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# October 2020

## IMPORTANT DAY

Date	Day	Theme
October 1	International Day of older persons	"Year of the Nurse and Midwife"
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	"Shaping Peace Together."
October 2	World Day for Farmed Animals	
October 4	World Animal Day	"Sustaining all life on Earth"
October 4 - 10	World Space Week Celebrated	"Satellites Improve Life"
October 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wildlife Week	Exploring Human-Animal Relationships.
October 5	World Teacher's Day	"Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future".
October 5	World Habitat Day	"Housing for All - A Better Urban Future".
October 5	Ganga River Dolphin Day	
October 7	World Cotton Day	'The Fibre that Moves Me'.
October 8	World Sight Day	'Hope In Sight'.
October 9	World Post Day	"We Have Always Delivered"
October 9	World Egg Day	"Eat Your Egg Today And Every Day"
October 10	Banking Day	
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Mental Health for All
October 10	World Migratory Bird Day 2020	" <b>Birds</b> Connect Our <b>World</b> "
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	"Ending Child Marriage"
October 11	World Obesity Day	'the roots of obesity run deep'
October 12	World Arthritis Day	"It's in Your Hands, Take Action".

October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	"it's all about governance"
October 14	World Standards Day	"Protecting the planet with standards".
October 14	International E-Waste Day	
October 15	World Students Days	Learning for people, prosperity and peace
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	"Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19"
October 15	Global Hand washing Day	"Hand Hygiene for All"
October 15	Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas	
October 16	World Food Day	"Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together"
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	"Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all"
October 17	World Trauma Day	
October 18	World Day against the Death Penalty	
October 20	International Chefs Day	Healthy Food For The Future!
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	"That's Osteoporosis"
October 20	World Statistics Day	"Connecting the world with data we can trust."
October 21	Police Commemoration Day	
October 21	Global Iodine Deficiency disorders preventions Day	
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	"Journey of Words - Resilience and Bouncing Back"
October 23	International Snow Leopard Day	
October 24 - 30	Disarmament Week	
October 24	World Polio Day	A win against Polio is a win for Global Health
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	"Your Window To The World"
October 27	74 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Day	

October 27 to November 2	Vigilance Awareness Week	Satarak Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, prosperous India)
October 28	19th International Animation Day	
October 29	International Internet Day	
October 29	World Stroke Day	'Get Ready to join the Movement'.
October 31	World Cities Day 2020	"Valuing Our Communities and Cities"
October 31	World Thrift Day	



## TAMIL NADU

### New Assembly Constituencies

- The Election Commission has announced the new assembly constituencies in the bifurcated and trifurcated districts of Kancheepuram, Vellore, Villupuram and Tirunelveli
- Accordingly, **Chengalpet** would get seven segments, including sholinganallur, Pallavaram, Tambaram, Chengalpet, Tiruporur, Cheyyur (SC) and Madurantakam (SC)
- However, Alandur, Sirperumbudur (SC), Uthiramerur and Kancheepuram would continue to remain in **Kancheepuram** district
- The trifurcated **Vellore** would get Katpadi, Vellore, Anaikattu, Kilvaithinakuppam (SC) and Gudiyatham (SC) constituencies
- The newly constituted **Ranipet** would get Arakkonam (SC), Sholingur, Ranipet and Arcot segments
- Further, **Tirupattur** will have Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Jolarpet and Tirupattur constituencies
- **Mayiladuthurai** carved out of Nagapattinam was not included in the redrawing exercise, since the district is still governed by a special officer and not by a district collector
- The newly Created **Kallakurichi** district gets Ulundurpet, Rishivandiyam, Sankarapuram, Kallakurichi (SC) segments
- Further, Tirunelveli, Ambasamudram, Palayamkottai, Nanguneri and Radhapuram remain in Tirunelveli district
- Sankarankoil (SC), Vasudevanallur (SC), Kadayanallur, Tenkasi and Alangulam form part of newly created **Tenkasi** district.

### One Nation, One Ration Card

- Tamil Nadu government - is set to launch the Centre's scheme on October 1.
- The Scheme will be implemented initially in 32 districts. It will be launched in the other six districts - Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Tiruvannamalai and Virudhunagar.
- The intra-state portability would facilitate more than 2 crore ration cardholders within the state to get the entitled food grains from any PDS outlet under the National Food Security Act, 2013.

- Over 25 States have already joined the scheme
- It aims to provide rations for migrant families, irrespective of their state of origin.
- All shops in the network that have point-of-sale (POS) devices will keep track of the beneficiary's withdrawals of monthly entitlements.

### **Solid Waste Management**

- By private entity **Urbaser-Sumeet**
- Cleaning the streets, collecting waste from houses, segregating solid waste and depositing the waste in dumpyards
- Company will manage seven corporation zones and carry out 100% source segregation.

### **The Best District**

- The Centre - has selected **Tirunelveli** as the 'Best District' in the country in terms of implementing the government's scheme for the construction of individual toilets in houses, Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, individual household toilets and integrated sanitary complexes are being built with the government's assistance.

### **Nano - sat**

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration to launch an experimental satellite developed by three students of **Karur** in sub-orbital space next year.
- The three students, M. Adnaan of Thanthonrimalai, M. Kesavan of Nagampalli village near Malaikovilur and V. Arun of Thennilai have designed the satellite after two years of research and development.
- The Satellite, called 'Indian Sat', will be launched into the sub orbit in June next on NASA's sounding rocket

### **Badagas in United Nation**

- The badagas, the largest indigenous community in the Nilgiris - has been included in the database of world's indigenous people, badagas are described as traditionally buffalo herders, who are nowadays turning to farming with special focus on organic farming.

- “Badaga language is part of the Dravidian language family and one of world’s primary language families spoken by more than 200 million people in south, central and north India,” as said by the UN.

### **Census of the Tiger Population using camera traps**

- It was conducted in the Pollachi forest division of the Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)
- A total of 245 pairs of cameras used for 25 days for the estimation in the Ulandy, Pollachi, Valparai and Manombolly forest ranges.

### **Archaeological Survey of India / Tiruchi**

- A new administrative circle of the Archaeological Survey of India - came into existence in Tiruchi
- It will have 162 monuments and sites under its control having jurisdiction over 20 central and southern districts
- The Tiruchi Circle was created by bifurcating the ASI’s Chennai Circle
- It is one of the seven new circles of the ASI created across the country to improve management of monuments by the Union Ministry of Culture.

### **Cauvery - vaigai - Guntar river linking project**

- The scheme proposes a new link canal for 250km to carry surplus waters of the Cauvery from the Mayanur barrage in Karur district to Agniyaru, South Vellar, Manimutharu, the Vaigai and Gundar under the intra - State river - linking programme
- The project would benefit the district of Pudukottai

### **‘Senganthal Poonga’ - Chennai**

- The Rs.5 crore new garden, named after Tamil Nadu’s official flower Senganthal (*Gloriosa superba*), will have only native species of trees, flowering trees and shrubs.
- This new park will have at least 350-400 species of flowers, while Semmozhi Poonga has as many as 500 species of plants, including exotic ones

### **The School Education Department**

- It has reduced the upper age limit for direct recruitment of teachers from 57 years to 40 years for open category and from 57 years to 45 years for reserved categories



## **Yaadhum Oorae - Global Virtual Conclave**

- Hosted by Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and Tamil Nadu.
- The conclave is aimed at helping the global Tamil diaspora to reconnect with the state by communicating the uniqueness of Tamil and the ethnicity of the Dravidian culture

## **Guidance & WEF to Setup India's & South Asia's 1st Advanced Manufacturing Hub**

- Guidance, a nodal investment promotion and facilitation agency of Tamil Nadu (TN) located in Chennai has joined hands with the World Economic Forum (WEF) in set up India's and South Asia's first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB) in Tamil Nadu. This collaboration is in line with the Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy 2020

## **Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing policy 2020:**

- Tamil Nadu released its Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy 2020 to facilitate foreign investment in electronic systems design and manufacturing (ESDM) for the growth of indigenous startups.
- The state's focus is to raise its manufacturing output to US\$100 billion by 2025 accounting 25% of India's total electronics

## **Recent Related News**

- 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)
- During virtual Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'Connect 2020' event with this, it became the first state in the country to release policies on Ethical AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity
- CM unveiled infrastructure at the Duth-era cemetery in Nagapattinam district, at the Manora Fort near Pattukottai in Thanjavur district and at the Kattabomman Fort in Panchalankurichi in Ottapidaram Taluk of Thoothukudi district.

## **Undertake archaeological excavation at Kinnimangalam':**

**Tamil-Brahmi inscription found at the site dates back to around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century:**

- Tamil Brahmi inscriptions were found in several rock paintings and pot shreds in Tamil Nadu.
- The earliest inscription found at the site was a Tamil-Brahmi inscription, dating back to around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE, found on a broken pillar at the site.
- The inscription read "Egan Aadhan Kottam". Another vattezhuthu inscription, belonging to 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century CE was also found. This was the inscription which had the word 'pallipadai' (sepulchral shrine). Another inscription belonging to the 18<sup>th</sup> century was also found.

### Chola royal charter

- A royal charter or sasana of the Chola Kings, lost 300 years ago from Tamil Nadu, is now being preserved in the Leiden University in the Netherlands. Commonly referred to as the "Leiden Plates", it was issued by the kings to a Buddhist Vihara.
- The charter has two sections-one in Sanskrit and another in Tamil- and the 21 copper plates are held together by a massive bronze ring bearing the regal seal of Rajendra Chola. They also deal with the genealogy of the Chola dynasty and the reign of king Rajaraja I (985-1012 AD), the father of Rajendra Chola (1012-1042 AD). It proclaims that 26 villages bordering Anaimangalam were donated for a Buddhist shrine (vihara), known as Chulamanivarmavihara, built by the Malay king of Sriwijaya in Nagapattinam, said S. Vijay Kumar, art enthusiast and co-founder of the India pride project. The Provenance states that the copper plates were donated in 1862, by successors, to the estate of professor Hendrik Arent Hamaker.
- Netherlands asked Dutch museums to return artefacts stolen by colonists to countries such as Sri Lanka and Indonesia.
- "The copper plates are an important evidence on the history of the Chola Period", retired archaeological officer C. Santhalingam said.

## STATE

### "Dalle khursani" Earns GI Tag

- North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) on behalf of **Sikkim**, the red cherry pepper chilli of Sikkim, "Dalle Khursani" earned the geographical indication (GI) tag from the Union Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- It is considered as one of the hottest chilli in the world with medicinal values.
- Grown in Sikkim and regions of Darjeeling, Dalle Khursani belongs to the Capsicum family and is known to be amongst the most extreme in terms of heat.

### First 100% Solar - Powered Airport

- AAI achieved a major feat on October 2, 2020, by converting the Union Territory of Puducherry's airport into its first entirely solar-powered airport in the country i.e. "absolutely power-neutral" airport with the commissioning of 500KWp(kilowatts peak) ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore

### 'Har Ghar Jal' under the Centre's ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

- Bihar - is set to become the first state among 'BIMARU'(Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) grouping to achieve the target of 'Har Ghar Jal' under the Centre's ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- The Jal Jeevan mission aims to cover the country's over 19 crore rural households by 2024.

### "My Town My Pride" - Jammu & kashmir

- Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) announced the "My Town My Pride" programme to deliver services governance at doorsteps to the people in urban areas.
- Objective of "My Town My Pride"
- The programme is initiated with 3 main objectives,
- To enable Public outreach in towns
- To Strengthen democracy at grassroot level.
- To deliver the service at doorsteps

### 'Mission Shakti' - Uttar Pradesh

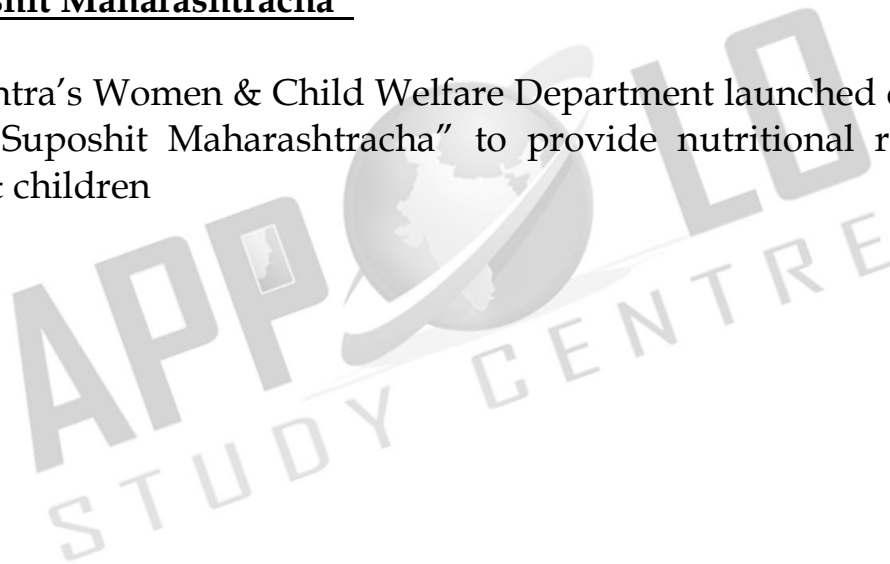
- Uttar Pradesh government - launched a new women empowerment programme 'Mission Shakti'
- The initiative was launched in order to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state

### Punjab - became the first state in the country to pass bills rejecting the centre's contentious three farm laws

- Punjab assembly unanimously passed three agriculture bills to amend the three laws and negate the Union legislation

### "Tarang Suposhit Maharashtra"

- Maharashtra's Women & Child Welfare Department launched digital platform "Tarang Suposhit Maharashtra" to provide nutritional requirements of mother & children



# NATIONAL

## **Amendments in Postal Ballot System**

**The exception to the following-mentioned category of voters is provided under Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

Following voters are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot:

Voters on election duty,

Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD),

Voters under preventive detention.

Service voters (armed forces, the armed police force of a state and government servants posted abroad)

## 'India One'

- Boeing 747s of Air India have been used to fly dignitaries across the world under the name of 'AI One'.
- They will now be replaced by the two B777s
- The Boeing 777, with state-of-the-art communication and defence systems
- The new VVIP plane is likely to be named as 'India One'
- India One will be the most modern and sophisticated VVIP aircraft in the world.
- They can fly from Delhi nonstop to almost any place on earth, unlike the earlier Jumbos that need a stopover in Europe while flying between India and the Americas.

## Indo - Dutch MoU

- India is committed to reduce carbon emissions' intensity by 33%-35% by 2030 and for this nation is collaborating internationally to achieve the ambitious sustainable targets.
- It was signed by NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant and Ambassador of the Netherlands to **India Marten van den Berg**.
- Notably, India is expertised in deploying high-tech solutions in a cost-effective manner, while the Netherlands is proficient in low carbon technologies.
- Decarbonization refers to the reduction or elimination of carbon dioxide from energy sources.

## The ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)

- It has redefined the ideal or reference Indian adult man and woman with regard to age to 19-39 years instead of 20-39 years.
- The body weight has been fixed at 65 kg for men and 55 kg for women as against 60 kg and 50 kg earlier respectively
- This is based on the latest national representative data available with the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4, 2015-16), National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB, 2015-16), the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2006-07) and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP 2015).
- The 'Recommended Dietary Allowances' (RDA) is the daily dietary nutrient intake levels which would be sufficient to meet the nutrient requirements of nearly all healthy individuals.

## Google India - campaign "Make Small Strong"

- The campaign was launched in order to help support small and local businesses and to boost demand for them through customer participation.
- The new digital initiative is based on feedback from Small and Medium sized Businesses (SMBs).
- It was announced by Google in collaboration with **Jagran Prakashan Limited**.

## "Ganga Avlokan"

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi - dedicated the country's first museum on Ganga named "Ganga Avlokan"
- Prime Minister also inaugurated six 'Namami Gange' projects mostly relating to the sewage treatment in Uttarakhand
- The Prime Minister had also launched a book "Rowing down the Ganges" on the occasion
- It has been co-published by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Wildlife Institute of India
- The Prime Minister also released a logo of Jal Jeevan Mission, 'Margdarshika' operating guidelines for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis to implement Jal Jeevan Mission, during the occasion.

## **CSIR Technologies for Rural Development**

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme was launched of Education.
- It is a joint initiative of IIT-Delhi, CSIR, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA).
- The initiative was launched on the occasion of 40th foundation day of CSIR- National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (NISTAD)

## **International Webinar on Textile tradition - India**

- Weavers from 12 Countries (Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Bahrain, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Afghanistan, Belarus, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan) participated in the webinar.
- It provided a platform to textile artists, artisans, weavers and craftsmen to interact, share their textile traditions.
- The Textile Sector will be vital for building an Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India).

## **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**

- On the occasion of Gangetic Dolphin Day on October 5, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) - launched the 'Dolphin Jalaj Safari' at six locations in the country
- The six locations are Haiderpur Wetland in Ganga in Bijnor, Brijghat, Prayagraj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Kahalgaon (Bihar) and Bandel (West Bengal).
- The move was aimed at preserving Ganga ecology as well as promoting tourism in the region
- The 'Ganga Praharis' – trained volunteers from among the local community working for cleanliness of Ganga – will take tourists at these sites on boat rides to view dolphins in the Ganga.
- Besides, a new campaign, 'My Ganga My Dolphin', was also launched on the occasion to conduct a dolphin census in a 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora.

## **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**

- An Indian laboratory - has been chosen for the global vaccine test network by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

- The Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) has been chosen as one of the global network of laboratories for centralised assessment of COVID-19 vaccines.
- The THSTI is an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
- The CEPI network will involve six labs.

### **India's 1st 5 "Animal Bridges"**

- As a part of improving road infrastructure, there are many ongoing expressway (e-way) projects in the country including the longest Delhi-Mumbai Greenfield expressway which is to be completed by 2024.
- Among one of the features, Delhi-Mumbai expressway will have India's first five animal overpass or "animal bridges" with a combined length of over 2.5 km for safe passage of wildlife.
- These bridges are inspired from the Wildlife crossings in the Netherlands
- These will ensure no disturbance and no chance of any conflict to the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor connecting Ranthambhore and Mukundra (Darah) wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan as the wild animals will get such passage at every 500 metres interval

### **PM SVANIDHI**

- In June 2020, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNidhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme for those street vendors who had been vending on or before 24 March, 2020 by providing affordable working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000 to resume their livelihoods after lockdown.
- For the further empowerment of street vendors under PM SVANidhi, on October 5, 2020, MoHUA has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Swiggy, a food ordering and delivery platform in India, to onboard street food vendors on its ecommerce platform, a first of its kind initiative. This will provide online access to thousands of consumers and help these vendors grow their businesses across cities.  
On pilot basis, this program will be initiated by taking 250 street vendors from five cities viz, Ahmadabad (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Delhi, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), and Varanasi



## **India - has recorded a 6 % decline in emission of hazardous Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in 2019 Compared to 2018**

- This is the first steep decline of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions reported in the country during the last four years.
- However, India continues to be at the top in the list of big emitters for the fifth year in a row.

## **Kasturi Cotton India**

- Smriti Zubin Irani launched First-Ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton through virtual mode on occasion of World Cotton Day on October 7, 2020
- India's Premium Cotton is set to be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in World Cotton Trade.
- It will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness
- Cotton is one of the principal commercial crops of India and provides livelihood to 6 Million Tons of Cotton (23% of World Cotton).
- India produces 51% of the total organic cotton production in the world. "Cott-Ally"
- A Mobile Application "Cott-Ally" has been developed by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to provide news about weather conditions, Crop situation and Farm practices.

## **Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Rajnath Singh, Union Defence Minister virtually inaugurated 44 bridges, built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) across 7 States/UTs(Union Territories) in border areas.
- He laid the Foundation Stone for 450 meters long, 'Nechiphu Tunnel', a bi-lane tunnel, on the road to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

## **'Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board**

- Kerala Government has formed 'Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board' (Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board) – a Board for upliftment of Farmers in the State. It is the first time in India that a Welfare Fund Board has been formed for upliftment of farmers.
- The benefits provided to the Board Members will include personal pension, family pension, sickness benefit, disability benefit, medical assistance,

marriage and maternity allowance, education assistance and posthumous benefits. The benefit will be extended for marriage of women members and daughters of members of Welfare Fund.

### **NITI Aayog Announced Governing Structure of India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF)**

- NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) jointly launched the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP).
- IEMF aims to engage Indian researchers, knowledge partners, think tanks and national and international government agencies and departments for long-term energy planning.

### **World Bank aided project 'STARS' for improving school education.**

- The Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States or STARS scheme, will in sync with the National Education Policy 2020 and focuses on "quality based learning outcomes".
- The implementation of the STARS project will be with financial support of the World Bank amounting to \$500 million (approximately Rs 3,700 crore).

### **"Kamadhenu Deepawali Abhiyan"**

- This initiative is being implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The campaign aims to promote the extensive use of cow dung during the Diwali season.
- This will generate more business opportunities for the cow based entrepreneurs and farmers

### **eSanjeevani telemedicine initiative**

- The eSanjeevani telemedicine initiative of the Union Health Ministry - recently completed a record 5 lakh teleconsultations

- The top 3 states with highest teleconsultations are Tamil Nadu (1,69,977) Uttar Pradesh (1,34,992) and Himachal Pradesh (39,326).

### **“Tech For Tribals”**

- TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs - has e-launched a new initiative “Tech For Tribals” in association with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT Kanpur.
- It focuses on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT and business development of the tribals.

### **Rs.100 Coin to Honour Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia**

- Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi released the new coin of Rs.100 denominations to honour the legacy of Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia on the occasion of her birth centenary over a virtual event.

### **75th Anniversary of FAO**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will release a commemorative coin of Rs. 75 denomination on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of FAO On October 16, 2020
- The event will mark the long-standing relation of India with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

### **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission**

- The Union Cabinet - approved changes in the criteria to extend benefits under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission to over 10.58 lakh women in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Under the scheme, an allocation of Rs.520 crore has also been made for the next five years to the newly carved out Union territory

### **President of International Alliance (ISA)**

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy - has announced that India has been re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

### **“Zojila Tunnel” in J&K**

- Union Minister Nitin Jairam Gadkari of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) & Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

(MoMSME) initiated the first blasting process for the construction of one of the longest bi-directional road in Asia i.e. 14.15 Km Zojila Tunnel with altitude of about 3000 m in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh (Ladakh plateau) on National Highway (NH)-1.

- The project will be implemented by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) while its construction work will be carried by Hyderabad (Telangana) based Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Limited (MEIL).

### **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually launched 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy**

- On the occasion of 89th birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. APJ (Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen) Abdul Kalam i.e. on October 15, 2020, Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Ministry of Education (MOE) virtually launched the 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property (IP) Literacy and Awareness campaign

### **14th session of the India - International Food & Agri Week 2020**

- The Food and Agri week is being organised from October 16 to October 22, 2020.
- The "Anna Devo Bhava" awareness Campaign has been started by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to mark the Food and Agri Week.

### **National Informatics Centre (NIC), IEEE Computer Society and Oracle - will organise Gov Tech - Thon 2020**

- This would be launched under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- It is a pan-India 36 hours virtual Hackathon, that is open to students, working professionals, faculty, start-ups, freelance technologists, and other IT service firms of India

### **Aerotropolis of India**

- Jewar in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh will become one of the aerotropolis of the country.

- The Jewar airport (Spread over 5,000 acres), that is to be managed by Flughafen Zürich AG (FZAG), based in Kloten, Switzerland, will become India's largest airport having six runways

### **AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme**

- The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar - has launched the AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme to involve co-operatives in creating healthcare infrastructure.
- The scheme has been formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

### **"Kati Bihu" Festival Celebrated in Assam**

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

### **"In Violation of Law"**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) - has held that environmental clearance (EC) granted to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), after completion of substantial work, by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) "in violation of law"

### **India's first multi - modal logistics park in Assam**

- This multi-modal logistic park will be developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojna with an estimated budget of Rs. 694 crore

### **Department of Space (DoS)**

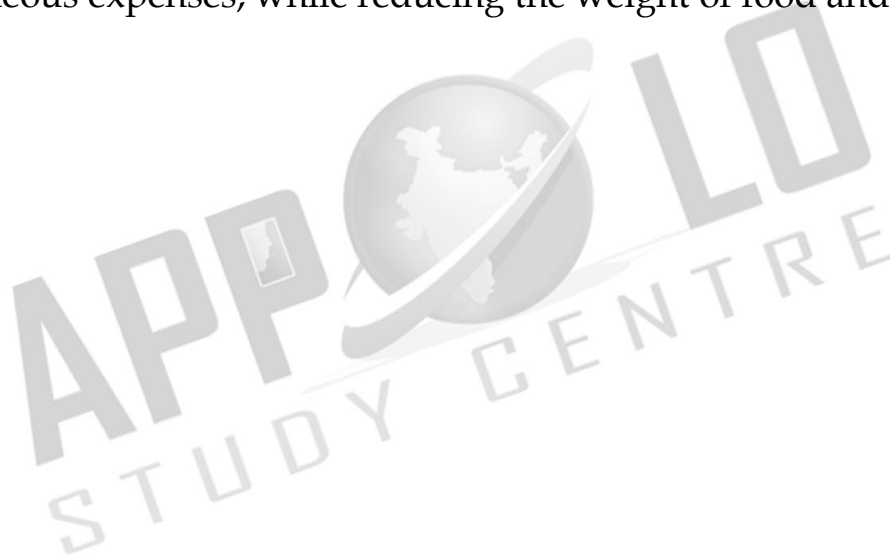
- It has released the draft version of the Spacecom Policy-2020.
- As per the proposed policy, private Indian firms are allowed to not just use existing space assets for communication services, but also develop new systems, launch satellites and sell services to foreign customers

### 'Covirap a novel technology to test for Covid - 19'

- IIT-Kharagpur's 'Covirap', a novel technology to test for Covid-19 has been certified by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for commercial use.

### Labour and Employment Ministry

- It is revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI - IW) from 2001 to 2016
- The move is aimed at reflecting the changing consumption pattern, giving more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages



# INTERNATIONAL

## India-Bangladesh hold 6th Joint Consultative Commission

- On September 29, 2020 India and Bangladesh held the 6th Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meet through a virtual platform. The meeting was co-chaired by A. K. Abdul Momen, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India

## India, Myanmar 19th round of FOC held virtually

- Webinar on **Kaladan** multimodel Project also Organized
- The Kaladan project is the first cross-border project that India had initiated for the betterment of connectivity of its northeast region. The Government of Myanmar provides land and security while the cost is borne by India

## Second QUAD

- (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) Ministerial Meeting:
- EAM S. Jaishankar participated in the Second QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) held between India, Australia, Japan & United States of America (USA) in Tokyo, Japan
- The Ministers discussed the building of “East-West” connectivity from India to ASEAN countries.
- It is being built to counter the “North-South” connectivity of China.

## Invest India Conference in Canada

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually delivered the keynote address at the Invest India Conference in Canada which aims to showcase opportunities to the business community in Canada for investing in India in the agricultural, medical, educational and business front

## Hypersonic Cruise missile called TSIRKON

- Russia - has test-fired the Hypersonic Cruise missile called TSIRKON (Zircon) successfully in the white Sea on October 7 to hit the target located in Barents Sea.

### **India, Netherlands Collaborates in E-Health Initiative**

- This collaboration is part of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) of India.

### **Israeli Embassy to have first 'Water Attache' in India**

- India and Israel share a strategic partnership in water management. In order to boost it further, Israel will have a first separate 'Water Attache' in India from January 2021 which will share the former's best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management and agriculture sectors. Notably, water is one of the biggest challenges in India post-COVID

### **International Monetary Fund 190<sup>th</sup> Member**

- On October 16, 2020, **Andorra** formally joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as 190<sup>th</sup> Member

### **G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group**

- Jitendra Singh addressed the 1st Ever Ministerial Meeting of G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group

### **NATO to set up New Space Center in Ramstein, Germany**

- Defence Ministers of 30 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Member States are planning to set up a New Space Center in the NATO Air Force High Command Base in Ramstein, Germany

### **International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**

- The United Nations - has announced that 50 countries have ratified an international Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to ban nuclear weapons.
- The historic treaty would enter into force in January 2021.



### Third India- USA 2+2 Dialogue held in New Delhi - Signed BECA & 4 other MoU's

- Indian side was represented by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and the US side was represented by Secretary of State Michael Richard Pompeo also known as Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Thomas Esper
- A joint statement has been launched covering the following key information of 3rd India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue:
- India, U.S sign five agreements including 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement'
- India signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) information with the United States (US) for sharing of high-end military technology, classified satellite data and critical information.

### Sixth BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- Lok Sabha Speaker, **Om Birla** virtually addressed the Sixth BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China & Republic of South Africa) Parliamentary Forum.
- **Theme** of the meeting - "BRICS partnership in the interest of the global stability, general safety and innovative growth: parliamentary dimension."
- **Chairman** of the 6th BRICS Forum - Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russia, Vyachaslav Volodin.

## APPOINTMENT

- **Vishal V. Sharma** - Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO's Permanent Delegation of India.

### Jacinda Ardern

- She wins 2nd Term as the Prime Minister of New Zealand
- SC Appointed One-Man Panel to Monitor Stubble Burning under its Former Judge Madan Bhimarao Lokur
- **Apurva Chandra** - Chairperson of the Governing Body of ILO for the period October

## SCHEMES

### Tribes India E - Market

- Tribes India e-Marketplace is an initiative through which TRIFED aims to include 5 lakh tribal artisans and manufacturers for sourcing various handicraft, handloom, natural food products across the country
- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was established in 1987.
- TRIFED is a facilitator and service provider for tribes which helps to sell their product such as metal craft, tribal textiles, pottery, tribal paintings and pottery by providing a common marketplace

### Jal Jeevan Mission

- Jal Jeevan Mission is aimed at providing tap connections to every household by 2024.
- At present, 81.67% of households in India do not receive tap water supply.
- The scheme is being implemented at National, State, District and Gram Panchayat levels.
- The Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh - has launched the 100-days campaign to provide piped water supply to schools and Anganwadi centres through Gram Panchayats
- This campaign was launched on the occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

## CSC Partners with Help Age India to Afford Digital literacy to Rural Elderly Citizens

- The partnership is aimed at digital inclusion and literacy of the rural elderly, with special focus on those disadvantaged amid the time where the online and digital services have increased due to the global pandemic.
- Through the **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan**, CSC has been working towards digital inclusion of citizens of disadvantaged groups.
- CSC plans to establish around 7000 CSC Academy centres across the country (one in every block) and It already has more than 5000 centres in place.

## 'SVAMITVA' (ownership) scheme

- The scheme will enable the villagers use their property as a financial asset to obtain loans and for other financial benefits
- This launch will enable one lakh property holders to download their property cards using SMS link
- The SVAMITVA scheme was launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2020.
- The scheme is aimed at providing the 'record of rights' to the village household owners in rural areas and issue property cards

## Supercomputing Infrastructure in Premier Institutions Across India

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) With the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) Host Institutes to establish supercomputing infrastructure with assembly and manufacturing in India.
- To manufacture Critical Components at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) (Kanpur, Roorkee, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Mandi, Gandhinagar), National Institute of Technology(NIT) Trichy, National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) Mohali and NSM Nodal Centres for training in High-Performance Computing & Artificial Intelligence (HPC & AI) at IIT (Madras, Kharagpur, Goa and Palakkad).

## TRIFED, IIT Kanpur and Chhattisgarh MFP Federation E-Launch "Tech for Tribals" Initiative

- Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur & Chhattisgarh MFP (Minor Forest Produce) Federation virtually launched "Tech for Tribals" Initiative.

The initiative aims for holistic development of Tribals with focus on Entrepreneurship development, soft skills, Information Technology (IT) and Business Development.

### **BBNL and TCIL Selects Hughes India to provide High-Speed Satellite Connectivity to 5,000 Remote Gram Panchayats**

- On October 13, 2020 Hughes Communications India Private Limited (Hughes India), a subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC (HUGHES) has been selected by Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.(TCIL) to provide high-speed satellite connectivity to 5,000 remote gram panchayats in 15 states and UTs(including border and Naxal-affected areas) of India including Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram & Tripura among others by August 2021.
- Hughes India will provide internet service to the gram panchayats using the capacity from ISRO's communications satellites, GSAT-19 and GSAT-11

### **"Operation My Saheli"**

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

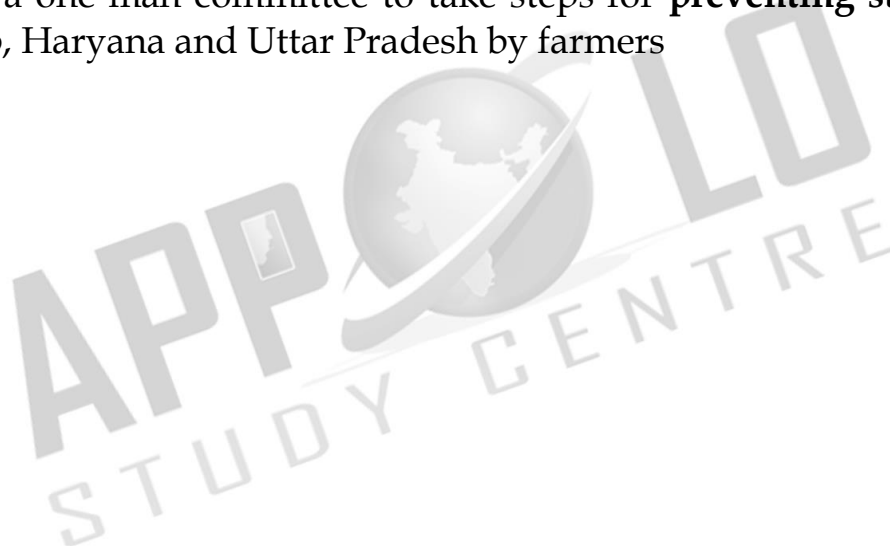
## COMMITTEES

### Election Commission of India (ECI)

- ECI constitutes committee to examine **Issues on Expenditures Limits of Candidates**
- The committee comprises **Harish Kumar**, former Indian Revenue Service IRS officer and Director General (Investigation) and **Umesh Sinha**, Secretary General of ECI and DG (Expenditure).

### Justice Madan B Lokur

- The Supreme Court - appointed retired apex court judge Justice Madan B Lokur as a one-man committee to take steps for **preventing stubble burning** in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh by farmers



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Chennai-based space startup, Agnikul Cosmos - has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Alaska Aerospace Corporation to test its launch vehicle – Agnibaan – from the Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaska (PSCA) on Kodiak Island in the US

### Kalpana Chawla - blasted into space from Nasa's Wallops Flight in Virginia

- An US resupply mission to the International Space Station dedicated to Indian-American astronaut Kalpana Chawla lifted off from Pad 0A at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport in Virginia.
- The SS Kalpana Chawla is a Cygnus spacecraft developed by an US firm Northrop Grumman
- It was launched along with an Antares rocket for the NG-14 mission to the International Space Station

### ICMR, Biological E Developed Purified Equine Antiserum to Treat COVID 19

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Hyderabad based Biological E Limited have developed highly purified '**equine antisera**' for prophylaxis and treatment of the COVID-19. It was isolated by the ICMR-led National Institute of Virology, Pune (Maharashtra).
- China to Send World's 1st Mining Robot, 'Asteroid Mining Robot' into Space by November 2020: IEEE Spectrum report
- **Origin Space**, the Beijing-based company is set to send world's first mining robot named 'asteroid mining robot' into space by November 2020 to identify and extract resources.. The 30-gram spacecraft, **NEO-1**, is likely to be launched as a secondary payload on a **Chinese Long March rocket**.
- This company also has another mission, **Yuanwang-1** ('Look up-1'), nicknamed '**Little Hubble**', which is to be launched by late 2021 or early 2022.

### Constellation of Maritime Surveillance Satellites for IOR Region

- The Satellites will be jointly operated by **India and France** to monitor ships in the IOR.
- National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will jointly launch Constellation of Maritime Surveillance Satellites for Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- The parts of the satellite will be built in both countries, and it will be launched from India

### **IIT Kharagpur Developed iMediX - Telemedicine Homecare Technology for COVID-19**

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Kharagapur's Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) has developed iMediX, a telemedicine technology for homecare amid COVID-19 to provide critical health care support to the patients through remote consultation by a physician.

### **'PARAM Siddhi - AI'**

- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) - will commission the India's largest High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, 'PARAM Siddhi - AI'
- The supercomputer will provide an ecosystem for research and innovation in science and engineering

### **'Epi VacCorona'**

- Russia has approved the second Covid-19 vaccine called the 'EpiVacCorona' after early-stage trials

### **IMD Operationalised Advanced High-resolution Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi and India**

- India Meteorological Department(IMD) under the ministry of Earth Science has operationalised ENFUSER
- ENvIRONMENTAL information FUSion SERvice, a high resolution city scale model for Delhi. The ENFUSER will identify the hotspots of air pollution and pollution upto street levels.
- The System for Integrated modelling of Atmospheric composition (SILAM), the Air quality forecast model for India

### **Bepi Colombo Space Craft**

- The BepiColombo Space Craft - has crossed the planet of Venus in its journey towards Mercury.
- The spacecraft was launched jointly by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and European Space Agency to explore planet Mercury.

- BepiColombo was launched on the Ariane 5 rocket and will arrive Mercury in 2025

### **Russian Soyuz Spacecraft launched with 1 NASA Astronaut & 2 Russian Cosmonauts**

- On 14th October 2020, Russian Soyuz MS-17 spacecraft carrying (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) NASA astronaut Kate Rubins and two Russian cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov was launched from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan

### **'MooPay'**

- Stellapps Launches 'mooPay', a First-of-its-Kind Fully Automated Direct Payment Platform for Dairy Farmers in Rajasthan

### **Heeng Cultivation starts in India for the First Time**

- Heeng (*Ferula assa-foetida*) commonly known as Asafoetida cultivation has been started in India for the first time. The first plantation of Heeng was done in Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. Heeng is a widely used spice in Indian Cuisine and is usually imported from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan

### **SANT Missile with 'Lock - on After Lunch' and 'Lock- on Before Lunch'**

- India successfully Test-fired Standoff Anti-Tank Missile (SANT Missile) from a roof-top launcher at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha
- The missile is equipped with Lock-on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capabilities. The Missile hit the designated static target with high accuracy.

### **National Supercomputing Mission**

- The Department of Science and Technology has announced that the third phase of National Supercomputing Mission will commence in January 2021.
- The third phase of the mission will increase the computing speed to 45 petaflops. Earlier, the centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the National Supercomputing Mission signed agreement on October 12, 2020 with the leading institutes of India.



### **'e - Dharti Geo Portal'**

- The portal will integrate the legacy drawings including the maps and lease plans with the management information system (MIS)

### **Water on Sunlit surface of Moon on Clavius Crater**

- For the first time, National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has confirmed water on the sunlit surface of the Moon.
- SOFIA has detected water molecules (H<sub>2</sub>O) in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth, located in the Moon's southern hemisphere.

### **ZSI & BSI Launched by Babul Supriyo**

- It is added in 544 species to India's Diversity in 2019: Animal Discoveries 2019 & Plant Discoveries 2019 of ZSI & BSI Launched by Babul Supriyo

### **Climate change to Blame for Doubling Disaster : The Human Cost of Disasters**

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction(UNDRR) published the report titled "The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years (2000-2019)" which states that climate change is the major cause for the doubling of natural disaster in the past 20 years (2000- 2019).
- The report was released to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13th October 2020.

### **Kabartal Wetland of Bihar Designated as Ramsar Site**

- Ramsar Convention declared Kabartal Wetland also known as Kanwar Jheel in Begusarai, Bihar as a site of international importance.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

### RAISE 2020 – ‘Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020’

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated RAISE 2020 – ‘Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020’ – A 5-day Global AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit which took place virtually from October 5-9, 2020
- The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in partnership with NITI Aayog organized the summit

### Y20 Summit

- The first-ever virtual G20 (Group of Twenty) Youth 20 (Y20) Summit was virtually hosted from **Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia** for exchanging ideas and dialogues for the empowerment of youth Post COVID where Indian side was represented by Union Minister Kiren Rijju, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS).
- The **theme** of the Summit was “Government – Youth dialogue on post-COVID-19 opportunities”.

### Golden Jubilee Celebrations:

- India, Bangladesh also decided to jointly celebrate the Golden Jubilee (50th Year) of the Bangladesh Liberation War & also the 50th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.
- The both sides also discussed joint military parades on 16th December in Dhaka, New Delhi & Kolkata.
- The event will also include honoring Indian War Veterans of 1971.

### Digital Museum:

- A Bangabandhu-Bapu digital museum in India and Bangladesh will take place in India, Bangladesh and other places.

### Third G20 Sherpa Meeting

- On September 29, 2020 G20 Sherpa Meeting took place virtually under **Saudi Arabia’s Presidency**.
- Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha represented India at the meeting. He is India’s Sherpa (Emissary) to G7 and G20

## 'GCTC Energy Security Conference 2020 - India

- 'GCTC Energy Security Conference 2020' organized by Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC)
- The **Theme** of 'GCTC Energy Security Conference 2020' is - "Energy Security Architecture in Post Covid-19 World".

## Prakash Javadekar Addressed UN Summit on Biodiversity

- On September 30, 2020, Union minister Prakash Keshav Javadekar addressed the UN Summit on Biodiversity, which was convened by the President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, under the theme of "Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development".
- The summit is first of its kind ever taken place on Biodiversity in the United Nations General Assembly. We are approaching the end of the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 so, there is an urgent need to accelerate action to conserve biodiversity
- India has added around 3 million hectares of forest and tree cover, which has enhanced the combined forest and tree cover to 24.56% of the total geographical area of the country.
- India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded and deforested land and achieve land-degradation neutrality by 2030.
- India has also set additional targets of eliminating single-use plastic by 2022 and installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.
- The post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2021 provides a good opportunity to enhance efforts to conserve and protect nature.
- India has organized two Conference of Parties (CoPs) for conserving biodiversity viz. CoP 14 of UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) during September 2019 in New Delhi, and CoP 13 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat during February 2020

## 'India PV EDGE 2020'

- The summit is being organized to ramp up the efforts on promoting cutting-edge solar cell manufacturing in India.
- The Indian government had initially targeted for 20 GW capacity by 2022, which was achieved four years ahead of schedule.
- The target was again modified to 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030 comprising solar energy target of 300 GW
- For achieving the target, India has established 42 solar parks.
- India has now become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world
- India also proposed and set up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) with its headquarter at Gurugram, Haryana.
- Further, India has also launched the “One Sun One World one Grid” concept and “World Solar Bank” in order to harness the solar power globally.

## Virtual Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians namely “Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020” via video conferencing.
- It is organized by 200 academic institutes and S&T departments, led by Principal Scientific Advisor, **Krishnaswamy VijayRaghavan**

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping-12th BRICS summit

- Moscow is organizing the meeting, as Russia is the current Chair of the 5-nation Brics group
- The theme for the summit this year is ‘BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth’
- The BRICS bloc comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

## **Australia - India - Japan - US foreign ministers in TOKYO**

- India's foreign minister S Jaishankar - represented the country in the second meeting of the QUAD (Australia-India-Japan-US) foreign ministers in Tokyo
- The leaders agreed to make the QUAD ministerial meeting an annual event.

## **13th India - Japan foreign ministers strategic**

- A cyber security agreement between both the countries
- The agreement promotes mutual cooperation in 5G, Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) apart from security and resilience in the areas of Critical Information Infrastructure

## **International Conference on Mental Health:**

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually inaugurated the "International Conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID-19".
- The conference was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in association with University of Melbourne, Australia.

## **World Economic Forum Shifts Annual Meeting 2021 from Davos Lucerne**

- World Economic Forum (WEF) has changed the venue of the Annual Meeting 2021 from Davos to Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland. The meeting will be held from May 18 to 21, 2021 on the theme "The Great Reset", it will be held both in physical and digital modes. The changes have been made due to the Pandemic

## **India Mexico bilateral high-level group on trade, investment and cooperation**

- It was held virtually on October 13, 2020.
- During the meeting, both the countries reviewed their commercial and bilateral trade relations.

## **4th G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors**

- As a part of the Finance Track for the G20 (Group of Twenty) Leaders Summit 2020, the 4th G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held virtually on October 14, 2020.

- It was organized under the Saudi Arabian Presidency where Indian side was represented by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

### **Justice ministers of SCO member-states**

- The seventh meeting of the law ministers of the SCO group was conducted ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting, which India plans to host on November 30

### **India and Chile - held their first joint commission meeting**

- During the meeting, both countries agreed to work in the fields of trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space.
- The meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chilean counterpart Andres Allamand Zavala

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States**

- The seventh meeting of Ministers of (Law and) Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was virtually hosted by Indian Minister of Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad, which saw the adoption of Joint statement by SCO member states..

### **102nd Meeting of the WB Development Committee Plenary**

- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 102nd Meeting of the World Bank (WB) Development Committee Plenary through video conferencing from New Delhi

### **3rd Assembly of International Solar Alliance**

- The third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance was held in a virtual mode where India and France were re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual third Assembly of ISA.

### **Unveiled**

- The National Digital Health Mission was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2020, that is occasion of 74th Independence Day.

- It will be implemented through the National Health Authority (NHA). NHA also is responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

### **India, Chile hold First Joint Commission Meeting**

- India, Chile held their First Joint Commission Meeting virtually. This is the first institutionalized dialogue between two countries at the level of Foreign Ministers.
- Both sides agreed to increase momentum to their relations in fields of Trade and Commerce, Agriculture, health and Social Security, Defence and Space, Energy, Mining, Culture & Education, Disaster Management and Cooperation in Antarctica.



## DEFENCE

### Joint Anti Terrorist Exercise 'Suraksha Kavach'

- A joint anti-terrorist exercise "Suraksha Kawach (security shield)" between Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar Pune (Maharashtra)
- "INS Sindhuvir"
- The Myanmar Navy is all set to receive its first submarine namely "Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sindhuvir", a Kilo class submarine which will be handed over by India under its vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) to provide guaranteed security for all maritime partners.

### BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- The new BrahMos missile was test-fired from a land-based mobile launcher.
- It has the capability to strike targets over 400km away with pin-point accuracy. This was the third test of the extended range land-attack BrahMos cruise missile
- The original 290-km range BrahMos, jointly developed with Russia, has already been deployed in Ladakh as well as Arunachal Pradesh during the ongoing military confrontation with China.
- The armed forces over the last decade have inducted land and warship-based versions of the air-breathing BrahMos missiles
- These missiles fly almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8.
- The first squadron of Sukhoi-30MKIs armed with BrahMos missiles was commissioned at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu in January this year.
- BrahMos was developed jointly by Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia.
- It has been named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- BrahMos is a ramjet supersonic cruise missile which can be launched from submarines, land, ships or fighter jets.
- The range of Brahmos missile has been increased to 450-600 km in compliance with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

### DISC- Defence India Startup Challenge

- To promote the participation of frontline members of defence in indigenous innovation, on September 29, 2020,



- **iDEX4Fauji** was launched, a first of its kind initiative allowing Faujis (Soldiers) or members of the Indian Armed Forces to become part of this process and get recognised.

### **Kanaklata Barua**

- The Indian Coast guard Vessel, Kanaklata Barua - was commissioned at Kolkata recently through video conferencing
- The ICGS Kanaklata Barua is one among the five Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)
- It has been built by Kolkata based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

### **Gallants of Galwan**

- The Indian Army - has built a memorial in the honour of twenty soldiers who lost their lives in the Galwan Clash between Indian Army and Chinese Army on June 15, 2020
- It contains the names of the martyred soldiers and they have been mentioned as **“Gallants of Galwan”**.

### **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

- Tested a new weapon for anti-submarine warfare that involves a supersonic missile assisted release of torpedo (SMART)
- The lightweight anti-submarine SMART version has a far greater range of around 650 km than conventional torpedoes.
- It is the fastest Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) missile in the world.
- The SMART was “successfully” flight-tested from the Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Earlier in September 2020, DRDO had also successfully tested the Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile

### **Sagar Kavach**

- Half yearly Coastal Security Exercise “Sagar Kavach” was held on October 8-9, 2020, along the coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep to check Coastal Security mechanism and validate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

## Army - 2020

- 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).

## Passage Exercise (PASSEX)

- Navy ships will hold a PASSEX with USS Ronald Reagan on October 12 as it transits through the Indian Ocean
- The PASSEX is likely to be held in the waters off Kochi

## offshore patrol vessel ‘Vigraha

- The vessel is the one among the series of seven vessels that were designed and built for the Coast Guard.

## Nirbhay land-attack cruise missile

- The subsonic missile is designed to have a strike range of 1,000km for inducting into the armed forces

## ‘Suraksha Kavach’

- Indian Army organized a joint exercise ‘Suraksha Kavach’ along with Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar Pune
- The exercise was conducted by the Agnibaaz Division, which is a formation of Southern Command of the Indian Army

## India conducts Successful Night Trial of Nuclear Capable Prithvi-2 Missile

- India successfully conducted the night trial of indigenously developed Nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 Missile at the Integrated Test Range (IPR), Balasore, Odisha. Prithvi-2 is a surface-to-surface Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM).

## Malabar naval exercises

- India - has finally invited Australia to take part in its top-notch trilateral Malabar naval exercises with the US and Japan
- The 24th edition of Malabar is scheduled to be held in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea in two phases in the first and third weeks of November

- It will mark the first time the “Quad” countries will come together for the combat manoeuvres on the high seas after a gap of 13 years.

### **Anti - Tank Missile named as SANT**

- India - successfully test fired the Stand-Off Anti-Tank Missile named as SANT on October 19, 2020 from the Chandipur test range.
- The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

### **Indigenous anti - tank guided missile (ATGM)'Nag'**

- On October 22, the final user trial of the indigenous anti - tank guided missile (ATGM) 'Nag' was successfully conducted at Pokhran range
- The third generation ATGM has a strike range of 4km with 'fire and forget' capabilities

### **INS Kavaratti**

- Indian Naval Ship was formally inducted into the Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Eastern Naval command at Visakhapatnam

### **The Indian navy deployed its first batch of women Pilots**

- The deployment was done by the Southern naval Command of Indian Navy
- The first batch includes three women pilots - Lieutenant Divya Sharma, Lieutenant Shivangi and Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop.

### **Bilateral Naval Ex-Bongosagar**

- The 2nd Edition of Bilateral Naval Ex-Bongosagar held between India-Bangladesh along with 3rd Edition of CORPAT
- It was held in Northern Bay of Bengal which was followed by 3rd edition of IN - BN Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) from 4 to 5 October 2020 at the same venue.

### **SLINEX-20**

- India-Sri Lanka Navies Conducting Maritime Exercise SLINEX-20 off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka
- The exercise is being conducted in a non-contact 'at-sea-only' format amid COVID-19.

### **'Foundational military pact'**

- India - is set to sign the fourth and final 'foundational military pact' with the US during the 3rd edition of 'two-plus-two' ministerial dialogue
- The pact will be called the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA)

### **Shukrayaan - 1**

- The space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is credited with AstroSat, Mangalyaan Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2.
- Now moving forward, ISRO is all set to launch its first Venus mission "Shukrayaan-1" in 2025 with participation of French space agency CNES (National Centre for Space Studies; French: Centre national d'études spatiales)
- In this regard, ISRO has selected the VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS (Atmospheres, Milieux, Observations Spatiales Laborator) attached to the CNRS.
- This will be the first time a French payload will be flown on an Indian exploration mission.
- Apart from France, the Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF) is also participating in this mission. Through Shukrayaan-1 it will explore Venus for the second time through its satellite instrument Venusian Neutrals Analyzer (VNA).
- The decision of French coordination on Venus mission was taken during the meeting between ISRO Chairman Kailasavadivoo (K) Sivan and President of France's CNES Jean-Yves Le Gall on September 30, 2020.
- ISRO intends to send the Shukrayaan orbiter mission to Venus in order to study the dense and hot atmosphere of Venus, primarily consisting of carbon dioxide.
- The French payload will be flown on an Indian exploration mission for the first time
- The mission will study the atmospheric chemistry, compositional variations and dynamics of Planet Venus.

### **Nuclear - capable Surface - to -Surface Missile, "Shaurya"**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired a new version of indigenously developed canister launched hypersonic nuclear-capable Shaurya missile from the Abdul Kalam Island test range off Dhamra, Odisha to a target in Bay of Bengal.

- Shaurya, a surface-to-surface medium range missile is a land version of Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) K-15 (B-05) and can be used by both the Navy and the Army

### **ICG Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Vigraha' launched to enhance Coastal Security**

- The Seventh Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Vigraha' of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched at Kattupalli Port, Chennai
- This is the first time that a private sector shipyard has designed & constructed an offshore patrol vessel class ship.
- 'Vigraha' is the last in the series of Seven OPVs contracted to Larsen & Toubro by the Defence Ministry in 2015.

### **Anti - Radiation missile called 'Rudram'**

- India successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, Rudram 1, a New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGARM) integrated on Su-30MKI fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force.
- They developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), this air-to-surface missile was tested at the interim test range Balasore, off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal
- They can play a key role in neutralising any jamming platforms of the enemy and clear the path for the fighter jets

### **Indian Navy Warship INS Kora Test-fires Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) in Bay of Bengal**

- Indian Navy's Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora (Indian Naval Ship) tested fired Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) in Bay Of Bengal  
The missile successfully hit the target at maximum range with precise accuracy

### **Nirbhay Cruise Missile**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched the Nirbhay Cruise Missile from Odisha's test facility, the mission was aborted due to technical snag.
- Nirbhay is India's first indigenously developed Cruise Missile and has been developed by Advanced System Laboratory (ASL).

## Bills / Acts

- Parliament passed Code on **Wages Bill, 2019**
- This new code was brought in by combining the features of three erstwhile laws – the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for hiring and firing of labour in mid-sized and large industries.
- Firms with more than 300 workers need to still apply for approval, however, if the authorities do not respond to their request, it will be deemed as approved.
- In the case of manufacturing units, plantations, and mines with 100 or more workmen, lay-offs also required government approval.

### Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020:

- It amends laws regulating occupational safety, health and working conditions of employees by replacing 13 old central labour laws.
- It empowers a state government to exempt any new factory from the provisions of the Code to create more economic activity and jobs.
- It fixes the maximum daily work limit at **eight hours a day**.
- Women are entitled to be employed in all establishments for all types of work with adequate safeguards in case of work in hazardous operations.

### Code on Social Security, 2020:

- This code replaces **9 laws** to provide universal social security for the first time for both organised and informal workers as well as gig and platform workers.
- As per this code the government will formulate and notify, from time to time, suitable welfare schemes, including schemes relating to provident fund, employment injury benefit, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation of workers, funeral assistance; and old age homes.
- It also lays down the setting up of a National Social Security Board to recommend the central government suitable schemes for unorganised workers.

### Code on Wages, 2019:

- It consolidates and simplifies **4 laws** viz. Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 into a single code. The previous four laws had a total of 119 sections while this new Code has 69 sections.
- It aims to provide statutory protection for minimum wages and timely payment of wages.

### Amendments to Companies law get President's assent:

- The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 that also seeks to promote ease of doing business in the country has received assent from the President. This Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 replaces the Companies Act, 2013.
- This bill will make changes in the 65 clauses, including amendments to **61 sections** of the Companies Act, 2013. A new chapter related to producer organisation is also introduced in the Act.
- Decriminalisation of various offences, reduction in penalties for certain offences as well as in timeline for rights issues, relaxation in CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) compliance requirements and creation of separate benches at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) are also among the amendments.

### Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020

- Since 1976, the FCRA regulates foreign donations in ensuring that such contributions don't adversely affect internal security.
- It was amended in 2010.
- It is applicable to all associations, groups, and NGOs which intend to receive foreign donations and thus make them mandatory to register themselves under the FCRA.
- It changes under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020

### Aadhar requirement mandated:

- Aadhaar numbers by office-bearers of NGOs has become mandatory for registration.
- In case of a foreigner, a copy of the passport or the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card is required.
- **Reduction in administrative expense cap:** The act also lowered the administrative expenses of any NGO receiving foreign funding to 20% from the existing 50% of annual funds by amending Section 8 of FCRA
- Bars public servants from receiving funds from abroad
- Transfer of foreign contribution prohibited
- Forbidding of foreign contribution recipient from utilising/receiving its funds
- **FCRA bank account in SBI , Delhi Mandated:** As per the amendment of Section 17 of FCRA, the foreign contribution can be received only in "FCRA Account" opened in the State Bank of India (SBI) branch in New Delhi.

## New labour law codes passed by Parliament

- The three bills includes - The Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; and the Code of Social Security, 2020
- These bills are the part of government's labour reform agenda
- Accordingly, all the existing labour laws are brought into four labour codes - on wages, industrial relations, social security and safety, health and working conditions





## ECONOMICS

### Hyperloop Corridors from BLR Airport

- Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) and Virgin Hyperloop signed a first-of-its-kind Memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct a feasibility study for Hyperloop corridor from Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru(KIAB/BLR airport).

### NABARD to Undertake Sanitation Literacy Campaign to Promote Literacy on "WASH"

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) to undertake a Sanitation Literacy Campaign (SLC) to promote literacy on "WASH" (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in 2,000 villages across the country covering 1 lakh rural population. SLC will start from October 2, 2020 to January 26, 2021.

### Wash Programme

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched a special refinance scheme to support the government's Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH) programme.
- This facility is an effort to promote a sustainable and healthy lifestyle in rural areas

## SPORTS

### 'Francis Hockey Stadium'

- It is located inside the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, the new name was proposed in honour of the former India goalkeeper Francis Ranganathan

### New World records in the 5,000m and 10,000m

- **Cheptegei** smashed the men's 10,000m world record, clocking 26 min 11.00
- In August, Cheptegei had broken the 5,000m world record held by Bekele at the Diamond League in Monaco

### French Open

- The 19-year-old Polish **Iga Swiatek** - won the French Open and her first Gram Slam title .

### French Open Men's title at Roland Garros

- The 34-year old Rafael Nadal (Spain) - defeated top-seeded Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win his 13th French Open Men's title at Roland Garros, Paris

### French Open 2020

- The 124th Edition of French Open (also known as Roland Garros) took place at the Roland Garros Stadium, Paris
- The French Open is a Clay Court Tennis Tournament

### French Open 2020 Winners:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Sofia Kenin (USA)

Men's Doubles	Kevin Krawietz (Germany), Andreas Mies (Germany)	Mate Pavic (Croatia), Bruno Soares (Brazil)
Women's Doubles	Timea Babos (Hungary), Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Alexa Guarachi (Chile), Desirae Krawczyk (USA)

### Nihal Sarin emerges winner in Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship

- Sixteen-Year Old Indian Chess Player Nihal Sarin emerged winner in Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship. He defeated Russia's Alexey Sarana in the final.

### International Air-Rifle Championship 2020

- Indian Shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** won the Gold Medal in the Women's event, while **Shahu Tushar Mane** won the Silver Medal in the Men's event in the Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship 2020 that held virtually.

## AWARDS

- **SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award** - by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was awarded to **Sonu Sood**

### Sonu Sood

- Sonu sood helped thousands of migrant workers reach home during lockdown.
- Special Humanitarian Action Award 2020 was conferred upon Action **Sonu Sood** and **SPS Oberoi**

### Sanjay Singh Selected for Gandhi Award of MGNF

- He was recognised with the award for being instrumental in the diplomatic intervention of India to remove the image of Mahatma Gandhi on the beer bottles of Malka brewery, a Israeli private company.

### Right Livelihood Awards

- The four activists **Ales Bialiatski** of Belarus, **Nasrin Sotoudeh** of Iran, **Bryan Stevenson** of the United States(US) and **Lottie Cunningham Wren** of Nicaragua shared the 2020 award for their contribution towards equality, democracy, justice and freedom

### “Covid Crusader Award - 2020”

- Iqbal Singh Chahal (I.S. Chahal), Municipal Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai(MCGM), Maharashtra was honoured with “Covid Crusader Award-2020”, instituted by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce(IACC)
- He became the first Indian Bureaucrat to be recognised with this global recognition.

### ‘Blue Flag’ certification

- **Eight Indian beaches** - have got the coveted ‘Blue Flag’ certification – one of the world’s most recognised award for clean, safe and environment-friendly beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism operation

- The eight beaches to get the international eco-level tag include Shivrajpur beach (Dwarka, Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden Beach (Puri, Odisha) and Radhanagar beach (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)
- Blue Flag beaches are considered the world's cleanest beaches

### **"The Earthshot Prize", an Environmental Award to Support Climate Change**

- Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge along with Broadcaster and Naturalist Sir David Attenborough launched the Earthshot Prize, a new environmental prize with an aim to encourage change and support to repair the planet in the next 10 years (2030)

### **Best Ships in Fleet Award Function 2020**

- Indian Navy Ship(INS) Sahyadri and INS Kora were awarded the Best Ship trophies among the Capital Ships and Corvettes & similar classes of ships respectively

### **Kalpana Chawla Awards**

- The Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar conferred the Kalpana Chawla awards named after the American astronaut of Indian origin, to Dr. Bhim Singh from IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Delhi and Dr. Aesha Alnuaimi from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

### **CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership award**

- Pravir Krishna, Managing Director(MD) of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

### **Brunel Medal**

- India Assisted Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project, a Bhutan-India Friendship project in Bhutan won the 2020 Brunel Medal for Excellence in Civil Engineering at the Annual Institution of Civil Engineers(ICE) Awards 2020 organised by the United Kingdom (UK) based ICE.

### Skoch award won by CMWSSB, Elets award won by TWAD Board

- The Skoch Gold Award to the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for introducing the 'Dial for Water 2.0 Scheme'.
- Elets National Innovation Summit 2020 in which the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board was selected for the National Water Innovation Award 2020 under the innovative Rain Water Conservation Category for converting the quarries in the State into rainwater storage points.

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

<b>Book / Novel</b>	<b>Author</b>
"The Battle of Belonging"	Shashi Tharoor
"On the Trails of Buddha: A Journey to the East"	Deepankar Aron
"Portraits of Power : Half a Century of Being at Ringside"	N K Singh
Night of the Restless Spirits : Stories from 1984	Sarbpreet Singh

## OBITUARY

### Sahitya Akademi Awardee GS Amur

- He was Veteran Kannada writer and noted critic of both Kannada & English literature

### Wing Commander Vijayalakshmi Ramanan

- The first woman officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) - passed away on October 18 due to age-related ailments.

## APPS AND PORTALS

Scale India Mobile App

Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC), a non-profit organization (NGO) launched "Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees India (SCALE India)" Android app for enhancing the quality assurance of the leather industry

## **INDEX, RANKING & REPORT**

### **Global Hunger Index (GHI)**

- India - ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 and continues to be in the “serious” hunger category with a score of 27.2
- The GHI is calculated based on the performance of four indicators - percentage of undernourished population, percentage of children under five years suffering from wasting and stunting, and child mortality
- The Index, which was released on October 16, is a peer-reviewed report released annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
- In 2019, India was ranked 102 out of 117 countries and in 2018 it was ranked 103 among 119 countries

### **India Ranked world No. 2 in Migrations to OECD nations**

- China tops: 44th International Migration Outlook 2020 , at OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

### **India ranks 58th in the List of Arton Capital’s Passport Index 2020**

- A strong passport means that the passport holder of a particular country should be welcomed by a maximum number of countries.

### **Animal Discoveries 2019 and Planet Discoveries**

- As per the list, 544 new species were added to India’s rich diversity, which included 364 animal and 180 plant species in the year 2019
- The publications were released at an event at the Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden in Howrah

### **UN-IGNME Launched 1st Report on Stillbirths**

- For the first time a report on stillbirths titled “A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths” has been released by UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN-IGME) which was co-created by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Bank and the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division



## Atal Tunnel

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to inaugurate **Atal Tunnel, the world's longest highway tunnel** at Rohtang
- The 9.02 kilometres long tunnel was built at an altitude of 3000 meters
- It will connect **Manali** in Himachal Pradesh to **Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.**
- **It took 10 years to build, but was under budget, and will cut 5 hours travel**
- The new tunnel will cut travel time between Manali and Leh by 4 to 5 hours and distance by 46 km
- It connects Manali to the Lahaul-Spiti Valley

## Tuberculosis Report, 2020

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) - has recently released the Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020

## India Recorded Highest Air Pollution Exposure Globally in 2019

- The 3rd State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report was released by United States (US)-based Health Effects Institute (HEI) and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's (IHME) Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Project in which India recorded the highest annual average PM 2.5 concentration exposure in the world in 2019 followed by Nepal (2nd), and Niger (3rd).

## India 4 th Most powerful Country in Asia

- Institute Asia Power Index 2020 Edition released by Sydney (Australia) based Lowy Institute, India with a score of 39.7 (out of 100) is the 4th most powerful country in Asia
- United States Topped the index with a score of 81.6, followed by China - 76.1 & Japan - 41.0

## 'Future of Jobs' report 2020

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently released the third edition of the Future of jobs report 2020;

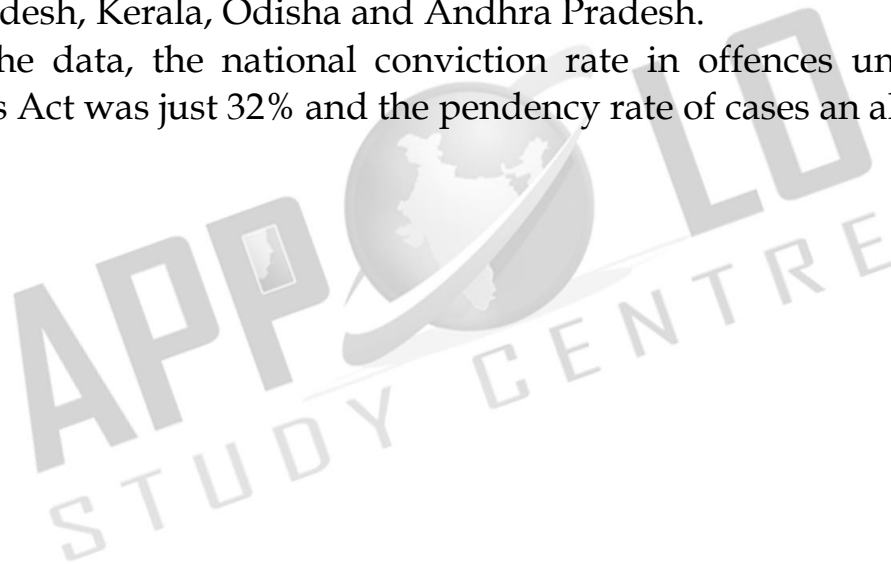
### **The National Crime Records Bureau - 2019**

- As per the report, cyber crimes registered a massive 63.5% rise in 2019

- Fraud emerged as the main motive of the cybercrimes registered in 2019, constituting 60.4% or 26,891 cases followed by sexual exploitation
- Karnataka reported the highest cyber crimes at 12,020, followed by Uttar Pradesh (11,416) and Maharashtra (4,967).
- However, crimes against women and children showed a 7.3% and 4.5% rise respectively
- Crime rate refers to the number of crimes registered per lakh population

### **National crime Records Bureau**

- Nine states - accounted for 84% of all crimes against dalits in India in 2019
- The highest crime rates (number of crimes for every lakh population of dalits) were observed in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat.
- The other states with crime rates above the national average were Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- As per the data, the national conviction rate in offences under the SC/ST Atrocities Act was just 32% and the pendency rate of cases an alarming 94%.



## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

### NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi

- It have signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) in order to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda to accommodate cleaner and more energy
- The Sol was signed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and Ambassador of the Netherlands to India, Marten van den Berg.
- The Sol aims to reduce the net carbon footprint in industrial and transport sectors and to promote bio-energy technologies
- The Sol meet the two objectives of generating climate-resilient economic growth and safeguarding the environment for future generations.
- India is committed to reduce emissions' intensity by 33%-35% by 2030.

### Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA)

- India and the US signed the fourth and the last foundational agreement Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA) to exchange geospatial Intelligence among them

### India and Maldives

- India has provided a **Dornier Aircraft** to Maldives to enhance its surveillance over exclusive economic zones and to keep an eye on terrorists.
- **Manali Desai** - has made history as the first woman of Indian origin to take over as the head of the sociology department of the University of Cambridge in it's over 800-year history

### Aava Murto becomes Finland's PM post for 1 day

- As part of the United Nations International Day of Girl Child (11th October, 2020), 16-year old Aava Murto assumed the post of Finland's Prime Minister for one day on 7th October, 2020 to raise awareness about gender equality.

### Luis Arce

- Bolivia's Supreme Electoral Tribunal formally announced that Luis Alberto "Lucho" Arce Catacora won the Presidential elections in Boliv