150 reputed government universities.
  ➢ IISc Bangalore was ranked as the top university in the country .

❖ The Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment, Avadi - has designed a new <u>KAVASAM software</u> for monitoring the Covid-19 infections in Avadi corporation.

❖ On May 7, the Tamil Nadu government - increased the retirement age of its staff from 58 years to 59 years
  ➢ It will be applicable to all government employees, teaching and nonteaching staff in government and aided educational institutions, and employees of constitutional statutory bodies, PSUs, corporations, local bodies, boards, commissions and societies.

  ➢ Earlier, the State government, during the tenure of former Chief Minister Dr. M.G.Ramachandran, raised the age of superannuation from 55 to 58 years in April 1979.

❖ The Tamil Nadu government - has recently reconstituted the State Planning Commission as the State Development Policy Council (SDPC) with a Government Order, issued.

❖ Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar inaugurated the "Namma Chennai COVID-19 Containment Programme"

❖ The Tamil Nadu government – announced that the state is on course for joining the 'One Nation One Card' scheme as per the plans from October 1, 2020.

❖ On May 22, the Tamil Nadu government - promulgated an ordinance to 'temporarily' take possession of Veda Nilayam, the residence of former chief minister, J Jayalalithaa at Poes Garden in Chennai.

❖ **The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy - will soon have a supercomputer at a cost of over Rs 17.11 crore.**

  ➢ The supercomputer has been allotted based on the proposal submitted by NIT-T to National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) - infrastructure team three years ago
  ➢ The new supercomputer will be inducted as part of the NSM, a mission by the government of India
  ➢ The supercomputer involving central processing unit (CPU) and graphics processing unit (GPU) at a ratio of 70:30.

❖ **International news magazine 'Newsweek' - has rated 'Sankara Nethralaya' as among the four best ophthalmic institutions in the world for 2020.**
  ➢ It was the only Indian hospital to make it to the top 100.
  ➢ Sankara Nethralaya is a not-for-profit missionary institution for ophthalmic care headquartered in Chennai
  ➢ It was established in 1978 .

❖ **The Tamil Nadu government - has constituted a 24-member committee comprising of economists, industrialists, bankers and educationists to assess the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the state.**

  ➢ TN Govt forms high-level panel under **C Rangarajan** to assess Covid-19 impact

  ➢ This is the 16th committee formed by the government to tackle issues arising out of the pandemic.
  ➢ It will present a report to the state government in three months

❖ **Tamil Nadu's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) - has dropped by one point, from 16 to 15 per 1,000 live births in 2018**

❖ **On May 27, the Tamil Nadu government - signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 17 foreign companies to bring a combined investment of ₹15,128 crore into the state.**

Bringing in the money

A list of the more prominent MoUs inked by the Tamil Nadu government with companies from various countries

• **Daimler India Commercial Vehicles**, Germany, proposes an expansion of its project to manufacture commercial vehicles at SIPCOT, Oragadam Industrial Park, Kancheepuram. The investment envisaged is ₹2,277 crore, with an employment potential of about **4,000** persons

• **Chennai Power Generation Limited**, a joint venture, proposes to establish a **750 MW** re-gasified liquified natural gas-based generation plant at Ponneri, in Tiruvallur district. The investment envisaged is about ₹3,000 crore and the employment potential is about **3000** persons

• **Vivid Solaire Energy Private Limited**, France, plans to establish onshore wind farm projects in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli. The investment envisaged is about ₹2,000 crore and the employment potential will be around **600** persons

• **HDCI Data Centre Holdings LLP, USA**, plans to establish a data centre in Ambattur, Chennai. The investment envisaged in this project is about ₹2,800 crore and the employment potential is around **200** persons

• **Salcomp PLC**, Finland, proposes to establish an expansion project for the manufacture of mobile components in Nokia Telecom SEZ, Sriperumpudur, Kancheepuram. The investment is expected to be about ₹1,300 crore and will provide employment to about **10,000** persons

❖ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami- inaugurated the Rs 230-crore Noyyal river restoration project through video conferencing from Chennai on May 28.**

➢ The Noyyal River originates in Coimbatore and then flows through Tirupur, Erode and Karur districts.

❖ **The last Zamindar of Singampatti, T.N.S. Murugadoss Theerthapathi (92 years) - died in his palace at Singampatti, on May 24.**
➢ He was the last Zamindar of south India.
➢ Singampatti, one of the 72 erstwhile 'palayams' in southern Tamil Nadu, is situated close to the Western Ghats in Ambasamudram taluk

❖ **The State government - has launched a ₹300 crore scheme, called the 'COVID-19 Assistance Package' for rejuvenation of rural enterprises.**

❖The scheme is part of the World Bank-assisted Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project, covering around 1.39 lakh beneficiaries.

❖ **The foreign direct investment (FDI) into Tamil Nadu - declined by 8.5% to ₹16,624.44 crore in the financial year 2019-20 as against ₹18,164 crore in 2018-19**

❖ **The agriculture department - will implement the 'Tamil Nadu mission on sustainable dryland development' (TNMSDD) in all the 12 blocks of Coimbatore district to promote dryland farming.**

❖ **Silapathikaram park (botanical garden) - Madurai**
  ❖ The project aims to bring back trees that are mentioned in Tamil epic Silapathikaram

❖ The name of **Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology** (CIPET) has been changed to **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology** (CIPET).
  ❖ CIPET is a premier national institution which comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. The new name of the institute has been registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975 (Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1975).

❖ **Construction of Amma Thirumana Mandapams**
  ➢ Tamil Nadu Housing Board has planned to build the "Amma Thirumana Mandapam" across the state
  ➢ in order to provide better facilities to public on par with private marriage halls at affordable rates of rent.

  ❖ **Arsenicum Album 30 is a known immune-modulator, widely prescribed for influenza-like-illnesses is given by Tamilnadu government as homeopathy medicine for covid.**

❖ <u>**TIDEL Information Technology Park - Avadi**</u>
  ➢ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - laid the foundation stone through videoconference for the construction of TIDEL Information Technology Park on June 1.
  ➢ It will be constructed on behalf of the Industries Department at a cost of `235 at Pattabiram near Avadi in Chennai.

- Issued on June 5, World Environment Day, the notification clearly states, "Plastic bags, which constitute or form an "integral part of packaging" in which goods are sealed prior to use at manufacturing or processing units, are not exempted any more from the plastic ban.

❖ **TN CM inaugurates compressed biogas plant at Namakkal**

❖ **Tamilnadu leads in generation of renewable energy**
- with a total capacity of 15,876 MW out of which hydel is 2,322 MW, wind 8,523 MW, solar 4,054 MW, bio mass 266 MW and cogeneration 711 MW.

❖ **Tamil Nadu archaeological department – have commenced excavations in the Kodumanal village near Chennimalai in Erode district**
- The teams have unearthed ancient artefacts from a site in the Kodumanal village, indicating a robust trade relationship between Tamil Nadu and Afghanistan.

❖ **The state archaeology department - unearthed 13 burial urns at Sivagalai in Tuticorin district.**

- Sivagalai was taken up for excavation by the department for the first time this year
- Sivagalai is located in the middle of Korkai, an ancient Pandya Kingdom, on the banks of the Tamirabarini river.
  - It is situated seven km away from Adhichanallur, which is also a burial site in Tirunelveli district.
- The Archaeological Survey of India conducted an excavation at Adhichanallur in 2004 and unearthed 169 urns.
- It is believed that Sivagalai would yield more urns than Adhichanallur.

❖ <u>**Ordinance on Reservation**</u>
  ➢ On June 15, the Tamil Nadu cabinet - granted approval to promulgate an ordinance to give horizontal reservation of 7.5% to government school students for admission to medical courses from this academic year.

  ➢ The prerequisite for qualification is that students of government schools should have qualified in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

  ➢ The government opted for the ordinance route since the assembly is not in session

  ➢ The "quota within quota" covers government seats in private colleges too

  ➢ The proposed ordinance would be sent to Governor Banwarilal Purohit for assent.
  ➢ The state government proposed to extend 10% horizontal quota within the vertical quota extended to categories available to SC/ST, OBC and open category.

❖ <u>**The Public Works Department - will begin the work on building a museum at Konthagai village in Sivaganga district**</u>
  ➢ The museum will display artefacts excavated from the Keeladi archaeological site.
  ➢ In the past, many archaeologists had carried out several excavation drives at Kodumanal, as the village was home to a civilised culture
  ➢ The trade links between Islamic countries and Tamil Nadu had been traced to Kodumanal village, similar to Keeladi and Adhichanallur villages.
  ➢ The teams had unearthed an ancient pot cemetery in this village, which had unearthed mud pots with engravings that indicate links to Afghanistan.
  ➢ According to historical sources, people from Afghanistan came to Tamil Nadu to polish ornamental stones and later took them back with them

➢ The team had also unearthed items such as iron material, bangles, mirrors, bones, mud pots, roof tiles and other materials used for weaving.

❖ **The University of Madras – has been granted a <u>patent</u> for discovering a new compound <u>'Mazapotin'</u> from the leaves of <u>sapota (botanical name Manilkara zapota).</u>**

➢ **Mazapotin** has **anti-cancer**, **anti-diabetic, antioxidant** and **anti-angiogenic** properties

❖ <u>**Insurance scheme to cover COVID-19 treatment cost of govt. employees**</u>
➢ Tamil Nadu - has included the treatment of the state government employees and pensioners for Covid-19 under the New Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).
➢ In this regard, the government had decided to create two corpus funds.
➢ A fund of ₹5 crore will be allocated to meet non-critical care charges for its employees and ₹2.5 crore for the sake of pensioners and family pensioners infected with coronavirus.

❖ <u>**Tamil Nadu diverts Rs 376 crore savings of World Bank scheme to fight Covid-19**</u>
➢ The Tamil Nadu government - has got the sanction of the World Bank to utilise the savings of Rs. 376 crore from its Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) project to tackle the spread of Covid-19 in the state.

❖ <u>**GOI and World Bank signs loan agreements to provide affordable housing to low-income groups in Tamil Nadu**</u>
➢ A tripartite agreement was signed between the Tamil Nadu Government, World Bank Group and the Government of India - for providing urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu access to affordable housing on 29th June 2020
➢ The agreement has been signed for the implementation of two projects –

- ✓ (i) `1,510-crore Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program and
- ✓ (ii) `377-crore Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development project
  - ➤ The loans for both the projects will be provided by the lending arm of the World Bank Group, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

❖ **The Working Women's Forum - has instituted a new award in women's cooperatives in South India in the name of renowned social worker, Jaya Arunachalam**

❖ **The Indian Coast Guard - has moved one of its <u>offshore patrol vessels — the ICGS Sujay</u> — from Paradip in Odisha to Chennai.**

❖ **The Tamil Nadu government – announced a monthly stipend of `3,000 to newly enrolled lawyers in the state during their first two years in practice**

❖ <u>**Thoothukudi airport receives first evening flight**</u>
  - ➤ the airport was granted 3C IFR licence to operate flights under all weather conditions and at night

❖ <u>**The Centre - has allocated foodgrain worth ` 5,585 crore for free distribution under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package, in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, since April.**</u>
  - ✓ Further, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will be issuing another 9.1lakh tonne of rice free of cost to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for the next five months

❖ <u>**IIT - Madras has launched the world's first ever online degree (B.Sc) and diploma courses in programming and date science.**</u>
  - ➤ Anyone who has passed class 12th examination can enrol in the online course. Moreover, there is no age restrictions for learners.

❖ <u>**Tamil Nadu Tops Market Borrowings Among States in India With a Collection of `30,500 crore for 2020-21 : RBI**</u>

➤ TN, which has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans), has been followed by Maharashtra `25,500 crore (14%), Andhra Pradesh `17,000 crore (9%), Rajasthan `17,000 crore (9%).

❖ **Tamil Nadu: Cumulative coverage of major crop increases by a lakh hectare**
   ➤ In Tamil Nadu, the cumulative coverage of major crop, including paddy, millets, pulses, cotton, sugarcane and oilseeds - increased by a lakh hectare this season than the corresponding period last year.

   ➤ The coverage stood at 3.785 lakh hectares this season, while in the previous year it was 2.939 lakh hectares.

❖ **Tamil Nadu – to supply renewable power, including wind and solar energy, to other western states in the country soon**
   ➤ The Raigarh-Pugalur 800kV ultra-high-voltage direct current (UHVDC) transmission line will take renewable power from Tamil Nadu to Western States.
   ➤ This line has a total capacity of 6,000 MW.
   ➤ As per the initial plan, the line will be used to bring thermal power to the State.

❖ **NEET: Tamil Nadu Cabinet Approves 7.5 Per Cent Quota For Government School Students In Medical Colleges**
   ➤ The **"quota within quota"** covers government seats in private colleges too.

❖ **Tamil Nadu - has emerged as the country's top investment destination in the first quarter of this financial year**
   ➤ This is according to the **'Projex Survey' released by Projects Today**, an independent firm that tracks investment projects in the country.
   ➤ The **southern State accounted for 18.63% of the `97,859 crores of investments** envisaged to execute 1,241 projects in the country.

❖ **Tamil Nadu gets its 2nd non-brahmin temple**
   ➤ P Thiagarajan from Madurai became the state's second non-brahmin priest in Tamilnadu.

➤ He was appointed as a priest in Siddhi Vinayakar Temple in Nagamalai Pudukkottai.

❖ <u>**New Medical Colleges in Tamilnadu**</u>
➤ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami laid foundation for a new government medical college in at Ariyalur, Kallakuruchi and Nilgris.

➤ With the approval of the Central Government, new medical colleges will be established in 11 districts, namely Ramanathapuram, Tiruppur, Nilgiris, Thiruvallur, Krishnagiri, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur and Kallakurichi.

➤ So far, with a total of 23 medical colleges in Tamil Nadu, 11 new colleges have been approved. The additional medical colleges are likely to increase the total number of students taking up MBBS in government colleges.

❖ **The Corporation school students in Chennai – has started using 'Tara', a virtual voice teacher, for improving language skills.**

❖ <u>**Researchers discover a new species (Tetrastemma Freyae) of ribbon worm from Chennai's Kovalam beach**</u>

❖ <u>**On July 31, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced naming of three metro stations in Chennai after former Chief Ministers C N Annadurai, M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa.**</u>
   ➤ Alandur station will be called 'Arignar Anna Alandur Metro',
   ➤ Central Metro as 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Central Metro'
   ➤ CMBT station as 'Puratchi Thalaivi Dr J Jayalalithaa CMBT Metro.'

❖ <u>**Tamil Nadu – has a total of 321 tigers, as per the updated report on India's Tiger Survey from 2018**</u>
   ➤ The four tiger reserves in the state, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Anaimalai Tiger Reserve and Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

❖ **Tamil Nadu government gives Backward Class status to Thiyya and Ezhava communities**
  ➢ A four-member panel, led by Revenue Secretary Atulya Misra, submitted its recommendations following which the communities were given Backward Class status

❖ **Former advocate-general of Tamil Nadu and designated senior advocate <u>A L Somayaji</u> - has been appointed special senior counsel for government to deal with cases of <u>"special importance and complicated nature"</u>.**

❖ **On July 27, Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched the distribution of free face masks through PDS outlets in the state.**
  ➢ Under the scheme, two reusable face masks each would be distributed to 6.74 crore persons attached to 2.08 crore ration cards across the State.

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - interacted with N.Kaniga, a student from Namakkal who had recently excelled in the Class XII board exams in his 'Mann ki baat' programme on July 26.**
  ➢ N Kaniga scored 490 marks out of 500 in the CBSE board exams.
  ➢ Her father is a LPG truck driver while her mother is a homemaker.

❖ **The Tamil Nadu government signed MoUs with 16 companies that would bring an investment of Rs. 5,137 cr and provide employment to 6,555 persons.**

❖ **Tamil Nadu - has been allocated `5,990 crore, accounting for around 6% of the `1 lakh crore earmarked for the Agriculture Infra- structure Fund.**
  ➢ The Fund has been created by the Centre as part of the Rs 20 lakh economic package -Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, unveiled by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 12

❖ **The Tamil Development and Information Department - has formally taken possession of Veda Nilayam, the residence of former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, in Poes Garden locality in Chennai.**
  ➢ The State government has decided to convert Veda Nilayam into a memorial of the former Chief Minister

- The house will shortly be transferred to the proposed Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Memorial Foundation

❖ **Tamil Nadu - is likely to have a power surplus both in terms of overall energy requirement and peak demand for 2020-21**
- ✓ This was revealed by a load generation balance report released by the Central Electricity Authority, functioning under the Union Ministry of Power.

Sitting pretty
A report by the Central Electricity Authority notes that the State is likely to have a power surplus in terms of overall energy requirement as well as peak demand in 2020-21

Expected power supply position in 2020-21
Peak demand: 16,800 MW
Availability: 17,448 MW
Surplus: 648 MW

Total demand: 1,17,111 million units
Total availability: 1,25,117 million units
Surplus: 8,006 million units

Actual power supply position in 2019-20
- Energy requirement: 1,08,816 million units
- Energy supplied: 1,08,812 million units
- Peak demand: 15,727 MW
- Peak demand met: 15,668 MW

❖ **IIT-M's Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC) and Helyxon, a healthcare startup at IIT Madras Research Park – have developed a portable remote monitoring device 'OXY2' for Covid-19 patients**

❖ **A start-up founded by an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - has developed a tool to help small and medium enterprises.**
- ➤ The tool, named as FAST, analyses data to understand the current business scenario and calculate future business trends of the SMEs.
- ➤ The tool 'FAST' was developed by a start-up geniSIGHTS, incubated by NASSCOM.

❖ **Tamil Nadu Appoints India's First-ever Woman Ambulance Driver**
- ➤ Tamil Nadu has appointed India's first-ever woman ambulance driver under a new initiative by CM Palaniswami.

- M Veeralakshmi was appointed driver of one of the newly launched '108' ambulances in Tamil Nadu.
- As per the Tamil Nadu government, this is the first such instance in the country.

❖ **Tamilnadu is planning to set up a park exclusively for the electric vehicle production eco-system.**
- This will be the country's first electric vehicle park.

❖ **Tamil Nadu women top the list of MUDRA loan scheme beneficiaries**
- Women of Tamil Nadu have topped the list of women borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) since its inception.
- More than 15 crore loans amounting to 4.78-lakh-crore have been disbursed to women borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).
- As on March 31, 2020 women in Tamil Nadu had availed Rs. 58,227 crore loan from the scheme followed by West Bengal Rs. 55,232 crore, Karnataka Rs. 47,714 crore, Bihar Rs. 44,879 crore and Maharashtra Rs. 42,000 crore loan.

❖ **On August 23, Chennai and suburban areas – witnessed 'Markos 1957', the comet spotted in Czechoslovakia on the same day.**

❖ **On August 20, a new ship, C-449 - was inducted into the Indian Coast Guard by Tamil Nadu chief secretary K Shanmugham at a ceremony in Chennai Port.**

STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

❖ **Andhra Pradesh has launched a mobile application 'CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture, Price, and Procurement)' with the aim to monitor the agriculture needs of the farmers in the state.**

❖ **Telangana - has become the first state in the country to start a pilot project which guides its farmers what to grow and when.**

❖ **Telangana's famous Telia Rumal made in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district – has got the GI recognition from the Chennai-based GI registry**

❖ **Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting - was given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Chennai-based Geographical Indications Registry**

❖ **Madhya Pradesh has become the first state** in the country to provide **mid-day meal ration.**

❖ **The Karnataka State Government announced that it will launch a "State Health Register" to collect data of all its citizens. The register is first of its kind in the country.**

❖ **On May 30, 2020, Goa celebrated its Statehood Day. Goa was the 25th state to join the union of India.**

❖ The **Uttar Pradesh Government** is to implement **Herbal Roads Project** in a stretch of 800 km in the state.

❖ **Himachal Pradesh government will launch 'Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna to provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.**

❖ **The new J&K domicile law - came into force in the UT on May 24 this year.**

❖ Madhya Pradesh state government has launched the '**First Information Report (FIR) Aapke Dwar Yojana'** at the new Police Control Room, Bhopal to enable people to file **FIRs from their homes** instead of visiting police stations.

❖ Uttarakhand state government has launched "**HOPE" (Helping Out People Everywhere)** portal to help unemployed youth to get jobs opportunities.

❖ <u>**Gairsain: Summer capital of Uttarakhand**</u>
   ➢ The Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya agreed to declare Gairsain as new summer capital. The Gairsain is also called Bhararisen.

❖ <u>**Telangana Formation Day: 2nd June**</u>

❖ <u>**The Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) project to be rolled out by Dec 2020**</u>
   ➢ The project is aimed at providing free internet access to the poor.
   ➢ Kerala is the first state to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizen.

❖ <u>**Uttarkhand opened its biggest biodiversity park**</u>
   ➢ The biggest Biodiversity park of Uttarakhand was inaugurated in Haldwani on 5 June 2020 on the occasion of the World Environment Day.
   ➢ The park named "Uttarakhand Forest Research Wing Biodiversity Park" is spread over an area of 18-acre.

❖ <u>**Maharashtra Government has launched flood warning system**</u>
   ➢ Maharashtra Government has launched **iFLOWS** is a **flood warning system** that alerts flood prone areas. The warning is provided 6 to 72 hours in advance. It was launched in **Mumbai**.

❖ <u>**Tripura Govt to start 'Play Little, Study Little'**</u>

Tripura state government has decided to start 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' –meaning 'Play Little, Study Little' scheme. The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp.

❖ **UP becomes top state to provide employment under MGNREGA**
  ➢ **Uttar Pradesh** state has become the **top state** in India to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).
  ➢ According to the data released, 57 lakh 12975 workers got employment is around 57 thousand village panchayats of the state which is **18% of the total work** generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the country.

❖ **World's Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project 'Platina' was launched in Maharashtra.**

❖ **India's first Plasma Bank to be set up in Delhi to treat COVID-19 patients**

❖ **India's first lichen park - Uttarkhand**
  ➢ The forest department of **Uttarakhand** state has developed India's first lichen park**.**
  ➢ Lichens are found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels.

❖ **Gujarat state government has launched 'At One Click' Initiative for MSMEs & Other Bigger Industries.**

❖ **Odisha has become the first state in the country where ISO Certification has been given to its tribal hostels.**

❖ **Bengaluru International Airport becomes first in India to get Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS) technology at both ends of runway.**

❖ **IMD Reports 'Cyclone Nisarga' over Arabian Sea to hit Maharashtra and Gujarat on 3 June**

❖ **Himachal first state with LPG gas connections in 100 percent households**
   ➢ Under the central government's 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana', gas connections were provided free of cost to women of rural areas

❖ **Goa Govt Allocates 14,380 sqm land to set up India first Maritime Cluster**

❖ **UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurates "Mission Vriksharopan-2020" to plant 25 crore saplings across UP.**

❖ **Delhi govt to starts "Paudhe lagao, Paryavaran Bachao" campaign**
   ➢ A mega tree plantation drive has been announced by the Delhi Government. The name of the campaign is
   ➢ '**Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao**' meaning 'Plant Trees, Save Environment'.

❖ **Asia's First Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production Facility in Punjab**

❖ **World's second-largest data centre inaugurated near Mumbai**

❖ **'Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya' — Madhya Pradesh**
   ➢ Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched 'Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya' campaign in order to maintain academic regularity of the students during the lockdown period arisen due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

❖ **Chhattisgarh organises India's first E-Lok Adalat**

❖ **Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Union Cabinet Minister of Food Processing Industries) inaugurates Zoram Mega Food Park in Mizoram**

❖ **The Uttarakhand government has decided to convert waste generated in the state to electricity under an initiative titled 'Waste to Energy'.**
   ❖ **Madhya Pradesh government to launch "Roko-Toko" campaign**
      ➢ Under this, the state government will **distribute masks** to the people who do not wear masks in public places as the use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state.

❖ **Telangana Police rolls out "CybHer" campaign**

❖ **In accordance with the Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Solar Park Scheme, Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (Mahagenco) will set up solar power plants with the total capacity of 2,500 MW at Sakri, Dhule District.**

❖ **Maharashtra govt signs MoU worth Rs 10,947 cr for MUTP phase 3 projects**
   ➤ This international bank would be providing a loan of Rs 3,500 crore for projects worth Rs 10,947 crore under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project phase 3 (MUTP-3) in Maharashtra - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

❖ **India's first trans-shipment hub in Cochin port, Kerala**
   ➤ Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) Shri Mansukh Mandaviya has reviewed the development activities of Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port. It is envisaged as first trans-shipment port of India.

❖ **The largest solar power plant of the Indian Navy (3 MW) has been commissioned at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, located near Payyanur, in Kannur district of Kerala.**

❖ **The Karnataka government will soon lay the foundation stone for a life sciences park**

❖ **In Uttarakhand, the first government-run inter-state chopper service that connects Dehradun to Garhwal hills was flagged off**

❖ **Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu has announced the launch of a "Macadamisation Program" for the improvement of roads across Jammu and Kashmir.**

❖ **Andhra Pradesh is going to become the first state in India, to have three capitals.**
   ➤ Now as per the new law, Andhra Pradesh will have the Legislative Capital in Amaravati, Executive Capital in Visakhapatnam and, Judicial capital in Kurnool.

- ➤ The offices of the Chief Minister and Governor will be Visakhapatnam.
- ➤ The state assembly proceedings will take place in Amaravati.
- ➤ The high court will be located in Kurnool.

❖ **Maharashtra became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.**

❖ **(MagNet) project**
- ➤ The **Maharashtra** has approved the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (**MagNet**) project worth about Rs 1,000 crore (USD 142.9 million). The project aims to help farmers across all districts in the state for the next 6 years.
- ➤ 70% of the project cost will be funded by Asian Development Bank (**ADB**).

❖ **India's First Mobile COVID-19 testing lab, developed by IISC, launched in Bengaluru**

❖ **Centre plans to make Odisha the epicenter of India's overall steel industry**

❖ **Chattishgarh govt launches social security scheme for tendu leaf collectors**
- ➤ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, **Bhupesh Baghel** has launched a social security scheme **"Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana"** for tendu leave collectors in the state. Tendu leaves, used for making **bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes),** are collected by forest dwellers and from them, it is purchased by the state government.

❖ **Gwalior-Chambal Expressway to be named after Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

❖ **Madhya Pradesh** will be offering jobs based on the marks secured by candidates in the common eligibility test (**CET**) by National Recruitment Agency (NRA). With this, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to offer jobs on the basis newly approved CET.

❖ **"Atal Tunnel"**

➢ **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate "**Atal Tunnel**" by the end of September 2020.

❖ **India's 1st International Women's Trade Centre to be set up in Kerala.**

❖ **Kerala's 1st-ever Dragonfly Festival**
WWF-India Kerala State Office is joining hands with the **Society for Odonate Studies (SOS)** and **Thumbipuranam** for the first-ever state **"Dragonfly Festival"** in Kerala, christened **'Thumbimahotsavam 2020'.**

NATIONAL

❖ **Locust Attack:**
  ➢ Massive swarms of desert locusts are destroying crops across western and central India, spearing into Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab now, after Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana, as the government said it has stepped up its response to the country's worst locust attack in nearly three decades.

❖ **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** - has achieved a new milestone in the construction of a 440-m tunnel below the densely populated **Chamba town** on the Rishikesh-Dharasuroad National Highway in Uttarakhand.

  ➢ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Shri. Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Chamba Tunnel under Chardham Pariyojana through video conference

❖ **PM Modi launched "My Life My Yoga", a video blogging contest. The contest is to be conducted as a joint effort of Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR (Indian Council of Cultural Research).**

❖ **The Indian Air Force – has performed 3 formations of Su-30MKI, MiG-29 and Jaguar fighter jets along with a flypast of C-130** transport aircraft on Rajpath in Delhi.

  ➢ Such a flypast and formations are generally done only during the Republic Day parade.

  ➢ The display was part of the efforts of the armed forces to show appreciation to all Covid-19 warriors.

❖ **Chhattisgarh has ranked 1st among other states in providing employment under MGNREGS as per data provided by Rural Development ministry. Chhattisgarh is followed by Rajasthan (2nd) and Uttar Pradesh (3rd).**

❖ **Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched a mobile application 'AYUSH Sanjivani'. The app was developed by the Ministry of Ayurveda,**

Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY).

❖ For the first time the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has included GilgitBaltistan and Muzaffarabad region of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir(POK) in its weather forecast.

❖ The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV) tieup with Bharat Biotech to develop indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.

❖ India and Russia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Coking coal.

❖ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has completed 5 years on the May 9, 2020. It was launched in 2015 to deliver old age income security particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector.

❖ Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Art of Living (AOL) Foundation has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote the tribal enterprises. AOL Foundation is an educational and humanitarian organisation recognised by the United Nations (UN).

❖ Mizoram: "Industry" status to "Sports"
  ➤ The main aim of the decision is to professionalise sports in the state.

❖ India's first national AI Portal launched:

  ➤ Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad on 30 May 2020 launched India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal called www.ai.gov.in.
  ➤ It has been jointly developed by the Ministry of Electronics and IT Industry.

❖ Vande Bharat Mission – Through Flight:

Mission has operated as biggest evacuation exercise to bring back Indian citizens stranded abroad amidst the coronavirus-induced travel restrictions.

❖ **PM Modi announced special economic package:**
  ➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a special economic package worth 20 lakh crore rupees for a self-reliant India.
  ➢ This package is equivalent to almost 10 percent of India's GDP.

❖ **Ramanand Sagar's epic portrayal, 'Ramayan' of the late 1980s - has created a world record by becoming the highest viewed entertainment programme in the entire world**
  ➢ The show becomes most watched entertainment show in the world with 7.7 crore viewers, as on April 16
  ➢ Sagar's epic show has overtaken the popular "Game of Thrones"(1.96 cr) in terms of viewership.

❖ **CSIR launched Kisan Sabha App**
  ➢ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched Kisan Sabha App.
  ➢ It will connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation Management System.

❖ **Visakhapatnam LG Polymers Gas Leakage**
  ➢ The leakage from a chemical plant, owned by South Korean firm LG Polymers, left at least 11 people died and hundreds sick.

LG CHEM BOOKED FOR CULPABLE HOMICIDE

THE TRAGEDY

➤ 11 people killed and more than 1,000 fell ill after toxic styrene gas leaked from LG Polymers plant around 2.30am

➤ People living between 3km & 5km radius of the plant complained of vomiting, headache, nausea, skin rashes and eye irritation; many people found unconscious in lanes, bylanes and houses

➤ Cattle, dogs and cats perished, even trees affected

➤ 10,000 people evacuated

➤ South Korea's LG Chem, which owns LG Polymers, booked for culpable homicide

WHAT IS STYRENE?

➤ A benzene derivative, it is an oily odourless liquid which evaporates and mixes with air

➤ Used in manufacturing of plastics, resins — from plastic bottle containing drinking water to styrofoam cups used for tea, coffee and soft drinks

➤ According to WHO-affiliated International Agency for Research on Cancer, it is a 'possible' cancer-causing agent

THE COMPANY

➤ LG Polymers began operation on May 4 after a 43-day shutdown; LG Polymers acquired Hindustan Polymers in 1997 from Vijay Mallya's UB Group

Children being treated at King George Hospital in Vizag

❖ **Six Indian cities get 5-star garbage-free cities tag**
- ➢ According to a statement by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, cities that got the 5-star rating are Mysuru, Ambikapur, Rajkot, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Indore.

❖ **Ecologically Sensitive Areas in Western Ghats**

- ➢ the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change interacted with Chief Ministers of six states through a video conference to discuss issues relating to notification of **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) pertaining to Western Ghats.**
- ➢ These six states include **Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.**

❖ **The debate over Arsenicum album 30, a homoeopathic drug touted as effective in Covid-19 fight**

❖ **The Ministry of Power has launched the '#iCommit' initiative on the occasion of World Environment Day.**

❖ **The Asiatic Lion population has increased by 29%.**

➢ It was 523 in 2015 and has increased to 674 in 2020. India has recorded 36% increase in distribution area of lions.

❖ **Indian Energy Exchange has launched the first gas trading platform.**
   ➢ The platform was inaugurated by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.
   ➢ The Indian Gas Exchange, the online gas trading platform will act as a subsidiary of Indian Energy Exchange and is to be launched in **July 2020**.

❖ **NITI Aayog will launch the project 'Decarbonising Transport in India'**
   ➢ in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF) for reducing the carbon dioxide emission caused due to transportation in the country.
   ➢ India's Decarbonising Transport initiative is a part of the DTEE (Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies).

❖ **IIT Madras Researches Uses Dredging Methodology to help triple Irrawaddy Dolphin's population in Odisha's Chilika Lake.**
   ➢ Chilika lake is Asia's largest and world's second largest brackish water body and home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.

❖ **Ministry of Culture is celebrating the "Sankalp Parva"** from 28th June to 12 July 2020. This initiative has been launched to plant at least five trees either in Office campus.

❖ Indian Railways has created a new world benchmark by successfully running **first Double-Stack Container Train** in high rise in Over Head Equipment electrified territory on **Western Railway.** This achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of Green India.

❖ **PM MODI announced Aatmanirbhar Innovation Challenge to techies and start-ups after banning chinese apps in India**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' to facilitate the techies and start-up community to create world-class Made in India Apps.

- The project was unveiled by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission and Niti Aayog.

❖ COVID-19 vaccine BBV152 (commonly known as COVAXIN)
- Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) in partnership with Hyderabad based **Bharat Biotech** has selected 12 institutes for the Phase-I and Phase-II clinical trials of the first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine **BBV152** (commonly known as COVAXIN).

❖ SPCCCH is the World's largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility
- **10,000** bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (**SPCCCH**) was recently inaugurated in New Delhi.

- It was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal.

❖ Sanskrit Vidhyalaya built in Eastern Nepal's by India was inaugurated recently through video conferencing.

❖ Sanskrit Saptahiki
- All India Radio (AIR) FM news channel has started broadcasting its first-ever news programme in **Sanksrit** language named '**Sanskrit Saptahiki**'.

❖ NHAI to Setup InvIT Committee for Investment Manager Board

- **National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)** has decided to establish Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), which will be India's first government or semi-government trust.

❖ India's First NPNT Compliant Drone Flight successfully completed
- Mumbai based **Quidich Innovation Labs Private Limited** has announced that it has successfully completed the **first No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) compliant drone flight of India.**

❖ Govt to Release Commemorative Stamp in Honour of Ex-PM Narasimha Rao: Union Minister

➤ A commemorative stamp would be released soon by the Centre in honour of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao on his 100th birth anniversary, said by Union Minister G Kishan Reddy.

➤ PV Narasimha Rao served as the ninth Prime Minister of India from 1991 to 1996.

➤ He is revered as the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms.'

❖ NSDC Partners with Microsoft to empower Indian youth with digital skills

❖ India- US collaboration for clean energy

➤ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and US Agency for International Development (USAID) have partnered on 7th July 2020 to increase India- US collaboration for clean energy development.

❖ White paper on Focused Interventions for Make in India: Post COVID 19 by TIFAC(Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council) to be released by
Union Minister Harsh Vardhan

➤ The White Paper apprehends the specific strengths, market trends and opportunities with reference to the supply and demand, self-sufficiency and mass-scale production capacity in the critical sectors like healthcare, machinery, ICT, agriculture, manufacturing, and electronics.

❖ Iran drops India from Chabahar rail project

➤ **Iran** has **dropped India** from **Chabahar rail project** which comprises rail line from **Chabahar** port to **Zahedan,** along the border with Afghanistan.

❖ Union HRD Minister launches "Manodarpan" for students

➤ **"Manodarpan"** initiative has been launched by the Union HRD Minister, Shri **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.**

➤ "Manodarpan" is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development launched to **ensure mental well-being of the students.**

❖ <u>HRD Minister releases 'Pragyata' guidelines for online education</u>
➤ Union Human Resource Development Ministry has released 'Pragyata' guidelines for Digital Education.
➤ As per the guidelines, online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes.
➤ It further mentions that two online sessions of up to 30-45 minutes each should be conducted for classes 1 to 8 and four sessions for classes 9 to 12.

❖ <u>Indian Railways on mission to become 'Green Railway' by 2030</u>
➤ The **Ministry of Railways** is on a mission mode with the goal of **transforming Indian Railways** into **Green Railways by 2030.**
➤ The Ministry of Railways has taken a number of major initiatives towards mitigation of global warming and combating climate change.

❖ <u>India's first public EV Charging Plaza inaugurated in Delhi</u>
➤ **India's first** public **EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza** has been inaugurated by the Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, **R.K Singh** at **Chelmsford** Club in **New Delhi.**

❖ <u>First on-line NISHTHA programme launched in Andhra Pradesh launched by Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.</u>
➤ Online NISHTHA programme has been launched for 1200 Key Resources Persons of Andhra Pradesh, hence making it the first ever state in the country.
➤ NISHTHA has been **customized for online mode because of COVID-19** pandemic situation which has affected the conduct of this programme in face-to-face mode.

❖ <u>DCGI approves India's 1st homemade Pneumonia vaccine</u>
➤ India's first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine) has received the approval from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

> ➤ It will be utilized for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by "Streptococcus pneumonia" among infants.

❖ <u>**UNICEF INDIA partners with FICCI for #Reimagine Campaign**</u>
> ➤ **UNICEF INDIA** has tied-up with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's **(FICCI),** Socio-Economic Development Foundation **(SEDF)** to jointly develop **UNICEF's #Reimagine Campaign.**
> ➤ The campaign aims to support the **most vulnerable populations and children** during the **COVID-19** response and its after-math in India.

❖ <u>**At 273 million, India recorded world's largest reduction in poverty from 2005-16: Oxford-UN study**</u>
> ➤ About 273 million Indians were lifted out of multidimensional poverty, over a period of 10 years, between 2005-2006 and 2015-2016, according to a study conducted by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.

❖ <u>**"Dare to Dream 2.0"**</u>
> ➤ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched its innovation contest "Dare to Dream 2.0" on 27 July 2020, the 5th death anniversary of former President and noted scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

❖ <u>**KRCNet**</u>
> ➤ Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launched a World-Class Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet) under the Digital India initiative of the Government of India.

❖ **Bombay Flying Club becomes India's first DGCA-approved drone training school.**

❖ **The Indian Railways is constructing the world"s first electrified double-stack container tunnel, between the Aravalli hills, on the railway"s Western Dedicated Freight Corridor near Haryana"s Sohna**

❖ **India hands over 10 broad-gauge railway locos to Bangladesh**

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

❖ **Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into force in India**
  ➢ The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has been implemented in India since 20th July 2020. It has replaced Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
  ➢ The new act has been introduced to offer protection to buyers from traditional sellers as well as from the new e-commerce retailers/platforms.

❖ **Adani Ports** and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) has become the first Port in India and 7th Port in the world to sign the commitment letter to Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).

❖ **GOI has notified changes in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms on civil aviation. It will permit nonresident Indian nationals to own 100 per cent stake of Air India**

❖ **India's first 'Kisan Rail'**
  ➢ This is the first-ever multi-commodity train service, which will carry vegetables like capsicum, cauliflower, cabbage, chillies, drumsticks, onion, etc., and fruits like grapes, banana, pomegranate, etc.

  ➢ To transport perishable commodities begins service. The train will run on weekly basis, between Deolali in Maharashtra to Danapur in Bihar, covering a distance of 1,519 kilometres in 32 hours.

❖ **For the first time in India, Railway is using New Track Construction (NTC) machine**
  ➢ for the entire track laying of the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The projects will be implemented by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (**DFCCIL**) by 2022.

❖ **India's First Snow Leopard Conservation Centre is to be set up in Lanka, near Bhaironghati bridge in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand.**

❖ **'Tsunami Ready' – Odisha Villages**

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) recognizes Venkatraipur and Noliasahi, villages of Odisha as 'Tsunami Ready' for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.

❖ **National Programme 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21' launched**
- It is a **national programme** which has been launched to **popularize science** among **school students** of Class **6th to 11th**.

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and dedicated to the nation, the first ever submarine (undersea) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connectivity between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI project).**

❖ **Narendra Modi becomes the first non-Congress PM to deliver 7 Independence Day speeches in a row**
- Modi surpasses late Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the longest serving non-Congress PM.

❖ **"One Sun One World One Grid" project**
- The Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day address mentioned the mega plan of **"One Sun One World One Grid"** project.
- It is a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power project. The idea of the project was first introduced by PM Modi in 2018 during the International Solar Alliance.

❖ **India's longest River Ropeway inaugurated over Brahmaputra River connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati**

❖ **All villages to be connected with optical fibre in next 1,000 days: PM Modi**
- Under this project, more than six lakh villages will be connected with optical fibre network in the coming 1,000 days in India.

❖ **The Indian Railways is constructing world's tallest pier bridge in the state of Manipur.**
- The bridge is 141 metres high.
- It has surpassed the record of 139 metres tall Mala-Rijeka bridge in Montenegro, Europe.
- The bridge is a part of the 111 km long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway line project.

❖ **Ministry of Culture announces 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India, bringing total ASI circles across the country to 36**
   ➢ The new circles have been created in Jabalpur-Madhya Pradesh, Trichy-Tamil Nadu, Jhansi and Meerut-Uttar Pradesh, Hampi-Karnataka, Raiganj- West Bengal and Rajkot-Gujarat.

❖ **Ministry of Social Justice launches Mental Health Rehabilitation helpline 'KIRAN'**

❖ **India and Uzbekistan holds first-ever virtual National Coordination Committee meeting to monitor implementation of mutually agreed projects**

❖ **Government to set up National Recruitment Agency to hold common exam for various government and bank jobs**
   ➢ National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will be the nodal agency to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for jobs in the government and state-owned banks.

INTERNATIONAL

❖ Russia will launch Arktika-M satellite by December 9, 2020, to monitor the Arctic climate and environment.

❖ The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in its Annual Report 2020 has downgraded the India status by mentioning it into the list of "Country of Particular Concern (CPC)"

❖ Israel has named street after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th anniversary.

❖ India will hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its. India will continue to hold the chair for the next three years.

❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nation (UN) postal agency released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox.

❖ The Leaders of Group of the seven wealthiest countries (G-7) in the world had set up Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

❖ US terminating relationship with WHO; takes steps against China.

❖ Nepal approves new map including Lipulekh, Kalapani, Limpiyadhura amidst border row with India

❖ Saudi Arabia to raise VAT from 5% to 15%

❖ Iran's national currency will be changed from the rial to the Toman, which is equal to 10,000 rials, under the bill.

❖ As per International Energy Agency (IEA) "Global Energy Review 2020 due to COVID 19 India's energy demand falls by 30%. The report is based on an analysis of around 100 days of real-data of 2020.

❖**Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman attended the Special Board of Governors meet of New Development Bank (NDB) through video conference. Mr Marcos Troyjo of Brazil was elected as the president of NDB at the meet.**

❖**The European Union proposed 750 billion Euros as COVID-19 recovery fund.**

❖ **WHO launched 'C-TAP'**
  ➢ The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched an international project named 'COVID-19 Technology Access Pool' (C-TAP).

  ➢ This comes after at least 37 countries jointly appealed to WHO for common ownership of vaccines, medicines and other diagnostic tools to combat the global health crisis.

❖ **India elected non-permanent member of UN Security Council**
  ➢ India won 184 of the 192 ballots cast in the elections for the five non-permanent UNSC seats.
  ➢ Its two-year term will begin from 1 January 2021.
  ➢ India elected as non-permanent member of UN Security Council for a two-year term.
  ➢ This is the eighth time that India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Council.

❖ **India will be Security Council President for August, 2021: UN**
  ➢ India will serve as the President of the powerful 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August, 2021.

❖ **'Kesari' reaches Port Victoria in Seychelles to hand over COVID related essential medicines under 'Mission Sagar'**
  ➢ The Indian Naval Ship Kesari reached Port Victoria in Seychelles to provide COVID-19 related medicines under Mission Sagar.
  ➢ The Mission Sagar was launched by the Indian Navy to provide COVID-19 related essential medicines.

❖ **Iran to set up permanent base in Indian Ocean**

> Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced that it plans to set up a permanent base in the Indian Ocean in order to expand its presence in the international waters.

❖ **India has joined the Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence as a founding member.**
   > **The Gee-Pay or GPAI-Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence** is a multi-stake holder initiative that will guide development of Artificial Intelligence.

❖ **United Kingdom has announced 'Jet Zero' plan**
   > To drive down aviation emissions and to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible. The U.K. is chasing a target to make the country a net-zero economy by 2050.

❖ **75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.**
   > **India** will send 75-member Tri-Service contingent to participate in the military parade to **Russia** on the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.

❖ **China has decided to join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).**

❖ **Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) World's first yoga University outside India inaugurated in Los Angeles**

❖ **India among Switzerland's top-3 partners for getting info on bank accounts. The other two countries were France and Germany.**

❖ **Bangladesh launches online plasma exchange network 'Shohojodha' for COVID-19 treatment**

❖ **Israel: 'Ofek-16'**
   > **Israel** has successfully launched its intelligence satellite '**Ofek-16**' into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

❖ **NAFTA 2.0 comes into effect from 1st July 2020**
   > A new free trade agreement (NAFTA 2.0) between the United States, Mexico, and Canada comes into effect from 1st July 2020 onwards.

- ➤ It replaced the earlier 26 years old free trade agreement between the three countries- North America Free Trade Agreement (**NAFTA**).
- ➤ NAFTA 2.0 is a renegotiated version of the earlier NAFTA agreement.

❖ Russians clear way for Putin to extend his rule until 2036
- ➤ **77.95%** Russians has voted in favour of Constitutional Amendment which allows Vladimir Putin to lead Russia until 2036.

❖ India and Afghanistan signs 5 Agreements
- ➤ India has signed 5 MoU with Afghanistan for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) programme.
- ➤ The MoU signed will help to develop educational infrastructure in four regions of Afghanistan.

❖ The US formally announced its withdrawal from the World Health Organization

❖ Alliance for Poverty Eradication
- ➤ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande formally launched the "Alliance for Poverty Eradication" on 30 June 2020.
- ➤ India has joined the Alliance as a founding member.

❖ WHO Declares Sri Lanka & Maldives as Rubella and Measles-Free

❖ India & Bhutan inks JV Agreement for 600 MW Kholongchhu hydroelectric project

❖ India Moves up a Rank, Becomes the 2nd Largest Foreign Investor in UK for the year 2019-20; US tops

❖ Pakistan, China sign agreement for "Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project"
- ➤ **Pakistan and China** have signed an agreement for the **700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project** on the **Jhelum river** in **Sudhoti district** of **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).**

❖ International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021

> - India in partnership with Chile & UN's FAO Co-Hosted Event, "On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021"
> - India is the 2nd largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the World.

❖ **UN designates Pakistan Taliban Chief Noor Wali Mehsud as global terrorist**
> - Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud is the Chief of Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as Pakistan Taliban.

❖ **Madeline Swegle** becomes **US Navy's first Black female fighter pilot** in its 110-year history.

❖ **India and Bhutan have opened a new trade route between Pasakha in Bhutan and - Jaigaon, West Bengal.**

❖ **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and the United States of America for the development of a strategic petroleum reserve in - USA.**

❖ **The European Union and India have decided at the 15th India-EU Summit to move ahead with the renewal of the Agreement on Scientific cooperation for the next - five years.**

❖ **India extends medical assistance worth USD 1 million to North Korea.**

❖ **Maldives celebrated its 55th Independence Day on 26 July 2020.**

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart will jointly inaugurate the new Supreme Court Building of Mauritius on 30th July through video-conference.**

❖ **The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched COVID-19 Law Lab on 22 July 2020, which is a database of laws that countries have implemented in response to the pandemic.**

❖ **Nicaragua becomes 87th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement**

❖ **Turkmenistan has been granted the observer status in the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 22 July 2020, at a meeting of the WTO General Council in Geneva.**
  ➢ **With this, Turkmenistan becomes the 25th observer of the organization.**

❖ <u>**India-UK collaborates for new 8 million pounds joint medicinal research**</u>

❖ <u>**India-UN Development Partnership Fund: India contributes USD 15.46 mn**</u>

❖ <u>**The USA Presidential Candidate Joe Biden has chosen Kamala Harris to run for Vice President.**</u>
  ➢ As a running mate, she will be the first black woman and the first person of Indian origin to be nominated for the national office of a majority party in the US.
  ➢ Thulasendrapuram a hamlet near Mannargudi in Thiruvarur district is the native village of her grandfather

❖ <u>**Historic peace agreement between UAE & Israel**</u>
  ➢ President of USA, **Donald J. Trump,** Prime Minister of Israel, **Benjamin Netanyahu** and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates, **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Nahyan** have agreed to the full normalization of relations between **Israel** and the **United Arab Emirates.**

❖ <u>**Russia unveils coronavirus vaccine 'Sputnik V,' claiming breakthrough in global race before final testing complete**</u>
  ➢ **Russia** becomes the World's 1st country to officially register a COVID-19 vaccine and declare it ready for use.

❖ <u>**Japan's longest-serving PM Shinzo Abe resigns due to ill-health**</u>
  ➢ The Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe has announced to step down from the post on 28 August 2020, because of the poor health conditions.
  ➢ The 65-year-old had held record seven years and eight months as leader of the world's third-biggest economy, becoming the longest-serving Prime Minister in Japanese history.
  ➢ He had been serving as the PM of Japan since 26 December 2012.

APPOINTMENTS

<u>Dr Harsh Vardhan</u>	**Chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board.**
V. Vidyavathi	**Director General of the <u>Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)</u>**
Carmen Reinhart	**World Bank Chief economist**
Govinda Rajulu Chintala	**NABARD chairman**
<u>**Mustafa Al Kadhimi**</u>	<u>**Iraq's 6th Prime Minister**</u>
R. Sreelekha	**Kerala's first woman DGP** Assumes office as the new head of the Kerala Fire and Rescue Services
Manoj Ahuja	**chairman of CBSE**
Marcos Troyjo	**New President of NDB Brazil** Anil Kishora from India will be the new vice-president
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	**WHO Director-General**
T S Tirumurti	**The permanent representative of India to the United Nations (UN)**
Dia Mirza	**Goodwill Ambassador of India by UNEP.**

❖ **<u>R. Chandrasekaran - has been appointed the first permanent director of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) institute.</u>**

❖ **Governor Banwarilal Purohit- appointed G Sugumar as vice-chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University in Nagapattinam.**

❖ **First Hindu youth joined Pakistan Air Force – Rahul Dev**
  ➢ In a first, a Pakistani Hindu youth has become the first person from the minority community to join the Pakistan Air Force.

Prime Minister of **Kyrgyzstan**	**Kubatbek Boronov**
Director of the National Science Foundation (**NSF**) by the USA senate.	**Sethuraman Panchanathan** an Indian-American
New **President** of **MALI**	**Lazarus Chakwera**

New Prime Minister of **Ireland**	**Micheal Martin**
Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of **World Bank**	**Rajeev Topno**
President of the 75th session of the **UN General Assembly**	Turkish's diplomat **Volkan Bozkir**
President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) for 2020-21	**Uday Kotak**
India's new Ambassador to **WTO**	**Krishnendu Majumdar**
Salon owner's daughter in Tamil Nadu, M Nethra, appointed UNADAP Goodwill Ambassador to Poor	

Name of the Person	Designation
KK Venugopal	Attorney General of India
Tushar Mehta	Solicitor General
Indra Mani Pandey	Indian envoy to United Nations bodies and other international organisations in Geneva
Injeti Srinivas	Chairman of IFSCA (International Financial Services Centers Authority)
Sijo Kuruvilla George (The founding CEO of Startup Village and founder of Re-think Foundation)	member of Central Government's Expert Committee on Science and Technology Policy
Jayant Krishna	Group CEO appointed by UK India Business Council
Nigar Johar	first woman officer in the history of Pakistan Army to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.
Jean Castex	New Prime Minister of France
Lazarus Chakwera	New President of Malawi
Roshni Nadar Malhotra	HCL Tech Chairperson; First woman to chair listed Indian IT firm
Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda	Gabon Appointed its First Woman Prime Minister
Indian-origin Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi	President of South American country Suriname
Vidhu Nair	Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan
Lee Hsien Loong	Prime Minister of Singapore

Andrzej Duda	re-elected as the President of Poland
Ashok Lavasa (Election Commissioner Of India)	Vice President of the Asian Development Bank.
P Praveen Siddharth	New Private Secretary to President Kovind
Riva Ganguly Das	India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh
Hardik Satishchandra Shah	New Private Secretary to PM Modi
Hichem Mechichi	New Prime Minister of Tunisia

Name of the Person	Designation
Manoj Sinha	appointed as new LG of Jammu and Kashmir
Mahinda Rajapaksa	Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for 4th Time
Satya Pal Malik	Governor of Meghalaya
Rajiv Kumar	Appointed as new Election Commissioner
G Satheesh Reddy	DRDO chief gets two-year extension till August 2022
Luis Rodolfo Abinader	President of Dominican Republic
Keith Rowley	Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister for Second 5 year term
Equatorial Guinea	Re-elects Francisco Asue as PM of the country
Irfaan Ali sworn in as president of Guyana, Mark Phillips as Prime Minister	

SCHEMES

❖ **The Tamil Nadu govt has started preliminary works for implementing the unique Solar Fence Farmland Protection Programme.**
  ➢ It is a part of the Central Agriculture Improvement Scheme.
  ➢ Under the Central Agriculture Improvement Scheme, 50% of the cost of constructing the electric fence, including setting up of the power generating solar panels, will be provided as subsidy to farmers.

❖ **Tripura State government has launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana' The Scheme aims to provide grants for the purchase of smartphones to the students of final year to empower them digitally & help them leverage the advantages of an interconnected world.**

❖ **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**
  ➢ The government will launch a Rs 20,000 cr Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for the development of marine and inland fisheries.

❖ **Mee Annapurna, an inclusive programme has been launched for the welfare of farmers and Bhoomiputras in Maharashtra.**

❖ **The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) pension scheme, meant for senior citizens, has now been extended till March 31, 2023.**

❖ **Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries crossed 1 crore**
  ➢ It aims to provide Rs 5 lakh hospitalisation cover to up to 107.4 million poor and vulnerable families.

❖ <u>**PM Modi launches Rs 50,000 cr Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan for migrant workers**</u>

  ➢ **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the nodal Ministry for its implementation.**

❖ **Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (PDS)**

❖ **PM launched tech-based solution CHAMPIONS**

> PM Narendra Modi launched technology-based solution named CHAMPIONS for MSME sector, on 1 June 2020 in New Delhi.

> **CHAMPIONS** stands for **C**reation and **H**armonious **A**pplication of **M**odern **P**rocesses for **I**ncreasing the **O**utput and **N**ational **S**trength.

> It is aimed to provide one-stop solution to all the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country.

❖ **Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Scheme for street vendors.**

> The PM SVANidhi or **PM Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi** is a **credit facility scheme** that will help more than **50 lakh urban and rural street vendors**.

> The scheme will help the street vendors restart their livelihoods.

> Under the scheme, **Rs 10,000 of credit** is to be provided to street vendors.

❖ **TULIP Program launched**

> An online portal for 'The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)' has been launched.

> It is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

❖ **"Nagar Van" scheme**

> the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the "Nagar Van" scheme on the occasion of Environment Day.

> The scheme emphasizes on urban forestry.

- Under the scheme, around 200 urban forests are to be developed all over the country in next five years.

❖ **Highest ever allocation of fund worth Rs 1,01,500 crore in MGNREGS for FY 2020-21**
- The Government of India has allocated **Rs 1,01,500 crores** under the MGNREGA programme in the year 2020-21 so far. This is the highest provision of funds allocated for the scheme since its launch.

❖ **Jagananna Chedodu**
- The **Andhra** Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched "**Jagananna Chedodu**" scheme.
- The scheme is to provide financial assistance to barbers, tailors and washer men.

❖ **Rajasthan has announced 'Indira Rasoi Yojna**
- **Rajasthan** has announced '**Indira Rasoi Yojna** (Indira Kitchen Scheme) to provide pure and nutritious food to the economically weaker sections of the society.

❖ **"She - Triumphs through Respect, Equality, and Empowerment".**
- 'STREE' scheme launched in Hyderabad to support, empower women undergoing domestic violence The name STREE denotes: "She Triumphs through Respect, Equality, and Empowerment".

❖ **PM Scheme for Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises - Sapno Ki Udaan**
- The PM FME scheme is named as **'Sapno Ki Udaan'.** The scheme will be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

❖ **'Balaram Yojana'**
The State Government of Odisha has launched a scheme named '**Balaram** Yojana' for the landless farmers to provide financial support to them.

❖ **'Nekar Samman Yojana'**

Karnataka has launched a scheme named 'Nekar Samman Yojana' for the weaver's community in the state.

❖ **Gujarat Government launches Rs 1,369 crore "At One Click" online cash aid for MSMEs & textile industry**

❖ <u>**UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches employment scheme 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana' for ST/SC**</u>
   ➢ This initiative is part of the government to achieve economic equality and social equality of all the sections of the society.
   ➢ The government has set the target of benefitting 7.5 lakh families under the the Umbrella scheme in 2020-2021.

❖ <u>**'Godhan Nyay Yojna'**</u>
   ➢ Chhattisgarh launches 'Godhan Nyay Yojna', to boost rural economy. Under this the state government will purchase cow dung from the cattle rearers at the rate of Rs 2 per kg.

❖ <u>**'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana'**</u>
   ➢ Delhi Govt approves 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana' to provide ration at doorstep

❖ <u>**"Vriksharopan Abhiyan"**</u>
   ➢ The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah virtually launched the Tree Plantation Campaign "Vriksharopan Abhiyan" of the Ministry of Coal, on 23 July 2020, which also marks the birth anniversaries of Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak and Chandrashekhar Azad who devoted their life to the service of the nation.

❖ <u>**IRDAI forms panel for creation of 'Indian Pandemic Risk Pool'**</u>
   ➢ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a working group to study and make recommendations on formation of an "Indian Pandemic Risk Pool".

❖ <u>**Nitin Gadkari approves "Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission"**</u>

❖ **Madhya Pradesh launches 'Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi' public awareness campaign.**

❖ **'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme extended to 4 more states, taking total states to 24.**
The remaining States/UTs are targeted to be integrated into national portability by March 2021. Now the beneficiaries will be eligible to receive foodgrains anywhere in these States/UTs through national portability of their ration cards.

❖ **"Gramodyog Vikas Yojana"**
  ➢ Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) approved a programme under "Gramodyog Vikas Yojana" for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti and to develop village industry.

❖ **Haryana government has launched two schemes**
  ➢ "**Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana**" to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families, and initiated "**Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana**" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.

❖ "**Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana**"
  ➢ Chhattisgarh has launched a social security scheme namely "**Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana**" for tendu leaves collectors in the state covering over 12 lakh families, mostly tribals and forest dwellers.

❖ **Gujarat Launches New Scheme To Compensate Farmers For Crop Loss:The new scheme - Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana - will replace the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for this year only, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced.**

❖ **AMRUT Scheme Ranking for 2020**
Odisha has emerged as the topmost state in the country for the consecutive second year in effective implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.

❖ **Nagaland Govt launches "YellowChain" centralized e-commerce platform**

- To build sustainable businesses either in products or services from their own locations for sustainable economic activity.

❖ **'Indira Rasoi Yojna'**
- Rajasthan Government has launched the 'Indira Rasoi Yojna' in order to pay special tribute to the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary on August 20.
- Indira Rasoi is a scheme to provide nutritious food to poor people in urban areas at affordable prices.

❖ **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**
- Union Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) being implmeneted in partnership with States aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household of the country by 2024.

❖ **"Indira Van Mitan Yojana"**
The Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced about the launch of "**Indira Van Mitan Yojana**" on the eve of International Day of World Indigenous People. It is an initiative to support forest dwellers of Chhattisgarh and achieve self-reliance.

❖ **"Trifood Project"**
- The Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda virtually launched the "Trifood Project" of TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 20 August 2020 which aims to enhance the income of tribals through better utilization and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce (MFP) collected by the tribal forest gatherers.

❖ **Assam Government is to identify beneficiaries of new scheme called "ORUNODOI".**
- The scheme is being launched to help in **women financial empowerment**.
  Highlights The ORUNODOI will be the biggest scheme in Assam that will benefit more than 17 lakh families.

COMMITTEES

❖ **Shekatkar Committee recommendation implemented.**
  ➢ The Govt has implemented Lt. General D B Shekatkar Committee's recommendations related to creating border infrastructure.
  ➢ These were related to speeding up road construction in the border areas.

❖ **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was reappointed as Chairperson of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.**

❖ **Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the military engineering services on the recommendation of Shekatkar Committee.**

❖ **Tamil Nadu state government has constituted a high-level committee headed by C Rangarajan to assess the immediate and medium-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors of the State's economy.**

Purpose of Committee	Formed by	Head
To develop a job platform for migrant labours who lost their job during lock down.	NITI Aayog	**Amitabh Kant**
RBI constitutes Internal Working Group to review ownership, corporate structure of Indian private sector banks	RBI	P K Mohanty
Advisory Committee on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation	IBBI(Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India)	**Uday Kotak**
Seven-member 'Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)', headed by Cabinet Secretary, for attracting investments in India.	Central Govt	**Rajiv Gauba**
9 Member Panel for welfare of	Ministry of Home	G Kishan

freedom fighters	Affairs	Reddy
implementing Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free loan scheme for MSMEs	Central Government	Rajnath Singh
to examine maternal mortality rate, women's health among others	Women Child development Ministry	Jaya Jaitly

❖ IRDAI sets up nine-member Working Group Headed by G Srinivasan, to study the suitability of offering of Surety Bond by Indian Insurance Industry

❖ NHRC sets up panel, headed by Dr K S Reddy, to assess Covid-19 impact on human rights

❖ **Usha Thorat committee**
➢ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted this committee.
➢ It is formed on matters related to regulation and development of the mutual fund industry.

❖ **Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee on Data Protection submits Draft Report**
➢ The Expert Committee on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework set up by the government with the Infosys co-founder, Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan, as the chairman has published its report regarding regulation of data and prevention of monopolistic practices in the country.

❖ HRD Ministry forms committee on retaining students in India, to be headed by UGC chairman D. P. Singh

❖ Prof. R. Narayanaswamy appointed Chair of Technical Advisory Committee of National Financial Reporting Authority

❖ IFSCA sets up a panel chaired by Pradip Shah to formulate plan to develop international retail business

❖ RBI constitutes committee for financial parameters to be factored in Resolution Framework for Covid19 - related Stress; Head- Shri K.V. Kamath

❖ Centre Constitutes Panel to fix ceiling rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme; Head- G K Pillai

❖ National Expert Committee on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 headed by Dr V K Paul

❖ Center forms search-cum-selection committee to name the new three government nominees on Monetary Policy Committee (MPC); Head- Rajiv Gauba

❖ **Government Forms National Council for Transgenders to Formulate Policies Aimed at Equality & Participation.**
Union Minister of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will be the ex-officio Chairperson of the council. Presently, this post is held by Thaawar Chand Gehlot.

❖ Centre Forms 5-member Panel under IIT Delhi Director V. Ramagopal Rao to redefine DRDO Charter.

❖ **The government - has formed a new seven-member Backward Classes panel under the chairmanship of former Judge of the Madras High Court, M. Thanikachalam.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

❖ **China has successfully launched a new rocket named "Long March 5B" into space which will pave the way of its Moon landing plans.**

❖ **US to leave Open Skies Surveillance Treaty**
Under Open Skies treaty, member countries can operate unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of its participants.

❖ **China: 1st plateau-focused unmanned helicopter**
China's first domestically developed unmanned helicopter focused on plateau operations recently made its maiden flight.

❖ **Largest electric aircraft: Cessna Caravan**

➢ The Cessna Caravan aircraft is retrofitted with an electric engine and flew for about 290km before landing safely in Moses Lake.

❖ **Japan launched new Space Operations Squadron**

➢ Japan has launched a new space defence unit called the Space Operations Squadron, part of Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF), to protect the Japanese satellites from threats.

❖ **NASA to Launch ASTHROS Mission to study Cosmos using football stadium-sized balloon.**

❖ **UAE successfully launches 'HOPE', its first spacecraft bound for Mars.**

❖ **China launches its first independent Mars mission 'Tianwen-1'**

❖ **A 17-year old Indian-origin girl Vaneeza Rupani has won the contest to name the first helicopter to be built for NASA Mars Rover as 'Ingenuity'.**

❖ **NASA - has renamed its next-generation space telescope - Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), after it's first chief astronomer Nancy Grace Roman.**

   ➢ The WFIRST will now be called 'the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope' or 'Roman Space Telescope'
   ➢ The telescope is set for launch in 2025.

❖ **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) – has developed a new Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower for rapid disinfection of high infection-prone areas**

   ➢ The new 'chemical-free' tower is known as 'UV Blaster' which is a UV based area sanitizer.

❖ **SpaceX to design Lunar landers**
   ➢ NASA has selected space firms SpaceX, Blue Origin and Dynetics to build lunar landing systems that can carry astronauts to the moon by 2024.

❖ **The National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune - has developed and validated the IgG ELISA test named as 'Covid Kavach Elisa' for antibody detection for Covid-19.**
   ➢ This is the first time India has developed an indigenous ELISA test for coronavirus.

❖ **A 'silver' fish from Velankanni**
   ➢ Velankanni in Tamil Nadu has thrown up a new species of small freshwater fish of the family Cyprinidae.

❖ **IIT Madras developed light-weight alloy**
   ➢ It can replace steel and aluminium in automotive and aerospace components.

❖ **Monsoons can be predicted more accurately now**

❖ **IIT Madras researchers have developed a solar 'parabolic trough collector' (PTC) system.**
  ➢ A team from Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and UK based the University of East Anglia have created a blueprint for accurate prediction of monsoon, tropical cyclones and other weather-related forecasts.

❖ <u>**Annular Solar Eclipse on 21 June**</u>
  ➢ A rare celestial event, annular solar eclipse popularly called as ring of fire eclipse will be visible on 21 June 2020(longest day of the year).
  ➢ The first solar eclipse of this year takes place on the summer solstice, which is the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere.

❖ <u>**ISRO and ARIES signed MoU**</u>
  ➢ ISRO has signed a MoU with Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES).
  ➢ It has been signed for cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Astrophysics.

❖ <u>**CSIR scientists developed oxygen unit**</u>
  ➢ Scientists at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune have designed a portable oxygen unit which can be used in homes and hospitals.

❖ <u>**Astronomers found two Super-Earths**</u>
  ➢ Astronomers have discovered two super-Earth exoplanets that are orbiting a star 11 light-years away from Earth.
  ➢ The results of the study were published in the journal Science.

❖ <u>**First American woman to walk in space - Kathryn D. Sullivan**</u>
  ➢ Former NASA astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan, who became the first American woman to walk in space, has now created another record to become the first woman to reach the deepest point in the ocean.
  ➢ Marina Trench is the deepest oceanic trench on Earth and its floor is known as the Challenger Deep

❖ <u>**NASA has named its Washington, DC headquarters after Mary W. Jackson, the first Black female engineer at the agency**</u>
  ➢ It would be called as Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters. Jackson started her NASA career in 1951 as a human computer, a mathematician who performed hand calculations for NASA missions.

❖ <u>**IIT-Bombay developed a homegrown receiver chip "Dhruva"**</u>
  ➢ It can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country.
  ➢ Dhruva will receive signals from India's NAVIC group of navigation satellites as well as the US Global Positioning System-based satellites to determine these accurately under all weather conditions.

❖ <u>**Covaxin: India's first Coronavirus vaccine candidate approved for human trials.**</u>
  ➢ Hyderabad-based vaccine major Bharat Biotech - announced the approval for commencing the phase 1 and II human clinical trials of the country's first vaccine candidate for COVID-19, Covaxin.
  ➢ The trials have been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)

  ➢ The company has been involved in the development of the vaccine in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology, Pune

❖ <u>**Fifth state of matter seen for the 1st time**</u>
  ➢ Scientists have observed the fifth state of matter in space for the first time.
  ➢ Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs) -- the existence of which was predicted by Albert Einstein and Indian mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose almost a century ago.

❖ <u>**'Mobile Masterjee' — IIT Kanpur**</u>
  ➢ IIT Kanpur has developed a virtual classroom system named as 'Mobile Masterjee'.
  ➢ It will enable students to record teacher's lectures and other instructions by using smartphones.

❖ <u>**'Accelerate Vigyan' Scheme and Portal — By SERB**</u>

- The Union Government's Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has launched 'Accelerate Vigyan' Scheme and Portal associated with it.
- 'Accelerate Vigyan' is a scheme for research internships.

❖ **Waste to Energy Pant to be Developed in Delhi**
- An MoU has been signed among Indian Oil, NTOC and South Delhi Municipal Corporation to set up A Waste to Energy Plant at Okhala in Delhi.

❖ **India's MOM Mission captured Image of Mars Moon Phobos**
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the images of 'Phobos'. Phobos is a closet and the biggest Moon of Mars.
- The images were captured by Mars Color Camera (MCC) which is on boarded on India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM).

❖ **Indian Railways Sets up a Solar Power Plant in Bina**
- Ministry of Railways has decided to set up solar power in Bina, Madhya Pradesh in order to directly power the Railway Overhead line.
- With the help of this initiative, the solar power plant will produce around 25 lakhs unit of energy annually and will save about Rs 1.37 crore for Indian Railways every year.

❖ **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System**
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched BLUIS – Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System, the flagship development of General Administration and Public grievances departments.

❖ **IITH, NVIDIA collaborate to establish 1st NVIDIA AI research centre**
- The Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is collaborating with NVIDIA, a multinational technology company, to establish India's first 'NVIDIA AI Technology Centre' (NVAITC) to accelerate research on Artificial Intelligence and its commercial adoption.

❖ **IIT Roorkee Develops "Unisaviour" – Disinfection Box to Sterilise Personal Belongings**

❖ **ISRO to launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite**
  ➢ The Amazonia-1 satellite which PSLV will launch will help in **monitoring and observing the deforestation** of the **Amazon region.**
  ➢ It will be the first satellite for Earth observation.

❖ **IIT Madras start-up developed a portable hospital called "MediCAB"**
  ➢ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) start-up Modulus Housing, has developed a portable hospital unit called 'MediCAB,'.
  ➢ This unit can be installed anywhere within two hours by four people

❖ **IIT Delhi develops COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit "Corosure"**
  ➢ Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has developed the world's most affordable COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit "Corosure".

❖ **IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing device named Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper (SHUDH).**
  ➢ This device has **6 UV lights** of **15 Watts** each that can be individually monitored from a distance.

❖ **'PADMAVATI'**
  ➢ A smart device for monitoring and analysing the quality of water using an easy to use colorimetric test-strip, which was developed by Start-ups incubated by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur - 'PADMAVATI'.

❖ **World's first reusable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which can be washed 10 times, has been launched by - Loyal Textile Mills Ltd.**

❖ **United Arab Emirates launches "Hope" mission to "Mars"**
  ➢ A mission titled as **"Hope"** has been **launched** to **"Mars"** by the **United Arab Emirates.** With the help of mission, UAE aims to **provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere** for the first time, studying daily and seasonal changes.

❖ **China had successfully launched its communication satellite 'APSTAR-6D'.**
  ➢ The geostationary satellite, APSTAR-6D is the first satellite of China's global, high-throughput broadband satellite communication system that will form a space-wide Internet communication network covering the whole world, similar to GPS.

❖ **India's 2018 Tiger Census sets Guinness World Record for being world's largest camera trap wildlife survey**
  ➢ The camera traps captured, in total, 34,858,623 photographs of the wildlife. Out of it, 76,651 were of tigers, 51,777 were of Leopards and the remaining were of other native fauna.
  ➢ India had an estimated 2,967 tigers out of which 2461 individuals were photo captured.
  ➢ India has nearly 75% of the global tiger population.

❖ **Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced that world's first Fish Cryobank will be established in India.**

❖ **Tripura: Wildlife researchers rediscover 'Ypthima watsoni' butterfly after 61 years**

❖ **NASA & ULA launched Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission**
  ➢ The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** has launched **"Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission"** with United Launch Alliance **(ULA)** Atlas V rocket to the Red Planet "Mars".
  ➢ The **Mars 2020** Perseverance rover mission was launched from Space Launch Complex 41, at **Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.**

❖ **AIIMS Nagpur launched smart wristband to tracks Covid-19 patients**

❖ **IIM-Kozhikode develops 'Veli Band' for ensuring social distancing**

❖ The **India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment** and **Accelerated Commercialization Programme**

❖ NASA Launches Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover Mission to seek signs of ancient life. The rover will land on the Red Planet on February 18, 2021.

❖ UAE becomes first Arab country to produce nuclear energy. Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Plant in Abu Dhabi, got operational on 31 July 2020.

❖ **Indian Satellite 'AstroSat' Detects UV Light From Galaxy 9 Billion Light Years Away**
  ➢ **India's first multi-wavelength satellite, AstroSat**, has detected an extreme **ultraviolet (UV) ligh**t from a **galaxy, called AUDFs01.**
  ➢ This galaxy is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth, in the Hubble Extreme Deep field..

❖ **China launches optical remote-sensing satellite Gaofen-9 05**

❖ **IIT Alumni Council partners with Russia to build world's largest & fastest hybrid quantum computer**

❖ **Andhra University Researchers find rare fish 'Mahseer' in Sileru river.**

❖ **ISRO's Chandryaan-2 Captured Images of the Moon; one of the Craters Named 'Sarabhai Crater' after Vikram Sarabhai**

❖ **Israel & United States successfully tests an advanced missile defense system Arrow 2.**

❖ **A research team from National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) – discovered a red seaweed, which is a potential natural source for perfumes in Gulf of Mannar after an underwater survey**
  ➢ The red seaweed, Portieria Hornemannii, is known for its anticancer and antibacterial properties
  ➢ It grows on dead corals and has a pungent fragrance, providing a natural basenote for perfumes

CONFERENCE AND SUMMITS

❖**India - participated in a meeting of foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on May 13, 2020.**

> ➢ The eight-member SCO meeting took place via video conference and was convened by the current chair, Russia.
> ➢ The foreign ministers from all eight countries, including China and Pakistan, participated in the meeting

❖**Union Health Minister, Harsh Vardhan – represented India in the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA) on May 18, 2020, via video conferencing.**

Harsh Vardhan addresses 73rd World Health Assembly via video conference

> ➢ WHA is a decision- making body of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

❖ **The UN's annual climate conference - will take place during autumn 2021 in the United Kingdom.**

❖ **The biannual Army Commanders Conference (ACC) - began on May 27**
- ➢ The conference will have discussions led by the Army chief and the seven commanders
- ➢ The sessions by the Northern and Eastern Commands would be of particular interest as they cover the border with China.

❖ **Prime Minister of India has participated in the online summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group on the theme "United against COVID-19" hosted by President of Republic of Azerbaijan.**

❖ **G20 Digital Ministers Summit calls for coordinated global Digital response to fight the pandemic**

- ➢ India emphasizes on responsibility of G20 nations to focus on making inclusive and sustainable economies and societies

❖ <u>**US postponed G7 Summit till September**</u>
- ➢ US President Donald Trump has postponed the G7 Summit till September 2020.
- ➢ He has expressed his desire to expand the Group to G10 or G11, including India and three other nations Russia, Australia and South Korea to the grouping of the world's top economies.
- ➢ The G7 members are US, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and UK at present.

❖ <u>**The World Economic Forum – 51st Summit in Davos 2021**</u>
- ➢ The World Economic Forum has announced to hold its 51st Summit in Davos in 2021, in a new twinsummit format, keeping in mind the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ➢ "**A unique twin summit**" of WEF will be held in January 2021, with the **theme "The Great Reset".**

❖ <u>**Global Vaccine Summit - UK**</u>

- ➢ PM Modi has participated at the **Global Vaccine Summit** that was led by the United Kingdom.
- ➢ At the summit, the prime minster announced that India will pledge **15 million USD** to **GAVI Alliance(Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation).**

❖ <u>**Indian PM Modi and the Australian PM Scott Morrison held India's first virtual bilateral summit.**</u>
- ➢ "This is the first time that Prime Minister Modi will be holding a "Bilateral Virtual Summit", this signifies the strengthening of ties with Australia and its upward trajectory,"

❖ <u>**'36th ASEAN Summit'**</u>
- ➢ '36th ASEAN Summit held via video conference under chairmanship of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc with a theme of **Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**

❖ <u>**Inter-Parliamentary Alliance On China**</u>
- ➢ The Alliance was formed by Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands and USA.
- ➢ The European Union was also present when the representatives from these countries discussed about issues related to China.

❖ <u>**PM Narendra Modi delivers inaugural address at India Global Week 2020 virtually**</u>
- ➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at the India Global Week 2020, a virtual conference being organised in the UK.
- ➢ Themed **"Be The Revival: India and a Better New World",** the event have 5,000 global participants from 30 nations and will be addressed by 250 global speakers in 75 sessions.
- ➢ The conference feature a "never-seen-before" performance on the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat campaign.

❖ **Prakash Javadekar Represents India at Fourth virtual Ministerial on Climate Action**

❖ **Finance Minister attends 3rd G20 FMCBG Meet**
The 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held under the Saudi Arabian Presidency through Video Conferencing. India was represented by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in the meeting.

❖ **5th edition of conference on A & D Manufacturing Technologies**
Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Yesso Naik has inaugurated the 5th edition of the conference on "Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies". The conference was held with the theme Empowering India with 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission'. Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) jointly organised the conference with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

❖ **Dharmendra Pradhan & Dan Brouillette co-chaired 2nd Meeting of India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) virtually**
Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan and United States (US) Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette co-chaired the 2nd ministerial meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) virtually.
To review progress, highlight major accomplishments, and prioritize new areas for cooperation.

❖ The India Ideas Summit was organised on 21-22 July 2020 by the US-India Business Council (USIBC).
The theme for 2020 India Idea Summit was 'Building a Better Future'.

❖ Nirmala Sitharaman attends virtual 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB.
The theme of the 2020 annual meeting was 'AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade'.

❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 3-days long Indian Air Force (IAF) commanders' conference in New Delhi.
The theme of the IAF Commanders' Conference is "Indian Air Force in the Next Decade".

❖ India and the United Kingdom virtually held the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting on 24 July 2020.

6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting
 ➢ Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Prakash Javadekar, has participated in the 6th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Environment Ministers' Meeting under the presidency of Russia along. India will assume the Presidency of BRICS in 2021.

5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held virtually

The conference was held with prime objective of strengthening multilateralism and international cooperation in order to rebuild a better world. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participated in the inaugural ceremony of the conference.

India@75 Summit: Mission 2022

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari addressed the 'India@75 Summit: Mission 2022' August in New Delhi, via video-conferencing.

The 13th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on Trade:
Economic and Technical Cooperation was held virtually on 17 August 2020 to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two strategic partners.

4th Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group

Russia chaired the 4th Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group.
The session which was held over video conference, featured the participation of delegates from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa and India. Rakesh Asthana, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau led the Indian delegation that participated in the meeting.

Piyush Goyal addresses ASEAN-India Virtual Business Council Meet
The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the ASEAN-India Business Council virtual meet on 27 August 2020

14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) held with focus on maritime security cooperation
The 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held virtually on 28 August 2020 to further boost the defence and security partnership between the two countries, with a special focus on the maritime sphere.

International Conference on 'Aerosol Air Quality, Climate Change and Impact on Water Resources and Livelihoods in the Greater Himalayas' to be held at ARIES, Nainital in September 2020
  - The three-day conference will be organised by the **Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital** in association with Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University.

Piyush Goyal Attends 8th East Asia Summit (Economic Ministers' Meeting) held virtually.
  - The meeting was attended by the Economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members and eight other nations, including India, the US, China, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.
  - The East Asia Summit 2020 was chaired by Vietnam's Industry and Trade Minister Tran Tuan Anh.

Som Parkash addresses 5th virtual BRICS Industry Minister's Meeting
  - The Industry Ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries held a meeting through video mode on 24 August 2020 to discuss ways to boost cooperation in areas including 5G and Artificial Intelligence.
  - From India, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash, participated in the 5th edition of the Industry Ministers' meeting.
  - It is also likely that BRICS foreign ministers' meeting will be organised in early September 2020, which will be arranged by Russia, the current Chair of BRICS.

DEFENCE

❖ **Samudra Setu:**
- ➤ **The Government – is planning to bring back around 1,000 stranded Indians from Maldives by two amphibious warships under phase-I of the major evacuation operation called "Samudra Setu" (sea bridge)**
- ➤ **The operation was launched by the Navy on May 5.**

❖ **Mission Sagar**
- ➤ India has launched "Mission Sagar" to send medical aid to five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amid COVID-19 pandemic.

- ➤ In this regard, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros, to provide Food items, COVID related Medicines including Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams.

❖ **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)**
- ➤ It is launched to create state-of-the-art testing infrastructure for domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing sector.

➢ The facilities will be used to test UAVs (Unmanned Vehicles), radars, drones, rubber testing, telecom equipment testing, shock testing, noise testing, ship motion testing, blast testing, environment test facilities testing, etc.

❖ **Tamil Nadu's Sulur-based 'Flying Bullets', the Indian Air Force's No.18 squadron - will become the second to operate the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas'.**

❖ **The Indian Air Force (IAF) - formally inducted into service the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk-1 in Final Operational Clearance (FOC) standard.**

❖ **Major Suman Gawani of the Indian Army - has been selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the year Award**

   ➢ Major Gawani had served as a women peacekeeper with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) from November 2018 to December 2019

❖ **IAF develops rescue pod "ARPIT" for evacuation**
   ➢ The Indian Air Force recently developed **Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT)**. The pod is to be used to evacuate critical patients that are suffering from COVID-19.

❖ The Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (**DIAT**) has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray to fight against COVID-19. The spray has been named **ANANYA**.

❖ The Defense Research and Development Organization has developed '**GermiKlean**'. GermiKlean is a sanitising chamber that can be used to sanitise uniforms of security and police personnel.

❖ The Defense Research Development Organization (**DRDO**) has developed a **disinfection unit** called **Ultra Swachh**. The unit is used to disinfect articles such as electronic items, Personal Protective Equipment, fabrics, etc.

❖ The Defense Research Development Organization (**DRDO**) has developed the **SUMERU PACS**, that helps to **reduce sweating** of Personal Protective Equipment wearers.

❖ **First Rafale fighters to join IAF**
  ➢ The French Dassault Aviation's `Rafale' is expected to arrive India by July 2020 end.
  ➢ These aircraft can easily integrate with the existing fleets in the IAF and will enhance the overall combat potential and deterrence value.
  ➢ The first Rafale is expected to be commanded by the Commanding Officer (CO) of the 17 Golden Arrows' squadron who will be accompanied by a French pilot.

❖ **Second phase of operation Samudra Setu began**
  ➢ Indian Navy ship INS Jalashwa will sail from Colombo port in Sri Lanka on 1 June 2020 carrying around 700 Indian nationals back to Tamil Nadu.
  ➢ This will be the 1st operation as part of operation 'Samudra Setu' from Sri Lanka to repatriate Indian citizens as part of Vande Bharat mission.
  ➢ Indian Navy has already repatriated 1,488 Indian nationals from Malè to Kochi during the previous phase .

❖ **India-China border face-off at Galwan valley**
  ➢ 20 Indian soldiers were martyred in a face-off with Chinese soldiers at the border on 15 June 2020.
  ➢ It began near the Pagong Lake in Ladakh on May 5-6, 2020.
  ➢ This is the first deadly conflict between India and China in at least 45 years.

➢ Around 43 Chinese soldiers have been injured in the violent face-off, pushing the bilateral relationship between the two nuclear powers to an all-time low.

❖ **DRDO to set up Research Cell at IIT Hyderabad**

❖ **Air Force develops Airborne Locust Control System on Mi-17 Helicopters**

❖ **PASSEX (passing exercise)**

❖ **Defence Ministry entrusts capital procurement powers to Armed Forces**
➢ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has entrusted capital procurement powers to Armed Forces.
➢ With this, the Armed Forces will now be able to progress urgent **Capital Acquisition** Cases upto **Rs 300 crores** to fulfil their emergent operational requirements.

❖ **DRDO develops P7 Heavy Drop System for IL 76 aircraft**

❖ **Dhruvastra:**
➢ DRDO has successfully conducted three flight tests of its indigenously developed anti-tank guided missile "Dhruvastra" from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha, in direct and top attack mode.

❖ **PASSEX:**
➢ The United States Navy and the Indian Navy undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX), a joint maritime drill in the Indian Ocean region near Andamans and Nicobar Islands on 20 July 2020.

❖ **Indian Army gets 'Bharat' drones for accurate surveillance**
➢ Indian Army Gets DRDO's indigenously-developed Bharat Drone for accurate surveillance along China border.

❖ **The first batch of 'game-changing' Rafale fighter jets have landed at Ambala, and will soon be inducted into the Indian Air Force**

India had inked a Rs 59,000 crore deal on September 23, 2016 to procure 36 Rafale jets from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation.

❖ **GoI bans import of 101 Defence items to boost Atma Nirbhar Bharat**
➢ The government has prepared a list 101 items on which there would be an embargo on import to give a push to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" (Self Reliant India Movement).
➢ It is estimated that contracts worth almost Rs 4 Lakh crore will be placed upon the domestic industry within the next six to seven years.

❖ **ICG's fourth Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak' launched**

❖ **First marine ambulance boat 'PRATHEEKSHA' commissioned in Kerala**
➢ The other two other boats namely 'Prathyasha' and 'Karunya' were also launched on the same day.

❖ **DRDO Successfully Test Fires First Pinaka Rockets Produced by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)**

❖ **India withdraws from multilateral military exercise, Kavkaz 2020, to be held in Russia.**
Kavkaz 2020 would be held in Astrakhan province of Southern Russia where member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.

ECONOMY

❖ **25% cut in TDS(Tax Deducted at Source) and TCS(Tax Collected at Source) rates till 31 Mar 2021**
  ➢ This decision will increase the cash flow of over 50 thousand crore rupees benefitting common people.
  ➢ The date for filing Income Tax return for the last financial year has also been extended till 30th November 2020.

❖ **FDI rises 18% to $73.46 billion in FY20**
  ➢ Total foreign direct investment (FDI) into India jumped 18 percent to $73.46 billion in the 2019-20 financial year.

❖ **World Bank 'has approved a USD 400 million financial support to India to enhance its coastal & marine resources, protect marine resources & coastal populations from pollution, erosion, sea-level rise.**

❖ **For India Emergency Assistance Program Loan of USD 1 billion has been approved by the New Development Bank(NDB). The Emergency Assistance Program Loan aims to support the Government of India in its attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19. 36.**

❖ **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a loan worth of $500 million for India's 'COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project'.**

❖ **NABARD received Rs 25,000 crore for refinancing RRBs, co-operative banks and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as refinance facility.**

❖ **The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched Artificial Intelligence based chatbot called Pai. The Chatbot aims to increase financial inclusion in India.**

❖ **According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy(CMIE) the country's unemployment rate rose to 27.11%.**

❖ <u>**Government changes Definition of MSME**</u>

> The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has once again changed the definition of MSME. Before this, the change in definition was made while the Finance Minister announced the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Package'.

> The definition of MSME is now based on "Investment (Capital) And Annual Turnover"

> The new and old definition of MSME is mentioned below:

Category	New Capital	New Turnover	Old Capital	Old Turnover
Micro	1 Crore	5 Crore	25 Lakh	10 Lakh
Small	10 Crore	50 Crore	5 Crore	2 Crore
Medium	50 Crore	250 Crore	10 crore	5 Crore

❖ <u>**SWADES is Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support**</u>
> The Government of India is to conduct SWADES initiative to map the skills of Indians returning from abroad. SWADES is Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.
> *The initiative is to be conducted by Ministries of Civil Aviation, External Affairs, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.*

❖ <u>**According to Asian Development Outlook by the Asian Development Bank, in FY 2020-21 Indian economy is projected to contract by 4 per cent.**</u>

❖ <u>**IMF projects sharp contraction of 4.5 per cent in Indian economy in 2020; a historic low.**</u>

❖ <u>**Infosys becomes the first Indian company to sign Climate Pledge with Amazon and Global Optimism to become Net-Zero Carbon by 2040.**</u>
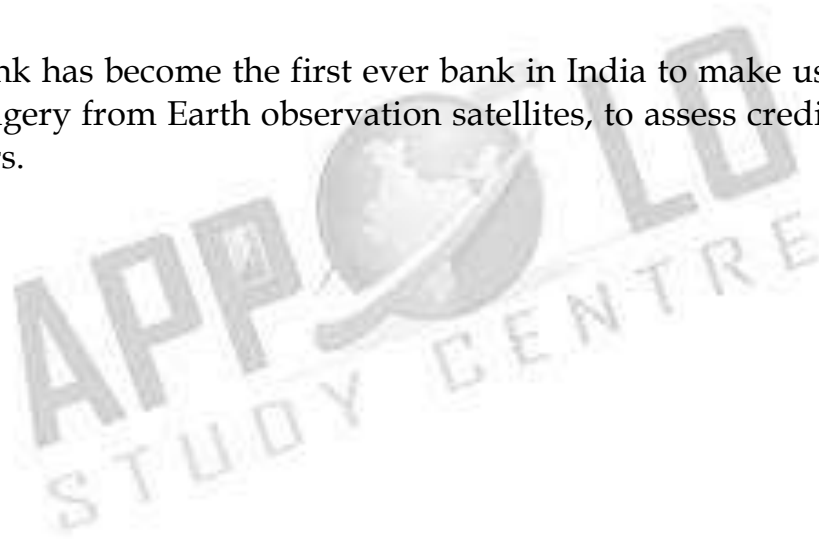
> -19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sector'.

❖ <u>**World Bank approves $750 mn emergency response fund for India's COVID-hit MSME sector.**</u>

❖ **NPCI to set up Rs 500-crore Smart data centre in Hyderabad to handle digital transactions.**

❖ **As per the data for the month of June 2020 released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in June 2020 was 10.9 percent in India (Urban-12.02 % and Rural- 10.52%).**

❖ **NLC India and Coal India form Joint Venture to develop solar and thermal power assets**

  ➢ The joint venture will develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5,000 megawatts.

❖ **Google Plans to Invest Rs 75,000 crore in India in next 5-7 years to boost Digital India**
  ➢ This announcement was made by Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai at the sixth edition of 'Google for India' virtual event on 13 July 2020.

❖ **US remains India's top trading partner in FY 2019-20**
  ➢ According to the data of the Union Ministry of Commerce, United States remained India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal in 2019-20.
  ➢ As per the data, the bilateral trade between the US and India has increased from $87.96 billion in 2018-19 to $88.75 billion in the fiscal year 2019-20.
  ➢ China was India's top trading partner since 2013-14 to 2017-18.

❖ **IRDAI allows launch of 'Corona Kavach' insurance policies**
  ➢ The short-term "Corona Kavach" health insurance policy will cover medical expenses occurred due to coronavirus disease.

❖ **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) agreed to partner toward a "green recovery" for members confronting the harsh economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.**

❖ **Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 crore) grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to**

further support the government‟s emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement for extending a $400-million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka.**

❖ **Reliance** Power and Japanese energy major **JERA** have inked a pact with a group of banks for full financing for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh.

❖ As per the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) published report, if the economic impact of Covid-19 persists throughout the year then global remittances may fall by $108.6 billion in 2020 .

❖ ICICI Bank has become the first ever bank in India to make use of satellite data, imagery from Earth observation satellites, to assess credit worthiness of farmers.

SPORTS

❖ **India has lost its top spot & has slipped to the 3rd position for the first time since 2016 in the International Cricket Council (ICC) test rankings. Australia topped**.

RANK	TEAM	RATING
1	Australia	116
2	New Zealand	115
3	India	114
4	England	105
5	Sri Lanka	91
6	South Africa	90
7	Pakistan	86
8	West Indies	79

❖ **Sania Mirza - became the first Indian to win the Fed Cup Heart Award for her successful return to the tennis court after motherhood.**

❖ **Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka - has become the world's highest-paid female athlete, making $37.4 million in the past 12 months, according to the rankings of Forbes magazine.**

❖ **Bundesliga: first major sports event to resume:**
  ➢ Germany's Bundesliga has become the world's first major sports competition to resume its season post nationwide lockdown imposed to contain coronavirus pandemic.

❖ **FIFA U-17 World Cup to be held in India – Feb 2021.**

❖ **Rahul Dravid beats Sachin Tendulkar in Wisden poll on greatest Indian Test batsman**

- Rahul Dravid has been declared as the greatest Indian Test batsman of all time, according to a poll conducted by Wisden India.

❖ India will host 2022 Women's Asian Cup

- The Asian Football Confederation confirmed that **India will host 2022 Women's Asian Cup**. This is the first time India is hosting the cup since 1979.

❖ FIFA team rankings: India at 108th position
- Indian football team has retained the 108th spot in the latest FIFA rankings issued on 11 June 2020.
- Belgium remains at the summit ahead of France and Brazil, while England and Uruguay continue to occupy fourth and fifth position respectively.

❖ Gomathi Marimuthu handed 4-year ban by Atheletes Integrity Unit
- The Asian Championship Gold medal winner **Gomathi Marimuthu** has been banned from sport activities for 4 years.
- The 31-year old athlete had tested positive for anabolic steroid Nandrolene at the 2019 Asian Championship.

❖ **Nitin Menon** an Indian umpire who has been inducted into International Cricket Council's Elite Panel of Umpires.

❖ Australia and New Zealand will host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

❖ The 4th edition of **Asian Youth Para Games** to be held in **Bahrain** in December 2021.

❖ Liverpool Wins 2019–20 Premier League title

❖ First female President of Marylebone Cricket Club in 233 years
- Former England Women Cricket Captain **Clare Connor** Set to become first female President of Marylebone Cricket Club in 233 years.

❖ **Flamboyant Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja - has been named as India's most valuable Test player in the 21st century by the Wisden magazine.**

❖ **Chennai-based Akash Ganesan - has become India's 66th Chess Grandmaster.**

➢ Akash becomes the 24th player from Tamil Nadu to become a GM.

❖ **Thirteen-year-old M. Pranesh, who hails from the Sekkalai Kottai village of Sivaganga district - became the country's latest International Master (IM)**

➢ **Reigning Asian Games champion and World Championships silver-medallist, India's Amit Panghal - was named as the world No.1 pugilist in the 52 kg weight division.**

❖ **England vs West Indies, 1st Test: For the first time in its 143-year history Test cricket will have no spectators**
England takes on West Indies - in the first of a three-Test series at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton

❖ FIFA World Cup 2022 will be played in – Qatar (first time in Arab region).

❖ 2022 Dakar Youth Olympics postponed by four years to 2026 : The International Olympic Committee(IOC).

❖ ICC Men's T20 World Cup postponed to 2022.

❖ Lewis Hamilton wins 2020 Hungarian Grand Prix.

❖ **Haryana will host the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.**

❖ **England cricketer,** Stuart Broad **becomes** 7th bowler **to take** 500 wickets in Test cricket.

BOWLER	TEAM	TEST WICKETS
MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN	SRI LANKA	800
SHANE WARNE	AUSTRALIA	708
ANIL KUMBLE	INDIA	619
JAMES ANDERSON	ENGLAND	589*
GLENN MCGRATH	AUSTRALIA	563
COURTNEY WALSH	WEST INDIES	519
STUART BROAD	ENGLAND	500*

❖ **Indian team's 2018 Asian Games silver medal upgraded to gold**
  ➢ The silver medal of the Indian 4×400 mixed relay team's 2018 Asian Games, Jakarta has been upgraded to gold.
  ➢ The medal was upgraded to gold following the disqualification of Bahrain squad that finished first in the 4×400 mixed relay final.

❖ **Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix 2020**

❖ **Liverpool's Jordan Henderson wins 2020 FWA Footballer of the Year award**

❖ **India to host ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2021**

❖ **India's KN Ananthapadmanabhan promoted to ICC's panel of umpires**

❖ **James Anderson becomes first fast bowler to reach 600 wickets in Test Cricket**

❖ **South Africa's Jacques Kallis, Australia's Lisa Sthalekar and Zaheer Abbas of Pakistan inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**

❖ **India and Russia - were declared joint winners of 2020 Fide Online Chess Olympiad on August 30**

❖ **West Indies allrounder Dwayne Bravo became the first bowler to take 500 wickets in T20 cricket.**

AWARDS

❖ **T. Pradeep, a faculty in the Chemistry Department of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, was honoured with the <u>Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020</u> in the science and technology category**

> ➢ The faculty was conferred the award for contributing to the region's sustainable development.

> ➢ Pradeep was recently conferred the Padma Shri award in the science and technology category.

❖ <u>**Theni district - has bagged the 'Skoch Gold award' for water conservation and management of water bodies at the national level**</u>

❖ **eSanjeevaniOPD - Tiruppur district**

Tiruppur district - topped the State in the number of consultations at eSanjeevaniOPD, the National Teleconsultation Service from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

❖ **Tamil Nadu government – announced Tamil Nadu chief minister's <u>gallantry medal</u> to five police officers from the state intelligence unit**

> ➢ The officers will also receive `5 lakh each for their exemplary work in nabbing fundamentalists this January.
> ➢ The officers selected by the state home department includes - N Kannan, deputy inspector-general of police (internal security), J Mahesh, superintendent of police of the 'Q' branch, S Aravind, SP of special division, P Pandarinathan, DSP, special intelligence unit, Coimbatore and M Damodaran, inspector of the special division.
> ➢ The officers were part of the '**operation Quanto'** launched for the purpose of collection of intelligence on the activities of notorious fundamental elements
> ➢ The award acknowledges the courageous effort and outstanding detective work of the officials.

❖ <u>**Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami – was conferred with the 'Paul Harris Fellow' recognition**</u>

> ➢ The 'Paul Harris Fellow' recognises personalities who are serving humanity in the fields of drinking water supply, health, disease control, women and children, environment and world peace

- The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is based at Chicago, United States

❖ **Toronto University institutes Nedunchezhiyan award**
  ➢ The University of Toronto Scarborough - has announced a lecture series and a Tamil literary award in the name of late AIADMK leader and former Minister 'Navalar' V.R. Nedunchezhiyan who would have celebrated his 100th birthday on July 11.

TN CM's Independence Day Awards
ABDUL KALAM AWARD **S Selvakumar, Founder of Anandam Youth Foundation,** Selvakumar has been working consistently for the past 23 years in helping hundreds of students acquire their higher educational goals. As of 2020, Anandham foundation supports 365 students in pursuing their education under MBBS, Engineering, Arts and Science, and various other streams.
KALPANA CHAWLA AWARD **Three women from Perambalur district -- Senthamil Selvi, Muthammal, and Anandavalli** -- who risked their lives to save two youths struggling in gushing water at the Kottarai canal
SPECIAL   **AWARD**   **FOR**   **COVID-19** **Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization, Geneva** The award has been given in recognition of her role in advising the State government in tackling the Covid pandemic. She is the daughter of renowned scientist Dr MS Swaminathan, popularly known as the father of Green Revolution in India.
CM'S   **BEST**   **PRACTICES**   **AWARDS** -   **Department**   **of**   **Treasuries**   **and**   **Accounts** (for conceptualizing Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System for total computerization of Finance, Treasury, Human Resources, and Pension Management Processes of the State) -   **Greater**   **Chennai**   **Corporation** (for conducting fever clinics across the city to break Covid transmission

chain)

- Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture & Plantation Crops and Agricultural Engineering
(for adopting innovative water conservation strategies that enabled TN to top micro-irrigation in the country)

- Certificate of appreciation to Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation
(for various steps taken to ensure uninterrupted availability of drugs needed to combat Covid-19 pandemic)

- Certificate of appreciation to Cyber Crime Wing of TN Police
(for developing a computer-based model for tracing potential contacts of Covid positive persons by analyzing available details)

AWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

- Best Institution:
CSI Higher Secondary School for Deaf, Santhome High Road, Mylapore, Chennai

- Best Doctor:
Dr G Syamala (63), Jahir Ammapalayam, Salem

- Best Private Employer:
Sakthi Masala Private Limited, Mamarathupalayam, Erode

- Best Social Worker:
C Santhakumar, Thirumalai, Tiruchirappalli

- Best District Central Cooperative Bank:
District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Salem

AWARD FOR SERVICES RENDERED TOWARDS WELFARE OF WOMEN

- Best Social Worker (for outstanding work done for women): Godhanavalli, from Coimbatore
(She has been working as a family counselor for the past 22 years)

- Best Institution (for serving of women): Centre for Rural Education and Economic   Development
(The centre has been working for the welfare, upliftment, and empowerment of rural poor across the State's villages for the past 33 years)

CM'S AWARDS FOR BEST PERFORMING LOCAL BODIES

- **Best   Corporation**: Vellore
- **Best Municipality**: Villupuram (1st), Karur (2nd), Koothanallur (3rd)
- **Best Town Panchayat**: Vanavasi, Salem district (1st), Veerapandi, Theni district (2nd), Madukkarasi, Coimbatore district (3rd)

CM's STATE YOUTH AWARD

- S Arunkumar, Madurai district
- R Ramkumar, Cuddalore district
- S Bhuvaneswari, Cuddalore district

❖ **For the third consecutive year, Tamil Nadu – registered a higher economic growth rate than the national average during 2019-20.**
  ➢ The State's growth rate at 8.03% was almost double the all-India average figure of 4.2% last year.
  ➢ The growth rate figures for the year 2019-20 was finalized by the Centre recently
  ➢ The calculations on the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) data have been done at constant prices, keeping 2011-12 as the base year.

Positive signs
How Tamil Nadu's economy has fared over the years

Year	Value of GSDP (₹ in cr.)	Growth rate (%)	National average growth rate (%)
2012-13	7,91,824	5.37	5.5
2013-14	8,51,976	7.6	6.4
2014-15	8,93,915	4.92	7.4
2015-16	9,67,562	8.24	8
2016-17	10,36,763	7.16	8.2
2017-18	11,25,793	8.59	7
2018-19	12,15,307	7.95	6.1
2019-20	13,12,929	8.03	4.2

• Against the all-India average figure of 4.2% last year, the State's performance — 8.03% — was almost double the former

Note: All the figures have been calculated at constant prices, keeping 2011-12 as the base year

Source: Central Statistics Organisation, RBI and Tamil Nadu government

❖ **The Tamil Nadu government - firmly rejected the three-language formula promoted by the Centre's New Education Policy (NEP)**

❖ <u>**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection 2020 – was virtually presented to R.S. Paroda, former Director General, Indian Council for Agricultural Research**</u>
  ➢ The award was presented during an online meeting organised by the Rotary Club of Madras East.

❖ **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - presented the "Jeevan Raksha Padhak" to a youth, R. Sridhar of Thanjavur district**
  ➢ He was conferred the award for saving six persons from drowning in the Vellaiyan Eri in Melaiyur village.
  ➢ The award, instituted by the Central government carries a medal, certificate and cash award of ₹1 lakh.

❖ <u>**Two teachers from the State – have been selected for the National Awards 2020 for best 'teachers'**</u>
  ✓ R C Saraswathi, headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar and S Dhilip, an English teacher from Government Higher Secondary School were announced among the winners this year

❖ **Chennai - bagged the award for the country's best mega city in adopting innovative and best practices in solid waste management among cities with a population of more than 40 lakh**
  ➢ The award was announced as part of the rankings in the nation-wide annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2020.

❖ <u>**Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL), the Navratna CPSE - has bagged the award for its extremely valuable contribution in the implementation of the "Swachhta Hi Seva Programme" from the Government of India.**</u>
  ➢ The announcement of the "Swachhta Hi Seva 2019" Award to NLCIL was made by the Ministry of Coal

- ➤ NLCIL was awarded for transforming the entire Neyveli into a plastic-free, clean and green campus

❖ Three Indian photographers from Jammu & Kashmir — Mukhtar Khan, Yasin Dar and Channi Anand — have won **Pulitzer Prize 2020** in the category of feature photography.
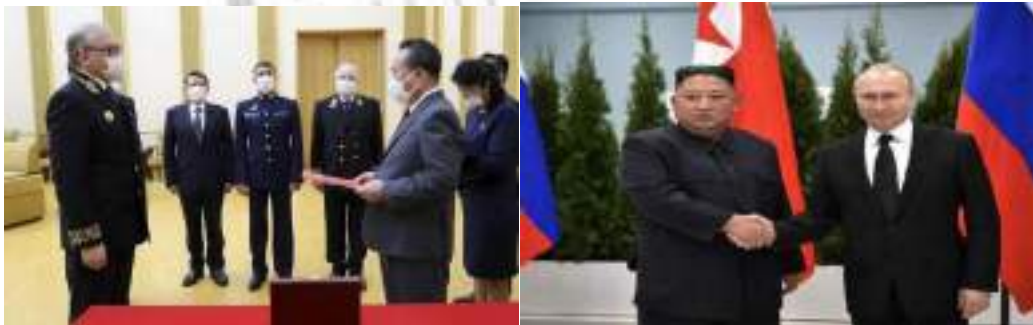
❖ **Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020**

> **Siddharth Varadarajan an Indian journalist has been named for Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020. Siddharth Varadarajan, one of the founding editors of nonprofit online newspaper The Wire.**

❖ **SKYTRAX Award**

> **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has won this year's SKYTRAX Award for Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.**

❖ **Russian President Vladimir Putin - has awarded North Korea's Premier Kim Jong-un, a commemorative World War II medal**

- ➤ The medal was awarded to Kim for his role in preserving the memory of Soviet soldiers, who died on North Korean territory
- ➤ The event marked the 75th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany during World War II which took place from 1939 to 1945.

❖ **Quarraisha Abdool Karim, a South African HIV researcher - has been awarded one of France's top science prize, Christophe Merieux Prize.**

❖ Manipuri doctor, <u>Thangjam Dhabali Singh</u> has been conferred with "<u>Order of Rising Sun- Gold and Silver Rays</u>" by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India.

❖ The Norwegian Academy of Science is to award the Abel Prize for the year 2020 to the two great mathematicians Hillel Frustenberg and Gregory Margulis. They are being honoured for their work towards probability and dynamics in number theory, combinatorics and Group Theory.

❖ <u>Himachal Pradesh won e-Panchayat Puraskar 2020</u>

❖ <u>Amartya Sen won Peace Prize</u>

   ➢ Nobel-laureate Indian economist Amartya Sen has won the prestigious Peace Prize of the **German Book Trade** for his decades-long work on **"questions of global justice"**.

❖ <u>Rattan Lal got 2020 World Food Prize</u>

   ➢ Indian American soil scientist **Dr Rattan Lal** has won the **World Food Prize** for mainstreaming and developing soil centric approach in order to increase food production.

   ➢ Dr Lal's strategy of restoring soil health has been adopted by three United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

❖ **J&K conferred with three prestigious awards**

➢ **Jammu and Kashmir** has been conferred with three prestigious **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Sashaktikaran Puraskar** for its outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of the Gram Panchayats across the state/UTs.

❖ **Javed Akhtar has become the first Indian to receive the Richard Dawkins award**

❖ **Gold rating for Trichy Railway Junction**

➢ The Trichy Railway Junction has been given the Gold rating by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for implementing various environment-friendly measures.

❖ **Deccan Development Society (DDS) has won the Biodiversity award 2020**

➢ Given by Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

➢ The award is given to recognise the individuals for their actions and the organisations for their contribution in preserving the planet in the three priority areas of the foundation.

❖ **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was named the EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020**
➢ In the award's 20-year history, Mazumdar-Shaw is the first woman entrepreneur from India and the third Indian to win it.

❖ **Schizophrenia International Research Society**
➢ **Chennai-based Dr Rangaswamy Thara – was announced the recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Award conferred by the Schizophrenia International Research Society**
➢ Dr. Thara will receive the award at the 2021 Congress of the Schizophrenia International Research Society in Toronto, Canada.

- A psychiatrist by training, Dr. Thara is the co-Founder of SCARF (Schizophrenia Research Foundation), which is the premium Collaborating Centre of the WHO for mental health research.
- She has been an expert in the use of mobile tele-psychiatry to deliver high quality care for schizophrenia in resource-less rural communities, which is now serving more than 1,500 patients.

❖ **Acclaimed Bharatanatyam couple from Chennai, VP Dhananjayan and Shanta Dhananjayan - has been conferred with the Sangeetha Kala Vibhushan award.**

- The award is conferred by Mumbai-based Shanmukhananda Sangeetha Sabha, one of the oldest cultural organisation in the country.
- The lifetime achievement award carries a cash prize of `2.5 lakh, a citation, a bronze lamp, a memento and a shawl.

Award	Awardee
P C Mahalanobis Lifetime Achievement Award	C Rangarajan
Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2020 list of 'Great Immigrants'	Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty
2020 Diana Award	Freya Thakral
Overall Winner of the 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize	Kritika Pandey
Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM) 2020	Lt Col Bharat Pannu
Lifetime achievement award by the Kolkata based football club – Mohun Bagan Athletic Club	Legendary Hockey Player Ashok Kumar
Mohun Bagan Ratna	Hockey legend Gurbux Singh and former first-class cricketer Palash Nandi
2020 International Press Freedom Awards for their courageous act	The Committee to Protect Journalists(CPJ) has announced that 4 Journalists, Shahidul

	Alam from Bangladesh, Mohammad Mosaed from Iran, Dapo Olorunyomi from Nigeria and Svetlana Prokopyeva from Russia
'Development Marketplace Award 2020: Innovations to Address Gender-Based Violence' from World Bank Group and Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)	Institute for Human Development (IHD), an Indian non-profit institution.
"Elites Excellence Awards 2020"	Chhattisgarh has been awarded this honour by the country's prestigious IT institution Elites Technomedia, New Delhi under the 'Digital India initiative'.
Paul Harris Fellow recognition by Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, Chicago	Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami
Von Karman Award 2020 by the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)	ISRO Chief K Sivan
Global Humanitarian Awards 2020	Sachin Awasthi is a person who organised a 5-day long clean Ganga awareness journey which was begun from Haridwar to Varanasi
'Infra Business Leader of the Year'	Ved Parkash Dudeja (vice chairman of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA))
Global Leadership Award 2020	Tata group chairman, Natarajan Chandrasekaran and Chief Executive Officer and President of Lockheed Martin, Jim Taiclet
2020 Nelson Mandela Prize	Guinean doctor Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece

Indian battalion (INDBATT) has stationed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has won an environment award for a project that

aims to decrease waste generation, reuse plastic, build greenhouses and compost pits.

NTPC Ltd has been awarded with the prestigious **CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019.**

The central PSU under Ministry of Power has been awarded under Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category.

Shanghai Electric's SEunicloud Platform Wins World's First Industrial Intelligence Award at WAIC (World Artificial Intelligence Conference) 2020.

The 17 year old climate activist from Sweden, **Greta Thunberg** has been named **winner** of the **inaugural Gulbenkian Prize** for **Humanity.**

❖ Renowned Indian Animator Arnab Chaudhuri Posthumously Conferred with Toonz Media Award 2020

❖ SS Motivation Founder & CEO Sunil ydv SS Honored with Karamveer Chakra Award of United Nations and ICONGO

❖ Aditya, India's first solar-powered ferry has won the inaugural Gustave Trouve Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating.

❖ The **Ministry of Earth Sciences** (MoES) has **announced** the winners of **"MoES National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science"**.

Here is the complete list of winners:

Sr.No.	Award	Winner
1	Life Time Excellence Award	Professor Ashok Sahni
2	National Award for Atmospheric Science & technology	Dr. S. Suresh Babu
3	National award for Geoscience & technology	N. V. Chalapathi Rao

4	National Award for Ocean Technology	Dr. M. A. Atmanand	
5	Anna Mani award for woman scientist	Dr. Lidita D. S. Khandeparker	
6	Young Researcher Awards	Dr. Indra Sekhar Sen	
7	National Award for Ocean Science & technology	Dr. V. V. S. S. Sarma	

Smart India Hackathon-2020

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune wins first prize in Smart India Hackathon-2020.

SKOCH Gold Award

presented to MoTribal Affairs for its project of Scholarship Division – "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" & eSamadhan.

29-Year-Old Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld becomes youngest to win International Booker Prize 2020

• The **International Booker Prize 2020** has been won by **Dutch author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** for her debut novel *'The Discomfort of Evening'*.

Mental Calculation World Championship 2020

Neelkantha Bhanu Prakash of Hyderabad has become the first Indian to win the gold medal at the Mental Calculation World Championship 2020 at Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO) held in London recently.

Punjab University wins prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy for second consecutive year

#NationalSportsAwards 2020

- Rajiv Gandhi #KhelRatna Award: 5
- Dronacharya Award: 13
- #ArjunaAward: 27
- Dhayn Chand Award: 15
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2019: 8
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy: 1
- Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: 4

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020

KHEL RATNA AWARD

Rohit SHARMA — Cricket
Mariyappan THANGAVELU — Para Athelete
Manika BATRA — Table Tennis
Vinesh PHOGAT — Wrestling
Rani RAMPAL — Hockey

➢ **Rohit Sharma**– Cricketer (4th cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni,
and Virat Kohli to win this
➢ This is for the first time that 5 players have been selected for this award.

தமிழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த மாற்றுத் திறனாளி தடகள வீரர் ரஞ்சித் குமாருக்கு தயான்சந்த் விருது

ARJUNA AWARD- to recognize outstanding achievements in sports.

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson (Shri)	Discipline
1.	Shri Atanu Das	Archery
2.	Ms. Dutee Chand	Athletics
3.	Shri Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy	Badminton
4.	Shri Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty	Badminton
5.	Shri Vishesh Bhriguvanshi	Basketball
6.	Subedar Manish Kaushik	Boxing
7.	Ms. Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
8.	Shri Ishant Sharma	Cricket
9.	Ms. Deepti Sharma	Cricket
10.	Shri Sawant Ajay Anant	Equestrian
11.	Shri Sandesh Jhingan	Football
12.	Ms. Aditi Ashok	Golf
13.	Shri Akashdeep Singh	Hockey
14.	Ms. Deepika	Hockey
15.	Shri Deepak	Kabaddi
16.	Shri Kale Sarika Sudhakar	Kho Kho
17.	Shri Dattu Baban Bhokanal	Rowing
18.	Ms. Manu Bhaker	Shooting
19.	Shri Saurabh Chaudhary	Shooting
20.	Ms. Madhurika Suhas Patkar	Table Tennis
21.	Shri Divij Sharan	Tennis
22.	Shri Shiva Keshavan	Winter Sports
23.	Ms. Divya Kakran	Wrestling
24.	Shri Rahul Aware	Wrestling
25.	Shri Suyash Narayan Jadhav	Para Swimming
26.	Shri Sandeep	Para Athletics
27.	Shri Manish Narwal	Para Shooting

DRONACHARYA AWARD (Life-Time Category)- for Sports coaching honor in India

S. No.	Name of the Coach	Discipline
1.	Shri Dharmendra Tiwary	Archery
2.	Shri Purushotham Rai	Athletics
3.	Shri Shiv Singh	Boxing
4.	Shri Romesh Pathania	Hockey
5.	Shri Krishan Kumar Hooda	Kabaddi
6.	Shri Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar	Para Powerlifting
7.	Shri Naresh Kumar	Tennis
8.	Shri Om Parkash Dahiya	Wrestling

DHYAN CHAND AWARD- Lifetime Achievement sporting honour in India

S. No.	Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Kuldip Singh Bhullar	Athletics
2.	Ms. Jincy Philips	Athletics
3.	Shri Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe	Badminton
4.	Ms. Trupti Murgunde	Badminton
5.	Ms. N. Usha	Boxing
6.	Shri Lakha Singh	Boxing
7.	Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu	Football
8.	Shri Ajit Singh	Hockey
9.	Shri Manpreet Singh	Kabaddi
10.	Shri J. Ranjith Kumar	Para Athletics
11.	Shri Satyaprakash Tiwari	Para Badminton
12.	Shri Manjeet Singh	Rowing
13.	Late Shri Sachin Nag	Swimming
14.	Shri Nandan P Bal	Tennis
15.	Shri Netarpal Hooda	Wrestling

- ➢ Government enhances prize money of Khel Ratna, Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyanchand Awards
- ➢ On the occasion of the National Sports Day on 29 August 2020, the Ministry of
  Sports has announced a **hike in the award money for four of the seven**
- ➢ **categories of the National Sports and Adventure Awards.**
- ➢ Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju offically announced the new massive hike in the prize
  money.

Award	Old Prize Money	Enhanced Prize Money
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	Rs 7.5 lakh	Rs 25 lakh
Arjuna Award	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 15 lakh
Dhronacharya (Lifetime)	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 15 lakh
Dhronacharya (Regular)	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 10 lakh
Dhyanchand Award	Rs 5 lakh	Rs 10 lakh

- The prize money for the Sports Awards was last reviewed in 2008.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

JK Rowling	**The Ickabog**
Fang Fang	**Wuhan Diary**
Vadhan	**Fear of God**
Colonel VN Thapar and Neha Dwived	**Vijyant at Kargil**
Ruskin Bond	**Hop On; My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes**

Book / Novel	Authour
Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India	Amish Tripathi
#MeToo	Karan Puri
The Penguin Hamish Hamilton has released a debut novel of Megha Majumdar	A Burning
"The Dry Fasting Miracle: From Deprive to Thrive".	Luke Coutinho
Behind the Mask	Mohammed Abdul Mannan

Book / Novel	Authour
Mahaveer:The Soldier Who Never Died	A.K. Srikumar & Rupa Srikumar
Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India	R C Bhargava
Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver	Former RBI governor Urjit Patel
Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends	CA V Pattabhi Ram
Novel on 1962 Indo-China War titled 'Mahaveer: The Soldier who never died'	A.K. Srikumar and Rupa Srikumar
'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography'	Tenzin Geyche Tethong
'A Song of India'	Ruskin Bond
"If It Bleeds"	Stephen King
"The Endgame"	Crime writer, S Hussain Zaidi
"Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India"	Viral V.Acharya Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor
"The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World".	S Jaishankar Minister of External Affairs in the Government of India,
Suraj Kade Marda Nahi (sun never dies)	Sahitya Akademi Award winner, Baldev Singh Sadaknama

Book / Novel	Authour
'Amazing Ayodhya'	a new book by author Neena Rai, tells history of Lord Rama's birth place
'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations'	Yatish Yadav
"Vishesh: Code To Win"	Nirupama Yadav (The book narrates the inspirational story on the life of Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, India's youngest basketball team captain.)
Third series of book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing'	Comprising collection of speeches by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released
"Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World"	Dalai Lama
"Full Spectrum: India"s Wars, 1972-2020"	Former Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam
'One Arranged Murder'	Chetan Bhagat
'Cricket Drona'	Book on renowned Cricket Coach Vasoo Paranjape
"Who painted my lust red?"	Sree Iyer

OBITUARY

- ❖ **India's football legend & Padma Shri awardee Chuni Goswami passed away.**

- ❖ **Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Ajit Jogi (74 years) - died on May 29 after being hospitalised in Raipur following a heart attack.**

  - ➢ Ajit Jogi was the first chief minister of Chhattisgarh after it was created out of Madhya Pradesh as a separate State in November 2000.

- ❖ **Famous actor Rishi Kapoor passed away**

- ❖ **Former Union Minister Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away. Born in Tamil Nadu**

Obituary
❖ Renowned Tamil scholar and son of Bharathidasan, Mannar Mannan.
❖ Former West Indies cricketer Everton Weekes
❖ Ivory Coast's Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly
❖ Sahitya Akademi winning Kannada writer Geetha Nagabhushan
❖ 92 year old Paolo Tommasi, an Italian architect-artist who helped design the Matrimandir at Auroville
❖ Hawkins Cookers Chairman Brahm Vasudeva.
❖ Maharashtra's first woman State Election Commissioner (SEC) Neela Satyanarayan.
❖ Civil Rights pioneer John Lewis
❖ Eminent mathematician C S Seshadri. He was the founder and Director-Emeritus of the Chennai Mathematical Institute.
❖ Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon
❖ Child Rights Activist Achyutha Rao
❖ Tanzania's former president Benjamin Mkapa
❖ Tamil scholar and Marxist literary critic Kovai Gnani

- Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Sa. Kandasamy** passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- The former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) **Amar Singh**
- Former Maharashtra CM, **Shivajirao Patil**
- Father of Modern Indian theatre & Padma Awardee **Ebrahim Alkazi**
- Former **Taiwan** president, **Lee Teng-hui** dubbed as "Mr. Democracy" in Taipei City, Taiwan.
- Mukund Lath, prominent cultural historian and exponent of Mewati gharana.
- William English, the co-inventor of the computer mouse.
- Congress MP Harikrishnan Vasanthakumar
- 'Black Panther' star Chadwick Boseman.
- Former cricketer Gopalaswamy Kasturirangan passes away
- Noted Tamil film lyricist P K Muthusami.
- Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh Minister Chetan Chauhan
- Computer Scientist Russell A. Kirsch, who Invented Pixel.

App / Portals

'eBloodServices' mobile app	Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the 'eBloodServices' mobile App developed by the Indian Red Cross Society. This app makes it easy for those in need to request for Blood units.
"NADA App".	Kiren Rijiju has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app.
'Flyzy' App	IIT-Guwahati students developed a mobile app The creators of the application 'Flyzy' have termed it as India's first dedicated modern aviation solution which enables safe and contactless air travel.
'Air-Venti' App	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has launched a mobile application "Air-Venti" to help residents in the city to know about the availability of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and Ventilators in both government and private hospitals around them.
'Sodar' App	Google has launched a new app that will help people maintain distance in real life.
"COVID BEEP" app	It is the country's first indigenous wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for the affected patients.
Ghar Ghar Nigrani app	The Punjab government has launched a mobile application aimed at undertaking house to house surveillance to contain the spread of COVID-19.
"Meghasandesha"	The Karnataka government has launched App. It would provide real-time information as well as forecast on rains, flooding and thunderstorm alerts in Bengaluru.
TS-Weather	Mobile app for weather info: Telangana The Telangana government has launched a mobile application that enables people to access information about weather conditions.
"MeraVetan"	Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has launched a salary tracker mobile app "MeraVetan".
Abhyas mobile app	Competitive exam students preferring Hindi can

	now practice on their mobile devices with Hindi mock tests released on the National Test Abhyas smartphone app by NTA.
Robot 'CAPTAIN ARJUN'	Central Railway Launches Robot 'CAPTAIN ARJUN' to intensify screening, surveillance of passengers in Pune. 'CAPTAIN ARJUN' stands for Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice
Robot 'Coro-bot'	World's first 'Internet-controlled' robot 'Coro-bot' Developed by Maharashtra's Engineer
Aarogyapath	The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched a healthcare supply chain portal named "Aarogyapath", to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies to manufacturers, suppliers and customers.
Karmo Bhumi	West Bengal Govt launches job portal 'Karmo Bhumi' for IT professionals
Lung UltraSound (LUS) App	The IIT-Palakkad - has developed a new automated lung ultrasound (LUS) App for Covid-19 screening and monitoring through cloud-based image analysis and scoring system.

Self Scan app	West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a mobile application 'Self Scan', developed by the state's information technology department, to scan documents and said it reflects patriotism. It is an alternative to CamScanner.
Elyments	India's first social media super application, Elyments, was launched by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. The app was created by more than 1,000 IT professionals who came together for Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder of the Art of Living.
Skill Connect Forum	Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa launched 'Skill Connect Forum', a portal that connects job seekers with employers on a common platform.
LEAD	New Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia launched an e-learning portal

	LEAD (Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi) developed by the Delhi government that contains 10,000 instructional materials and course content for Classes I to XII
MSME - Udyam	MSME Ministry launches new portal for registration of MSMEs under the name Udyam Registration
JioMeet	Reliance launches unlimited free conferencing app JioMeet
MahaJobs	Maharashtra Govt launches 'MahaJobs' portal for unemployed youths of the state
Google Currents	Google Rebrands its Social Networking App Google+ as Google Currents
e-Kisaan Dhan	HDFC Bank Unveils 'e-Kisaan Dhan' app for farmers
ICAT launches an e-portal "ASPIRE"	An e-Portal named "Automobile Solutions Portal for Industry, Research & Education (ASPIRE)" has been launched by the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT).
"ATL App Development Module"	launched by the NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) for school students nationwide.
Mobile App PM SVANidhi	The **mobile application** of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi **(PM SVANidhi)** has been launched. To provide **affordable Working Capital loan** to **street vendors** in order to enable them resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown
KURMA APP	a mobile-based application called KURMA was launched for turtle conservation, which has been hailed by the Government
'Mausam'	IMD launches first weather app 'Mausam' for general public
'RestartIndia'	Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches 'RestartIndia' advisory platform for MSME sector
'Pravasi Rojgar'	Actor Sonu Sood Launches 'Pravasi Rojgar' app to

	help migrants find job opportunities across India
'Rozgaar Bazaar'	Delhi Government Launches online job portal 'Rozgaar Bazaar'
BISCare	Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched the Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App BISCare.
http://labour.tn.gov.in	The labour department – has launched an online portal for fresh registration of eligible workers from various unorganised sectors being left out of the government Covid-19 welfare schemes during the lockdown

E-Gyan Mitra	The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH) and Daman and Diu (DD) has launched a mobile app named E-Gyan Mitra for online education, keeping in view the ongoing phase of Coronavirus pandemic.
AIR SUVIDHA	Delhi Airport Launches Online Portal 'AIR SUVIDHA' for India-bound International Passengers
Overhead Equipment (OHE) Inspection app	Indian Railways launches "OHE Inspection app" for real-time monitoring
"Surakhsya"	Centre Launches "Surakhsya"- National Portal on Human-Elephants Conflict
'Swasthya'	Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya'. It is a first o fits kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition-related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.
VedKrishi.com	The Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari has launched an online farm-to-fork service platform called VedKrishi.com. The platform will connect farmers to the consumers.
SRIJAN	The "Atmanirbhar Bharat" week was organised by the Ministry of Defence from August 7 to 14, 2020.
Mobile app 'Kormo'	Google launches Mobile app 'Kormo' in India **to help people find entry-level jobs.**

mobile app 'Harit Path'	Nitin Gadkari launches mobile app 'Harit Path' **to monitor plantation along national highways.**
mobile app 'My IAF'	Indian Air Force launches mobile app 'My IAF' to provide career-related information to aspirants
mobile app 'Pension Corner'	CISF launches mobile app 'Pension Corner' for its retired personnels'.
'KIRAN'	Ministry of Social Justice launches Mental Health Rehabilitation helpline 'KIRAN' to assist people to cope with mental health issues, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDEX, RANKING AND REPORT

❖ **The World Economic Forum (WEF) - announced that India has moved up two positions and is ranked at 74th place on the annual global energy transition index, released on May 13, 2020.**

➢ India has shown improvement in key parameters of economic security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability to achieve a better ranking.

❖ **As per the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP), India ranked at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and accountability. New Zealand has topped the list.**

Report:
3,604 Shramik Special trains ferried more than 48 lakh migrants since May 1

The top five states from where maximum trains originated are Gujarat (946), Maharashtra (677), Punjab (377), Uttar Pradesh (243) and Bihar (215).

On May 1, the Indian Railways started the migrant special trains to facilitate the movement of such workers back to their home states.

These 'Shramik Special' trains were terminated in various states across the country.

Ranking	Top	Extra Info
Environment Performance Index 2020	Denmark	India- 168
IMD's World Competitiveness Index 2020	Singapore	India- 43
Largest Economy on PPP basis for 2017: World Bank Report	US	India- 3
'THE Young University Ranking 2020'	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	IIT-Ropar (Punjab) top Indian at 62.
THE Asia University Ranking 2020	Tsinghua University, China	IISc top Indian Institute.
Forbes' 2020 list of world's highest paid athletes	Roger Federer	Virat Kohli only Indian in the list, ranked at 66.
largest recipient of FDI in 2019 as per World Investment Report 2020, of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	US	India- 9
highest nuclear weapons stockpile as per SIPRI Yearbook 2020	US	India- 6
Bloomberg Billionaires Index & Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list.	Jeff Bezos - CEO of Amazon	Mukesh Ambani at 9th Position

Startup Ecosystem Rankings Report 2020	United States	India- 23
Driver of Global Energy Consumption in 2019: BP Statistical Review	China	India- 2

Ranking	Top	Extra Info
UN Report titled 'Global E-waste Monitor 2020'	China	India stands third largest contributor to e-waste in 2019
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index 2020	Sweden	India – 117
JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index	UK	India – 34
Cancer preparedness among 10 Asia-Pacific countries - EIU Report	Australia	India – 8
Cushman & Wakefield's 2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index	Baseline & Cost Scenario – China. Risk Scenario - Canada	India ranks 3rd in the Baseline Scenario, 3rd in Cost Scenario & 30th in Risk Scenario
Global Skills Index 2020 Report	Data Science & Technology Domain – Russia. Business Domain – Switzerland.	India Ranked 34th in Business Domain, 51st in Data Science Domain & 40th in Technology Domain.
Intellectual Property (IP) filing activity, as per World	China	India – 7

Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report		
Cushman & Wakefield's 2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index	Baseline & Cost Scenario – China. Risk Scenario - Canada	India ranks 3rd in the Baseline Scenario, 3rd in Cost Scenario & 30th in Risk Scenario
Global Skills Index 2020 Report	Data Science & Technology Domain – Russia. Business Domain – Switzerland.	India Ranked 34th in Business Domain, 51st in Data Science Domain & 40th in Technology Domain.
Intellectual Property (IP) filing activity, as per World Intellectual Property Indicators-2019 Report	China	India – 7
World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA) Report	US	India – 15th
Top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas in the last decade (2010-2020) as per the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	China	India – 3rd

Ranking	Top	Extra Info
Hurun Global Unicorn List 2020	US with 233 unicorns tops	India has 4th highest unicorns globally at 21, valued at $73.2

		billion,
FutureBrand Index 2020	Apple tops	Reliance Industries ranks second biggest brand globally

IIT Madras Tops Atal Rankings (ARIIA) 2020

➤ The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has retained the top position in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements,' (ARIIA) 2020 for being the best centrally funded institution in India.

➤ The 2020 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA),' was released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, in presence of Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' in a virtual event on 18 August 2020.

Swachh Survekshan 2020: Indore ranked cleanest city for the fourth consecutive year
➤ Indore city of Madhya Pradesh has been ranked as the cleanest city of India under the Swachh Survekshan 2020. It has won the Cleanest city tag for the fourth consecutive year.
➤ The results were announced on 20 August by the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA), Hardeep Singh Puri.
➤ Surat (Gujarat) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) are the second and third most cleanest city, respectively in the ranking.
➤ 2020 Swachh Survekshan is the 5th edition of the annual exercise and covered 4,242 cities.

Amul (16th) becomes first Indian dairy company to be in Rabobank's Global Top 20 Dairy Companies list;Top- Nestle

❖ **Tamilnadu ranked Thrid place in NITI Aayog's inaugural Export Preparedness Index 2020**
➤ NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness has released the first edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 on 26 August 2020.
➤ The overall Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 has been topped by Gujarat.
➤ Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu ranked second and third respectively.
➤ Six of eight coastal states feature in the top ten rankings.

> Across the Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.

❖ **Tamil Nadu - jumped to the 10th spot in 2020 from 12th last year in the overall ranking for cleanest cities, according to the Swachh Survekshan 2020 report**

Covid – 19

❖ <u>**SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre in Kattankulathur - has been chosen as a clinical trial site by the Indian Council of Medical Research for the country's first indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.**</u>

❖ **After Delhi, Chennai - will soon have the country's second 'plasma bank' at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH).**

❖ **Tamilnadu topped the list of states receiving the highest number of medical consultations through e-Sanjeevani for telecommunication medical advice recently introduced by the Central Government**

❖ <u>**On August 14, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - launched the distribution of medical kits worth ₹2,500 each under the Amma COVID-19 Homecare scheme**</u>
> The kit will be issued for the benefit of those who have COVID-19 symptoms and have been advised home quarantine.

Culture

❖ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – quoted a 'Thirukkural' couplet on July 3, while addressing the jawans in Ladakh**

மறமானம் மாண்ட வழிச்செலவு தேற்றம்
எனநான்கே ஏமம் படைக்கு.

இந்த குரலின் பொருள் வீரம்", மானம், முன்னோர் சென்ற வழியை பின்பற்றி செல்லுதல், தலைவனின் நம்பிக்கையைப் பெற்று நடப்பது ஆகியவை ஒரு படையைப் பாதுகாக்கும் பண்புகளாகும் என்பதாகும்.

➢ By quoting the Thirukkural, the PM highlighted the valour of soldiers and the characteristics of an army.
➢ The quote reads as -
  "Maramaanam Maanda Vazhichchelavu Thaetram
   Ena Naanghae Emam Padaikku"
  Meaning: (Valour, honour, learnings from our predecessors and trust show the true characteristics of an army).

❖ **Four spherical weighing stones of different sizes - have been unearthed at Keeladi in Sivaganga district over the past one week**
➢ The sixth phase of excavation by the state archaeology department is currently under way at the heritage site.
➢ These black coloured stones were of various sizes, weighing 300g, 150g, 18g and 8g, and made out of basalt.

➢ Basalt is an extrusive igneous rock formed from rapid cooling of magnesium-rich and iron-rich lava.

❖ **Tamil-Brahmi and Vattezhuttu inscriptions found near Madurai**
  ➤ A rare memorial pillar with 2,000-year-old Tamil Brahmi inscriptions was found on the premises of Ekanathan Mutt in Kinnimangalam, a village near Madurai.

  ➤ The inscriptions in three lines read, "Ekan Athan Kottam", which means the region or territory of Ekan Athan, preferably a king or chieftain of the region. Even though 'Athan' is a common name that appears in many Brahmi inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu, this is the first time 'Kottam' appears on an inscription slab.

❖ **A four-feet tall huge burial urn with its lid intact - has been unearthed by archaeologists at the Adichanallur site in Tuticorin district.**

  ➤ With this, 10 urns of different sizes have been discovered in this ancient site during this phase of excavation, which began on May 25.

❖ **CM unveils foundation stone for museum at Keeladi**
  ➤ On July 20, TN Chief Minister K Palaniswami laid the foundation stone for the museum at Konthagai village to showcase the findings at the ancient Keeladi site, through video conferencing from the state Secretariat.

❖ **Union culture minister Prahlad Singh Patel - announced the creation of a new circle of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Tamil Nadu**
  ➤ The Chennai circle of ASI will be bifurcated to accommodate a new circle, which will be headquartered at Trichy

WHAT'S IN STORE

> Chennai circle, maintaining 411 monuments and sites in TN, is **ASI's largest circle**

> It is to be bifurcated into two with the **new circle headquartered at Trichy**

> Over **60% of Chennai circle's** monuments and heritage sites will come under the purview of Trichy circle

> Chennai circle will comprise Chennai, Mamallapuram, Kancheepuram, Gingee, Vellore and Puducherry sub-circles

> Trichy circle will comprise Salem, Trichy, Thanjavur and Thirumayam (Pudukkottai dist) sub-circles

MAY - NEWS OF THE MONTH

Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

- Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan supports Indian economy in fight against COVID-19
- The clarion call given by the Hon'ble PM to use these trying times to become Atmanirbhar (self-reliant)

The Five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat focus on:

1. Economy
2. Infrastructure
3. System
4. Vibrant Demography
5. Demand

The Five phases of Atmanirbhar Bharat are:

- Phase I: Businesses including MSMEs
- Phase II: Poor, including migrants and farmers
- Phase III: Agriculture
- Phase IV: New Horizons of Growth
- Phase V: Government Reforms and Enablers

S.NO	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	1,92,800
6.	RBI Measures (Actual)	8,01,603
	Sub Total	9,94,403
	GRAND TOTAL	20,97,053

Stimulus provided in Part-1	(Rs Crore)
Emergency W/C Facility for Businesses, incl MSMEs	3,00,000
Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs	20,000
Fund of Funds for MSME	50,000
EPF Support for Business & Workers	2,800
Reduction in EPF rates	6,750
Special liquidity Scheme for NBFC/HFC/ MFIs	30,000
Partial credit guarantee Scheme 2.0 for Liabilities of IBFCs/MFIs	45,000
Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs	90,000
Reduction in TDS/TCS rates	50,000

Stimulus provided in Part-2	(Rs Crore)
Free Food grain Supply to Migrant Workers for 2 months	3,500
Interest Subvention for MUDRA Shishu Loans	1,500
Special Credit Facility to Street Vendors	70,000
Housing CLSS-MIG	5,000
Additional Emergency WorkingCapital through NABARD	30,000
Additional credit through KCC	2,00,000

Stimulus provided in Part-3	(Rs Crore)
Food Micro enterprises	10,000
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana	20,000
TOP to TOTAL: Operation Greens	500
Agri Infrastructure Fund	1,00,000
Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund	15,000
Promotion of Herbal Cultivation	4,000
Beekeeping Initiative	500

Stimulus provided in Part-4 & 5	(Rs Crore)
Viability Gap Funding	8,100
Additional MGNREGS allocation	40,000

3RD TRANCHE OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS: KEY MEASURES

- Setting up of Rs 1 lakh cr agriculture fund for farm-gate infrastructure

- Rs 4,000cr for herbal cultivation in India

- Rs 10,000cr scheme for formalisation of micro food enterprises (MFE)

- Rs 20,000cr for fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development fund worth Rs 15,000cr

- Rs 500 crore scheme for infrastructure development related to bee-keeping

- Amendments to Essential Commodities Act to enable better price realisation for farmers

- Agriculture marketing reforms to provide marketing choices to farmers

- Extension of 'Operation Greens' to all fruits and vegetables

- Legal framework to help farmers fix their own price for products

- Launch of National Animal Disease Control Programme for foot and mouth disease with outlay of Rs 13,343cr

SELF-RELIANT INDIA CAMPAIGN

The second set of measures under the ₹20 lakh crore Covid-19 economic stimulus package focuses on migrant workers, street vendors, small farmers, the urban poor

MIGRANTS
₹3,500 cr
Free food grain for migrants

80 million
migrants to get 5kg wheat/rice per person and 1kg pulse per family for the next 2 months

One nation, one ration scheme: PDS cards can be used in any ration shop in any part of country; 670 million beneficiaries in 23 states

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
■ Converting government-funded housing to affordable housing complexes
■ Incentivising industries to build housing complexes on own land
■ Incentivising govt agencies to develop such housing complexes

FARMERS
₹30,000 cr
Additional emergency working capital funding through NABARD to benefit 30 mn small and marginal farmers

₹2 lakh cr
Concessional credit boost through Kisan Credit Cards to help 25 million farmers and fishermen

STREET VENDORS
₹5,000 cr
Special credit facility for street vendors for easy access to credit: 5 million street vendors expected to benefit

JOB CREATION
₹6,000 cr
of CAMPA funds to be used to create job opportunities in urban, semi-urban and rural areas

FOR FAMILIES
₹70,000 cr
boost to housing sector through Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS); those with ₹6-18L income to benefit

MUDRA LOANS
₹1,500 cr
Relief for MUDRA-Shishu loans-holders. Govt to provide interest subvention of 2% for a period of 12 months

Booster dose

The third tranche of the measures announced under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** focuses on agriculture and allied activities

• Funds worth **₹1 lakh crore** to be given to agricultural cooperative societies, farmer producer organisations and start-ups for boosting farm-gate infrastructure

• **₹10,000 crore** for formalisation of micro-food enterprises; cluster-based farming approach to be followed

• **₹20,000 crore** for fishermen under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana; expected to pave way for additional fish production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years

• **₹13,000 crore** drive to achieve 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalos, sheep, goats and pigs

A farmer carries strawberries after harvesting them in Srinagar on Friday. • NISSAR AHMAD

• **₹15,000 crore** boost for animal husbandry infrastructure

• **₹4,000 crore** for promotion of herbal cultivation; 10 lakh hectares to be covered

• **₹500 crore** for beekeeping initatives

• Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to be amended to de-regulate **cereals, edible oils, oilseeds, pulses, onion and potato**

• Marketing reforms to be undertaken to provide adequate choice for **farmers to sell produce** at prices of their choice

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a set of structural reforms across sectors as a part of the efforts to boost a sagging economy

COAL
Commercial mining on a revenue sharing basis to be introduced. Companies in the private sector will be allowed to carry out exploration

MINERALS
Composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime for minerals to be announced. 500 mining blocks will be auctioned

DEFENCE
A list of weapons/ platforms for ban on import will be notified. FDI limit in manufacturing under automatic route to be raised to 74%

CIVIL AVIATION
Restrictions on utilisation of the airspace will be eased so that flying becomes efficient. Now, only 60% of the airspace is freely available

POWER
Power departments/ utilities and distribution companies in U.T.s to be privatised. It will be in line with the tariff policy which is to be announced

SPACE
Privatisation to be introduced. Planetary exploration, outer space travel to be opened to the private sector

ATOMIC ENERGY
Research reactor in PPP mode to be set up for the production of medical isotopes