



# Monthly **GK** Mania



August - 2020

**CAREER**  **FLITE** <sup>TM</sup>

*giving flight to your career*

"A Leading Coaching Institute For  
Bank PO/ Clerk, SSC, Railway, CAT, MAT, CLAT"



### **Rajiv Kumar : The New Election Commissioner**

Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar got appointed as the new election commissioner in place of Ashok Lavasa, who resigned earlier this week. His appointment will be effective from August 31, 2020. This 1984-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre has been appointed at the time when the election commission is preparing to hold Bihar assembly polls amid the coronavirus pandemic. With an experience of 30 years in public policy and administration across various sectors, he played a vital role in merging 10 public sector banks into four. He led Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan of financial inclusion, aimed at boosting credit access and job creation via flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Mudra loan scheme, among others. The 59-minute loan scheme for the MSME sector is also his credential.

### **India Will Have World's Largest, Fastest Hybrid Quantum Computer**

Indian Institute of Technology's (IIT) Alumni Council and Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and an association of software developing companies, Russoft, signed an agreement to access and transfer key technologies from Russia to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India. Quantum Computing is million times faster than the largest supercomputer in India. The mentioned technology will be employed in the areas of healthcare, agriculture, transport and logistics, pollution and weather forecast to attain the mission of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Further, it will reduce the cost of genome testing from more than Rs1 lakh per sample to under Rs 1,000, facilitating genetics-based personalised medicines to avoid unnecessary universal vaccination which may have safety issues. It will also enable real world events to get emulated in the virtual world.

### **Techgentsia's Vconsol Clinched Government's Video Conferencing Innovation Challenge**

Kerala-based technology R&D company, Techgentsia's software product 'Vconsol', which was founded in 2009 by Joy Sebastian, was declared winner of the Innovation Challenge for Development of a Video Conferencing Solution under the Digital India Initiative. This grand challenge was announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on 12th

April 2020. Techgentsia will receive a financial support of Rs 1 crore, with an additional Rs 10 lakh, for the next three years for operation and maintenance of 'Vconsol', which will now be used by the Centre for video conferencing purposes.

### **ISRO & VSSUT Will Set up First of Its Kind Space Research Centre**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) made an agreement with a technical institute, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla, Odisha, will establish the first of its kind innovation cum incubation centre, “VSSUT Space Innovation Centre(VSSIC)” to boost space research and explore the latest global trends in space technology and take up related projects that could benefit India. The duo will develop high end simulation tools, miniature test facilities such as Static test facility and solid propulsion research lab and testing facilities for scaled down models. As per the agreement, ISRO will offer technical consultancy support and financial assistance of Rs 50 lakhs for the development of infrastructure of VSSUT as well as will ease the limited utilisation of rocket launching facilities like Thumba, Sriharikota or Balasore (under DRDO). It is worth remembering here that the Innovation Club of VSSUT developed a sounding rocket which entered the Limca Book of Records.

### **India's ASTROSAT Made Rare Discovery**

The first multi wavelength Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, ASTROSAT with its five unique X-ray and UV telescopes viz. soft X-ray, hard X-ray, far UV, near UV, and visible light detected extreme UV light from a galaxy “AUDFs01” that is 9.3 billion light years away from the Earth. This galaxy is located in the Hubble Extreme Deep field (XDF). Dr Kanak Saha, associate professor of astronomy at the IUCAA along with an international team of astronomers from India, France, Switzerland, the USA, Japan and the Netherlands made this discovery , which has been published in “Nature Astronomy”. ASTROSAT was launched on September 28, 2015. Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) Bangalore and ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network, ISTRAC Bangalore are two centres that control activity of this satellite. With its success, ISRO is now looking forward to launch ASTROSAT-2 as its successor.

### **Arunachal Pradesh Came under Schedule VI of Indian Constitution**

The Arunachal Pradesh State Government approved a resolution to bring the state under Schedule VI of Indian Constitution on August 28, 2020. The sixth schedule of the constitution has provision of a separate administration (i.e. Autonomous District Councils) for tribal areas in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram on the basis of reports of the Bordoloi Committee that was formed by the Constituent Assembly. It safeguards the rights of tribal population in these states. And now after this latest approval, tribes of Arunachal Pradesh will also enjoy

Autonomous District Councils. It is worth remembering here that the Schedule VI permits tribes to exercise executive and legislative powers in their districts through these Autonomous District Councils. The Central Government has permitted varying degrees of autonomy to these councils within the powers of the State Legislature. In other words, the state government of Arunachal Pradesh will not be able to interfere with the decisions taken by these councils within their powers. However, the Governor of the state is empowered to organize and reorganize autonomous districts. He can also increase or decrease the areas operating under the council and also can change their names and define their boundaries.

### **PRATHEEKSHA: The First Marine Ambulance**

The Government of Kerala introduced the first Marine Ambulance services 'PRATHEEKSHA' in the country for ensuring efficient rescue of fishermen. Designed as per the standards of Indian Registry of Shipping, the ambulance is well equipped with a first aid facility for rescuing five people simultaneously. Supported by Scania engines, it can run at a maximum speed of 14 knots. Pratheeksha will be deployed in Thiruvananthapuram and along with it two other ambulances viz. Pratyasha and Karunya will also be deployed in Ernakulam and Kozhikode respectively. All these ambulances will be operated by funds worth 3 crore from Corporate Social Responsibility Fund and 36 crore from Chief Minister Disaster Relief Funds.

### **PMJDY Completed Its Six Years**

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed six years of journey on 28th August 2020. It is a national mission for financial inclusion. Around 40.35 crore beneficiaries were registered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana since its inception. According to records, as of August 19, 2020, out of the total accounts opened under the scheme, 63.6% were rural accounts and 55.2% were women accounts and a total of 29.75 crore RuPay cards were issued to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana account holders. Launched in 2014, the scheme proved to be a huge success as it opened 12.54 crores of accounts within a year of its launch. It is worth remembering here that the scheme made entry in Guinness World Records for opening 18,096,130 accounts within one week as a part of the Financial Inclusion Campaign. It is meant to benefit both urban and rural dwellers. The accounts under this scheme require no minimum balance plus it has Rs 5,000 overdraft facility for Aadhar linked accounts. It also provides Rs 1 lakh accident insurance cover.

### **HSBC Is Scripting News In India**

HSBC India has introduced 'Omni Collect', a one-stop solution in India to support businesses for provision of multiple payment options on a single platform. 'Omni Collect' is designed for businesses to facilitate the collection of payments via various digital methods, thereby allowing



them to easily adapt to the changes in consumer spending. HSBC India is capable of supporting both in-store and online purchases across multiple providers with single Application Programming Interface (API) connectivity. This arrangement will remove the complication of relying on multiple connections, minimize operational cost and build sustainable efficiency into the client's collection processes. HSBC has already implemented this solution in Australia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Besides this, HSBC became the first foreign bank in India to introduce a 'Green Deposit Programme' for Corporate Clients to Finance Green Initiatives such as renewable energy, clean transportation, and pollution prevention among others, that promote transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient and sustainable economy. This will enable companies to support environmentally-beneficial projects.

### **IAF's "My IAF" Mobile Application**

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief of the Air Staff(CAS) Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria introduced the mobile application "My IAF", to provide career related information and details to the IAF aspirants. Developed in association with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), This application is a part of the 'Digital India Initiative'. The application provides information about the selection process, training centres, training syllabus, pay and other details for the post of air force officer and airmen as well as supports real time features that provide users with latest trends of IAF on social media platforms like facebook and twitter. It is available in Google Play Store for mobile with android.

### **The MUDRA Loan Index**

The Ministry of Finance, broke the news that around 15 crore loans amounting to Rs 4.78 lakh crores were disbursed to women borrowers since the inception of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. And Tamil Nadu topped the list in offering loans to women, followed by West Bengal and Karnataka. As of March 31, 2020, Tamil Nadu offered Rs 58,227 crores, West Bengal (Rs 55,232 crores), Karnataka (Rs 47,714 crores), Bihar (Rs 44,879) and Maharashtra (Rs 42,000 crores). Out of the total number of loans provided under MUDRA scheme, 70% borrowers were women. It is worth knowing that the Non-Performing Assets as a percentage of MUDRA loans has increased from 2.52% in 2017-18 to 2.68% in 2018-19.

### **The Credit guarantee scheme for NBFC-MFIs**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched a dedicated debt and credit guarantee scheme for non-banking financial companies and microfinance institutions to ensure the abundant flow of credit in COVID-19 affected rural areas. A credit

guarantee scheme has a provision of credit risk alleviation to the lenders through absorption of a portion of the losses suffered by the lender on the loans made to Small and medium-sized enterprises in case of default, typically in return for a fee. NABARD has inked an agreement with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank to formulate the credit guarantee program.

### **RBI's Open Market Operation**

The Reserve Bank of India announced the conduction of simultaneous sale as well as purchase activities of government securities under the Open Market Operations (OMO) for an amount of Rs 20,000 crore in two channels. OMO is associated with giving or taking liquidity in its currency to the banks or from the banks. OMO will regulate the money supply in the economy and will reduce the impact of liquidity on the interest rate and inflation rate. The RBI's decision of purchasing government securities includes 6.18% maturing on 4th November 2024, 8.24% maturing on 15th February 2027, 5.79% maturing on 11th May 2030 and 7.95% maturing on 28th August 2032.

### **Glimpse Of Rare Fish "Mahseer" In Sileru River**

Researchers of Andhra University discovered a rare Humpback fish called "Mahseer" in the Sileru river (a tributary of Sabari river), which is listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature list. It is a large freshwater fish commonly found in the Himalayan fast-moving waters such as hill streams with rocky and stony substrates. that are running in cooler regions. Among 47 species of Mahseer in the world 15 are found in India. Further it is worth knowing that the IUCN changed the conservation status of Humpback Mahseer to Critically Endangered in 2019 as they were found only in river Cauvery. The first International Conference to save Mahseer took place in Bhutan in 2018 and before that in 2014, WWF-India convened a forum in Delhi.

### **21 Centres of Excellence For New Technologies**

In order to provide the largest ecosystem for incubating new technologies to the State-Owned Technology Parks in India (STPI), the government of India decided to establish 21 Centres of Excellence in these parks. It is worth knowing that till March 2020, there were around 60 STPI Centres or sub centres in the country operational in Tier-II and Tier-III cities to promote software exports in the country. The centers offer services viz. data communication services, statutory services, training and value-added services. The STPIs play a vital role in software exports via Software Technology Park Scheme and Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme with a special focus on SMEs and start up units.

### **Nagaland's St Christopher School won National Award**

St Christopher School in Chessore Village, Nagaland bagged the first ever Pallikkutam National Gold Award along with a cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh for Innovation in Education. Instituted by Rajagiri Media and sponsored under the CSR initiative of the Federal Bank Ltd., the award was given to school for ensuring a seamless class for the students with the limited infrastructure and resources in the rural area. Besides this school, the expert jury formed by the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-K) presented Silver Award (Rs.50,000) to DAV Public School, Haryana for using simple and innovative approaches based on available applications viz. virtual Labs, MIT App Inventor, learning 3D design etc. as well as for activities like coding, astronomy, robotics and yoga. And Bronze Award (Rs.25,000) was bestowed to CMI Christ School, Iritty, Kerala for their focus on physical activities like gardening, dancing, art etc. Apart from these, Miles Bronson Residential School in Guwahati, Assam; Fountainhead Senior School in Surat, Gujarat; AEM UP School in Moorkanad, Kerala and Delhi Public School in Kollam, Kerala were specially mentioned by the jury.

### **Private Sector's First Rockets Cleared Test Firing Round**

The first ever six Pinaka rockets fully manufactured by the private sector company "Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)" have been successfully test fired by the army at a firing range in Pokhran, Rajasthan. Developed by DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL), these rockets are the first munition of its kind made by the private sector in India on the lines of the transfer of technology (ToT) agreement between DRDO and private sector, five years ago. This move will decrease the single source dependency on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

### **Francisco Asue once again became the Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea**

Francisco Pascual Eyegue Obama Asue got reappointed as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and President Teodoro Obiang administered his oath at the People's Palace in Malabo. Francisco Asue was appointed as the Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea on 23rd June 2016 and this is his third consecutive term for post of the Prime Minister. Prior to his reappointment, in this month itself, the Asue government tendered the resignation and the government was dissolved to resolve the economic situation. The Central African oil producer, Equatorial Guinea because of the fall in the price of crude oil due to Covid pandemic suffered great loss.

### **NRDC and NAL Partners to Establish Incubation Centre for Startup in Aerospace Technologies**

The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), coupled for setting up an innovation cum incubation center. The proposed centre will incubate and mentor the startups in the field of aerospace engineering. Dr. H. Purushotham, Chief Managing Director, NRDC and Dr. Jitendra J. Jadhav, Director, CSIR-NAL were the signatories of the agreement. Funded by external private funding, the centre will extend support for products and prototype development and validation for the startups. The partnership is meant to create employment opportunities in India.

### **Indore : The Cleanest City Of India For The Fourth Consecutive Year**

Indore of Madhya Pradesh has been declared the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2020 awards for the fourth consecutive time. Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri presented the award in a virtual event. Besides this, the other winners are the town along the banks of river Ganga, Varanasi (cleanest town award), New Delhi (the cleanest capital city in the country), Chhattisgarh (the cleanest state with more 100 cities), Jharkhand (the cleanest state in the category of states with less than 100 cities), Jalandhar Cantonment Board (the cleanest cantonment board in the country) and Ahmedabad in Gujarat (the cleanest city with more than 40 lakh population).

### **The Set Up Of National Recruitment Agency**

The Union Cabinet approved establishment of National Recruitment Agency, which will conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET) for non-gazetted posts in public sector banks and central government. With this approval around 2.5 crore aspirants, who take multiple and separate exams conducted by various recruiting agencies for more than 1.25 lakh advertised government jobs will now need to appear for a single online CET. The score of CET is valid for three years and candidates who succeed in qualifying the test can apply for a higher level of examination. Thus the proposed agency will bring in ease of recruitment and ease of selection, which in turn will ease the protocols the candidates have to follow to get selected for a government job or a public sector bank. Presently, the exams for the public sectors banks and other agencies are mainly conducted through IBPS, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and Railway Recruitment Board.

### **The Beginning Of Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge**

The Union Minister of the Law and Justice, Electronics and Information Technology and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the “Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge” to



achieve self-reliance or Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It is about designing microprocessors that have the ability to address global challenges like technological glitches and security. The Minister has invited students and start-up companies to participate in the challenge worth Rs 4.3 crores. In this context, IIT Madras along with the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) has developed two microprocessors called SHAKTI (32-bit processor) and VEGA (64-bit processor). The processors were developed using an Open Source Architecture.

### **The Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about Rs 7,485 crore) loan to construct a modern, high-speed 82-kilometer Delhi – Meerut, Uttar Pradesh Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India, which will be a first of its kind in the country. ADB will provide loan for this project in 4 tranches between August 2020 and May 2025 and this project will be executed by the NCR Transport Corporation (NCRTC). It is worth knowing here that the Delhi-Meerut RRTS network is the first of three priority rail corridors in the country's integrated transport network under the National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Plan 2021.

### **Satya Pal Malik Became Governor of Meghalaya**

Satya Pal Malik has taken the place of Tathagata Roy as the new Governor of Meghalaya. Prior to this he served as Governor of Goa. In 2018-19, he worked in the capacity of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and it was during his term that the constitutional decision to abrogate Article 370 was implemented. He had also served as Governor of Bihar in 2017-18 and in 2018, he was entrusted the additional charge of Governor of Odisha. After getting elected as Member of Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh in 1974, he was elected as Rajya Sabha representative in 1980-86.

### **IIT Madras Continues To Be The Top Innovative Educational Institute In India**

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has succeeded in retaining its number-one position in the list of top innovative educational institutes in India for the second consecutive year. This 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements' was released by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, in presence of Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank,' in a virtual event. IIT Madras was followed by IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IISc Bengaluru, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, IIT Mandi, NIT Calicut, IIT Roorkee and University of Hyderabad to complete the top ten list. Around 674 Institutions of National Importance, Central Universities and centrally funded technical institutions participated in the rankings this year. Apart from these, in other categories among the self finance category, SR Engineering College, Telangana emerged as the topper of the ARIIA Ranking 2020; Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology

(KIIT), Odisha was the top performer in the category of private institutions; College of Engineering Pune, Maharashtra was the top performer in State Funded Autonomous Institutions ; The Institute of Chemical Technology, Maharashtra was the top performer in State Funded Universities category and Under Women (only higher educational institutions), Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women came up as the top performer.

### **SC Judgement on PM CARES Funds**

The Supreme Court of India pronounced its verdict on PM-CARES funds. The court has refused to direct the centre to transfer the contributions made under PM Cares Funds towards the National Disaster Response Fund. For comprehension it should be noted that the PM Cares Funds was established by the central government as a public charity trust and was meant to deal with emergencies posed by COVID-19. It was an NGO that filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) at the Apex Court to seek to transfer the PM CARES Funds to National Disaster Response Funds (NDRF). The issue has its roots in GoI's decision of bringing COVID-19 pandemic under National Disaster Management Act, 2005. GoI had declared COVID-19 as "Notified Disaster" to help the State Governments managing their funds and guide them in their counter measures towards COVID-19. In this PIL argued that as per the National Disaster Management Act, 2005, the grant made by the individual towards a disaster should compulsorily be credited to NDRF.

### **Akshay Kumar : The only Indian Actor in Forbes' list of 'The Highest-Paid Actors 2020'**

Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar ranked 6th with his estimated earnings of USD 48.5 million on Forbes' list of 'The Highest-Paid Actors 2020'. With this he became the only Indian actor enlisted in this most coveted list. Last Year he held 4th spot in the same list. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson topped this list for the consecutive second time, with an estimated net worth of USD 87.5 million followed by Ryan Reynolds(USD 71.5 million) and Mark Wahlberg(USD 58 million). The 4th spot was secured by Ben Affleck (USD 55 million) followed by Vin Diesel (USD 54 million) at 5th position.

### **Manipur Is All Set For World's Tallest Pier Bridge**

Indian Railways announced construction of the world's tallest 141 meter pier bridge in Manipur across river Ijai at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal at an estimated cost of 280 crore rupees. The engineering marvel will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala - Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe. The 703 meter long bridge as a part of Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new BG line project will be completed by March 2022. The piers of the bridge will be constructed employing hydraulic augers from specially designed "slip-form technique" to ensure efficient and continual construction.

## **The Dream Of Indian House On Moon**

Envisaging habitation on the moon surface in future, a team of researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru together developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the Moon's surface. The constitution of load bearing bricks has lunar soil mixed with urea from human urine, bacteria and guar beans. Guar gum will ensure a lower carbon footprint. The *Sporosarcina pasteurii*, a microorganism that produces calcium carbonate crystals through a metabolic pathway called ureolytic cycle is added to further crystallise the brick in any required shape. In context to bacteria it is worth knowing that according to PLOSOne study of Rashmi Dixit, a bacteria, "*Bacillus velezensis*" locally available soil bacteria, not only shares properties of *S.pasteurii* but also is around ten times less expensive than *S.pasteurii*, which cost around Rs.50,000 per vial.

## **Announcement Of Gallantry Awards**

On the occasion of 74th Independence Day of India President Ram Nath Kovind announced 84 gallantry awards for defence personnel, including nine Shaurya Chakra. Lt.Col. Krishan Singh Rawat from the elite Special Forces, Major Anil Urs and Havildar Alok Kumar Dubey from Indian army, Wing Commander Vishak Nair from the Indian Air Force were the recipients of Shaurya Chakra among others. The Kirti Chakra has been posthumously presented to Abdul Rashid Kalas, Head Constable, Jammu and Kashmir Police. Besides this, the President also announced Sena Medal (gallantry) to 60 Army personnel, Nao Sena Medal (gallantry) to 4 from the Navy and 5 Vayu Sena Medal (gallantry) for the Air Force. The Bar to Sena Medal was also announced for five Army personnel. Besides these, the President also acknowledged Army personnel with 19 Mention-in-Despatches for their significant contributions in military operations, which include eight posthumous for 'Operation Meghdoot' and 'Operation Rakshak'. Apart from this, 926 Police personnel were also awarded Medals for their conspicuous gallant action. Among these, Police Medals for Gallantry have been awarded to 215 police personnel, President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service were awarded to 80 police personnel and Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 631 police personnel.

## **Expansion of NCC**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) for a major expansion scheme to meet the aspirations of youth in 173 border and coastal districts. It is interesting to learn that a total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted to the NCC and among them One-third of the Cadets would be girl Cadets. More than 1000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced. A total of 83 NCC units will be upgraded (Army 53, Navy 20, Air Force 10), to give



NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas. The NCC units will receive the support of the Army in border areas as well as support of Navy in the coastal areas. And the Air Force will provide support to the NCC units located close to the Air Force stations. This NCC expansion plan will be executed in collaboration with the States.

### **Renowned Vocalist Pandit Jasraj Passed Away**

90 years old Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj died of cardiac arrest at his home in New Jersey. Hailing from Mewati Gharana, Jasraj was introduced to vocal music by his father, and was later trained as a tabla accompanist under the tutelage of elder brother, Pandit Pratap Narayan. At the tender age of 14, Jasraj began training and he was so passionate and dedicated to music that he carried out his riyaz for 14 hours a day. The doyen will be remembered as the pioneer who added elements of the thumri to the khayal, redering it more flexibility and making it more audience-friendly. His remarkable career of 80 years not only fetched him various prestigious awards and honours viz. Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan but International Astronomical Union (IAU) also made him immortal by naming a minor planet 2006 VP32 between Mars and Jupiter after him as 'Panditjasraj'

### **Demise of Chetan Chauhan**

Former Indian cricketer and Uttar Pradesh (UP) Cabinet Minister of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, Prantiya Rakshak Dal and Civil Security, Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan died of Covid-19 at 73 in Haryana. He made his 1st class debut at the age of 22 years against Mumbai and was popular as a brave batsman of his generation. He also played Ranji Trophy for Maharashtra and Delhi. He was a right arm off spinner as well as an opening batsman who represented India in 40 Tests( secured 2084 runs) between 1969 and 1978 and 7 ODIs (secured 153 runs). He was honoured with the Arjuna award in 1981. He was also the first Test player to finish his career with more than 2000 runs but without a century. After retiring from cricket , he started his political innings with BJP and contested and got elected twice (1991 &1998) as Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from Almorah in UP.

### **In Memory Of Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

India observed the second death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 16th August 2020, who had been the former Prime Minister of the country for three terms viz. 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months between 1998 and 1999 and full term between 1999 and 2004. He was elected 10 times to the Lok Sabha as well as twice to Rajya Sabha in 50 years. He also served as the Minister of External Affairs in the cabinet of PM Moraji Desai. He played a vital role in empowering India with Nuclear power and improved India-Pakistan relations via the Delhi-



Lahore bus service in 1999. On his death anniversary an announcement of inauguration of an 8.8 kilo meter long Atal Tunnel by September 2020 under Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway, which will be at 3,100 metres above the sea level was made. Besides this, the NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission along with the collaboration of NASSCOM launched the “ATL AI Step Up Module” to drive AI education and innovation to next levels in schools across India. In addition to these the CM of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan, announced the Gwalior Chambal Expressway, which is a 6 lane expressway connecting Madhya Pradesh with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, through the ravines of Chambal region, will be named as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progressway as well as a grand statue of Vajpayee will be set up in Bhopal.

### **Beginning Of New French Course For Lok Sabha**

In order to improve India's ties at international levels and monitor every development, technology upgrade, defence developments, health and education methodologies at international level, Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy (PRIDE) will begin a new French Course at beginner level for the staff and officials of Lok Sabha. Around 57 officials have been enrolled for the course so far. Further Lok Sabha is planning to begin similar courses in German, Russian, Spanish and other important world languages to help India keep up its pace with global level increasing trade and investment opportunities and grab right breakthroughs.

### **Oracle Cloud Will Transform Aspirational Districts**

Under its Aspirational Districts Programme, NITI Aayog selected Oracle Corporation to modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts that accounts for 28% population of India. The Oracle Corporation will provide new cloud solution and will assist the District Magistrates in transforming the lives of the citizens in these Aspirational districts as well as improve their overall performance. This will be achieved through simplified data access, real-time data governance and increased process automation. The data driven decisions will play a significant role in identifying strengths and weaknesses of the Aspirational Districts, which will make way for their progress.

### **Death of Urdu poet Rahat Indori**

Eminent Urdu Poet & Lyricist, Rahat Indori died of heart attack at Aurobindo Hospital, Indore. Rahat Qureshi, who was born and brought up in Indore taught Urdu literature at Devi Ahilya University, and was awarded PhD from Bhoj University in Madhya Pradesh for his thesis titled ‘Urdu Main Mushaira’. His five decade long career in poetry fetched him great repute of Urdu scholar among the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country. His poem “Bulati hai magar jane ka nahi” went viral on social media, that made him a sensation among the youth

during 2020 Valentine day. Besides being a Poet, he has also worked as a Lyricist in Hindi films like “Khuddar”, “Munna Bhai M.B.B.S” and “Murder”. “Sabhi ka khoon hai shamil yahan ki mitti mein; Kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai (Everybody’s blood mingles in the soil; Hindustan does not belong solely to one)” was his most powerful line.

### **Resignation of Ahluwalia From ICRIER**

After having worked for 15 long years as the Chairperson of the think tank of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations(ICRIER), Isher Judge Ahluwalia, put forth her resignation. She was appointed to this post in 2005. She will continue to be the Chairperson Emeritus, a position created to honour her contributions to the council. Pramod Bhasin, who is the vice chair of the board of governors of ICRIER, has succeeded her as the new Chairman.

### **Women have Equal Rights on Parental Property**

A three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra of Supreme Court announced its verdict in favour of women’s equal rights on parental property on August 11, 2020. This includes the cases where the father died before the enactment of Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. The judgement cemented the daughter's stance as a coparcener (a person who assumes legal rights in parental property by birth only) as well. It is worth registering that this ruling led to a big change as in 2015, the Supreme Court had pronounced that the rights under the amendment of Hindu Succession Act, 1956 is applicable only to living daughters, whereas in the recent judgement, the apex court pronounced that “a daughter always remains a loving daughter”and thereby safeguarded their rights. Under the act, the Hindu women can inherit all types of property, movable and immovable via provision of Inheritance through Will or Succession.

### **Demise of renowned Tamil film lyricist Muthusami**

Tamil film lyricist P K Muthusami , who was nearing his 100th birth year, passed away in R Pudupatti village in Namakkal, near Trichy. His lyrics like ‘Mannukku Maram Baaramaa ?’ meaning ‘are the trees a burden on the earth?’ have relevance for the present time also and his popular compositions like Mappillai vandar’ and ‘Chinna chinna nadai nadandu’ etc. had brought him in limelight.

### **India’s First Private Upper Stage Rocket Engine**

The Aerospace Startup Skyroot Aerospace has test fired an upper stage rocket engine and with this it has become the first Indian private company to demonstrate the capability of homegrown rocket engines.The 3D printed rocket engine with the fewer moving parts and with weight half of conventional rocket engines, was named after the Nobel Laureate Sir C V Raman. It is capable of

multiple restarts and placing various satellites into multiple orbits in a single mission. The firm demonstrated the first 100% 3D printed bi-propellant liquid rocket engine injector with overall mass reduced by 50% and total number of components and lead time reduced by 80%. The first rocket with 250 to 700 kg weight will be launched in lower earth orbit by 2021.

### **India's 1st Pocket Android POS**

In an effort to digitise and empower a large number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Paytm launched a Pocket Android Point Of Sale (POS) device 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' for contactless ordering and payments in India. Designed like a phone, it is much more powerful than the portable Linux based POS devices. It functions with 4G SIM cards, Wi-Fi and has Bluetooth connectivity. With an introductory price of Rs 499 per month on a rental basis, it has been integrated with the 'Paytm for Business' app to generate GST compliant bills and manage all transactions and settlements. With 163 grams weight and 12 millimeter (mm) thickness, it has a 4.5-inch touch screen. It has a powerful processor, all-day battery life, and an inbuilt camera to scan QR codes for instant payment process.

### **Inauguration of Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission, 'Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra' at the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at Rajghat, New Delhi. It consists of three distinct sections and has a balanced mixture of digital and outdoor installations that records India's transformation from having more than 50 crore people defecating in the open in 2014 to becoming open defecation free in 2019. The Prime Minister had announced this set up on 10th April 2017, during the centenary celebrations of Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha. Besides this, Modi also introduced 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat', a special week long campaign from August 8, 2020 for swachhata in the run up to Independence Day, during which each day till 15th August will have special swachhata initiatives in urban and rural India to put into force the jan andolan for swachhata. Railways is also observing cleanliness week from August 10-15 to mark Independence Day.

### **The Book 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing'**

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu completed his three years on the post on August 11, 2020. The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released a book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' to mark this occasion. The book of more than 250 pages has a record of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's three years of holding Vice-Presidential position. The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar also released an electronic version

of the book. The book captures the activities of the Vice President, which includes his travels in India as well as abroad, his addresses to the Indian diaspora on foreign lands, his interactions with the world leaders and provides a glimpse of his interactions with farmers, doctors, scientists, youths, industry leaders, administrators, and artists, among others.

### **IIT-Kharagpur: Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Awardee 2020**

A group of researchers of Indian Institutes of Technology(IIT) Kharagpur developed a mechanism for generating electricity from wet clothes left under sunlight to dry and for this it was awarded Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards 2020. This work has been published in Nano Letters, a high-impact journal in the field. Besides this, the same award was presented separately to another team of the IIT Kharagpur for solving the problem of energy conservation and thermal management in wearable and flexible electronic devices.

### **CSIR & FSSAI Tied Up For Collaborative Research**

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) signed MoU for collaborative research and information dissemination in the area of food and nutrition. It will contribute in fulfilling the vision of the New Food System 2050 and will strengthen the quality assurance of laboratory networks across the country. The New Food System 2050 will focus on climate-friendly food production systems, conservation of land and water resources, decrease in food loss and food wastage across the value chain, increase in small scale production units for self-sustaining local economies, use of environment-friendly packaging alternatives, and repurposing of waste.

### **Global Conference on Reimagining and Transforming University**

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) and International Institute for Higher Education Research and Capacity Building (IIHed) along with Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities, Laspau (A Harvard University affiliated network), the STAR Scholars Network, Qatar Foundation hosted a two day global conference on “Reimagining and Transforming the University: Confluence of Ideas during and Beyond the COVID-19 Disruption”. The conference revolved around themes like ‘Future of Universities in Asia’, ‘Women’s Leadership at the University’, ‘The Future of Internationalization: Implications for India’ and ‘Digital Transformation of Higher Education, Diversity, Inclusion’, ‘Social Justice as the University Mission’ and ‘Educational Leadership, Institutional Resilience and Innovative Initiatives’.



### **Demise of Padma Shri awardee Mukund Lath**

Prominent cultural historian and exponent of Mewati gharana Mukund Lath passed away at the age of 82. He was felicitated with India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri, in 2010 for his contributions to the field of arts and cultural history. The late Mukund Lath taught History at the University of Rajasthan at the Department of History and Indian Culture, and retired in 1997. In addition to this, 'A Study of Dattilam: A Treatise on the Sacred Music of Ancient India' (1978), 'Sangita evam Chintan' (1992), and 'Transformation as Creation' (1998) are classic examples of his works on performing arts. Mukund Lath along with Pandit Jasraj made Mewati gharana a recognisable genre of Hindustani classical music.

### **India's First ever Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Network**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first 2300 kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the cost of rupees 1,224 Crore, under the Union government's commitment for Ease of living. This project is expected to boost tourism in the Islands. It is a sort of Independence Day gift for people of Andaman and Nicobar islands, which will lead to the sea trade rise exponentially. The high speed net in Andaman and Nicobar islands will help the people of the island in getting the benefits of digital India. It is worth learning that seven islands of Andaman and Nicobar islands other than Port Blair are connected namely Swaraj Dweep, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat. This net will boost digital services like tele-education, tele-health, e-governance services and tourism on the island.

### **India banned 101 Defence items**

In order to make India self-reliant under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Defence Ministry has imposed a ban on import of 101 items to boost indigenous production. This decision will provide opportunity to the defence industries of the country to adopt their own design or adopt technologies developed by DRDO and manufacture items in the embargoed list. The defence tri-services will give contracts worth Rs 4 lakh crores to domestic industries in the next 6 to 7 years under 260 schemes involved in the selected 101 items. It is worth remembering here that The domestic industries were given contracts worth Rs 3.5 lakh crores between 2015 and 2020.

### **78th anniversary of Quit India Movement**

India commemorated the 78th anniversary of the Quit India movement on 8th August. On this day in 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All India Congress Committee in Mumbai. This Movement is also dubbed as the India August Movement

or August Kranti, which was introduced after the failure of Cripps mission that aimed at provision of constitutional remedy to India's problems. Gandhiji made a Do or Die call through this movement. The movement demanded an immediate end to British rule in India; free India status to defend the country against imperialism and fascism and formation of a provisional government of India after withdrawal of British. India was facing havoc during the World War and the British refused to grant immediate independence postponing it to the end of world war. In this movement all major Congress leaders viz. Nehru, Gandhi, Patel and over 1 lakh people were arrested and the Indian National Congress was banned. The movement was handed over to young leaders namely Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan.

### **India's First Silk Training cum Production Centre**

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) announced establishment of the first of its kind training cum production centre of silk in the state of Arunachal Pradesh till the first week of September, 2020. The KVIC will provide machinery like handlooms, warping drums and silk reeling machines and the centre will provide training to 25 local artisans that will boost weaving activities in the region. It is worth registering that Arunachal Pradesh is the biggest state in the North East that has vast potential for Sericulture. The state produces all four varieties of silk viz. Mulberry, Oak Tasar, Eri and Muga. Among these, Oak Tasar is produced in higher altitudes, Eri and Muga in foothills and Mulberry is reared in middle altitude. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world and Mulberry accounts to 74.51%. Earlier the Central Silk Board of India had implemented a Silk Samagra scheme between 2017 and 2020 and the Government of India allocated Rs 2,161 crores for the scheme to develop sericulture in the country.

### **Demise of Former Arunachal Pradesh**

Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and Veteran Bureaucrat Ramachandra Dattatraya Pradhan (R.D.Pradhan) died at 92 in Mumbai. He joined as IAS officer in the erstwhile Bombay State in 1952 and served in various capacities in Gujarat as well as Maharashtra. He was Home Secretary of India from January 1985 to June 1986 and served as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from March 1987 to March 1990. He also rendered his service as India's Resident Representative in Geneva to UNCTAD and GATT. He had been an International civil servant for 5 years. R D Pradhan became a proud recipient of Padma Bhushan, third highest civilian award of India in 1987. He was among the chief architects in drafting of peace accords in Punjab, Assam and Mizoram. "Working with Rajiv Gandhi", "1965 War, the Inside Story: Defence Minister Y.B. Chavan's Diary of India-Pakistan War" were the books penned by him.

### **The “UV Baggage Bath” At Bengaluru railway**

In order to disinfect the baggage to stop the indirect mode of COVID – 19 transmissions from the outer surfaces of travel bags to the human beings, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru Division, AN Krishna Reddy and Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Admin), Bengaluru Division, Kalyani Sethuraman inaugurated a unique kiosk named “UV Baggage Bath” at the Bangalore railway station, South Western Railway. It is an enclosed chamber through which passenger luggage is passed. The beamed Ultra Violet (UV) light from all directions disinfects the contaminations of microbes on the outer surface of the baggage. This facility has been installed at the second entry (near entrance of Platform Number: 5, 6,7 & 8) of the station to sanitize the luggage of the on-board and off-board passengers.

### **The First Anniversary of Ladakh and J&K Union territories**

On 5th August 2020, the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir celebrated their first anniversary of formation. The Government of India revoked the special status to Jammu and Kashmir by modifying Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019. Besides this, the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Girish Chandra Murmu resigned from his post. He was a 1985 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, who was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor in October 2019. Following his resignation, Manoj

### **Inauguration of Golf Resort at Thenzawl**

In order to provide quality golfing experience and international facilities at a fair price, “Thenzawl Golf Resort” Project worth Rs.92.25 Crore has been inaugurated in Mizoram by Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel. The climatic condition and picturesque landscapes of the state offer huge potential for golf tourism. Sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan, it sprawls in 105 acres with 75 acres of the play area designed by one of top-ranked Canada based Golf Course architectural firm Graham Cooke and Associates. Pretty soon the play area will be equipped with an 18 Hole Golf Course with Sharing Fairway and an automated sprinkler irrigation system courtesy of Rain Bird, USA. The project has all the top-notch facilities of international standards.

### **Karmaveer Chakra Awardee, Sunil ydv SS**

The Founder and CEO of “SS Motivation” channel on Telegram, Sunil ydv SS has been honored with Karmaveer Chakra Award at the ReX ConCLIVE hosted at Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi for his contribution to the society. The awardee addressed several social issues and motivated numerous people through SS motivation, which achieved around 127 million views in 2019, which was the highest global record obtained by a telegram channel that provides solutions

to social issues. Sunil was also enlisted in the Bravo International Book of World Records for having the most number of subscribers on his telegram channel. Instituted by the United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO), Karmaveer Chakra Award acknowledges the contribution of individuals who showcase their restless courage, initiating change and exploring the less travelled life paths.

### **Former Maharashtra CM Nilangekar Passed Away**

Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Veteran Congressman breathed his last on the pretext of multiple ailments at 88 in Pune. Hailing from Nilanga city of Latur district, he was a powerful cooperative leader from Marathwada region. He made significant contributions in the field of education. He had the briefest stint as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, for less than a year from June 1985 to March 1986. Before his elevation to the top post, the deceased had represented the Nilanga assembly constituency on seven occasions since 1962 and had been an active part of several Congress-led governments in the state. The entire Nilangekar family has been a dominant force in the politics of Latur and the Marathwada region Nilanga. Rupatai Patil Nilangekar his daughter-in-law, who is with the BJP, had been the MP of Latur between 2004 and 2009 while Sambhaji Patil Nilangekar the grandson of deceased was a Minister in the former Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP government.

### **Demise of Sahitya Akademi Awardee Sa. Kandasamy**

The famous writer and documentary Filmmaker Sa. Kandasamy died of heart problems at 81 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. His Novel 'Visaranai Commission' fetched him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award. It is worth knowing that his novel, Chayavanam / Sayavanam, which he penned in 1968 was later listed by the National Book Trust as a masterpiece in modern Indian Literature. In 1995 he was granted a fellowship by the Lalit Kala Akademi of the government of Tamil Nadu for his contribution towards the development of art. He penned 7 novels and 11 short stories in his lifetime. His novel 'Tholaindu ponavargal' was adapted into a television serial. In his film making career, his documentary film on Kaaval deivangal for Doordarshan won the first prize at the Angino Film Festival, Nicosia, Cyprus in 1989.

### **'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21'**

Ministry of Science and Technology in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) launched a national level programme named "Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan" for popularizing science among school students of class sixth to eleventh. This initiative has provision of Vidyarthi Vigyan Exam, which is India's largest Science talent search examination for New India employing Digital Devices and



students can take this exam on their smartphones (VVM Exam app), laptop or PC. This initiative will not only generate students' interest in pure science but will also educate them about India's contribution to science from ancient to modern. The winners of the program will get the opportunity to interact with renowned scientists of the nation at National Science Laboratories.

### **Vijay Kumar Choudhary's "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata"**

Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary penned a book named, "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata", which was released by Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar. Published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat, the book is a compilation of Choudhary's views, three dozen articles on various key issues, his life journey, various developmental works in different sectors and welfare measures taken by the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar. Having accounts of accomplishments of Bihar assembly like, successful completion of 6th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region among others, the book is likely to enhance knowledge and understanding of law students about politics, society and Constitution. The book has been compiled and edited by senior journalist Arvind Sharma and another senior journalist Vinod Bandhu wrote its preface.

### **The First Muslim Women Rights Day**

On August 1, 2020, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) observed the first anniversary of the approval of Muslim Women Act (Protection on Rights on Marriage Act) that criminalised the act of triple talaq or talaq-e-biddat to achieve gender equality for Muslim women in form of Muslim Women Rights Day. It is worth recollecting that on 30th July 2019, the triple talaq bill also dubbed as the Muslim Women Act (Protection on Rights on Marriage Act) was passed by the Indian parliament. Rajya Sabha gave nod to the bill with 99 votes in favor and President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to this bill on 1st August 2019 and criminalized the instant oral triple talaq with jail term of upto 3 years. This act came into force on 19th September 2019, and was extended to all the parts of India.

### **Rajesh Kumar Became Chief Secretary Of Manipur**

1988 batch IAS officer of Manipur Cadre, Rajesh Kumar has been appointed as chief secretary of Manipur in place of J.Suresh Babu who retired on 31st July, 2020. Prior to this, Rajesh Kumar worked in the capacity of Additional Chief Secretary (finance) of Manipur. It is worth knowing here that this move has been made in response to long-pending demand of Student Bodies of Manipur viz. All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM), Democratic Students' Alliance of Manipur (DESAM), and Apunba Ireipakki Maheiroi Sinpanglup (AIMS) for appointment of native IAS officers as New Chief Secretary.

### **Nirupama Yadav's book "Vishesh: Code to Win"**

On August 29, 2020, a book titled "Vishesh: Code to Win" penned by sportswoman-turned-author Nirupama Yadav will be released. It is a biography of Indian basketball captain, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi. Bluerose publishers will publish this 130-page book that narrates how the young Indian basketball player became the captain of the team in a cricket-dominated nation. The aim of this book is to encourage the sports industry to focus more on developing games in India so that the potential players may get their due recognition. It is worth knowing that Vishesh Bhriguvanshi hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi has been playing basketball for the team India since 2007 and has a 15 years of career now. He had become the captain of the Indian team in 2010 and represented India at various championships. He became the first Indian to get signed by Australia's National Basketball League (NBL) in 2017.

### **Approvals of Rajasthan Government**

On 2nd August 2020, the Government of Rajasthan approved amendment of the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules 2010 to provide 5% reservation in the state judicial service for the More Backward Classes(MBC) instead of 1%. The MBC community saw inclusion of five more castes viz. Gurjar, Gadiya, Luhar, Banjara, Rebari, and Raika which were initially classified as Other Backward Classes(OBC). Apart from this the government decided to implement Indira Rasoi Yojana from 20th August 2020. Under this the needy and poor will get healthy and nutritious food at 8 Rs per plate and the government will do the expenditure of Rs 100 Crores per year for the same.

### **AJO-Neo: Notouch and Painless device for new-borns**

Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India devised a device named "AJO-Neo" for "No-touch" & "Painless" non-invasive bilirubin level screening in new-borns. The device has potential of measuring bilirubin levels in premature as well as natural birth babies irrespective of menstrual or Chronological age, sex, risk factors, feeding behavior or skin color. As it can deliver reports within 10 seconds to the doctor remotely, it has an edge over long time consuming conventional blood test methods. The faster detection of neonatal blood bilirubin (Hyperbilirubinemia) is vital to avoid Neuro-psychiatric problems in newborn babies.

### **The Creation of National Clinical Registry of COVID-19 Patients**

In order to improve treatment in hospitals, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) along with AIIMS, is creating a new rigorous database of COVID-19 patients, admitted across the country. The database under the name of the 'National clinical registry for COVID-19

patients', will not only help in understanding the nature of the disease and to study how it is affecting different people in a different manner but will also enable health officials to understand why therapies are not working with the same curability for everyone. This registry will also function as a platform to conduct clinical trials and study its response against the deadly virus. Currently, a total of 15 institutions will create a network to implement this project. Soon other medical colleges or hospitals after getting clearance from ICMR will also be included as part of the project. The data in this clinical registry is being collected in a more systematic, structured, and a scientific way to serve the purpose of a repository in future. And a team of experts like clinicians, scientists, analysts, and biostatistics will be in charge of the registry.

CAREER FLITE



### **Philip Barton : The First Head of FCDO**

British High Commissioner to India, Philip Barton got appointed as the permanent under-secretary to head the newly formed ministry named ‘Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)’, which has been formed by merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID). The purpose of this new Ministry is to strengthen Britain’s position in an intensely competitive world via increasing focus on a specific issue, encouraging collaboration between different policy areas and improving the delivery of government services. Barton’s appointment will come into effect from September 2020.

### **“Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump”**

On 8th September 2020 Michael Cohen’s memoir about President Donald Trump titled “Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump” will be released. Skyhorse Publishing will publish this book. Skyhorse has dubbed the devastating business and political horror story of the century as “Disloyal”. Cohen has already released the foreword of the book. It is worth knowing here that Cohen is an American disbarred lawyer who served as an attorney for the U.S. President Donald Trump from 2006 to 2018. He has also served as a Vice-president in Trump’s organization, and has been the personal counsel to Trump.

### **Kamala Harris: The First Indian American Vice Presidential candidate**

Senator Kamala Harris felt honored in accepting her nomination as the US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic Party. In 2003, she was elected district attorney of San Francisco and in 2010, she was elected attorney general of California, and re-elected in 2014. She defeated Loretta Sanchez in the 2016 and became the first South Asian American to serve in the United States Senate. She has served as the Junior United States senator from California since 2017. She has plans of getting equal justice for George Floyd and Breonna Taylor under law.



### **The 17th Meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Commission**

The 17th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Binh Minh. In this meeting the recent developments in India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership were reviewed as well as measures and orientations for cooperation in the new period, towards the 50th anniversary of the bilateral diplomatic ties (January 26, 1972-2022) were presented. India witnessed agreements regarding economic and defence engagement; civil nuclear energy, space, marine sciences and new technologies in order to bring two-way trade to US\$15 billion as soon as possible. It reaffirmed its assistance related to Quick Impact Projects (QIP), Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and e-ITEC initiatives, PhD fellowships, as well as projects in water resource management in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region, SDGs, (Sustainable Development Goals) digital connectivity and heritage conservation etc.

### **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld : The Youngest Awardee of 2020 International Booker Prize**

29 year old Dutch Author Marieke Lucas Rijneveld of the Netherlands won the 2020 International Booker Prize for the Literary fiction for her book 'The Discomfort of Evening' and with this, she became the youngest author to claim the most coveted International Booker Prize. The book has a fictional story of Jas, a girl in a devout Christian farming family, whose brother dies in an accident after she wishes he would die instead of her rabbit. The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and became a best-seller and was acknowledged with the prestigious ANV Debut Prize. Later it was translated into English by Michele Hutchison. The International Booker Prize is presented every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

### **Testing of World's Largest Ever Hydrogen Bomb**

Russia released a 40-minute video titled "Top Secret: Test of a clean hydrogen bomb with a yield of 50 mega tonnes" on August 27, 2020. The 26 feet long and more than 27 tonnes heavy Hydrogen bomb with name 'Tsar Bomb' was successfully tested over Novaya Zemlya, an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. This largest ever hydrogen bomb derives its energy from nuclear fusion reactions and is said to be 3,333 times more destructive than that of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Atom bombs 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man'. The video shows how the bomb was built and carried to the testing centre. Russia built this bomb in its nuclear race with the USA. So far North Korea, Britain, US, France and China have conducted hydrogen bomb tests.

## **Resignation of Japan's longest serving Prime Minister Shinzo Abe**

Shinzo Abe, who is the longest serving Prime Minister of Japan in the history of the country, has tabled his resignation on pretext of a chronic digestive disease ulcerative colitis. Abe's tenure was scheduled to end next year in September. He proclaimed his resignation before time, after breaking the record of spending the maximum number of days in the PM office that was previously set by his great-uncle, Eisaku Sato, who served as Prime Minister of Japan from 1964 to 1972. Shinzo became PM of Japan for the first time in 2006 and after completing 1 year and 1 day laid resignation because of a combination of foreign and domestic factors, including a political stalemate in Japan over the country's logistical support for the US invasion of Afghanistan. Later he became PM again in 2012 that continued till August 2020. As per wikipedia he ruled for four terms that amounts to 3168 days in the Prime minister's office. The concept of Abenomics is his credential. It refers to a set of economic policies aimed at increasing money supply in the country, enacting reforms and boosting government spending. Abenomics is about achieving 2% of inflation target, flexible fiscal policy and growth strategy. He was the first Japanese Prime Minister to attend India's Republic day parade in Delhi as chief guest.

## **Conclusion of World Water Week 2020: August 24 – 28, 2020**

The World Water Week of the year 2020 that started on 24th August met its end today. Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) has been organizing it annually as the most influential, innovative and dynamic movement for transforming the global water issues. This Week observation was started in 1991. The theme for this week for this year was 'Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action'. Around 120 unique sessions with productive discussions were carried out amid the global pandemic. Experts from across the globe shared the best ideas and solutions to solve the global water issues, climate change. The Executive Director of SIWI, Torgny Holmgren mentioned the three prominent trends viz. Water-related climate solutions , Strengthened resilience and Behavioural change. Besides this, the Stockholm Water Prize 2020 was conferred upon Dr John Cherry for the discoveries which revolutionized the understanding of the vulnerability of groundwater. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize was presented to Hiroki Matsuhashi and Takuma Miyaki of Japan for their method to control soil runoff and increase food production. Zoe Gotthold from USA received the Diploma of Excellence for her project 'Promoting Emulsion Nullification Greenly Using Innovative Nucleation Surfaces (P.E.N.G.U.I.N.S)', a solution to tackle the oil spills via the emulsion that forms between sea water and oil. Aditya Kumar Chowdhury and Khaled Iftekhar from Bangladeshi were chosen for People's Choice Award for their water purification approach.

### **Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash : 'World's Fastest Human Calculator**

Twenty-Year old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda of Hyderabad won the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC) of Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO). In order to book the title of World's Fastest Human Calculator he beat 29 participants up to 57 years of age from 13 countries including the UK, Germany, UAE, France, Greece and Lebanon. In this virtual event, Bhanu Prakash scored 167 and created a new All Time Record beating the records of Math Maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg. It is worth knowing here that this student of Mathematics (Honors) at Delhi University's St Stephen College holds 4 World Records and 50 Limca records for being the fastest human calculator across the globe. In this event Lebanese Mohammed El Mir grabbed the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE took away the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.

### **Demise of Pascal Lissouba, The Ex-Congo President**

88 year old Pascal Lissouba, who was the former President of Republic of Congo passed away in Southern France due to illness. He represented the Pan-African Union for Social Democracy (UADS) party. In 1960 when Congo became an independent country, Pascal became its Agriculture Minister. He had been the Prime minister of the country under the Presidency of Alphonse Massamba Debat. He registered victory in the first multi-party presidential elections of the Republic of Congo in 1992 and had been the President from 1992 to 1997. Then he was overthrown by Denis Sassou Nguesso, the current president of Congo, in the 1997 civil war and fled to France.

### **First National Coordination Committee Of India & Uzbekistan**

India and Uzbekistan conducted their first National Coordination Committee meeting regarding trade and investment and Line of Credit projects. Indian External Affairs Minister and Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister together presided over the meeting. The duo have bilateral trade of more than 300 million USD mainly in Pharmaceuticals and Medical tourism contributed to this trade to a great deal. In 2006, a Joint Centre of Information Technology was established and upgraded in 2014. Apart from this, the Indian companies have made suitable investments in amusement parks, pharmaceuticals, automobile components and hospitality industry. In 2019, an IT park was established in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with Indian assistance as well as India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise, 'Dustlik' was also started in the same year.

### **Discovery of Natural Gas In Black Sea**

The Turkish President Recep Tayyip broke the news of the discovery of 320 billion cubic metres of natural gas in Black Sea and the nation will start using the discovered natural gas by 2023.

History reveals that Turkey is highly dependent on Russia, Iran and Iraq for its energy resources and the Turkish energy imports from these countries were 41 billion USD in 2019, so this discovery of oil exploration will certainly reduce its imports. Although the discovery is significant to Turkey, yet it is smaller in comparison to the discoveries made in the eastern Mediterranean.

### **Spain Witnessed First West Nile Virus Death**

Spain reported an outbreak of West Nile Virus that claimed the lives of two people in Spain and pushed 23 to hospital on 21st August 2020. Transmitted by mosquitoes, this West Nile Virus is a RNA virus that causes West Nile Fever which leads to Neuroinvasive disease. Although the virus can also get transmitted to humans via organ transplant, breast milk and blood transfusions, yet there is no report of such transmission so far. This West Nile Virus was reported in Kerala in March 2019.

### **Cheers To German Golfer Sophia Popov**

World number 304 golfer Sophia Popov won the Women's British Open by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland and with this she became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title. Having entered the final with a three-shot lead, she bounced back from bogeying the first hole by making five birdies in her 3-under 68. Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura emerged as runner up after shooting 67. This turned out to be one of the most unlikely wins in the tournament's history.

### **Luis Rodolfo Abinader: The 54th President of Dominican Republic**

Businessman Luis Rodolfo Abinader succeeded Danilo Medina as President of Dominican Republic. The 53-year old, who has never held any other elected office has become the 54th President of Dominican Republic. Luis Rodolfo Abinader took oath for the four-year term and ended the 16-year long reign of the Center-Left Dominican Liberation Party (PLD). The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended this swearing-in ceremony. Abinader's Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) won the elections by securing 53% vote, while Gonzalo Castillo of the ruling PLD got 37.7% votes in July 2020 Presidential elections.

### **Keith Rowley Continues To Be The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago**

Keith Christopher Rowley of People's National Movement (PNM) has taken oath as the Prime Minister of the southernmost island country in the Caribbean known for its fossil-fuel wealth, Trinidad and Tobago for a second consecutive term after victory in general elections. PNM secured 22 of the 41 electoral seats, while the opposition United National Congress (UNC) led



by former prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar secured 19 seats. Besides Keith, his new cabinet ministers also took oath. Keith Rowley's cabinet has a mixture of young and experienced politicians viz. Colm Imbert (Finance minister); Franklin Khan (Minister of Energy and Energy Industries); Camille Robinson-Regis (Minister of Planning and Development); Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi; Stuart Richard Young (National Security Minister), Terrence Deyalsingh (Health Minister) and Dr. Amery Browne (Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs) among others.

### **The ILO-ADB Report**

According to the International Labour Organization and the Asian Development Bank's joint report on "Tackling COVID-19 Youth employment crisis in Asia and Pacific" around 1-1.5 crores of youths of 13 countries might lose their jobs due to COVID-19 crisis. Among them, 41 lakhs will be Indian youth. Among them the major percentage of job loss will be faced by workers belonging to the agriculture and construction sector. The unemployment rate in India will increase to 32.5%. However among all the countries Sri Lanka will face the maximum unemployment at the rate of 37.8%. The predicted job loss will be in the form of reduced working hours and earnings for both self-employed and paid workers; disruptions in education and training; difficulty in job switching as well as difficulties in transition from school to work.

### **Biden Promised To Reform H-1B Visa System**

The Democratic Party of USA has formally nominated Joe Biden as its presidential nominee for the 2020 elections. He will compete with President Donald Trump in the November polls for the White House. And Biden has nominated Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate for Vice President's post. Biden, who has served as the 47th Vice President of the United States from 2009 to 2017, in his presidential campaign 2020 has promised to reform the H-1B visa system and weed out the country quota for Green Cards if voted to power in the November general elections. The Democratic presidential candidate in order to influence votes of 1.3 million eligible Indian-American voters across eight states, has come out with an exclusive policy document for Indian-Americans on the occasion of India's 74th Independence Day. The Biden Campaign also promises to extend its support to the family-based immigration system and streamlining processing for religious worker visas. It is worth recalling here that the H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that permits US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Companies hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

### **Israel-UAE Peace Pact**

Both the United Arab Emirates and Israel, who are close allies of the USA, signed a peace agreement called the 'Abraham Accord' to strengthen opposition against Iran. The agreement in honour of three major Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam, stopped Israel's annexation of the West Bank, which is sandwiched between Israel and Jordan. The agreement further paves way for more agreements including direct flights, telecommunications, tourism, energy, security and health care between the two nations. With this UAE became the first Gulf country to sign a peace agreement with Israel and Israel became the third Arab country after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994) to sign the peace agreement. History reveals that the West Bank was captured by Jordan at the end of Arab-Israeli war. The agreement will now bring all the Sunni nations in an anti-Iran alliance with Israel.

### **Bangladesh observed 'National Mourning Day'**

Bangladesh observed the National Mourning Day on 15th August 2020 marking the 45th death anniversary of its founder President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 15th August 1975. The day inked a 'scandalous chapter' in the history of this country. It is worth recollecting here that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with 16 members of his family was brutally assassinated on this day by a group of people from the armed forces at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka. Among the close family members, only his daughter and current Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina and her sister survived as they were out of the country when the disgraceful incident took place. On this occasion President Abdul Hamid revealed that he was offered the post of Minister by Zia Ur Rahman who had become head of state after Bangabandhu's assassination in 1975, which he declined and publicly protested the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for which he was barred later.

### **Alexander Lukashenko Won His Sixth Consecutive Presidential Term**

Belarus' longtime authoritarian leader Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive presidential term (1994-present) by garnering more than 80% of the votes, while his main opposition challenger Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya managed to secure just 9.9% of votes. However, the Opposition party has rejected the official election results and invoked recounting of the votes. As a result, 5,000 protesters in the capital city of Minsk came on the streets to protest Lukashenko's election win.

### **China extended anti-dumping Tariff on Indian Fibre Optic Product**

According to the latest announcement of the Ministry of Commerce, China is extending anti-dumping tariffs on fibre optic products made in India to a range between 7.4% and 30.6% from

14th August 2020 for next five years. This is bound to affect the Indian Optical Fibres being exported to China. Just two days before, India imposed anti dumping duties on imports of black toner powder originating from China and Malaysia. Dumping is the process of unloading goods into a foreign market at lower market value and Anti-Dumping Tariff is a protectionist tariff that is imposed by the domestic government on foreign imports as these products are capable of cutting the local businesses. Prior to this, China had imposed anti-dumping tariffs on Indian products for five years till August 2019 and had then reviewed them. According to the United Nations COMTRADE database, India traded 129.78 million USD worth Optical fibres, bundles and cables from China in the year 2019.

### **Resignation of Lebanon's PM Hassan Diab Government**

Prime Minister of Lebanon Hassan Diab, Lebanon and his government resigned in wake of the August 4 explosion in Beirut's port which killed at least 160 people and injured about 6,000 others. Lebanon President Michel Aoun, accepted his resignation letter and asked him to continue the task of PM until a new cabinet is formed. Hassan Diab had formed his cabinet in January 2020 with support of the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah group and its allies. He was appointed in place of Saad Hariri who had to step down under pressure from the protest movement. Hassan Diab had also worked in the capacity of Minister of Education from June 2011 to February 2014 under President Michel Suleiman.

### **World Elephant Day**

In order to preserve and protect elephants, the globe observed World Elephant Day on 12th August 2020. Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark in Thailand were the brains behind this idea. The day raises the plight of "Endangered" Asian and "Vulnerable" African elephants. This day was celebrated for the first time in 2012. On the occasion of World Elephant Day, in India the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched National Portal on Human - Elephant conflict called "SURAKHSYA" to collect real time information about human and elephant conflicts on real time basis and manage them. The Minister also launched the booklet on "Best practices of Human-Elephant Conflict Management in India"

### **Walter Roger Martos Ruiz : The New Prime Minister of Peru**

President of Republic of Peru Martin Vizcarra appointed the former defense minister and retired army general, Walter Roger Martos Ruiz as Peru's new Prime Minister. He took the oath at the Government Palace in Lima and succeeded Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido . It is worth knowing here that Cateriano was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Peru on July 15 in place of Vicente Zaballos but as the congress recently rejected the vote of confidence requested by the

Ministerial Cabinet led by him with 37 votes in favor and 54 votes in opposition so this new appointment has been made. Besides this, the President Vizcarra made five changes in his cabinet in which he has also appointed attorney Luis Inchistategui as head of the Ministry of Energy and Mines, while Maria Antonieta Alva will continue to be the Economy and Finance Minister.

### **Mohamed Ould Bilal : The New Prime Minister of Mauritania**

Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the 16th Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania by President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani. Hailing from Union for the Republic (UPR), Mohamed Ould Bila has served as Political Advisor and headed several state agencies. This appointment has been made after the resignation of Ismail Ould Cheikh Sidiya and his entire government in the backdrop of an investigation into high-level corruption charges against them.

### **Volcanic Eruption on Mt. Sinabung**

On August 10, 2020, Indonesia's Mount Sinabung erupted, spewing a massive tower of smoke about 5,000 metres (16,400 feet) and ash into the sky that plunged local communities and villages upto 12 miles from crater into darkness. As per Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre's report luckily there have been no fatalities or injuries from the eruption. It should be noted that Mt. Sinabung, which was a dormant volcano for almost 400 years, revived in 2010. And then a series of eruptions were witnessed in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Being situated on the "Ring of Fire", Indonesia is home to almost 130 active volcanoes. The latest eruption was noted in late 2018 in the strait between Java and Sumatra islands that caused an underwater landslide and tsunami that claimed 400 lives.

### **Discovery Of An 'Ocean World'**

The latest editions of Journals Nature Astronomy, Nature Geoscience and Nature Communication captured NASA's Dawn Spacecraft's data that shows Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt between Jupiter and Mars is an 'Ocean World' which has a big reservoir of salty water under its frigid surface. The liquid originated in a brine reservoir hundreds of miles (Km) wide is lurking about 25 miles below the surface, which is creating fractures allowing the salty water to escape. According to Julie Castillo, Planetary Scientist of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the new discovery is a major interest at this stage, in quantifying the habitability potential of the deep brine reservoir, especially considering that it is cold and is also getting quite rich in salts.



### **Mauritius Declared Environmental Emergency**

A Japanese-owned ship leaked 4000 tons of fuel oil and 200 tons of diesel on board into the Indian Ocean and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of environmental emergency. Mauritius sought France's assistance for the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships. The massive oil spill has brought the life of thousands of species around the pristine lagoons of Blue Bay, Pointe d'Esny and Mahebourg into jeopardy. This will further lead to the dire consequences for Mauritius' economy, food security and health.

### **United Nations' 6 million USD For Beirut Explosion**

The United Nations released 6 million USD towards relief operation of the explosion at Beirut port. With this, the total UN funding for the same has become 15 million USD. Prior to this, it released 9 million USD via the Central Emergency Relief Fund towards the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund to cater primary health needs and to provide food assistance. The blast devastated country is currently the third most indebted country in the world after Japan and Greece. The interest payments in Lebanon consume almost half of the government revenues and the public sector wage rise in 2017 and increase in interest rates led to increased budget deficit. There are 18 different religious communities in Lebanon that makes it vulnerable and an easy target for interference by external powers like the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon backed by Iran is seen as the most powerful among others.

### **Mahinda Rajapaksa Became The PM of Sri Lanka**

Former President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa sworn in as the new Prime Minister for the fourth time on 9th August 2020, at a prominent Buddhist temple on the outskirts of the capital Colombo . It should be noted that Rajapaksa completed his 50 years of politics in July 2020 and is famous among the ethnic majority Sinhalese for ending the country's 25-year civil war with Tamil rebels in 2009. He was elected as the Member of Parliament at the tender age of 24. Since then, he has been elected as President of Sri Lanka twice and appointed as Prime Minister thrice viz. in 2004, 2018 and 2019. It is visible that Gotabaya Rajapaksa has firmly consolidated his power as President and this parliamentary win now brings back the former president Mahinda Rajapaksa as Prime Minister.

### **World Tribal Day**

Like every year United Nations and other world organizations celebrated World Tribal Day or International Day of the World Indigenous People on 9th August 2020 to promote and protect rights of the world indigenous population. On this day in 1982, the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations was held in Geneva. The theme for this

year's celebration was "COVID-19 and indigenous people resilience." This day was celebrated for the first time in 1994. In context to India it is worth knowing the Constitution of India recognizes tribal communities in the country under Schedule 5 called as the Scheduled Tribes. As per Census 2011, the total Scheduled Tribes population in India is 10.43 crores that accounts to 8.6% of total population in the country. Indian history has witnessed several tribal movements viz. Santhal Rebellion to end British revenue system and Zamindari system in the country; Bodo Movement for independent state of Bodoland in the north eastern region; The Mahadev Koli tribes' rebellion in Maharashtra in the 18th century; Kurichya Rebellion by the people of Kurichyas in 1812; Bhil revolution in 1857-58; Koya tribal community in Andhra Pradesh against landlords called "Muttade"; Bastar Revolution in 1910 and Kulki Uprising in Manipur against the British in 1941.

### **Death of Nobel Peace Laureate John Hume**

Prominent Northern Ireland politician John Hume died at 83. He was the only person who was honored with not one, not two but with three major peace awards. Year 1998 fetched him Nobel Peace Prize; Year 1999 conferred Martin Luther King Peace Award upon him and year 2001 acknowledged him with International Gandhi Peace Prize. He had shared the Nobel Peace Prize with David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party(UUP) for their joint efforts in creating the Good Friday Agreement for ending the violent conflict in Northern Ireland. The duo brought unionists and Irish republicans into a power-sharing government. In addition to these mentioned peace prizes, he also received Golden Doves for Peace Journalistic Prize in 1997. Hume founded the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and had been the leader of the party from 1979 to 2001.

### **Pakistan's Latest Political Map; A New Bone Of contention for India**

Pakistan made a controversial change in its political map that sent an invitation for arguments and disputes on 4th August 2020. The all time troublesome foe has ignited sparks of fire by releasing a new political map claiming the entire territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and part of Gujarat including the erstwhile state of Junagadh as part of its territory. It chose this day, when India was preparing to celebrate the first anniversary of its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on 5th August. This newly-released grotesque map is entirely different from its old version. In the previous version of the map, the part of Kashmir and Ladakh border with China was not marked and it was described as "Frontier Undecided", whereas the latest map shows Pakistan frontier attached with India and the whole of Kashmir region as part of Pakistan territory. The red dotted LOC has been extended to the Karakoram Pass, that depicts Siachen as part of Pakistan territory. The J&K had been described as "Disputed Territory" and its final

status has been left at mercy of “UNSC resolutions”. Another big change in the map shows that the international borderlines which were earlier along the western bank now lies along the eastern bank of Sir Creek. The map also portrays the Federally Administered Tribal Areas as part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. In context to Junagadh, Pakistan had tried to annex it in the year 2012 in the Atlas of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, where it portrayed Junagadh as a separate territory. The previously known road Kashmir Highway has been renamed to a major road in Islamabad as Srinagar Highway.

### **US Imposed Restrictions On H1B Visa**

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning federal agencies from hiring foreign workers especially those on H-1B visa on contracting or subcontracting. The Trump government had made announcements regarding the same on June 23 where the administration announced that the H1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas will remain suspended until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election. This new restriction came into effect from June 24. Now all federal agencies will carry out an internal audit to evaluate whether they are in compliance with the requirement of appointing only US citizens and nationals to competitive service. The US Department of Labor will soon issue guidelines to prevent H-1B employers from moving H-1B workers to other employer’s job sites to displace American workers.

### **Oscar-winning actor’s book ‘Greenlights’**

Matthew McConaughey, who won an Oscar for his acting performance has penned his debut book titled ‘Greenlights’ , which will be released on 20th October 2020. Although the book reveals a record and the story of his life, anecdotes, poems and life lessons, yet the book is not a traditional memoir but a playbook. Crown Publishing Group will publish this book, which has the adventures and life experiences of McConaughey. In context to his acting career it is worth remembering that in the 2000s, McConaughey became best known for starring in romantic comedies like The Wedding Planner (2001), How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003), Failure to Launch (2006), Fool's Gold (2008), and Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (2009) etc. His portrayal of Ron Woodroof, a cowboy diagnosed with AIDS, in the biopic Dallas Buyers Club (2013) fetched him widespread praise and numerous rewards including the Academy Award for Best Actor.

### **Lewis Hamilton Won British Grand Prix 2020**

Formula One Champion Mercedes Lewis Hamilton (British) won his 7th British Grand Prix (GP) title in form of the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020, which took place at the Silverstone



Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom. It should be noted that he is the only racer to win most in British GP. In this GP, Red Bull's Max Verstappen(Dutch) grabbed second spot and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third followed by Renault's Daniel Ricciardo.

### **Mohamed Irfaan Ali : The New President of Guyana**

40 years old Mohamed Irfaan Ali took oath as the President of Guyana on 2nd August 2020. This member of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) who won the disputed March 2, 2020 general election has succeeded David Arthur Granger. In context to his victory , it is worth remembering that preliminary recount data released in June, 2020 showed that Mohamed Irfaan Ali had won the initial poll. His PPP had won 33 of the 65 seats in the National Assembly with 233,336 votes. And Granger is a member of a Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change (ANPU-AFC) that earned 31 seats with 217,920 votes.

### **World Sanskrit Day**

In order to educate the younger generation about the history and significance of Sanskrit, the World Sanskrit Day was celebrated worldwide on 3rd August 2020 that was the Shravana Poornima. This celebration was meant to promote the revival of the ancient Indian language and highlight the importance of learning and knowing Sanskrit Language. The Government of India had proclaimed the World Sanskrit Day on the Sharvana poornima in 1969. In India the All India Radio(AIR) broadcast its first ever special program titled, 'Bahujan Bhasha-Sanskrit Bhasha' on this day. Moreover, Consortium of Sanskrit Universities began 'Sanskrit Week Celebration' from July 31, which will continue till August 6, 2020. It is interesting to learn that Sanskrit is the most computer friendly language and "Sudharma " is the only Sanskrit newspaper in the world, which Mysore, Karnataka has been publishing since 1970 and it is available online.

### **Indian Origin Author Avni on 2020 Booker Prize List**

Indian Origin Author Avni Doshi's debut novel 'Burnt Sugar' along with two titles from Bloomsbury - "Apeirogon" by Colum McCann and "Such a Fun Age" - by Kiley Reid has been shortlisted among the 13 books in the 50,000 pounds Booker Prize 2020 longlist. 'Burnt Sugar' is a version of the same novel that has been published in India under the title Girl in White Cotton. The novel is about a woman, Tara who left her loveless marriage to join ashram and ended as a beggar. She lived for years as a homeless artist with her daughter Antara. The daughter tends to care for her mother who least cared for her in her childhood. The shortlist of six books will be proclaimed on September 15,2020 and each of the shortlisted authors will get 2,500 pounds and a specially bound edition of their book at the prize ceremony scheduled in November 2020.



### **‘Great Prophet 14’ Military Exercise**

In July 2020, Iran carried out ‘Great Prophet 14’ Military Exercise, which is one of the largest of its kind in the region. It was started off in the general area of Hormozgan province, west of the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf to the depths of the country. During this exercise, Iran’s paramilitary force, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), launched the underground ballistic missiles from the depths of the Earth in a completely camouflaged way near Gulf waters. In addition to this, it also released bombs from Sukhoi Su-22 fighter jets to target predetermined positions on Bani Farur Island in Iran’s territorial waters. These launches were carried out without the platform and usual equipment

CAREER FLITE



### **Kerala Is All Set For India's First International Women Trade Centre**

In order to accelerate women entrepreneurship and ensure a safe place to start a business, expand and get their products marketed globally, India will set up a first of its kind International Women Trade Centre in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals in Kerala. The centre will not only fetch enhanced competitiveness and greater economic benefits but will also promote arts and cultural forms such as music, dance and theatre for women. It will be built under the Green Park initiative of Kerala and will also hold a creche and a day care centre for children.

### **The First General Council meeting of Khelo India Scheme**

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju presided over the first General Council meeting of the Khelo India Scheme and Sports Secretary Ravi Mittal, Director General of the Sports Authority of India, Sandip Pradhan and other senior officials of the sports ministry participated in it. The major decisions taken in this meeting include conduction of annual State-level Khelo India Games to identify a larger number of grassroot-level talents from districts, blocks and panchayats ; alignment of annual sporting competitions with the Khelo India Scheme to get support of the central government in the events. It takes at least eight years to groom an athlete for the Olympics, so the meeting laid emphasis on the need of identifying young talent of age group 5 to 10 years to groom them to be future champions. In addition to these in order to make India a sporting superpower, a five-zonal talent scouting committees have been planned for east, west, north, south and north-east. Further, the chosen talent can then be trained at SAI centres built at these five zones

### **FCA Will Groom The Football Talent**

The Association of Indian Football Coaches (AIFC) and Football Coaches Australia (FCA) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the development of football in both India and Australia on 27th August 2020. The agreement binds AIFC and FCA to support each other to educate and equip the coaches and work together for the betterment of the coaches. The agreement has the purpose of promoting more female coaches and increasing access to football

for all aspirants. The move foresees collective advancement in professional development, employment, cultural and commercial opportunities for the football coaches in both FCA and AIFC.

### **Retirement of Indian Table Tennis player Poulomi**

Renowned Indian Table Tennis player Poulomi Ghatak announced her retirement from the game at the age of 37. She represented India at the 2000 Sydney Olympics at the tender age of 16. The seven-time National Champion won the Junior National Championship thrice and the Senior National Championship seven times, that took place between 1998 and 2016. She won Gold Medal at the 2006 South Asian Federation Games (SAF) in both Women's Singles & Doubles. In Commonwealth Games, she clinched the bronze medal in Melbourne in 2006, another bronze in 2007 in London & Ontario (Canada) and Silver medal in 2010 in New Delhi. 2017 he won the assembly elections and also served as the Sports Minister of the State.

### **M S Dhoni & Suresh Raina Announced Retirement from International Cricket**

Indian Cricket players M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina announced their retirement from International Cricket. The world cup winning 39-year old captain M S Dhoni last played for the Indian cricket team during India's 2019 ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand. Under his captainship, India won the 2011 World Cup. Dhoni's accomplishment list is very long, still to name a few he has been recipient of Padma Bhushan in 2018, Padma Shri in 2009 and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2007-08. It is worth knowing that M S Dhoni was the first player to claim ODI Player of the year award twice in 2008 and 2009. Another cricket star, Suresh Raina has been the first batsman in the world and the first Indian to accomplish a T20 century. He was also a part of the Indian team winning the 2011 world cup. He was the first Indian player and second in the world after Chris Gayle to make 100 sixes in IPL. Sinha has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in his place.

### **Indian GM P. Harikrishna & Biel Chess Festival 2020**

The 34-year old Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna of India grabbed the second spot after Poland's Radoslaw Watjaszek in the Grandmaster Triathlon Tournament at 53rd Biel International Chess Festival which was held in Biel/Bienne, Switzerland. Biel International Chess Festival 2020 was the first major event to be played over board. It is worth knowing that the Grandmaster Triathlon Tournament is part of Biel Chess Festival and consists of three rounds of chess competition viz. Classical, Rapid & Blitz and Harikrishna won the classical chess round by finishing with 20.5 points on top, in the rapid round he grabbed the second rank with 10 points and secured the fourth rank in blitz round with 6 points. Apart from this tournament,

Harikrishna emerged as the topper in Accentus Chess960, which is another separate tournament which was held in the Biel International Chess Festival 2020. Presently, he holds 26th rank in the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

### **James Anderson : The First Fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets**

38-year-old England pacer James Anderson became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets. He did this feat on the fifth day of the third and final Test against Pakistan by dismissing Pakistan captain Azhar Ali at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, England. With this, he has also become the fourth highest wicket taker of all time in Test cricket and joined the row of three legendary spinners Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Australian Shane Warne (708) and Indian Anil Kumble(619) in the 600-Plus Club.

### **Ronnie O’Sullivan Won His Sixth World Snooker Championship 2020**

English Professional Snooker Player Ronnie O’Sullivan won the World Snooker Championship for the 6th time by winning the 2020 World Snooker Championship at Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England. He got an edge over England’s Kyren Wilson by 18-8 in the final of the Betfred World Snooker Championship. With this, he has drawn level with Ray Reardon and boyhood hero Steve Davis on world crowns, and has surpassed Stephen Hendry on the all-time list of ranking event wins with a record 37 titles.

### **Demise of British Tennis Great Angela Buxton**

The former British tennis player and two-time Grand Slam Doubles champion and Equal Rights Pioneer, Angela Buxton breathed her last at the age of 85. Angela Buxton along with her Black partner Althea Gibson won the doubles titles at French Open and Wimbledon in 1956. In that year Althea Gibson became the first Black person to win a major title. Buxton also succeeded in reaching the singles final at Wimbledon that year but lost in the finals to American Shirley Fry. In 1981 Buxton was one of the first to be inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and in 2015 Buxton was also inducted into the Black Tennis Hall of Fame. She penned tennis books like Tackle Tennis This Way, Starting Tennis, and Winning Tennis and Doubles Tactics.

### **Retirement of German Footballer Benedikt Howedes**

German footballer Benedikt Howedes, who was part of the 2014 world-cup winning Germany team, announced retirement from the game. He has played 44 times for German National Team from 2011-17. German Football Association honored him with the Fritz Walter Medal, under-19 Gold Medal which is given to the best youth players in September 2007. He also played for clubs



Schalke 04, Juventus and Lokomotiv Moscow. The defender last represented Lokomotiv Moscow in Russian League and left it by mutual consent after the league was called-off due to coronavirus.

### **England : The Last Wisden Trophy Champion**

England booked the third and final Wisden Trophy test match on 28th July 2020 against the West Indies by 269 runs and won the series by 2-1. It should be noted that after this final series that began from 8th July 2020, the Wisden trophy will retire and rest at the Museum at Lords. It is worth remembering here that the Wisden Trophy was awarded for the first time in 1963 to commemorate the 100th edition of Wisden Cricketers Almanack. As per the latest ICC Rankings, Ben Stokes ( rating 497), Jason Holder (459) and Ravindra Jadeja (397) emerged as top three All Rounders; Steve Smith (911), Virat Kohli (886) and Marnus Labuschagne (827) were ranked as top three batsmen and Pat Cummins (904), Neil Wagner (843) and Stuart Broad 823 came up as top three bowlers.



1. Which of the following nations successfully launched a new optical remote-sensing satellite “Gaofen-9 05” along with two smaller payloads ?  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) USA  
(d) Spain (e) Russia
2. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd acquired .....% stakes in Netmeds for Rs 620 cr.  
(a) 50 (b) 75 (c) 80  
(d) 90 (e) 100
3. Which of the following states introduced its new state logo ?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Chattisgarh (c) Jharkhand  
(d) Bihar (e) Gujarat
4. Which of the following states secured the first rank in the list of best performing states in operationalisation of Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) ?  
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Maharashtra  
(d) Gujarat (e) Karnataka
5. Ganesh Vilas Lengare of ..... was awarded Star 2020 Certificate by World Book of Records, London for his efforts to help the poor people during the lockdown caused by Coronavirus.  
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Maharashtra  
(d) Gujarat (e) Karnataka
6. Which of the following nations topped the Digital Quality of Life 2020 Index ?  
(a) India (b) Israel (c) Denmark  
(d) Sweden (e) Canada

7. Flipkart signed MoU with IIT ..... for Industry Focused Research.  
(a) IIT Kharagpur (b) IIT Roorkee (c) IIT Kanpur  
(d) IIT Patna (e) IIT Madras
8. .... appointed Prashant Joshi as MD and Head of National Distribution.  
(a) Citi Bank (b) Standard Chartered Bank (c) HSBC India  
(d) DBS Bank (e) Barclays Bank
9. Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 11 Highway projects in .....  
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Uttar Pradesh  
(d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Bihar
10. .... author Stephen King penned a new book titled "If It Bleeds".  
(a) American (b) Argentinian (c) French  
(d) German (e) Australian
11. SABIC in ..... became the world's first large scale chemical production plant to completely run on renewable .  
(a) Italy (b) Spain (c) Germany  
(d) France (e) Denmark
12. Which of the following Ministries announced Smart India Hackathon 2020?  
(a) Women and Child Development  
(b) Human Resource Development  
(c) Science and Technology  
(d) Education  
(e) Health and Family Welfare
13. Which of the following Neobanks launched India's 1st numberless card ?  
(a) NiYO (b) InstantPay (c) FamPay  
(d) PayZello (e) None
14. Soumya Swaminathan was honoured with .....CM's special award  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Karnataka  
(d) Tamil Nadu (e) Telangana

15. Which of the following institutions signed MoU with Bureau of India Standards (BIS) for collaboration in areas of Standardisation and Conformity Assessment?  
a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT Kharagpur  
(d) IIT Kanpur (e) IIT Roorkee
16. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was observed on ..... August 2020.  
(a) 21<sup>st</sup> (b) 22<sup>nd</sup> (c) 23<sup>rd</sup>  
(d) 24<sup>th</sup> (e) 25<sup>th</sup>
17. Wabag won the 2020 Global Water Award for Koyambedu TTRO Plant in.....  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Chennai (c) Visakhapatnam  
(d) Hyderabad (e) Thiruvananthapuram
18. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and ..... General Insurance Co Ltd signed MoU to sell General Insurance Products.  
(a) Aditya Birla (b) Bajaj Allianz (c) Universal Sompo  
(d) Kotak Mahindra (e) SBI
19. “Pantalu” is Mascot of ..... State Dragonfly Festival 2020 aka “Thumbimahotsavam 2020”.  
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu  
(d) Andhra Pradesh (e) Telangana
20. World ..... Day was celebrated on 24th August 2020.  
(a) Hindi (b) Marathi (c) Rajasthani  
(d) Gujarati (e) Bihari





# ANSWERS



- 1.(b) **China** successfully launched a new optical remote-sensing satellite “Gaofen-9 05” along with two smaller payloads viz. Tiantuo-5 and Duo Gongneng Shiyan Weixing through Long March-2D carrier rocket. This launch was the 343rd mission of the Long March rocket series and the 23rd for China in 2020.
- 2.(e) Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd acquired **100%** stakes in fully licensed e-pharma portal Netmeds for Rs 620 cr. It offers a pan-India solution for the online purchase of prescription medications to more than 20,000 pin codes.
- 3.(c) **Jharkhand** introduced its new state logo at the Aryabhata Auditorium, Ranchi. The new circle shaped emblem has Ashoka at the centre with ‘Satyameva Jayate’ etched below. It is encircled with green coloured rings. The inner circle exhibits the motifs of dance representing the cultural heritage. The second ring in the logo depicts white elephants, the state animal and the third ring showcases state flower Palash, reflecting the beauty of Jharkhand.
- 4.(a) **Punjab** secured the first rank in the list of best performing states in operationalisation of Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs). The 2042 HWCs in Punjab have recorded a footfall of 28.1 Lakh People from March to August, 2020. Among them 6.8 Lakh individuals have been treated for hypertension, diabetes and oral, breast or cervical cancer.
- 5.(c) Solapur based activist Ganesh Vilas Lengare of **Maharashtra** was awarded Star 2020 Certificate by World Book of Records, London for his efforts to help the poor people during the lockdown caused by Coronavirus. He launched 21 schemes to assist the people and implemented patient contact tracing with the help of Solapur district authorities. He has spread awareness about hygiene, wearing masks and social distancing by organising online contests and producing educational videos.

- 6.(c) **Denmark** topped the Digital Quality of Life 2020 Index followed by Sweden and Canada. India secured 57th rank in this index whereas in terms of internet affordability Israel, Canada and Azerbaijan emerged as top three nations and in this India was ranked 9th.
- 7.(d) Flipkart signed MoU with **IIT Patna** for Industry focused research in the fields like Artificial Intelligence(AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning(ML).
- 8.(d) **DBS Bank** appointed Prashant Joshi as MD and Head of National Distribution. Prior to this, he was Chief Operating Officer in IndoStar Capital Finance and was responsible for setting up the SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) and affordable housing finance business.
- 9.(b) Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs), Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 11 Highway projects worth Rs 20 thousand crore in **Haryana**.
- 10.(a) **American** author Stephen King penned a new book titled “If It Bleeds” , which is a collection of four stories. The book is centered on a bomb at Albert Macready Middle School. It is a sequel to his bestselling work, The Outsider.
- 11.(b) SABIC in **Spain** became the world's first large scale chemical production plant to completely run on renewable. The Polycarbonate facility of SABIC is expected to become fully operational by 2024 and support SABIC to achieve its clean energy target by 2025.
- 12.(b) Ministry of **Human Resource Development** announced Smart India Hackathon 2020 that concluded on 3rd August was the world's largest ever online hackathon in which more than 1,00,000 students competed to solve 243 problem statements from 37 Central Government departments, 17 State Governments and 20 industries during the online Grand Finale. Each of the problem statements carried prize money worth Rs 1 lakh.
- 13.(c) **FamPay** , India’s first Neobank for teenagers, in partnership with IDFC First Bank launched India’s first numberless card for teenagers to transact in a cashless manner. It is similar to a debit card.

- 14.(d)** Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation (WHO) Soumya Swaminathan received **Tamil Nadu** Chief Minister's(CM's) special award on the 74th Independence Day celebration at Fort St George, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in recognition for her advisory role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.
- 15.(e)** **IIT Roorkee** signed MoU with Bureau of India Standards (BIS) for collaboration in areas of Standardisation and Conformity Assessment based on equality and reciprocity. This includes fields like Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Earthquake Engineering, Development and Management of Water Resources and Renewable Energy Projects, Infrastructure Development, Medical Biotechnology and Nanotechnology biomaterials.
- 16.(b)** International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was observed on **22nd** August 2020. This year the second edition of this day was observed.
- 17.(b)** Wabag won the 2020 Global Water Award for its 45 million litres a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) plant at Koyambedu in **Chennai**. The plant won the distinction award under the 'Wastewater project of the year' category.
- 18.(e)** Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and **SBI** General Insurance Co Ltd signed MoU in Dharwad, Karnataka to sell General Insurance Products. BC Ravichandra, General Manager of KVGB, and Mahendra Tripathi, Head (Compliance and Legal), SBI General Insurance Co Ltd. were the signatories.
- 19.(b)** "Pantalu" commonly known as rainpool gliders is Mascot of **Kerala** State Dragonfly Festival 2020 aka "Thumbimahotsavam 2020". This festival is part of a 3rd edition of national dragonfly festival 2020.
- 20.(d)** World **Gujarati** day was celebrated on 24th August 2020 in memory of famous Gujarati poet and social reformer, Narmadashankar Dave popularly known as Veer Narmad. He was the founder of Modern Gujarati literature who introduced courage and creativity through 'Dandio'.