



CURRENT AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 2020

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IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
September from 1st September to 7th September	National Nutrition Week (NNW)	'Eat Right, Bite by Bite'
September 2	World Coconut Day	"Invest in Coconut to save the world"
September 5	National Teacher's Day	"Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future"
September 5	International Day of Charity	
September 7	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	
Septemb 8	International literacy Day	"Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond"
September 9	Himalyan Day or Himalaya Diwas	'Himalayas and Nature'
September 9	International Day to protect Education from Attack	"Protect Education, Save a Generation."
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	"Working Together To Prevent Suicide"
September 11	15th National Forest Martyr day	
September 11	Khejarli massacre	
September 11 (2nd Saturday of September)	World First Aid Day	'First aid saves lives. '
September 12	International Day of South - South Cooperation	
September 14	Hindi Diwas or Hindi Day	
September 15	International Day of Democracy	"COVID-19: A Spotlight on Democracy."
September 15	National Engineers' Day	"Engineers for a Self- Reliant India"
September 16	World Ozone Day	"Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection"
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	"Health worker safety: a

		priority for patient safety.”
September 18	11th World Bamboo Day (WBD)	“BAMBOO NOW”
September 18	1st International Equal Pay Day	Building back a better future of work by ensuring pay equity
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day	“Water and Climate Change”
September 19	International Coastal Clean-up Day	“Achieving a trash-free Coastline ”
September 19 (third Saturday of September)	International Red Panda Day	
September 21	International Day of Peace	“Shaping Peace Together”
September 21	World Alzheimer’s Day	‘Let’s talk about dementia’
September 22	World Rhino Day	“Five Rhino Species Forever”
September 22	World car Free Day	
September 22	World Rose Day	“Hanging The Way We Look At Cancer”
September 23	International Day of Sign languages (IDSL)	Sign Languages are for Everyone
September 24	World Maritime Day	
September 25	World Pharmacists Day	“Transforming Global Health”
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	‘uplifting the poorest of the poor’
September 26	World Environmental Health Day	Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention
September 26	World Contraception Day	
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism and Rural Development

September 27	World Deaf Day	“Reaffirming Deaf People’s Human Rights”
September 28	World Rabies day	‘End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate’
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to information	“Access to Information in Times of Crisis”
September 29	World Heart Day	“Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease. ’
September 29	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	“Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet.”
September 30	International Translation Day 2020	“Finding the words for a world in crisis”.



TAMIL NADU

1st State with Policies on Ethical AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) Edappadi K Palaniswami released Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy 2020 and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020(Nicknamed as ABC Policies)

Tamil Nadu safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020

- The Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy will promote investments in AI Research & Development in Tamil Nadu.
- It will provide a framework for inclusive, safe and ethical use of AI in Government domains. It will also build fairness, equity, transparency and trust in AI assisted decision making systems.

Oldest Memorial Stone

- It has certified that the stone pillar found in a **Pallipadai** mutt in **Kinnimangalam** village in **Madurai** is the oldest memorial stone to be discovered in Tamil Nadu till date.
- The stone pillar contains inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi language relating to the period between second century BC and first century BC

International Institute of Tamil Studies

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - released the translations of 1,837 select poetic works from '18 lesser texts' (known as Pathinenkilkanakku Noolgal in Tamil) in French and German
- The translations of these works in Hindi, Malayalam and Telugu were released by the Chief Minister in February last year.

Arabic translation of Thiruvalluvar's Thirukkural

- Hussain is the chairperson of the Board of studies in Arabic in the University of Madras
- According to the author, the Thirukkural classic text is the first and only Tamil literary work directly translated into Arabic.

Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA)

- The new authority will have CM Edappadi K Palaniswami as chairman and Deputy CM O Panneerselvam as vice-chairman, and the transport minister, chief secretary and vice-chairman of CUMTA as members.
- The CUMTA is aimed at integrating different public transport facilities, including the Metropolitan Transport Corporation, the Chennai Metro Rail Limited and the Southern Railway
- The authority will work towards a unified ticketing system aimed at providing better connectivity.

e-Shakthi platform of NABARD

- Women's self-help groups in four districts of Tamil Nadu - are enrolled on the e-Shakthi platform of NABARD
- The platform is an initiative of the funding agency to digitize the Self-help groups
- Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai, Nagappattinam and Virudhunagar are the four districts which are on the e-Shakthi platform.

Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC)

- The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) has partnered with global online learning platform, Coursera to train 50,000 unemployed youth in the state
- The State government, through TNSDC, is making 4,000 courses across eight sectors on Coursera – covering various in-demand skills – available to youths across the state.

Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river interlinking project last week

- The National Water Development Agency of the Union Jal Shakti ministry - submitted the draft detailed project report for implementing the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river interlinking project last week

Radar to help in surveillance and early warning of severe weather events

- The state-of-the-art indigenous weather radar will be installed on the premises of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Pallikaranai.
- The instrument will help in capturing weather events occurring within a radius of 80-100 km and assist providing forecasts on urban flooding

Mental health review boards

- The government – is planning to set up mental health review boards in 13 locations across Tamil Nadu
- The board will comprise of a retired district judge, a psychiatrist, a medical practitioner holding an MBBS degree, and a member of an NGO working in the field of mental health

Lion-tailed macaques

- The forest department will start the census of lion-tailed macaques in the Pollachi division of Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) in the first week of October
- The population of lion-tailed macaques in the Valparai region will be estimated in collaboration with the Nature Conservation Foundation

'Joyful English'

- The Department of tribal welfare has introduced a new fun-based learning programme to teach English language to tribal school dropouts in the state
- The students, under the new programme, are taught the language naturally using music, reading techniques, storytelling and theatre methods.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) branch office in Chennai

- The MHA had sanctioned two additional branches of NIA at Imphal, and Ranchi.
- Two teams of NIA officials from Kochi branch were deputed to identify a suitable location in Chennai

Others

- ❖ Tamilnadu Assembly was convened at Kalaivanar Arangam from September 14 to 16
- ❖ 24 bills were passed of which 19 bills were passed on September 16
- ❖ Some of them are
 - i. 7.5% reservation for government students in medical admission through NEET in Tamilnadu
 - ii. Dowry Punishment Maximum 10 years
 - iii. Bifurcation of Anna University

- ❖ India's First Solid Waste Management Project – Chennai Corporation with Spanish Firm 'Urbaser Sumeet'
- ❖ Recently in Selanthampalli of Thirupathur District 500 years old Kazhuvetra Nadukal and Udankattai Nadukal were excavated.
- ❖ Kaveri Kundaru Scheme – 14000 Crore Project

To be established

- ❖ Textile Park – Manakudi, Near Thiruvadanai in Ramanadhapuram District
- ❖ Maritime Food Park – Sakkarai-kottai, Ramanadhapuram
- ❖ Fish Landing Centre – Kundhukal, Ramanadhapuram
- ❖ Poultry Disease Research Centre - Namakkal
- ❖ 7 New Arts and Science College in
 - i. Coimbatore ii. Karur iii. Ariyalur iv. Villupuram
 - v. Virudhunagar vi. Ranipet vii. Nagapattinam
- ❖ Skill Development Centre – Ariyalur
- ❖ Biggest Film City – Uttar Pradesh

STATE

- **Anand Van**, a huge urban forest park has been developed at Jhajhra in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- It will be the **first urban forest park in Uttarakhand** developed to ease out air Pollution of the city with abundant greenery

PM Dedicates to the Nation Three key Projects related to petroleum sector in Bihar

- The projects include, the Durgapur - Banka Section of the Paradip - Haldia - Durgapur pipeline Augmentation project and two LPG bottling plants in East Champaran and Banka

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Launched a 'Poshan Sarkar' program

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launched a 'Poshan Sarkar' program with an Objective of ensuring active participation of local Bodies-Gram Panchayats and Urban bodies in the Nutrition Campaign

Biodiversity Council in Jammu and Kashmir

- The council is to be headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests.
- The main aim of the council is to ensure the conservation of biological diversity in the UT
- Under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, all the states are mandated to create their own biodiversity management committee or council
- These measures were taken after India signed Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992.

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR)

- The Assam government - has recently approved the addition of 30.53 sq. km (3,053 hectares) to the 884 sq. km Kaziranga National Park
- The three added areas would help provide connectivity to Orang and Nameri National Parks across river Brahmaputra from KNPTR

Cannabis Medicine Project to be Set up with Collaboration of Canada at Jammu

- 1st ever cannabis medicine project will be shortly set up with the collaboration of Canada at Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu.
- The progress of the construction of North India's 1st biotech industrial park in Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir was also reviewed .

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to Implement New Education Policy - 2020

- Himachal Pradesh became the first state to implement the National Education Policy 2020 in the Country as the Himachal Pradesh government on September 9, 2020 .

India's 'Largest Piggery Mission' launched in Meghalaya

Odisha Government Launches "GARIMA" Social Security Scheme for Sanitary Workers

- Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik launched a first-of-its-kind statewide scheme called "GARIMA" to ensure the safety and dignity of core sanitation workers of the state. He dedicated the scheme to Mahatma Gandhi

Mughal Museum in Agra

- The under-construction Mughal Museum in Agra - is all set to be renamed after Maratha icon Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- The Museum is to be designed showcasing Mughal history and will house artefacts belonging to the Mughal period.

'My Family, My Responsibility' Campaign to Tackle COVID-19

- In a bid to tackle the coronavirus pandemic among further relaxation of lockdown curbs, Maharashtra Chief Minister(CM) Uddhav Thackeray announced the launch of 'My Family, My Responsibility' Campaign
- The campaign aims to motivate the maximum number of people to adopt a new lifestyle for effective COVID-19 control and also aims to reach people before the virus reaches them.

Gujarat

- Parliament Accords National importance tag to three Gujarat Ayurveda Institutes

Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu & Kashmir Govt. Forms 10 – Member Biodiversity Council

Ease of Doing Business

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat are the top 5 States where doing business is easiest in the country



NATIONAL

Kashmir, Dogri and Hindi

- Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, the official languages of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir
- Currently, Urdu and English are the two official languages of the UT of J&K.

“Mission Karmayogi”- National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building

- “Mission Karmayogi” to enable government officers and employees get the opportunity to improve their performance under ‘iGOT-Karmayogi’ Digital Platform.
- The objective of this mission is to prepare the Indian Civil Servant for the future with right attitude, skills & knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India by focusing on competency led capacity building.

Ministry of Electronics and Information & Technology Bans 118 Chinese Mobile Apps

- The mobile applications have been banned as they were found to be harmful to the Sovereignty, Integrity, Defence of India and Public Order. The Government has banned them amidst the border tensions with China.

24/7 toll - free helpline ‘KIRAN’

- The mental health rehabilitation helpline, KIRAN, can be reached from landline and mobile phones across the country at the number 1800-599-0019

Prime Minister Modi -Inaugurates Patrika Gate in Jaipur

- The Patrika Gate was built by the Patrika group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.
- He also launched 2 books Samvad Upanishad and Akshar Yatra, authored by Gulab Kothari, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.

Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD)

- The Ministry of Road Transport will be implemented first in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The initiative is intended to collect accurate road crash data and other inputs from the accident spot
- The iRAD App is being customised to enable the police, transport and health department officials to use their mobile phones to collect road crash data.

Dispute redressal mechanism called SAROD ports

- SAROD refers to 'Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes'
- The SAROD Saroj Port was established to arbitrate the dispute between port and the concessionaire working with the port

Real Mango Software

- Real Mango software is an illegal software developed for booking Tatkal ticket over the IRCTC website.
- This illegal and banned software makes the entire process of Indian Rail ticket booking to be completed within seconds.

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- India - has won a seat at the prestigious UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women
- It is the principal global body focussed on gender equality and women empowerment

eSanjeevani and eSanjeevani OPD implemented by 23 states

- The Central Government has shown its efforts in giving a digital push in the health sector by initiating two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations in 2019

Square Kilometre Array (SKA) programme

- A global initiative to build the **world's largest radio telescope** - will have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services.

- Apart from TCS, several Indian scientific institutions are contributing to the project

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

- The Ministry of Social justice and empowerment has launched Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in more than 272 districts across the country.
- These districts were identified by the **narcotics control bureau**.
- The larger drug-incidence districts have been selected mostly from Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and North Eastern States.
- The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan is the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

J-K inked MoU with Army to Operationalise Kishtwar Airstrip

- Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Army for the development and operationalization of Airstrip in Kishtwar

National Agricultural Higher Education Project

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - launched Kritagya (Krishi-Raknik-Gyan) Hackathon under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project.
- It was launched with an objective to promote farm mechanization, especially to develop women friendly equipment for agri-sector

The National Medical Commission

- India's new medical education regulator, the National Medical Commission (NMC) - came into force on September 25, following a notification by the Centre
- The new 33-member regulator abolishes the 87-year-old Medical Council of India, which faced corruption charges in its later years.
- **Dr, Suresh Chandra Sharma** has been appointed as the first Chairman of the National Medical Commission AIIMS for three years.

India's First RRTS train with Design Speed of 180 kmph Unveiled

- India's first RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System) train unveiled by Durga Shanker Mishra,
- This first RRTS train will provide its services to 82 km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS in 2022 after trials.

"Destination North East - 2020" Festival

- The **theme** for Destination North East 2020 is "**The Emerging Delightful Destinations**".

"Ganga Avalokan" Museum

- "Ganga Avalokan" Museum on River Ganga at Chandi Ghat, Haridwar.
- It has been established by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), which is the nodal body to implement the 'Namami Gange' Programme along with Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

New Parliament Building

- **Tata Projects limited** on September 16, 2020 won the bid to construct a new parliament building at a cost of ₹ 861.9 Crore under the central Vista redevelopment project.
- Indian railways plans **7 more bullet Train Projects** at Rs. 10 Trillion Cost. The new routes will cover a total of 4, 869 Kilometres(Km). The Proposed routes are:

- i. Delhi - Varanasi (865km)
- ii. Mumbai - Nagpur (753 Km)
- iii. Delhi - Ahmedabad (886 Km)
- iv. Chennai - Mysore (435 km)
- v. Delhi - Amritsar (459Km)
- vi. Mumbai - Hyderabad (711Km)
- vii. Varanasi - Howrah (760Km)

New Atomic power Plants

There are presently twenty - two (22) reactors with a capacity of 6780 MW in operation in the country. In addition, nine (9) reactors, with a total capacity of 6700 MW are presently under construction. The Government has also accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for twelve (12) more reactors with an aggregate capacity of 9000 MW in June, 2017.

INTERNATIONAL

'Abraham Accord'

- The Peace agreement signed on September 15 between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and foreign ministers of Bahrain and UAE - is called 'Abraham Accord'
- **Historic: Gulf Kingdom of Bahrain becomes the fourth Arab country to Establish Diplomatic relations with Israel**

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

India, Afghanistan become Members of UN's Commission on Status of Women

- India & Afghanistan were elected as Members of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission on the Status of Women is a UN organ promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

India-Japan-Australia to Launch Resilient Supply Chain Initiative in the Indo-Pacific region

- India, Japan and Australia agreed to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) in the Indo-Pacific region. The initiative will help in building a resilient supply chain with focus on free, transparent trade & investment environment in the region.

India Launches First Ever Cargo Ferry Vessel "MCP Linz" to Maldives

- The First Ever Direct Cargo Ferry Service between India and Maldives. The services will be a big boost for business communities in India and Maldives

Nepal and India begin Joint Security Patrol along Border in Kapilvastu district

- The Security forces of Nepal and India have started a joint security patrol at the Nepal-India Border in Kapilvastu district, Nepal. The patrol has been started with a motive to control the spread of COVID-19 and keep in check the illegal cross-border activities at the Nepal-India Border.

India-UK Water Partnership Forum held Virtually on Water Conservation

- India-UK Water Partnership Forum was held virtually to discuss ways to collaborate on the issues pertaining to infrastructure development and water conservation

India Provided 1.54 billion NR as Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance in Nepal

- The Nepal earthquake of 2015 also known as “Gorkha earthquake” had severely affected thousands of lives as well as the economy.

India, Denmark Sign MoU to Increase Cooperation in Intellectual Property Rights

- India and Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the area of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) through exchange of best practices and collaborating in training programmes

Indo-Pacific under Quad framework

- Senior Officials from Ministry of External Affairs of India, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade of Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Department of State of United States of America held video conference for dialogue on regional and global issues of common interest under the Quadrilateral coalition or QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Framework.
- The officials exchanged views on cooperation in areas of maritime security, counter-terrorism, connectivity and infrastructure development, with objective of promoting peace, security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Military logistics Support arrangement

- **India and Japan** - signed mutual military logistics support arrangement (MLSA) in their annual summit
- The pact enables military forces of both countries to share logistics to support each other's warships and aircraft as well as boost overall interoperability and defence cooperation

Nepal - is to hold a virtual meeting of the foreign ministers of SAARC countries

- The foreign minister of Nepal will chair the online video conference.

Bilateral Summit between PM Narendra Modi & his Danish Counterpart Mette Frederiksen

- It should be noted that PM Modi proposed the creation of India-Denmark Green Energy Park to help Danish companies active in India along with **India-Denmark Skill Institute** to help Danish companies operating in India to select the people they require from the local skilled population.

India, Sweden Cooperation centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (e-Camp) joins hands with India- Sweden health care Innovation centre.

- Centre for cellular and Molecular platforms (CAMP) on September 4, 2020 signed a pact with the India Sweden Health - care innovation centre (ISIC) to jointly identify and nurture frugal innovations and make quality healthcare affordable and accessible for all

Germany Launches Indo - Pacific Strategy

- Germany, the current EU president and Europe's biggest economy, has launched its Indo - pacific strategy with India that is expected to play a key role in Berlin's outreach in the region where china's aggressive foreign policy has rattled countries.

Five PSUs to join International Solar Alliance for Sustainable climate Action

- The Five PSUs to join the ISA are
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOL)
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited(ONGC)
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited(BPCL)
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
- GAIL India Limited.

Eurasian Foundation Organises Indo- Russian young scholars International E - Conference 2020

- Indo - Russian Young Scholars International E - Conference 2020 on "India - Russia domestic and bilateral developments" was organised by Eurasian Foundation: India, Institute of Oriental studies: Moscow, Russia and

Russian centre for science and culture: New Delhi, India on 3-5 september on the eve of celebration of 20th year of Strategic partnership.

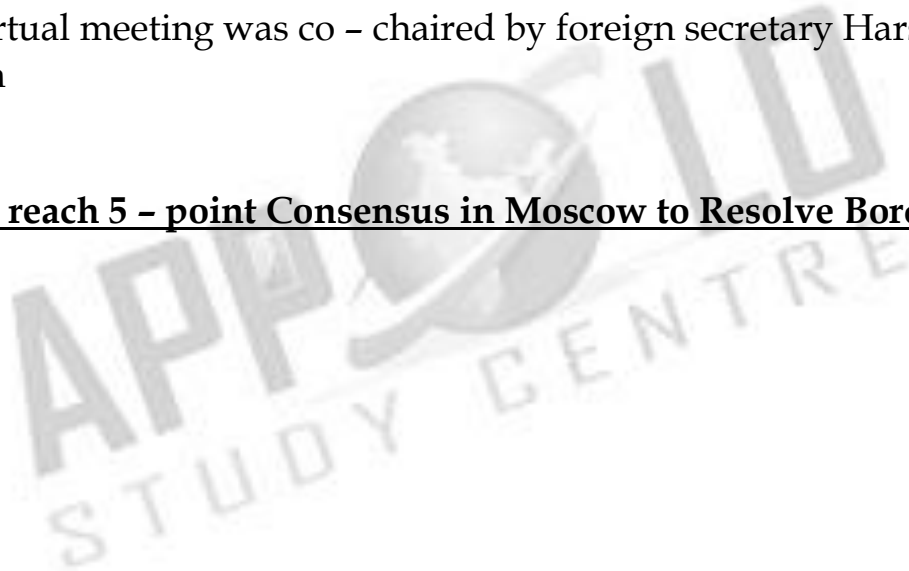
Grant Assistance to Sri Lanka

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa held their first virtual bilateral summit meeting on September 26, 2020, where the emphasis was on “**Mitratva Magga** - Path of Friendship: Towards Growth and prosperity”
- Prime Minister Modi announced grant assistance of US 15 million for the promotion of Buddhist ties between the two countries

India, France, Australia Hold first trilateral Dialogue with Focus on Indo - Pacific region

- The Virtual meeting was co - chaired by foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shingla

India, China reach 5 - point Consensus in Moscow to Resolve Border Row



APPOINTMENTS

Rajiv Kumar

- - Took over as Election Commissioner
- He will be working alongside Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora

IGP Charu Sinha

- An IPS officer of the 1996 batch from the Telangana cadre - will now head the Srinagar sector for CRPF as inspector-general
- She gets the distinction of being the **first woman to become IG for CRPF in Kashmir.**

UNICEF Appointed Ayushmann Khurrana as Celebrity Advocate for Children's Rights Campaign, 'For Every Child'

WHO Appoints Former Health Secretary **Preeti Sudan** as a member of its Panel for Pandemic Preparedness

Harivansh Singh of JD(U)

- He was elected as Rajya Sabha deputy chairman for the second time during the monsoon session of Parliament

Yoshihide Suga formally elected as Japan's New Prime Minister

- Yoshihide Suga was formally elected as Japan's New Prime Minister. He will succeed Shinzo Abe, who was Japan's Longest serving Prime Minister and stepped down due to health problems.

Former RAW Chief Anil Dhasmana - New Chief of NTRO

Khushi Chindaliya appointed UNEP's Green Ambassador in India

- Khushi Chindaliya, a 17-year-old girl from Surat, Gujarat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador (RA) for India for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza Eco-Generation (TEG)

Shekhar Kapur

- As the new president of the Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society

Paresh Rawal- Chairman of NSD

Usha Padhee becomes 1st Woman DG of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

- She is the first Woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post
- ❖ **Australia Appoints Cricket Icon Matthew Hayden as Trade Envoy to India**
- ❖ **Rajesh Khullar Appointed Executive Director, World Bank**
- ❖ **Takeo Konishi, Appointed by ADB as Country Director for India**
- ❖ **P D Vaghela Appointed as Chairman of TRAI**
- ❖ **Alexander Lukashenko, president of Belarus Sworn in for 6th Term**
- ❖ **Mustapha Adib becomes New Prime Minister of Lebanon**
- ❖ **Head of INS - Aadhimoolam**
- ❖ **Head of Tamilnadu Wakf Board - Muhammed John**

SCHEMES

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

- The new projects, aimed to benefit 2,57,000 farmers, will generate direct and indirect employment for 16,000 people.
- The cold chain facilities are to be opened in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Ladakh & Lakshadweep Included in 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme; 26 States/UTs Connected with the Scheme

- The Union Territories (UTs) Ladakh & Lakshadweep have been included in the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme on 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System' (IM-PDS).

Atal Innovation Mission Launches Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC Initiative

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched Aatmanirbhar Bharat ANIC-ARISE Challenges (**Atal New India Challenges in Applied Research and Innovation for medium and Small Enterprises**) to stimulate applied research and innovation in Indian Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups
- AIM has also collaborated with ScooNews, one of India's largest education media houses to share and spread inspiring stories of grassroots innovations

'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' (PMMSY)

- The PMMSY is a flagship scheme for focused development of fisheries sector in 21 states. The country with an estimated investment of ₹20,050 crore during a period of five years in all states/UTs
- This is the highest ever investment by the government in the fisheries sector

'Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan yojana'

- As per the new scheme, the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, getting Rs. 6,000 per annum, will be getting additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000

'Svanidhi Samvaad'

- The centre had launched PM Svanidhi scheme on 1st June, 2020 to help poor street vendors, impacted by Covid-19, to resume livelihood activities.

Mission Gokul

- Mission Gokul to develop indigenous breeds in the country. A countrywide artificial insemination program was started in 2019.

Mission Dolphin:

- Launched during August 15, 2020, to give an impetus to the conservation efforts of the species by taking measures for its protection including sustainable fishing with scientific methods. Mission Dolphin will also have its impact on the fisheries sector.

India Post launches Five Star Villages Scheme to ensure 100% rural coverage of postal schemes

Schemes covered under Five Star Villages:

- Savings Bank accounts, Recurring Deposit Accounts, National Savings Certificate (NSC)/ Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) certificates
- Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts
- Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts
- Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package insurance scheme

- The 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package insurance scheme for health workers fighting Covid-19' - has now been extended for another 180 days

Ministry of Ayush

- It is signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) to control malnutrition in the country
- The MoU was signed under the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme

Ghar tak Fiber scheme in Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Ghar tak Fiber scheme in Bihar.
- The Ghar tak fiber scheme aims to provide optical fibre services to households

PM - AASHA Scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanraks Han Abhiyan” (PM-AASHA) ensures remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018. It comprises three components viz. Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), and pilot Scheme of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPSS) will aid in procurement of pulses and oilseeds.

The Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana “Saubhagya”

- The scheme was launched on September 25, 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It aims 100% universal electrification of all households in rural and urban areas of the country.
- The government also launched a website ‘saubhagya.gov.in’ to provide information about the scheme

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Launched 2 Nutrition Schemes to Provide Nutrition Food to Women & Children

- “YSR Sampurna Poshana” and “YSR Sampurna Poshana Plus” to provide nutritious food to the pregnant women, new mothers and children at the Tadepalli camp office.

Start- Up Village Entrepreneurship programme (SVEP)

Start - up Village Entrepreneurship programme (SVEP) is implemented by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana national Rural livelihoods mission (DAY - NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, as a Sub- Scheme since 2016 SVEP addressed three major pillars of rural start - ups namely

- (i) Finances
- (ii) Incubation and
- (iii) Skill ecosystems

COMMITTEES

- The Tamil Nadu government has constituted a seven-member high-level committee to study the National Education Policy, 2020 and make recommendations to the government for its adoption.
- The committee consists of former vice-chancellors of University of Madras S P Thiyagarajan and P Duraisamy, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University vice-chancellor K Pitchumani, Alagappa University vice-chancellor N Rajendran, Madurai Kamaraj University vice-chancellor M Krishnan and Thiruvalluvar University vice-chancellor S Thamarai Selvi.

PK Mishra Panel COMMITTEE

- ❖ To Initiate Action in Advance For Managing Air Pollution in NCR
- ❖ Its objective was to initiate proper precautionary and preventive measures in advance for the management of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ❖ **Justice Kalaiyaran Committee** - Reservation for Government students in Medical Admission
- ❖ **Thomas Vaidyanathan Committee** - Reducing Syllabus for School Students
- ❖ **Chandru Committee** - Fixing fee for Agriculture Colleges

POLICY/ BILLS / ACTS

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- ❖ NEP, 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the 1st education policy of the 21st century. It has replaced 34 years old NPE, 1986.
- ❖ It is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-4 of 2030 Agenda.
- ❖ It also aims to achieve 100% youth and adult literacy.

Bill to reserve 7.5% of seats in UG medical courses for government school students, who clear NEET

- ❖ The Bill was introduced by the chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami

Fact

Who are eligible?	Applicability
Kallar Reclamation	Excluding the seats reserved for all-India quota
VI to XII in govt schools	Self - financing Colleges

FCRA (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- The bill intends to make the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 more stringent
- As per the proposed amendments, all public servants will be barred from receiving any foreign contribution and NGOs or associations registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010

3 Labour Law Codes, to be Moved in Monsoon Session of Parliament

- The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved amendments to the Labour Code on Social Security, Code on Industrial Relations (IR), and Code on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).
- Code on Industrial Relations, 2019 bill, aims to streamline industrial relations by consolidating three laws
- Trade Unions Act, 1926
- Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946,
- Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

'Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020'

- It seeks to subsume 13 Acts, including the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979
- The bill gives prominence to the interest of migrant workers, considering the recent mass movement of migrants due to Covid-19 induced lockdown.

President Ram Nath Kovind gives Assent to 3 Farm Bills passed by Parliament

- On September 27, 2020 President Ram Nath Govind approves 3 farm bills passed by Parliament

The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020

- It aims to permit the sale of agricultural produce outside regions regulated by Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC), which is constituted by respective state legislations.
- It also permits electronic trading of farmer's produce and for setting up of transaction platforms for buying and selling of farm products.
- This will provide alternative trading channels for the farmers

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Bill, 2020

- It provides for contract farming, through Farming Agreement before production or rearing of farm produce.
- Guaranteed Price will be paid for purchase of farming produce and it will be mentioned in the Farming Agreement

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- This act deregulates production, supply, and distribution of food items like cereals, pulses, potatoes, onion and edible oilseeds.
- It allows the Central Government to regulate supply only during extraordinary circumstances such as War and Famine.

Electronic hardware manufacturing policy

E- HUB PUSH

- To attract global ESDM (electronic system design manufacturing) majors to invest in Tamil Nadu

- To make Tamil Nadu's electronics industry output touch \$100 billion by 2025
- To Contribute 25 % of India's electronics exports by 2025
- To skill train more than 1lakh people by 2014 to meet increased requirement
- The policy, unveiled by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, aims to transform the state into a globally competitive Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) destination
- It seeks to increase Tamil Nadu's electronics industry output to \$100 billion and to contribute 25% of total electronic exports from India by 2025

Lok Sabha - passed an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949

- The new amendment seeks to bring cooperative banks under the direct supervision of the RBI and bring them under some of the same governance norms as commercial banks.

Lok Sabha passed two farm bills – one on agri market reforms and the other on contract farming provisions

- The two legislations are - the Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020,
- Another bill on amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was passed on September 15

Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

- It was passed in Lok Sabha.
- The bill was intended to replace the Major Ports Act, 1963.
- It aims to regulate, operate and plan major ports in India and provide greater autonomy to ports in the country.

Parliament Passes National Commission for Homeopathy Bill and National Commission for Indian system of Medicine Bill

- Parliament has passed the National Commission for Homeopathy bill, 2020 and the National Commission for Indian system of Medicine Bill, 2020 with the Lok Sabha approving them on September 14, 2020
- The bills aim at ensuring availability of high quality medical professionals both for homeopathic treatment and for the Indian system of Medicine.

- The National Commission for homeopathy Bill, 2020 seeks to repeal the Homeopathy central Council Act, 1973 and to set up a National Commission for Homeopathy.
- The National Commission for Indian system of medicine Bill, 2020 seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and set up a national Commission for Indian system for Medicine



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT

China Sends Nine Satellites into Space in First Sea - based Commercial Launch

Agriota

- New E-market Platform “Agriota” Launched to Bridge Gap between Indian Farmers & UAE food industry

Astrosat

- India’s first multi-wavelength satellite “Astrosat” - detected the farthest galaxy ‘AUDFs01’ that is located 9.3 billion light years away from the earth
- AstroSat is India’s first Space Observatory launched on September 28, 2015

World’s Largest Solar Tree in Durgapur

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR - CMERI) developed the world largest Solar Tree with customisable features for application in different locations and installed it in the residential colony of CMERI at Durgapur, West Bengal.

Biosafety Research

- The Centre - has now allowed biosafety research field trials of two new transgenic varieties of indigenously developed Bt Brinjal in eight states during 2020-23

‘Systemus Gracilus’

- Researchers from Kerala and West Bengal have identified ‘Systemus Gracilus’, a New Species of Freshwater Fish from Ganga

SpaceX Launched 60 Starlink Satellites to Provide Faster Internet

- Falcon 9 of SpaceX, a two stage rocket launched the 12th batch of starlink mission with 60 starlink satellites into orbit. Falcon 9 was launched from the Kennedy Space Center of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Florida

Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)

- It is powered by a scramjet engine
- The technology is expected to serve as a critical building block for the next-generation hypersonic cruise missiles capable of flying at speeds above Mach 5.
- The test demonstrated the autonomous flight of a scramjet integrated vehicle, capable of flying at speeds of over five times the speed of sound (Mach 5)
- The testing puts India into an extremely exclusive hypersonic club consisting of the US, Russia and China

"Pothos boyceanus" in Western Ghats

- Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute(JNTBGRI) from Palode of Kerala, have identified a new and extremely rare climber named "Pothos boyceanus" after Peter G.Boyce, expert on 'Araceae' of Southeast Asia.
- Northrop Grumman Named its NG-14 Cygnus Spacecraft as 'SS Kalpana Chawla' after Former Astronaut Kalpana Chawla

World Getting Closer to Passing 1.5-degree Celsius Warming Limit: UN 2020 Report

- As per the United in Science 2020 report, the second in a series highlighted that the world is nearing to pass the temperature limit set by global leaders 5 years ago and may exceed it in the next decade or so. In the next 5 year, the world has about a 1-in-4 chance to experience a year that is hot enough to keep the global temperature at 2.7 degrees (1.5 °C-degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial times

Astronomers Discovered Possible Signs of Microbial Life on Venus Clouds

- A team of scientists announced the discovery of Phosphine, a rare molecule which provides a possibility of microbial life in the clouds of the Venus.

Skyroot Aerospace

- Hyderabad-based space tech startup Skyroot Aerospace - is all set to start the country's first private cryogenic rocket engine project.
- Earlier, it became the country's first private company to successfully test-fire an upper-stage rocket engine

“Centralized Farm Machinery Performance Testing Portal”

- The Portal has been developed by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture
- It has been launched to improve services of farm machinery testing institutions and to bring transparency in the process of testing and evaluation of machines related to farming.

IIT Madras Developed an Indigenous Microprocessor “MOUSHIK”

- The indigenously made microprocessor “MOUSHIK”, a processor cum “system-on-chip” (SoC) for Internet of Things (IoT) devices

Council of scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)and central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) Sign MoU to Bolster Solar Energy Sector

- CSIR - Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram joined hands by signing Memorandum of understanding (MoU) as a ‘Strategic Association’ to bolster the Solar Energy Sector across the nation, on 7th September,2020
- **India Scales new Horizons in Space Technology : Indian Astronomers Discover one of the Farthest star Galaxies in the Universe**

Global Initiative to reduce land Degradation and Coral reef Programme Launched at G20 Environment Minister’s Meet

- India is committed to working with G20 nations for a better World: Prakash Javadekar
- The Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 Countries took place on September 16, 2020 through video conferencing under the presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

INNOVATION

- Delhi Metro launches India’s 1st, Indigenous signalling Technology ‘i-ATS’ under make in India
- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched i - ATS (Automatic Train Supervision), the first made - in - India Signalling system

Automatic Train Supervision (ATS)

- It is a computer based system to manage high density train Operations such as the metro, where services are scheduled ever few minutes

At 2967 Tigers, India's capacity at peak

- A detailed Survey is released which reveals that a third of India's tigers are living outside tiger reserves and nearly 17 of the 50 reserves are approaching the peak of their capacity at sustaining their populations. India hosts 70% of the World's tigers.

FALLEN TREES

- ❖ 10.76 million Tree felled or marked for felling for Infra projects since 2015
- ❖ States bearing the highest burden of tree loss since 2015 include Telangana (1.6million); Chhattisgarh (0.99 million); Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh (1.3 million each); Arunachal Pradesh (0.63 million). Delhi may have lost around 3,236 trees during this period
- ❖ Latest 2019 forest report has increased by 13, 209 sq. km as compared to that of the 2015 assessment
- ❖ India's **Total Forest Cover is 21.67%** according to the India state of Forests Report, 2019

Blue Flag

- ❖ Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world.
- ❖ Blue Flag Certification is a globally recognized eco - label accorded by an international agency 'Foundation for Environment Education, **Denmark**' based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches
- ❖ The **Eight Beaches** are
 - 1.Shivrajpur Gujarat
 - 2.Ghoghla Daman & Diu
 - 3.Kasarkod - Karnataka
 - 4.Padubidri beach - Karnataka
 - 5.Kappad -Kerala
 - 6.Rushikonda - Andhra Pradesh
 - 7.Golden beach of Odisha
 - 8.Radhanagar beach - Andaman and Nicobar

Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services (**BEAMS**)

- The event also saw the launch of India's own eco- label Beach Environment and Aesthetics management services (**BEAMS**)

Dibru Saikhowa National park - ASSAM

Universe's Most ancient Spiral galaxy spotted

The galaxy, known as A1689B11, was born 11 billion years ago and could provide insights into the early cosmos



CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

First World Solar Technology Summit organized by ISA and FICCI held Virtually

- The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) was held virtually which was organized by the International Solar Alliance (ISA) along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), as the convenor of ISA Global Leadership Task Force on Innovation, to focus on new Technologies and Innovations in the field of Solar.

4th WEF Sustainable Development Impact Summit held Virtually

- The summit was based on the five themes of shared Prosperity, Catalysing Cooperation, Better business, Harnessing Technology and Liveable planet.

17TH ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Consultations held Virtually

- 17th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Economic Ministers Consultations was held virtually which was co-chaired by Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways Piyush Vedprakash Goyal and Minister of Industry and Trade of Vietnam Tran Tuan Anh

National Water Innovation Summit-India

- Its project to store water in abandoned quarries for supply to Chennai recently bagged the award in the 'Innovation in Rainwater Harvesting' category

Cycling summit in 2021

- Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is set to host the first ever Cycling Summit in 2021 in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. The one-day summit is designed with an aim to promote the culture of cycling and sharing of knowledge between beginner and professional cyclists.

BRICS Sports Ministers Approve MoU for Cooperation in the field of Physical Culture and Sport

- First Meeting of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa) Sports Ministers under the Russian BRICS Chairmanship took place through video conference. The BRICS Sports Ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen and develop the

cooperation in the field of physical culture and sport within the BRICS members.

Saudi Arabia Hosted G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting from Riyadh

- India Proposed G20 principles on cross border movement.
- As a part of **Sherpa Track** for the G20 Leaders Summit 2020, which will be held at the end of 2020, the current chair of G20 (group of twenty) i.e. Saudi Arabia hosted the virtual G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting from Riyadh (Capital of Saudi Arabia) which was focused upon cross-border movement and strengthening international cooperation across borders amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

US-India-Israel summit held virtually; Decision taken for Trilateral Collaboration on 5G Tech

- India-Israel summit was held to focus on trilateral partnerships in the strategic, technology and development arenas. There it was decided that these trio nations will collaborate in 5G technology.

Shanghai Cooperation organisation (SCO)-Russia

- India and China held their first high – level Political meeting
- The meeting was held to break the continuing deadlock in the on-going military confrontation between both the countries in eastern Ladakh since early May. It was held between Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart, Gen Wei Fenghe

5th BRICS Culture Ministers Meet

- The Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel - attended the 5th BRICS Culture Ministers Meet
- It was held through video conference under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation

India-France-Australia trilateral dialogue-India

- The trilateral dialogue is significant because it is the first grouping that brings the European power into the Indo-Pacific region.
- The meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral relations that the three countries share with each other and synergising their respective strengths to ensure a peaceful, secure, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific Region

Collaboration in 5 G technology-Washington

- India, Israel and the United States - recently held a trilateral summit virtually on collaboration in 5G technology

4th Global Ayurveda Summit-Kochi

- Global Ayurveda Summit was virtually inaugurated by Vice-President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu on the theme “Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic”.
- The objective of the summit is to showcase the Ayurveda immunity model to the global level as a solution named ‘Health as One’ and ‘Immunity through Ayurveda’.

The G20 Environment Ministers meet

- The meeting was held as a part of Sherpa Track for the G20 Leaders Summit, 2020.
- The Global Initiative on reducing land degradation was launched at the meet

25th Anniversary of Beijing World Conference on Women

- Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace was a conference convened by the United Nations during 4-15 September 1995 in Beijing, China.

Foreign Minister’s meetings of the 8-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) - Saudi Arabia

- The foreign minister called on all SAARC members to collectively resolve to defeat terrorism, including the forces that nurture, support and encourage an environment of terror and conflict

Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity-China

- The dialogue was conducted on the topic of ‘Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth’
- The virtual dialogue was held a week ahead of the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, with the participation of more than 15 ministers from different countries.

Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef program launched at G20 Environment Ministers Meet

- The Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 Countries took place through video conference. The G20 EMM took place as part of the Sherpa Track for the G20 Leaders Summit, it was hosted through a video conference under the Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

6th BRICS Communication Ministers Meeting held virtually

- The 6th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Communication Ministers Meeting was hosted by Maxim Parshin, Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of Russia in a virtual format where India was represented by Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State (MoS) for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Education.

Ajit Doval Attended 10th BRICS NSAs Meet virtually

- The 10th meeting of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) National Security Advisors (NSAs) was hosted by Russia, the current chair of BRICS, where India was represented by Ajit Doval, Adviser to the Prime Minister (PM) of India on National Security. The focus of the meet was to exchange views on combating terrorism and extremism.

India - UK Water Partnership Forum-India

- The meeting discussed about the strategies to collaborate on the issues pertaining to infrastructure development and water conservation
- Indian High Commissioner to United Kingdom, Gaitri Issar Kumar delivered the inaugural address for the talks between the two countries.

73rd session of WHO South East Asia Region

- The 73rd session of WHO (World Health Organization) South East Asia Region (SEAR) was hosted virtually by Thailand
- Headquarter is at New Delhi
- Members - 11 nations: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

17th SCO Culture Ministers Meeting

- Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge), Prahlad Singh Patel virtually participated in the 17th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Culture Ministers meeting. Discussions were held on the role and place of culture during the Global Crisis and the prospects for developing multilateral cultural cooperation within SCO.

27th ASEAN Regional Forum

- Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan participated in the online meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) under the Chairmanship of Vietnam

ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting held virtually

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Ministerial Meeting was held virtually which was co-chaired by Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) along with Don Pramudwinai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

Virtual G-20 meeting of Trade and Investment Ministers

- The virtual G-20 (Group of Twenty) Trade and Investment Ministers under the Saudi Arabia Presidency was held where India was represented by Union Commerce and Industry & Railways Minister, Piyush Vedprakash Goyal.
- During the meet, Piyush Goyal cleared that India is not in a position to accept the concept of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) as there is a need for policy to finalize laws around digital trade and data.

WEF's Sustainable Development Impact Summit held Virtually

- The World Economic Forum's fourth and first fully virtual Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2020 was held under the banner "Realizing a Great Reset for Sustainable Development"
- The summit was based on the **five themes** of Shared Prosperity, Catalysing cooperation, Better business, Harnessing technology, and Liveable planet.

Biodiversity Beyond 2020

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Prakash Javadekar represented India at the virtual Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond 2020. The meeting was held to exchange views on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development. The meeting was hosted by China.

India Attends BIMSTEC virtual meet

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral technical and Economic Cooperation
- The Indian delegation at the virtual meeting of the grouping was headed by Secretary (East) in Ministry of External Affairs Vijay Thakur Singh

Third Annual Leadership Summit of US - India strategic partnership

- US - India Strategic partnership Forum (USISPF) 3rd Annual leadership Summit was held from August 31, 2020 to September 3, 2020 on the theme US - India Navigating New Challenges

12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation senior officials Meeting reviews progress made since August last year.

- The 12th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) senior officials Meeting reviewed on September 4, 2020 the progress in all areas of Cooperation, MGC is an Initiative by six countries - Indian and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for co - operation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communication.

BRICS Cultural Ministers' Meet in Russia

- The BRICS Nations 'Culture Ministers' meetings was held in Russia on September 4, 2020 under the chairman ship of the Russian federation. Prahlad Singh Patel, India's Minister of state for Culture and Tourism attended the meeting on behalf of Indian Government.

G - 20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary meeting Held at Riyadh; Saudi Arabia Chairs the Meet

- Saudi Arabia chaired the G- 20 Foreign Minister Extraordinary meeting which was held in the Virtual mode on September 3, 2020 at Saudi capital Riyadh. External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar represented India in

the Virtual meeting that was convened in the backdrop of the COVID- 19 Pandemic Crisis. During the meeting, India Proposed the setting up of Voluntary 'G- 20 principles on coordinated cross - Border Movement of people'.

FAO's 35th Asia - Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) Meeting held Virtually; parshottam Rupala Represents India

- The Thirty - fifth session of the Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the pacific (APRC 35), hosted by Bhutan at its capital Thimphu
- India's Agricultural exports rose by 23.24% to ₹ 25, 553 crore during March - June 2020
- Agricultural exports as a percentage of India's GDP has increased from 9.4% in 2017 -18 to 9.9%in 2018-19 while agricultural imports as a percentage of India's agricultural GDP has declined from 5.7% to 4.9% indicating exportable surplus and decreased dependence on import of agriculture products in India.
- As per World Trade Organisation (WTO) data, share of India's agricultural exports and imports in the World agriculture trade in 2017 was 2.27% and 1.9% respectively

Bangladesh to host 36th FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference in 2022

- The first Regional Conference was held in Bangalore, India, in 1953. India has hosted it four times.

27th ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting: V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs Represents India at the Forum

UN General Assembly's 75th Session Hled Virtually; PM Modi Addresses General Assembly

15th Sustainability summit 2020: Action Agenda for the next Decade

- ❖ India has only 2.5% of World's land, 4% of fresh water resources and around 20% of world Population but still has 8% of the world's biodiversity because in the Indian culture, flora and fauna are a part of life.
- ❖ Targeting 35% emission reduction, India has reached 21% in 10 years, we will achieve the required 220 GW renewable power targets, of which a total of 87 GW including Solar and wind has been achieved. India's energy mix in the installed capacity now includes 37% of renewable sources.

DEFENCE

MoD inked Contracts Worth Rs 2580 Cr with Indian Companies for Supply of Pinaka Regiments to Indian Army

- The Acquisition Wing of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed contracts with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for supply of Six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army at an approximate cost of Rs. 2580 Crores. This decision has been taken to further boost the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India in the Defence Sector.

INDRA NAVY-20- Maritime Exercise

- Bilateral Maritime Exercise INDRA NAVY - 20 between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was conducted successfully from September 4 to 5. The Exercise was conducted in Bay of Bengal, close to the Strategic point of Strait of Malacca.
- India and Russia - are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca

Establishment 22

- A little-known secret force, also known as the Special Frontier Force (SFF) or Vikas battalion - was positioned against the Chinese in some key heights on the south bank of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh for special operations

Indian Air Force (IAF)

- India - formally inducted the 4.5-generation Rafale fighter jets into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on September 10
- The formal ceremony marked the full operational induction of the jets into the IAF
- The aircraft would be part of the 17th Squadron, popularly known as the "Golden Arrows"

'SAROD - Ports'

- Mansukh Laxmanbhai(L.) Mandaviya, Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) launched a dispute resolution mechanism, 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports) through virtual ceremony in New Delhi

Five Rafale Aircrafts inducted into 'Golden Arrows' Squadron of Indian Air Force

- The Five Rafale Aircrafts which arrived in India on July 29, 2020 were formally inducted into the Indian Air Force at a function held at Air Force Station, **Ambala** (Haryana). They were inducted into the Indian Air Force's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows'.

Shivangi Singh from Varanasi

- Flight Lieutenant **Shivangi Singh** from Varanasi - is all set to become a **first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale aircraft**

India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX)

- The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) - began in North Arabian Sea from September 26

INS Viraat, the world's longest serving warship

- The ship was originally a British ship commissioned in the Royal Navy in 1959 and was later procured by India in 1986.
- It was kept at the Mumbai dockyard since March 2017 when it was decommissioned

India, Australia conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the East Indian Ocean region

- Indian Navy conducted a two-day long Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) where Indian side was represented by stealth frigate INS (Indian Naval Ship) Sahyadri and missile corvette INS Karmuk Australian side included HMAS Hobart along with Indian Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA), and helicopters from both the nations.

"Army-2020 held in Russia

- The 6th International Military-Technical Forum "Army-2020" was held between August 23-29, 2020 at the Patriot Park near Moscow, Russia which was organized by Russian Defence Ministry and operated by International Congresses and Exhibitions Ltd. (ICE Ltd).

DRDO Successfully tests hypersonic technology Demonstrator vehicle using scramjet propulsion system.

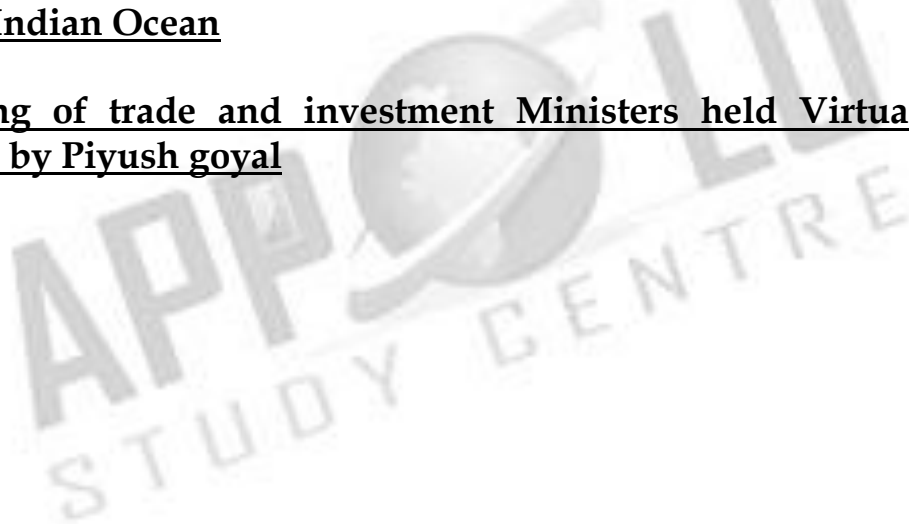
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on September 7, 2020 successfully flight tested a Hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle (HSTDV), which is an unmanned scramjet vehicle with the ability to travel at six times the speed of sound.

DRDO Successfully conducts flights test of ABHYAS

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India on September 22, 2020 conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS - high speed expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from the Interim test range Balasore, Odisha.

US Signs Defence Cooperation deal with Maldives amidst China's Growing Presence in Indian Ocean

G-20 Meeting of trade and investment Ministers held Virtually; India is Represented by Piyush goyal



ECONOMICS

NSDC, LinkedIn partner to impart free digital skills training

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and LinkedIn announced a partnership to provide access to free learning resources for imparting digital skills to youth for enhancing employability.
- According to LinkedIn, Indian professionals with digital skills are 20 percent more in demand than professionals without digital skills in 2020

Common Services Centers for Digital Literacy Service Chatbot

- WhatsApp has partnered with Common Services Centers (CSC) for a WhatsApp chatbot to empower rural communities by providing digital skills at their doorstep, and to create livelihood through promotion of rural entrepreneurship.

FDI Limit in Defence through Automatic Route raised to 74%

First Advance Estimates of production of major Kharif crops for 2020-21 released

As per First Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during Kharif 2020-21 is as Under:

Food Grains - 144.52 million tonnes

Rice - 102.36 million tonnes

Nutri - coarse Cereals - 32.84 Million tonnes

Maize - 19.88 million tonnes.

Pulses - 9.31 million tonnes

Tur - 4.04 million tonnes

Oilseeds - 25.73 million tonnes

Groundnut - 9.54 million tonnes

Soyabean - 13.58 million tonnes

Cotton - 37.12 million bales (of 170kg each)

Jute & Mesta - 9.66 million bakes (of 180 kg each)

Sugarcane - 399.83 million tonnes

SPORTS

48TH Annual World Open Chess Virtual Tournament

- Indian Grandmaster Panneerselvam Iniyan won the 48th Annual World Open Chess Tournament via online with 7.5 points from nine games. The World Open Chess Tournament is organized by Continental Chess Association.

US Open 2020

- The 140th Edition of American Open or US Open took place at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, New York, United States from August 31, 2020 – September 13, 2020.
- It was the Second Grand Slam Event of the year, after Australian Open took place in January. Wimbledon was called off due to the pandemic.

2020 US Open Winners

Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Dominic Thiem(Austria)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
Woman's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Mate Pavic (Croatia) & Bruno Soares (Brazil)	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) & Nikola Pietrangeli (Croatian)
Women's Doubles	Laura Siegemund (Germany) & Vera Zvonareva (Russia)	Nicole Melichar (United States) & Yifan Xu (China)

AIFF Awards 2019-2020: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sanju win men's and Women's player of the year Honours

Men's Footballer of the year for 2019-2020 - Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

- **Sanju** was awarded the **AIFF Women's player of the year Awards**

PGA Tour Player of the year 2020 -Dustin Johnson

AWARDS

- Andankoil (East) panchayat in Karur district
- It has won the **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP)**, a national award recognising the best-administered village panchayats

National Energy Leader award

- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport wins CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award
- The award was given during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020

Indira Gandhi Prize for peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2019

- On September 7, former PM Manmohan Singh - conferred the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2019 on British broadcaster **David Attenborough** in a virtual event.
- Attenborough is a historian, writer and presenter of BBC Natural History Unit.

77th Venice Film Festival 2020

- Chaitanya Tamhane's Marathi Film "The Disciple" Bags Best Screenplay Award
- The Disciple, directed by Chaitanya Tamhane and starring Aditya Modak, Arun Dravid, Sumitra Bhave and Kiran Yadnyopavit won the Best Screenplay Award at the festival.

"Burnt Sugar"

- Dubai-based Indian-origin author, Avni Doshi - is among the six authors shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar'

'Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering 2020'

- KA Padmanabhan, former dean of Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) - has been selected for the 'Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering 2020' by Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE).

Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India won the Medical Education Prize of Ig Nobel Prize 2020 at the 30th First Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony over virtual platform.

Lima won the Golden Pen of Freedom Award 2020

- Colombian Journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima was honoured with the prestigious Golden Pen of Freedom Award 2020, an annual press freedom award of the World Association of News Publishers(WAN-IFRA).

'Human by Nature' campaign

- Kerala Tourism's internationally-acclaimed 'Human by Nature' campaign - won the prestigious PATA (Pacific- Asia Travel Association) Grand Award 2020 for Marketing.
- The award will serve as a big boost to the tourism industry in the state which has been severely affected due to Covid-19 pandemic.

UNIATF Award 2020

- Kerala Bags UNIATF Award 2020 for its Contribution Towards SDGs Related to Non-Communicable
- Kerala won the UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award 2020 for its contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) related to the non-communicable diseases

Kerala Tourism bags PATA Grand Award 2020

- Kerala Tourism's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' campaign bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing.

55TH Jnanpith award

- Eminent Malayalam Poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for science and Technology, 2020

- 14 Scientists from Various science, medical and technology institutes in India were announced the winners of the coveted Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for 2020 for their contribution in the field of science and technology on the occasion of the 79th foundation day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on September 26, 2020. Every year scientists below the age of 45 years are chosen for the SSB awards for their research and achievements in science and technology
- The annual award carries a cash component of Rs. 5 lakh to each award winner

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (SSB) for Science and technology 2020 21st of Recipients

Branch	Scientists
Biological Sciences	Dr. Subhadeep Chatterjee Dr. Vatsala Thirumalai
Chemical Sciences	Dr. Jyotirmayee Dash Dr. Subi Jacob George
Earth, Atmosphere, ocean and Planetary sciences	Dr. Abhijit Mukherjee Dr. Suryendu Dutta
Engineering Sciences	Dr. Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni Dr. Kinshuk Dasgupta
Mathematical Sciences	Dr. Rajat Subhra Hazra Dr. UK Anandavardhanan
Medical Sciences	Dr. Bushra Ateeq Dr. Ritesh Agarwal
Physical Sciences	Dr. Rajesh Ganapathy Dr. Surajiy Dhara

- ❖ Kee.Ra. Award – Kanmani Gunasekaran
- ❖ Effective use of technology in public department – Jothi Nirmalashamy
I.A.S. Registration Department
- ❖ e-governance award for local administration – Tamilnadu government got second position in national level.
- ❖ Asian Teacher Award 2020 – Kavitha Saraf
- ❖ SKOCH Gold Award – Metro Water Chennai
- ❖ National Water Innovation Award – Tamilnadu
- ❖ Best Hospital Award for Corona Treatment in India – Omanthoorar Govt. Hospital, Chennai

PERSONALITIES

Voices

- An oil painting by the late Indian artist M F Husain titled 'Voices' - sold for a record 18.47 crore at an online auction

Pritam Singh

- Singapore's Indian-origin leader Pritam Singh - scripted history by becoming the country's first leader of the opposition

United Nation's 2020 Class of Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 18-year old **Udit Singhal**, who founded a startup to turn glass bottles into sand - has been named among 17 people in the United Nation's 2020 Class of Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Oldest Pope in history

- At the age of 93 and nearly five months, Benedict XVI - officially became the oldest pope in history on September 4
- **Virat Kohli** - Announced as the brand Ambassador of great learning

In a Historic first, Two Women Chopper pilots to Operate from navy Warship

- Sub. Lieutenant **Kumudini Tyagi** and Sub. Lieutenant **Riti Singh** have become the first ever women airborne combatants of the Indian navy to Operate helicopters from the deck of Warships.

Shivangi Singh to become India's first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale

- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) September 10, 2020. She hails from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF.

MODI among 5 Indian in TIME 2020 List of '100 Most Influential People

1. Mr. Narendra Modi
 2. MR. Ayushmann Khurrana
 3. Ms. Bilkis 'Dadi'
 4. Professor Ravindra Gupta
 5. Mr. Sundar Pichai
- ❖ First female ambulance driver in India – M. Veeralakshmi



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

BOOKS	AUTHORS
A Promised Land	Barack Obama
Voices of Dissent	Romila Thapar
The Commonwealth of Cricket	Ramachandra Guha
End of an Era, India Exits Tibet'	Claude Arpi
Eye Opener'	Mahantesh & Satish Viswanathan
The Big Thoughts of Little Luv	Karan Johar
Invertonomics: 8 Ideas to Transform India	Goonmeet Singh Chauhan
Naoroji : Pioneer of Indian National	Dinyar patel
Breaking of cocoon	Radha M. Nair
Black Leopard, Red wolf	Marlon James
Girl, Woman Other	Bernardine Evaristo
The Yellow House	Sarah M. Broom
National Security Challenges, Young Scholars perspective	Gen. MM Naravane
The story of a goat	Perumal Murugan
Saakshi Bhaav (Letters to Mother)	Narendra Modi in Gujarati (Translated into English by Bhawana Somaaiya)

OBITUARY

Swami Agnivesh

- He was a social activist, Former Cabinet Minister and Arya Samaj leader Passed Away at 80

“Snow Leopard” Ang Rita Sherpa

- Ang Rita Sherpa, the Nepalese Mountaineer who scaled Mount Everest, the world highest peak, 10 times without bottled oxygen passed away at the age of 72 at his residence in Kathmandu, Nepal due to brain and liver ailments.

Govind Swarup, Father of India’s Radio Astronomy

- Swarup, was the founding director of Pune – based National centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. He built the Ooty Radio Telescope and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh

- Jaswant Singh was a retired officer of the Indian Army and was one of the founding members of the Bharatiya Janata party.
- He held the defence, external affairs and finance portfolios in Vajpayee’s government from 1996-2004

Ruther Bader Ginsburg

- The Iconic US Supreme Court

Keshavananda Bharati

- Keshavananda Bharati, the head of Edneer Mutt at Kasargod in Kerala, whose petition in the Supreme Court led to the Landmark verdict of 1973 that outlined the basic structure of the constitution, died on September 6, 2020
- Bharati was the head of jagatguru Shankaracharya Samsthanam Mutt, Which belongs to the Shankaracharya tradition. The Mutt is believed to have been established by Tokacharaya, one of the first four disciples of Adi Shankaracharya

- He was the Petitioner in his holiness keshavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru Versus state of Kerala and others case in which the supreme Court ruled that the basic structure of the Constitution is inviolable, and cannot be amended by Parliament

Legendary Singer SP Balasubramanyam

- Singer - Actor SP Balasubramanyam passed away on September 25, 2020 following Coronavirus complications. He was 74 years
- He held a Guinness **World Record for singing over 40,000 Songs in 16 Languages**
- In a career spanning over five decades SPB won **six national Film Awards** for Best Male Playback singer and **25 Nandi Awards**. The Government of India honoured the singer actor with **Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011**

Kapila Vatsayan, Indian Cultural icon, Former MP and Padma Vibhushan Awardee passes away

- Kapila Vatsayan, renowned scholar of Indian Classical dance, art, architecture, and art history passed away
 - She was founder trustee, academic director and chairperson of Indira Gandhi National centre for the Arts
 - Kapila Vatsayan is described as the '**Grand Matriarch**' of cultural research
 - She has authored many books including traditions in Indian folk Dance (1987), Bharata; The Natya Sastra (1996) and The square and the circle of Indian Arts(1997)
- ❖ Isher Judge Ahluwalia - Economist
 - ❖ Sivasankaran - Artist who created character like Vikramaditan in Ambulimama

Pranab Mukerjee

- ❖ 13th President of India

National honours

Bharat Ratna (2019)

Padma Vibhushan (2008)

Foreign honours

Recipient of the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour

Grand Cross of the National Order of the Ivory Coast
Grand Collar of the Order of Makarios III
Offices held

Pranab Mukherjee's positions in chronological order

- ❖ Union Minister of Industrial Development 1973–1974
- ❖ Union Minister of Shipping and Transport 1974
- ❖ Minister of State for Finance 1974–1975
- ❖ Union Minister of Revenue and Banking 1975–1977
- ❖ Leader of House of Rajya Sabha 1980–85
- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce and Steel and Mines 1980–1982
- ❖ Union Minister of Finance 1982–1984
- ❖ Board of Governors of International Monetary Fund 1982–1985
- ❖ Board of Governors of World Bank 1982–1985
- ❖ Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank 1982–1984
- ❖ Board of Governors of African Development Bank 1982–1985
- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce and Supply 1984
- ❖ Chairman of Group of 24 (a Ministerial Group attached to IMF and World Bank) 1984 and 2009–2012
- ❖ Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission 1991–1996
- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce 1993–1995
- ❖ Union Minister of External Affairs 1995–1996
- ❖ President, SAARC Council of Ministers Conference 1995
- ❖ Chairman of Central Election Coordination Committee 1999–2012
- ❖ Leader of House of Lok Sabha 2004–2012
- ❖ Union Minister of Defence 2004–2006
- ❖ Union Minister of External Affairs 2006–2009
- ❖ Union Minister of Finance 2009–2012
- ❖ President of India 25 July 2012 – 25 July 2017.

- ❖ Worked as Minister under Three Prime Ministers (Indira Gandhi, P.V. Narashima Rao and Manmohan Singh)

Books

- ❖ Beyond Survival: Emerging Dimensions of Indian Economy.
- ❖ Challenges Before the Nation: Saga of Struggle and Sacrifice (Indian National Congress).
- ❖ A Centenary History of the Indian National Congress – Volume V: 1964–1984 (co-authored with Aditya Mukherjee)

- ❖ Congress and the Making of the Indian Nation.
- ❖ Thoughts and Reflections.
- ❖ The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years..
- ❖ The Turbulent Years: 1980–1996.
- ❖ The Coalition Years: 1996–2012.



APPS AND PORTALS

Assess - Implement - Monitor (AIM)

- The State Development Policy Council (SDPC), formerly the State Planning Commission has launched a new mobile application named 'Assess-Implement-Monitor (AIM)'
- The new App will ensure efficient administration in districts where Special Area Development Programmes (SADPs) are going on.
- It will be tested in a pilot study of SADP in Ambasamudram block of Tirunelveli district

"Visitassam" New Mobile App for Air Passengers from Other State

- Minister for Health and Family Welfare of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the Government of Assam developed a mobile app named "Visitassam" for air passengers from other states.
- Visitassam enables the air passengers to download forms and fill it which can be used at the airports to reduce delay in completing formalities for COVID-19 tests.

"EnglishPro"

- Union Minister of Education launched a free mobile app "EnglishPro" to develop Indian English Pronunciation in the unique "Indian" way in Hyderabad over a virtual platform.
- It was developed by the Central University, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) under the University Social Responsibility (USR) programme

'I Rakhwali' app to make citizens 'Greenery Saviours'

- Punjab State Minister for Department of Forest & Wildlife & Preservation Sadhu Singh Dharmasot launched 'I Rakhwali' application. The app was launched to safeguard the forest areas in the state by making common citizens as stakeholders in the process. It will help citizens to become 'Greenery Saviours'.

INDEX, RANKINGS & REPORT

INDIA in various Index 2020

- Global Innovation Index - 48
- Global Manufacturing Risk -03
- World press Freedom Index - 142
- Global Economic Freedom index - 105
- Global Intellectual property Index - 40
- Global Real Estate Transparency Index - 34
- Global Talent Competitiveness Index - 72
- World Bank's human capital Index - 116
- Doing Business Report - 63
- Annual Human Capital Index - 116

2020 Smart City Index

- Singapore emerged on top of the 2020 Smart City Index released by the Institute for Management Development (IMD) in September 2020. Helsinki and Zurich were adjudged the second and third best cities

Top science City globally

- 1. Beijing
- 2. New York
- 3. Boston
- 93. Bengaluru
- 99. Kolkata

Smart City Index

- 1.Singapore
- 2. Helsinki
- 3.Zurich

List of Indian Cities in the Index, 2020

- Hyderabad - 85
- New Delhi - 86
- Mumbai - 93
- Bengaluru - 95

India Ranks 62nd in Global MPI:

- According to Global MPI, India is 62nd among 107 countries with an MPI score of 0.123 and 27.91% headcount ratio based on National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 (2015/16) data.
- India's neighbours like Sri Lanka (25th), Bhutan (68th), Nepal (65th), Bangladesh (58th), China (30th), Myanmar (69th) and Pakistan (73rd) are ranked in this index.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

- It is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries.
- It was first developed in 2010 by OPHI and UNDP for UNDP's Human Development Reports.
- The Global MPI reports are released at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in July, every year.

Young Child Outcomes Index (YCOI) and young Child Environment Index (YCEI)

- The YCOI findings are part of the "State of the Young Child in India" report, released by civil society organisation Mobile Creches and supported by Bernard Van Leer Foundation.
- Kerala and Goa are the top two states in both indices while Jharkhand, UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are among the bottom five

UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- In India, an estimated 87 million women and girls - are living in extreme poverty in 2020.

UN Women Report from Insights to Actions : COVID - 19 Crisis will increase the Poverty Rate of women

- The United Nations (UN) Women and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released new data which states that the COVID-19 pandemic will have negative impacts on the women and will increase the poverty rate of women and widen the gap between men and women in poverty

India's child mortality rate declines from 3.4 million in 1990 to 824,000 in 2019: UN report

- India also registered a decrease in neonatal mortality rate between 1990 and 2019 from 57 to 22 – 1.5 million neonatal deaths in 1990 to 5,22,000 deaths in 2019

World Risk Report 2020

- According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries. The World Risk Index is a statistical model for the assessment of global risk of disasters such as earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts and sea-level rise.
- India is behind Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives in terms of abilities to cope with extreme disasters, lack of adaptive capacities and the preparedness to deal with extreme events.

'Global Biodiversity Outlook'

- The UN Convention on Biological Diversity - released its fifth 'Global Biodiversity Outlook' report, ahead of finalising new goals for the next 10 years
- As per the report, none of the 20 agreed biodiversity conservation targets of the past 10 years could be fully met by the world

Literacy in India States

- At 96.2%, Kerala Tops India's Literary rate Chart Again; Andhra Pradesh Ranks lowest with 66.4%
- The report on 'Household Social Consumption Education in India as part of the 75th round of National sample survey from July 2017 to June 2018' provides for statewise detail of Literacy rate among the persons aged seven years and above

Delhi

- According to the study, after Kerala, Delhi has the best literacy rate at 88.7 % followed by Uttar Khand's 87.6 %, Himachal Pradesh's 86.6 % and Assam's at 85.9%

Rajasthan

- On the other hand, Rajasthan is the second – Worst Performer with aliteracy rate at 69.7% followed by Bihar at 70.9%, Telangana at 72.8%, Uttar Pradesh at 73% and Madhya Pradesh at 73.7 %

Overall Percentage

- The Study has pegged the overall literacy rate in the country at about 77.7%. In Rural areas, the literacy rate is 73.5 % compared to 87.7% in urban areas of the country

Male and female Literacy

- At the all – India level, the male literacy rate is higher at 84.7% compared to 70.3% among women. The survey showed that the male literacy rate is higher than the female literacy rate among all states. In Kerala, the male literacy rate is 97.4% compared to 95.2% among females

Ease - of - doing - business

- Tamil Nadu moved up one spot to get to the 14th position in the ease-of-doing-business ranking 2019, from the 15th place in 2018
- Delhi bagged the top spot among Union Territories, while Assam was among the top performers among north-eastern states.

States startup Ranking Results 2019

Category	State
Best performer	Gujarat
Top Performers	Karnataka
	Kerala
Leaders	Bihar Maharashtra Odisha Rajasthan
Aspiring leaders	Haryana Jharkhand Punjab Telangana Uttarakhand

Emerging Startup Ecosystems	Andhra Pradesh Assam Chhattisgarh Delhi Himachal Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Tamil Nadu Uttar Pradesh
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Category	State
Best performer	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Leader	Chandigarh
Aspiring leaders	Nagaland
Emerging Startup Ecosystems	Mizoram Sikkim

S.No	Pillar	Leader Names
1	Institutional Leaders	Karnataka Kerala Odisha
2	Regulatory Change Champions	Karnataka Kerala Odisha Uttarakhand
3	Procurement Leaders	Karnataka Kerala Telangana
4	Incubation Hubs	Gujarat Karnataka Kerala
5	Seeding Innovation leaders	Bihar Kerala Maharashtra
6	Scaling Innovations leaders	Gujarat Kerala Maharashtra Rajasthan
7	Awareness and outreach Champions	Gujarat Maharashtra Rajasthan

- Smt.Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, on September 5, 2020 announced the 4th edition of **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)** ranking of States. Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business reform Action plan Started in the year 2015.

S.No	State \ UT	Rank 2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	1
2	Uttar Pradesh	2
3	Telangana	3
4	Tamil Nadu	4

Region	Best Performer in 2019
North	Uttar Pradesh Rank 2
West	Madhya Pradesh Rank 2
East	Jharkhand Rank 5
South	Andhra Pradesh
Union Territories	Delhi Rank 12
North Eastern	Assam Rank 20

While West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu are the states that are achievers in the states ease of doing business list, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, and Bihar are fastest movers. Goa, Punjab, and Kerala, among other states, are in the list of aspirers