



Monthly G.K. MANIA

Analytically Covering National, International, Political, Cultural, Economic, Sports, Science and Technology Events, Environment and much more.....

**HAMPIONS
2020**

**INDIAN PRE
BIO**

**WORLD
SCIENCE
DAY
FOR PEACE AND
DEVELOPMENT**
for the rapprochement of peoples
10 NOVEMBER



“
PM TO UNVEIL
STATUE OF
**SWAMI
VIVEKANANDA
AT JNU CAMPUS**

Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi will unveil
the life-size statue of
Swami Vivekananda at the Jawaharlal
Nehru University campus on
12th November at 6:30 PM via video
conferencing





NATIONAL NEWS

The Three new UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

The International Coordinating Council (ICC) of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme included Panna Biosphere Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) in India, Fuvahmulah Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) and Addu Atoll Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It is worth registering here that this is the 12th Entry for India, whereas for Maldives it is Second and Third Entries after Baa Atoll. Total of 25 new sites were added and with that UNESCO now has 714 Biosphere reserves in 129 countries worldwide. Panna Biosphere Reserve (India) has forests and marshy vegetation, with an abundance of rare medicinal plants, it is also a critical tiger habitat area; Fuvahmulah Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) is the largest island in the southern part of Maldives, covering the entire atoll ecosystem, and most diverse of coral ecosystems in the country with health habitats and unique coral sand beach formations. And Addu Atoll Biosphere Reserve (Maldives) is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives, which is one of the most diverse coral reef ecosystems in the Maldives that includes lagoons, reef passes, seagrass beds, sandbanks, coral islands, lush tropical vegetation, mangroves, wetlands and brackish lakes etc.

'Tubarial Glands' : A New Set Of Salivary Glands

According to the latest publication of 'Radiotherapy and Oncology', Scientists from the Netherlands Cancer Institute

have discovered a new pair of salivary glands with an average length of four centimeters, 'Tubarial Glands'. They have been named so on account of their location above the torus tubarius, the section of the nasopharynx just behind the pharynx, hidden between nasal cavity and throat. This region is hard to access with standard surgical procedures. The discovery of this new human anatomy came their way while employment of a new type of scan Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA) Positron Emission Tomography (PET)/Computed Tomography (CT) scan and nasal endoscopy for studying the effects of radiotherapy on salivary glands in head, neck, or brain cancer patients. Humans have three major salivary glands and approximately 1,000 minor ones. And the categorization of this pair of salivary glands as major or minor ones is still under question.

Wavel Ramkalawan Became President Of Seychelles

Indian origin Wavel Ramkalawan, a former Anglican priest, defeated incumbent Danny Faure to enjoy the presidency of the East African nation, Seychelles. Since 1977 i.e. three long decades the opposition was trying to come into power. In context to India, this change in the power may impact the project related to development of the naval facility on Assumption Island (Island in the Seychelles) for use by both the countries. It involves the construction of an airstrip and a jetty besides housing infrastructure, at Indian

investment worth \$ 550 million. The agreement for the same was signed between Indian government and Danny Faure's government in 2015, despite domestic opposition in Seychelles as the project could pose an environmental threat to Aldabra atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is home to the world's largest population of giant tortoises. Ramkalawan and his Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) had stalled this project in the past.

Alpha Conde Became The President of Guinea For The Third Time

The incumbent president of Guinea and leader of Rally of the Guinean People (Rassemblement du Peuple Guinéen – RPG) party, Alpha Conde won the 2020 presidential elections. He got an edge over his formidable opponent, former Prime Minister Cellou Dalein Diallo with 59.49 % votes. Diallo received just 33.5% votes in the election. Conde will be on the post for the next 6 years. Hailing from Guinea's largest ethnic group, Peul, or Fulani, community, Conde is a veteran opposition leader who won elections in 2010, marking the first genuinely democratic handover in Guinea since independence. He campaigned on his economic record and proposed tapping Simandou, which is one of the world's largest untapped iron-ore deposits for creation of thousands of jobs. After that he won the 2015 elections and has been largely backed by members of his Malinke community, as well as the country's third major ethnic group, the Soussous.

The 20th Amendment of Sri Lankan Constitution

In order to re-expand the power of the President in Sri Lanka, the 20th Amendment of Sri Lankan constitution has been approved. After this amendment, the President can dissolve the parliament after two years and six months after being elected; appoint any person to the Government offices regarding public services, election officials, human rights, police, corruption investigation commissions, bribery, etc. without seeking approval from members of the parliament. Besides these, the President can also hold any of the ministries of the Sri Lankan cabinet and can also appoint and fire ministers. This amendment rolls back the 19th amendment of Sri Lanka. The 20th Amendment has rolled back the 19th amendment that had weakened the powers of the President. It is interesting to learn that Sri Lankan parliament had been titrating the presidential power approving alternative amendments. The history of the constitution shows that the 19th amendment was introduced to weaken the powers of the president, while the 18th amendment had empowered the president by fetching four main changes

viz re-election of the President for any number of times; He could bring in independent commissions under his authority; he could attend Parliament once in three months and could enjoy all privileges, powers and immunities as that of the other member of parliament.

India Became The Chair Of The ILO

The Union Ministry of Labour broke the information that India has assumed the chairmanship of International Labour Organization after 35 years. The present Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra of the country has been elected as the chairperson of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization and will preside over the upcoming meeting of the Governing body in November 2020. Apurva Chandra is a 1988 batch IAS officer who served the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for more than seven years. He has worked for more than four years as Principal Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra and in 2017, he was appointed as the Directorate General (Acquisition) to strengthen Indian Armed Forces. ILO was founded in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles and India

was one of the founding members of the same. In 1946, it became a specialized agency. With 187 members, the governing body of the International Labour Organization decides on policies, agenda, programmes and elects the Director-General. It primarily reports on World employment and Social Outlook as well as Global Wage.

NASA Will Launch Nano Satellite, India Sat in June 2021

The National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) will launch an experimental satellite 'India Sat' into the sub orbit in June 2021 on NASA's sounding rocket 7. Developed by the three students viz. M. Adnaan of Thanthonimalai, M. Kesavan of Nagampalli and V. Arun of Thennilai from Tamil Nadu's Karur district, the nanosatellite has graphene polymer and is of 3 cm size and 64 gm weight. It has been deemed as the world's smallest and lightest satellite, made under the global competition conducted by the Cubes in Space, a programme of Iddoodu Inc in association with NASA. The satellite has its own solar cell that will generate power for it and it has its own radio frequency that will send and receive data to and from between Earth and outer space. The photographic film of the satellite will absorb and measure the cosmic radiation inside the rocket as well. The satellite has been made at an expenditure of Rs 1.35 lakh, which was sponsored by the Department of Physics of Government Arts College in Karur.

Bank of Ghana : The 2020 Central Bank Of The Year Awardee



In the seventh edition of the annual Central Banking Awards, which are presented to acknowledge excellence, "Bank of Ghana" has been adjudged the Central bank of the year 2020 and the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney has won the Governor of the year award. The Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Ernest Addison accepted the award on behalf of the bank for successful implementation of monetary policy and impressive achievement in reforming the banking sector in Ghana. The Central Banking Awards were established to highlight the remarkable performances and achievements of individuals and organisations within the central banking community facing

difficult monetary policy and financial stability challenges that required to be addressed effectively, while prudently embracing technological change in reserves, financial services, payments, currency management and data.

NAFED's Honey FPO Programs launched by Agriculture Minister

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar launched the five Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) programs that belong to the National Agricultural

Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) under the Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs scheme. These programs have been launched in East Champaran (Bihar), Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Bharatpur (Rajasthan), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh) and Sunderbans (West Bengal) to promote FPO which will result in agricultural reforms in India. Cluster Based Business Organisation (CBBO) and Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) will extend their full support to promote FPOs of beekeepers and honey collectors and will also help in branding and marketing strategies for honey along with exploration of the overseas market. This initiative is likely to benefit around 4000-5000 beekeepers and honey collectors

Ladakh Conceived The Largest Solar Project at Leh

The Union Territory of Ladakh received the largest solar power project 'Provision of Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant 1.5 MW' set up under the Centre's 'Make In India' initiative at Leh Indian Air Force station to provide sustainable energy alternative to fossil fuel and traditional methods of energy generation. This project worth Rs 122 crore has been completed within 12 months well before the allotted deadline of March 31, 2021. It is said to be the largest installed solar project till date out of the target of 300 MW in three phases for defence sectors and 14 MW for Leh region as set by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The project was recently inaugurated by Air Marshal V R Chaudhari, Commander-in-chief, Western Air Command

Jallikattu Reached The Oscars

Malayalam film Jallikattu, which got released in Kerala in October 2019 and premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival as well as in the 24th Busan International Film Festival in South Korea has been accepted as a nominee for 2021 Oscars. Lijo Jose

Pellissery directed this movie which is said to be the controversial traditional bull-taming sport. Featuring the star cast of Antony Varghese, Chemban Vinod Jose, Sabumon Abdusamad and Santhya Balachandran, the movie tells the story of a bull that escapes a slaughterhouse in a remote village in Idukki, Kerala as villagers try to hunt it down.

Aishwarya Sridhar: The First Indian to Win Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award

Aishwarya Sridhar, a wildlife photographer from Maharashtra, won the prestigious and most coveted 'Highly Commended' Wildlife Photography of the Year 2020 award at the award show organised by the National Museum of History, London. The 23-year old's photo titled Lights of Passion was selected among 50,000 entries from more than 80 countries worldwide. She also became the first Indian to win this award. It is a photograph of a tree illuminated with fireflies which was shot during a trek in Bhandardara, in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. The fireflies and stars in the sky together formed a starry galaxy around the tree. Her photo was one of the 100 shortlisted in the Behaviour Invertebrates category for which she has won the award. This was the 56th edition of the award.



Lt Gen Harpal Singh :

The New Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army

The Director-General of Border Roads Organisation, Lt Gen Harpal Singh has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of Indian Army. He will take over the charge on 1st December 2021. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers on 24th



December 1982. In the past, he commanded a Border Roads Task Force in Jammu and Kashmir valley and has also been the Chief Engineer of Project Dantak (BRO) at Bhutan, Chief Engineer (Navy), Mumbai and Chief Engineer HQ Eastern Command. Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Border Roads Organisation in his place. The Border Roads Organisation looks after the construction and maintenance of roads along the borders with China and Pakistan.

Father of Indian IT industry Passed Away

Faqir Chand Kohli, Founder of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), better known as the Father of the Indian IT industry, passed away on 26th November 2020. Besides being the founder, he was also the first and the longest serving CEO of TCS. He had also served as the deputy general manager of Tata Power Company and was the Chairman of the Board of Governors of College of Engineering, Pune. He pioneered India's IT revolution and helped the country build the \$190-billion IT industry. The visionary was acknowledged with Padma Bhushan from the Government of India. His TCS has been one of India's flag bearers for its rendered IT services. Faqir Chand Kohli was a pivotal figure, who changed the shape of IT services in India, and helped turn our country into a hub for the world's IT requirements. He presided over Nasscom in the '90s, and through his stunning career and life, held numerous leadership, mentorship and advisory positions.

Inauguration Of RE-Invest 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third Global Renewable Energy Investment called the RE-Invest on 26th November 2020, which will continue till 28th November 2020. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India organized it on 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition' theme. As COVID-19 has caused significant disruption and reduced the speed of development of renewable energy projects as compared to 2019, so the partner countries of Re-INVEST viz. Australia, France, Denmark, Germany, UK, Maldives, European Union and US as well as the partner states Gujarat, MP, HP, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu will together accelerate the renewable energy growth. Currently,

the renewable capacity of India is at 136 GW, which is just 36% of the total capacity of the country. The GoI has targeted solar projects for houses by 2022.

Approval Of Capital Infusion of Rs 6,000 crores into NIIF

The Union Cabinet approved Rs 6,000 crores of capital infusion into the National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It will leverage the creation of a financial pipeline of Rs 1 lakh crore. The proposed pipeline will mainly focus on projects that will increase ease of living. It will provide access to clean and affordable energy, safe drinking water across railway stations, bus terminals, airports and world-class Educational Institutes. The Government of India is planning to invest more than hundred lakh crores of Rupees in the infrastructure sector in the next five years.

The International Award TX2

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve of Uttar Pradesh won the International Award TX2, which is presented to acknowledge the efforts for the conservation and preservation of the majestic animals. The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve received its 1st-ever international award for doubling the number of tigers in four years. The Tiger Reserve along with the Uttar Pradesh Forest department has doubled the tiger population from 25 in 2014 to 65 in 2018. With this, the tiger reserve became the first to receive the award among 13 tiger range nations.

IPPB Launched PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) introduced an economical insurance scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)' for its customers to bring large sections of the underserved

and unserved population into the financial mainstream. IPPB has tied up with PNB MetLife India Insurance Company for this product. Anyone who has a savings account with IPPB and comes in between the age bracket of minimum 18 years and a maximum 50 years can enrol for the scheme. The scheme has a maximum coverage of Rs 2,00,000 per life irrespective of multiple accounts/multiple certificates. In this scheme the Premium worth Rs 330 is to be paid annually.

The Ongoing Aviation Awareness Week

The Airport Authority of India launched Aviation Awareness Week in all airports and also in locations managed by the Airport Authority of India between November 23, 2020 and November 27, 2020. The purpose of this observation is to raise awareness of aviation safety. Viewing the increased wildlife or bird menace around airports, the week stresses on the fact that safety preventive measures should be adopted at every airport premises irrespective of traffic volume. Globally, the long term goal of zero fatality by 2030 is the objective of the International Civil Aviation organisation

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched first blasting for construction work in Zojila tunnel

In order to provide all-year connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the first blasting for construction work in 14.15 km Zojila tunnel, which is one of the longest in Asia. The project has strategic significance as Zojila Pass is situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway and remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall. Currently, it is one of the most dangerous stretches in the

world to drive a vehicle and this project is also geo-strategically sensitive. This re-modelling of the project will lead to savings worth ₹4,000 crore to the public exchequer without any compromise on safety, security and quality.

NCMC Is Forearmed For Cyclone Nivar

The cyclone Nivar is proceeding to hit the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry and is ready to make landfall between Mamallapuram and Karaikal of Tamil Nadu. The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) established by the Government of India in the wake of natural calamity has instructed the Crisis Management Group to deploy six National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in parts of Tamil Nadu. Constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the force has battalions consisting of three central reserve Police Force, three Border Security Force, two Indo-Tibetan Border Force and two Sashastra Seema Bal.

The Launch Of The First Varunastra

The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) introduced Varunastra, the first heavyweight torpedo, which was designed and developed by the BDL, Visakhapatnam Unit of Indian Navy. Torpedo is an underwater weapon with an explosive warhead that is meant to detonate when in proximity to the target or on contact with the target.

Varunastra is a ship launched electrically propelled heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo that has potential of targeting quiet submarines in both shallow and deep-water environments. Prior to this, Indian Navy inducted Takshak, advanced light torpedo Shyena and Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART).

The Inauguration Of Air India One

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Air India one-B777 aircraft, which is being specially designed for VVIPs like President, Vice President and Prime Minister of India on November 24, 2020. The President boarded the aircraft to visit Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. It is well equipped with missile defence systems Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) self-protection suites. LAIRCM has missile warning sensors, control interface unit, lesser transmitter assembly and processors to track, detect, jam and counter incoming infrared missiles. The new aircraft is fuel efficient and has a longer range than that of the B747-400 aircraft deployed for similar VVIP operations. The Indian Air Force air headquarters communication Squadron based at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi will operate it.

Conclusion of National Pharmacy Week

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association in collaboration with Delhi Pharmaceutical Trust organized the 59th edition of National Pharmacy Week between November 16, 2020 and November 22, 2020 on "Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals" theme. Despite being the largest provider of generic drugs catering 50% of global vaccine demand, India is still highly dependent on China especially for its Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API). Around 70% of the total drug requirements of India is being fulfilled via China and the production cost of API in China is 40% cheaper than that of India. Indian Pharmaceutical Association is facing deterioration of a manufacturing sector, which is dubbed as "Hollowing out" as the producers are shifting towards low-cost facilities overseas. The sector is also encountering the price capping issue as in order to

make generic medicines more affordable to the largest section of population, the Government of India has introduced several price capping in the sector that had a huge impact on the net profits of the Pharma Companies.

Demise of Ex-Chief Minister of Assam, Tarun Gogoi,

Tarun Gogoi, who was former Chief minister of Assam between 2001 and 2015, died of post Covid-19 complications. He was a member of the Congress party as well as the longest serving chief minister of Assam. He also served in the capacity of Food Processing Industry Minister in the Union Cabinet of India under Prime Minister Narasimha Rao between 1991 and 1996. He came from an Assamese Tai-Ahom family, which is an ethnic group of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, said to be the descendants of the Tai people. The background says that Sukaphaa and his 9000 followers had set up the kingdom of Ahom and controlled much of the Brahmaputra valley until 1826. There are more than 1.3 million Tai group people in Assam.

Cancellation Of India-International Cherry Blossom Festival of Shillong

Because of Covid -19 outbreak, the annual India International Cherry blossom festival of Meghalaya has been cancelled. It is the only Cherry festival being conducted in India in which live music, stalls showcasing the cuisine, beauty pageants, etc. are featured. It is worth knowing that India is the 26th largest producer of cherry across the globe, while Turkey, USA and Iran are the top three producers of cherry in the world. Cherry blossom festival is a national festival of Michigan and Japan also celebrates it. In India, Jammu and Kashmir produces 1.73 tons of cherry per hectare. The region does not entertain the hail storm problem. Cherry

cultivation requires cold climatic conditions, 100 to 125 CM of annual rainfall, sandy loam soil with high moisture holding capacity and altitude of 2500 metres above sea level.

Bish Agrawal : The AESC Lifetime Achievement Awardee

Accord Group India chairman Bish Agrawal has been bestowed the Associa-



tion for Executive Search and Leadership Consulting (AESC) Lifetime Achievement Award and with this, he has become the first Asian to receive this recognition in AESC history. This award is said to be one of the highest honours in the executive search and leadership consulting profession worldwide, which is being conferred upon individuals who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the executive search profession that created a significant impact. Founded in 1959, the AESC has more than 16,000 professionals in 1200 offices in over 70 nations. Accord India is one of the first retained executive search firms in India, that focussed on C suite hiring and advisory.

Sonu Sood Became State Icon of Punjab

Election Commission appointed Bollywood actor Sonu Sood as the state icon of Punjab. The Chief Electoral Officer quoted him, "The real hero of people is now the state icon of Punjab - Sonu Sood", while this announcement.

The "Happy New Year" actor has helped several migrants during the coronavirus lockdown by arranging foods and shelters for the people. Apart from this, the Penguin Random House India had announced that the "Dabangg" actor will be writing an autobiography titled "I Am No Messiah" with the help of Meena Iyer that will describe his experiences during the pandemic. The book will hit the stores in December 2020 giving an account of the stories he heard and the interactions he had, and he will also share how this experience not only changed his outlook but also his life's purpose.

BMC Received ISO Certification For Septage Services

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has been entitled ISO certification for its fecal sludge and septage management (FSSM) services and with this, Bhubaneswar has become the first city in the country to receive this kind of certification. The civic body became a recipient of ISO 9001:2015 for taking steps to provide affordable cesspool services to the urban poor residing in slums. The coveted certificate quoted this capital city as the first civic body to implement FSSM regulations in the State. Around 29 private cesspool vehicles along with BMC cesspool vehicles are providing FSSM services in all the 67 wards of the city. BMC partnered with the Centre for Advocacy and Research for the purpose and the duo is offering the service at 492 per trip in slum areas and 900 in non-slum areas.

IRNSS now a part of WWRNS

Recently Independent Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS 1-G satellite) of India got recognition as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). India became the fourth country to have its own IRNSS

after the US, Russia and China. IRNSS has been designed to provide accurate position information service to assist in the navigation of ships in the Indian Ocean waters. After getting internationally acclaimed, IRNSS can take the place of the US-owned Global Positioning System (GPS) in the Indian Ocean extending up to approximately 1500 km from the Indian boundary. It also implies that the Merchant vessels in Indian waters can now use the "modern and more accurate" system as an alternative navigation module. Vessels that have transponders installed in them will be tracked by the satellite navigation showing accurate position in the Indian Ocean region.

India-Japan Cooperation Became OECD Awardee

India with Japan has won the 2019 Award on Co-operation for highest agreement ratio for a pair of jurisdictions for transfer pricing cases. The OECD Mutual Agreement Procedure 2019 Award to India-Japan Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) Cooperation highlights India's commitment to offer tax certainty and efficacious dispute resolution mechanism for the Japanese companies doing business in India. There are a large number of Japanese companies doing business in India in manufacturing as well as trading sectors.

Navneet Munot: The New CEO of HDFC Mutual Fund

The former chief investment officer of SBI Funds Management, Navneet Munot has been appointed as the new CEO of HDFC Mutual Fund in place of long-time Managing Director and CEO Milind Barve. It is worth knowing that SBI Funds Management is the largest fund house in the country, managing assets of more than ₹ 4.5 lakh crore, while HDFC MF has an asset base of ₹ 3.75 lakh crore. In a special Muhurat session on 14th

November 2020, HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd settled at 2.02 per cent higher at ₹ 2452.35 apiece on the BSE.

India ranked 77th At TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix

TRACE released the Global Bribery Risk Matrix on 19th November 2020 in which India got 77th rank with a score of 45 in the global list. The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix, 2020 measured bribery in 194 jurisdictions and awarded scores based on four parameters. India's scores in the four domains are government and civil service transparency (36), business interactions with government (50), capacity for civil society oversight (40) and anti bribery deterrents and enforcement (53). Last year India was at 78th position with a score of 48. Denmark emerged as the topper on the list followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand. On the other hand, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea.

NRTI Launched Seven New Courses In Applied Core Subjects

National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) Vadodara has recently launched seven new Programmes viz. two B. Tech UG Programmes, two MBA and three MSc Programmes in the core applied sector. The two B Tech Programs are regarding Rail Infrastructure, Rail Systems and Communications Engineering, while the MBA programs are about Transportation and Supply Chain Management. The MSc Programs are focused on Systems Engineering and Integration, Systems and Analytics, Policy and Economics. The move is seen as NRTI's interdisciplinary approach for research of transport systems. With this, the institute is bringing together academics, scientists and engineers from various backgrounds, and plans to

leverage its academic and industry partnerships and collaborations.

18th November : Naturopathy Day

The third edition of National Naturopathy Day was observed in India on 18th November 2020 to promote positive mental and physical health through a drugless system of medicine, called Naturopathy. National Institute of



Naturopathy (NIN), Pune under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH had organised a series of webinars on 'Gandhian philosophy of Self Reliance through Self Health Reliance' on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations from 2nd Oct 2020. It was on this day in 1945, Mahatma Gandhi was designated as the lifetime Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust and signed the deed with the aim of making the benefits of Nature Cure available to all classes of people. This day was instituted by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Government of India, on November 18, 2018.

The First Edition Of Lilavati Awards, 2020

The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the Lilavati Awards. It is an initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to acknowledge the efforts of AICTE affiliated institutions in treating women. Based on the theme of women empowerment, the awards will be

bestowed in seven categories like literacy, self-defence, women entrepreneurship, legal awareness, women health and sanitation and hygiene. The awards will encourage awareness regarding technology, literacy, employment, innovation, credit, skill development, natural resources utilisation, marketing and women rights. It has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati" written by the mathematician Bhaskara II, whose major works were Siddhanta-Siromani, meaning Crown of Treaties. He was known for his discovery of principles of differential calculus.

Kris Gopalakrishnan : The first Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

The former co-chairman and co-founder of Infosys, Kris Gopalakrishnan, has been appointed as the first chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub by the Reserve Bank of India on 17th November 2020. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub has been established to promote, support and hand-hold innovation and cross thinking across the financial sector. The hub functions as a centre for incubation and ideation of new capabilities that can be leveraged to create innovative financial services and products and helps in achieving efficient banking services; deepening financial inclusion; strengthening consumer protection and business continuity in times of emergency.

Maharashtra Conceived The First Solar Powered Textile mill in Asia

Jai Bhawani Women cooperative textile mill in Parbhani district of Maharashtra is all set to become the first Solar Power enabled textile mill in Asia. Spread across 30 acres of land, the mill processes cotton to cloth via ginning, pressing, weaving and spinning of cotton. The textiles sector demands a lot

of hot water in the range of 40 degrees to 110 degrees Celsius and this requisite of heat can be catered via solar energy. Moreover, the use of solar energy for textiles can save Rs 770 crores per annum. It is good to learn that the Parbhani district of Maharashtra is the leading cotton producing district of the state. Majority of the farmers in the state grow cotton and production of cotton is a profitable investment in the state.

Dr Susanta Kar : The 2020 Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Awardee

Senior Scientist of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Dr Susanta Kar, has been bestowed "Prof. A

N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award 2020" by Society of Biological Chemists (India), Bengaluru for his contribution towards specifying the survival tactics of Leishmania Donovanii. Leishmania Donovanii is a protozoan parasite that infects and affects the immune cells like macrophages, dendritic cells and T cells and is the causative agent of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar), which is a deadly infectious disease affecting millions across the globe. Prof. A N Bhaduri Memorial Lecture Award has been instituted by Society of Biological Chemists (India) to recognize the meritorious and significant contributions made by the researchers on the development of biological sciences in the country. It is a biennial award presented to individuals below 50 years of age.

The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) Project

Indian astronomers like Dr Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) and Dr Shashi Bhushan Pandey, a scientist at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) along with many others signed agreement with the 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof. Andrea Ghez for the design of back-end instruments and possible science prospects of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project. This project is an international partnership between CalTech, Universities of California, Canada, Japan, China, and India, which will be installed at Maunakea on the island of Hawaii. The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) will be an extremely large telescope (ELT) that will advance scientific knowledge via fostering connection among the partner countries and their citizens. The proposed telescope is expected to collect the observations needed to answer new and emerging questions in astronomy and physics in general.

Azim Premji : The Topper Of Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020

The founder-chairman of Wipro Ltd, Azim Premji made the highest contribution of Rs 7,904 crore between April 2019 and March 2020 towards philanthropic causes that brought him to the top position in the 7th EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020. The 75-year-old scored the apex position among the individuals from India who donated Rs 5 crore and above between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020, towards philanthropic contributions. He was followed by Shiv Nadar, founder, and chairman of HCL Technologies, who was ranked second (Rs 795 crore) on the list. And India's richest man and the chair-

Nitish Kumar Became CM of Bihar For The Fourth Time



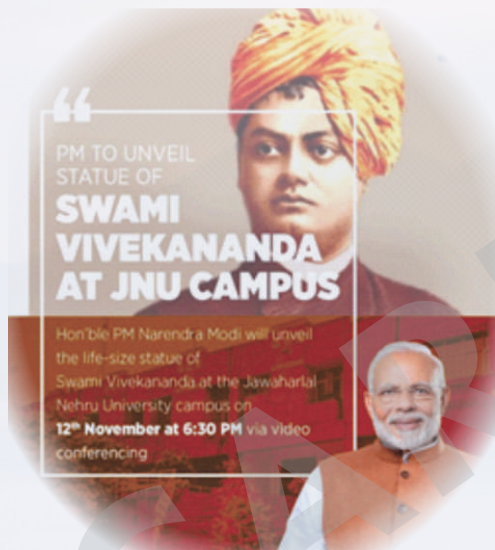
Nitish Kumar has taken oath for a record seventh time in the past 20 years as Bihar Chief Minister in presence of Governor Phagu Chauhan. It is worth recalling here that NDA won the state election last week with a wafer-thin majority and got 125 of Bihar's 243 assembly seats, which is just three above the halfway mark. Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United, had won 43 seats as compared to the unprecedented 74 seats of the BJP, which is now the big brother in the alliance. According to the BJP spokesperson, although Nitish Kumar had proposed to turn over the top post to the BJP, but the party had decided to stick to the pre-election deal that Mr Kumar will retain the post. Along with him 14 new ministers also took oaths. Among them were

Vijendra Yadav, Vijay Choudhary, Ashok Choudhary, Mewalal Choudhary, and Sheela Mandal from Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United and BJP leaders Mangal Pandey and Rampreet Paswan. Besides them, BJP's Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi also became Kumar's two new deputies. The two deputies are a hallmark of BJP-ruled states. It is also worth registering here that Sushil Kumar Modi, who was Nitish Kumar's deputy in the last term and was said to be the tallest BJP leader in the state will also have a Central assignment soon. And the selection of a woman deputy Chief Minister Bettiah MLA Renu Devi is being observed as a signal for the woman's mandate, which has been important for the BJP in almost every victory. Besides them, Santosh Manjhi of the Hindustani Awam Morcha or the HAM, and Mukesh Mallah of the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) are also there on the list among others.

man of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani stood at the third spot (Rs 458 crore). 7 women also succeeded in finding a place in the list. Among them are Rohini Nilekani (donated Rs 47 crore) and became India's most generous woman; followed by Anu Aga & family of Thermax (Rs 36 crore), and Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Rs 34 crore). EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020 was compiled by the EdelGive Foundation and Hurun Research Institute on basis of the available CSR data registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

The Life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled



the life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda at the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru University via video conferencing. Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was present on the occasion. The philosophy and the mission of Swami Vivekananda serve as beacon light for the youth even today and the country takes pride in having such a great personality who continues to inspire millions worldwide. His ideals are as relevant today as they were during his lifetime.

Punjab withdraws general consent to CBI

The Punjab government following the footprints of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Kerala, announced withdrawal from the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). After this, CBI will have to take permission from the state government to investigate any offence under Section 3 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. The state government released this notification using its powers conferred by section 6 of the Act. It is worth knowing that CBI comes under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. The Central Bureau of Investigation was born to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India. The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Deptt. Of India during World War II. Even after the end of the War, the need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption by Central Government employees was felt. The

Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was therefore brought into force in 1946. Prior to this, the state government had withdrawn consent to CBI to investigate religious cases in 2015. A resolution was passed by the state assembly in this regard in the year 2018. Now, the probe of such religious cases is under the special investigation team of Punjab.

The Second Edition Of National Water Awards

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti organised the second edition of National Water Awards (NWAs) for the year 2019 on 11th and 12th November, 2020 via virtual platform. The awards were bestowed to motivate individuals/organizations who are doing commendable work in the field of water resources conservation and management and to create awareness among the people about the importance of water and motivate them to adopt the best water usage practices. The award winners in various categories were

Launch of Fifth Scorpene Submarine "Vagir"

The Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir" at Mazagon Dock of South Mumbai. The submarine has potential of taking missions like anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and



area surveillance. Vagir got its name from Sand Fish which is a deep-sea predator in the Indian Ocean. Vagir is a part of six Kalvari class submarines that is being built in India under Project-75 of Indian Navy. This project permitted transfer of technology from a French Company DCNS at Mazagon Dock Limited. It is worth recalling here that the first Scorpene submarine Kalvari was commissioned in 2017; the second Scorpene Class Submarine was Scorpene Khanderi; the third Scorpene class submarine was INS Karanj; the fourth Scorpene submarine was INS Vela; the fifth Scorpene submarine is INS Vagir. The sixth Scorpene submarine is INS Vagsheer, which is yet to be commissioned and is under construction.

presented a citation, trophy and cash prize. Tamil Nadu topped in the Best state category in water conservation list. It was followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan that completed the top three list. Mizoram received a special award in this same category. Besides these, Aniket Lohiya of Manavlok, an NGO from Beed, Maharashtra won the 'Water Warrior' award. This organisation made special efforts for the development of forest, land and water in Marathwada district. Maharashtra's Sangli district, which is the state's drought prone district bagged the top prize in the river revival category for contribution in reviving Agrani river. The administration of this district also improved the ground-water situation. It is worth remembering here that for the second consecutive year, the Maharashtra Water Regulatory Authority (MWRA) won the first prize in the water regulatory authority category. A total of 98 winners were chosen in 16 different categories viz. Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best Research/ Innovation/ New Technology, Best Education/ Mass Awareness effort, Best TV show, Best Newspaper, Best School, Best Institution/ RWA/ Religious Organisation, Best Industry, Best Water Regulatory Authority, Best Water Warrior, Best NGO, Best Water User Association, and Best Industry for CSR Activity.

Dr Satish Mishra Became Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Awardee 2020

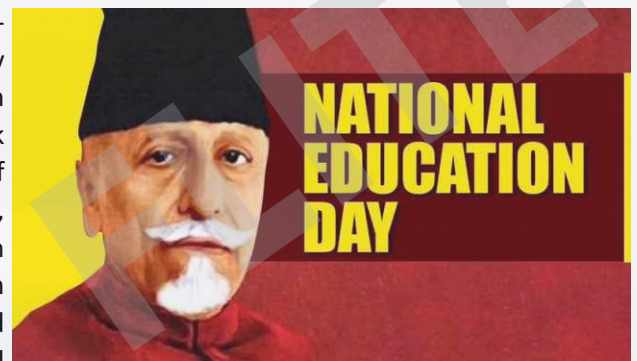
National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) (India) announced that Dr Satish Mishra, Principal Scientist of the Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Drug Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow booked the "Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020" on his name for his research work on the life cycle of Malaria Parasite which involves

two hosts and 3 invasive stages. The key note regarding this research was that invasion of mammals and mosquitoes needs a coordinated sequence of events. Satish Mishra's research was focused on "Secreted Protein with Altered Thrombospondin Repeat (SPATR) which is necessary for asexual blood stages but not required for Hepatocyte Invasion by the Malaria Parasite Plasmodium Berghei. The study focussed on the dispensability of SPATR in Plasmodium

berghei sporozoite and its importance for the establishment of blood stage infection. It is worth knowing here that the Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award was instituted in 2018 by Dr. T.D. Chugh, FAMS to acknowledge the best published work in the field of Infectious Diseases which includes, epidemiology, pathogenesis, Translational studies on clinical development of modalities for prevention, control and treatment.

November 11: National Education Day

Like every year, India celebrated National Education Day or Rashtriya Shiksha Diwas on 11th November 2020 to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was the first Education Minister of India (between 1947 and 1958). He had established the National Education System for providing free education to the country and believed that primary education should be conveyed only in mother-tongue. He was the father of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and IIT Kharagpur was the first IIT that came into existence in 1950. He laid the foundation of the University Grants Commission and most important literary academies of India were set up during his tenure. The Sangeet Natak Academy, Sahitya Academy and the Lalit Kala Academy were all set-up under his tenure as the Education Minister. He was honored with the Bharat Ratna in 1992. The Ministry of Human Resource Development instituted this day in 2008 and had recently organised National Education Day programmes at IIT Bombay in context to the National Education Policy, 2020.



Inauguration Of Dobra-Chanthi suspension bridge

Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the 725-metre long Dobra-Chanthi suspension bridge in Tehri-Garhwal district. This project is said to be the longest motorable single lane suspension bridge in India that has been built at an expenditure of Rs 2.96 crores. This bridge is expected to become a source of prosperity for the people living in the region as it will help in economic development and tourism industry of the state.

Results Of Bihar Elections

The Election Commission of India announced election results for the state of Bihar on 11th November 2020. The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) succeeded in retaining its power in Bihar, securing an absolute majority in a 243 member assembly with 125 seats, while the opposition Grand Alliance won 110 seats. Others received 8 seats. BJP won 74 seats, the JDU won 43 and the RJD had 75 seats, Congress 19, LJP 1 and others 31. Now the BJP and JDU will form the government. RJD being the single largest party will play the role of opposition.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission

The Fifteenth Finance Commission headed by N K Singh submitted its report to the President of India. Some of the important recommendations made by the Commission are about the states getting 41% of central tax revenues. Earlier, in this context the fourteenth Finance Commission had recommended 42%. Next is about 4.3 lakh crores for the local governments; Rs 1 lakh grant to health care; Rs 2.9 lakh crores of revenue deficit grants to 17 states and along with this it has recommended the states to keep aside at least 8% of their budget for constructing health care capacities. Apart from this, it has also suggested to establish a Modernisation of Defence and Internal Security Fund or Rashtriya Suraksha Naivedya Kosh to add up to Rs 2.4 lakh crores by 2021-26. Out of this amount, Rs 1.5 lakh crore will be directly transferred to Consolidated Fund of India, which will be used for capital investment for defence, state police forces and paramilitary forces. And the Defence Ministry will have exclusive rights over the funds.

India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project

Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Lower Dibang Valley district in Arunachal Pradesh at an expenditure of Rs 28.50 crore. The project will cater drinking water needs for 39 villages (approximately 17,480 people) in the district. Besides this, the project will promote tourism in the area, which will improve the living standard of the people and thus will help to improve the rural economy. The project will employ the green energy-solar grid, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) automation system, pre-fabricated zinc

alum storage tank and High-density polyethylene tube for mains, sub-mains and distribution networking system. It will also cover an amusement park that will include a swimming pool, amphitheatre, fountains, and sit outs.

Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha : The New Chief Information Commissioner

Former Diplomat, Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha has been appointed as the 11th new Chief Information Commissioner for



a term of three years in place of Bimal Julka who completed his term as CIC in August 2020. Earlier, on January 1, 2019, Sinha joined as the Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. He has also worked in the capacity of the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka. Apart from this, Uday Mahurkar, journalist; Heera Lal Samariya, a 1985-batch IAS officer of Telangana cadre and retired Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment; Saroj Punhanian, an Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) officer of 1984 batch and former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General were also appointed as the Information commissioners by three member panel of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha & Home Minister Amit Shah. It is worth remembering here that Vanaja N Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta, Suresh Chandra and Amita Pandove are the other 4 existing Information Commissioners.

9th November : The Foundation Day Of Uttarakhand

Like every year Uttarakhand celebrated its foundation day on 9th November. This year the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Ram Kishan Yadav inaugurated a hot air balloon festival in Mussoorie to commemorate Uttarakhand Divas. In addition to this, a majestic Uttarakhand photo exhibition and 'Heal with Wheels' rally were also organized. The "Land of Gods" or "Dev Bhumi", which was named 'Uttaranchal' during its foundation, has national parks and wildlife sanctuaries like Nanda Devi Biosphere, Govind National Park, Corbett National Park, Rajaji National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, Asan Wildlife Sanctuary, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary and rivers like Ganga, Kali, Yamuna and Tons. It is worth remembering here that the first demand for a separate state of Uttarakhand arose in 1897 and by 1994, the demand led to a mass movement resulting in the formation of the Uttarakhand state in 2000. In 2007, it was renamed as Uttarakhand. Dehradun is the capital and the high court of the state is located in Nainital.

SIRIUS Programme Of Atal Innovation Mission

The Atal Innovation Mission launched a Scientific International Research in Unique Terrestrial Station (SIRIUS) Innovation Programme for Indian and Russian school children on 7th November 2020, which will continue upto 21st November 2020. This programme, which is about a series of experiments that investigates flight to the moon, is meant to devise technological solutions for both India and Russia. Around 48 students and 16 educators are taking part in the programme presenting innovations from the field of block chain, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Vishal V Sharma : India's Next Permanent Representative To UNESCO

Vishal V Sharma has been appointed as the next permanent representative of



India (Ambassador rank) to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris in place of Jawed Ashraf. Vishal V. Sharma is a ruling party official who had also been an officer on special duty to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was heading Gujarat. He was the man behind Modi's public meetings via holograms in the 2014 election. Sharma was appointed as an independent director in state-run oil major Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in 2017.

The Phase I Survey Of River Ganges

The Wildlife Institute of India released the results of the first phase of a survey on the Ganges river that revealed that 49% of the river is high on biodiversity. Out of that around 10% of high biodiversity areas are Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand, Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar, Hastinapur wildlife sanctuary. The number of Gangetic Dolphins and Otters in the river have increased which in turn indicates that the pollution level in the river has decreased and the river has resumed its healthy state. The survey also highlighted Gharials, several species

of water birds, nesting colonies of Indian Skimmer and many species that had disappeared 80 years ago have now resurfaced.

First Hyperloop Passenger ride successful

The Virgin Hyperloop that has been planned to connect Mumbai and Pune was tested successfully. The tested Hyperloop is a new mode of transport that speeds up to 1000 kilometres per hour. The idea of this hyperloop was conceived by Tesla and SpaceX in 2012. Many companies are working on the technology for which the capsules or pods will be zipped into a continuous steel tube that is held at partial vacuum. The pod is supported in between an air compressor in the front and a battery compartment in the back. The skis of the hyperloop removes rolling resistance of the hyperloop. IT enables movement of pods at high speeds. They are driverless vehicles, which are electronically assisted to accelerate.

Adani Group Held Rope Of Lucknow Airport

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has transferred the Lucknow airport to the Adani group on lease for next 50 years. In addition to this, the Adani group has started the process for taking over operations of 5 more airports. It is worth remembering here that Lucknow was among the six major airports viz. Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati, which the Central government had privatised in February 2019. And Adani group is bringing the operation of the rest of the airports under its authority. Among them, the Adani Group has already taken over the operations of Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram in September 2020, Mangaluru on October 31, 2020 and by November 11, 2020, it will take on the operations of Ahmedabad Airport as well

Rajiv Jalota : The New Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust

Indian Administrative Services officer, Rajiv Jalota has been appointed as the new chairman of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT). The appointment committee of the Union cabinet has issued the order for this central deputation. The post was lying vacant after former chairman Sanjay Bhatia retired on July 31, 2020 and was appointed as Lokayukta of Maharashtra. The new appointee, Jalota, is the first Goods and Services Tax (GST) commissioner of Maharashtra and is currently the additional chief secretary in the higher and technical education department of the state government. Earlier, he had served as sales tax commissioner and then as GST commissioner from January 2015 to January 2020.

Demise of Legendary violinist T N Krishnan

The legendary violinist T.N. Krishnan passed away in Chennai at the age of 92. The eminent violinist was well rewarded with several coveted awards and titles including Padma Vibushan. He stepped into the musical world as a child prodigy and went on to perform with great legends of his times. He gave a spectacular performance with great musical luminaries viz. Ariyakudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Alathur Brothers, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar and Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer. He even played Jingle Bells before his packed audience at Music Academy in Chennai. He was the Dean of the School of Music and Fine Arts, University of Delhi.

Indus Valley Civilization witnessed Dairy Production

The year 2020 marked the 100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilization and the Indian and Canadian Archaeologists recently discovered that dairy products

were produced by Harappans even before 2500 BCE. The study involved molecular chemical analysis of residue in pottery found in Kotada Bhaladi, Gujarat, that showed traces of boiled milk and there was evidence of large quantities of milk which might have been part of milk trade between different settlements. The porous pots used during civilization absorbed liquid present in food and the absorbed food molecules in the pot got preserved in the form of fats and proteins. The techniques such as C16 and C18 were used to detect the source of foods. The researchers employed Stable Isotope Analysis technique to identify cattle used in dairy production. It is worth remembering here that the Indus Valley Civilization dubbed as the Harappan Civilization was home to the largest four ancient civilizations such as India, China, Egypt and Mesopotamia. The Archaeological Department carried out excavations in 1920 in the Indus Valley and unearthed two ancient cities viz. Harappa and Mohenjodaro.

Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India

Pratham Education Foundation after conducting a survey in 26 states and 4 Union Territories released the Annual Status of Education Report for Rural India. The survey revealed that only one-third of the surveyed children had access to online learning and only 11% had access to live online classes, while around 24.3% of children were deprived of learning material from the school. The state wise findings of the report revealed that Kerala topped the list regarding access to smartphones as 94.3% children in the state had this access, while only 47.4% of surveyed children had access to smartphones in West Bengal, 77.1% of children in Jammu and Kashmir, 88% in Punjab, 90% in Himachal Pradesh, 82.3% in Haryana.

The First Heeng Cultivated in India

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, has begun cultivation of heeng for the first time in the country as well as in cold-dry Himachal district in the Himachal Pradesh. Although Heeng or asafoetida has been a widely used condiment of every Indian kitchen yet the bulk of this important condiment i.e. 1,200 metric tonnes worth Rs 600 crore was imported from foreign nations like Afghanistan and Iran so far. According to Dr Shekhar Mande, Director General of CSIR in Delhi, Heeng can only grow in very cold and certain geo-climatic regions such as Ladakh and Lahaul-Spiti. Dr Sanjay Kumar, director of the institute, initiated the programme by planting heeng seedlings at Kwaring village in Lahaul and Spiti, which is a cold-dry district of Himachal Pradesh.

The Alexis Vastine Tournament & India

In the first edition of Alexis Vastine International Boxing Tournament for elite boxers that concluded at Nantes, France, nine Indian boxers i.e. five men and four women qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, that has been postponed to next year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among them is World silver-medallist Amit Panghal, who won gold in the 52kg category by defeating American Rene Abraham by 3-0. A former India Open gold-medallist, Sanjeet, also won the gold medal in the 91 kg category. Ashish Kumar won gold in the 75 kg category. Asian silver-medallist Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) won silver medal after getting defeated by Samuel Kistohurry in a split 2-1 verdict. Shiva Thapa won Bronze in 63 kg category, Sumit Sangwan won Bronze in 81Kg category and Satish Kumar won Bronze in +91 category. It is worth knowing that this tournament has been started in memory

of French boxer Alexis Vastine, who was the 2012 Olympics bronze medallist who died in a helicopter accident during the filming of a reality show in 2015. International Boxing Association (MBA), French Boxing Federation (FFBOXE) and European Boxing Federation (EUBA) together organized this tournament in which 10 nations participated.

'Meri Saheli' Initiative Of Indian Railways

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways started a "Meri Saheli" initiative in two trains viz. Bandra Terminus-Amritsar Special and Mumbai Central-Jaipur Superfast Express for security of women passengers. Under this initiative, a team of lady officers and staff will visit all passenger coaches of the train including ladies coaches, to identify women passengers and note down their journey details like coach number and seat number, especially if a lady is travelling alone on the train. The female passengers will be briefed about RPF Security Helpline Number 182, GRP Security Helpline Number 1512 and several other precautions such as, not to take food with strangers, buying food from only authorized IRCTC stalls, taking care of luggage, etc.

Kerala, Goa & Chandigarh : The Best Governed States

A non-profit organisation, Public Affairs Centre released a Public Affairs Index, 2020 in which Kerala was adjudged as the best governed state. Kerala topped the list with an index of 1.388 followed by Tamil Nadu (0.91), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468), while Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar crept at the bottom of the list in the big state category. In the small state category Goa emerged as the topper followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh, while Manipur, Delhi and Uttarakhand were at the bottom in the small state category. Chandigarh was the top performing

region in the category of Union Territories, followed by Pondicherry and Lakshadweep, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir were adjudged as the least performing Union Territories. In context to this index, a committee headed by a former Indian Space Research Organisation chairman Kasturirangan also released a report which informed that the ranking was based on parameters like growth, equity and sustainability of governance.

The SERB – POWER Initiative

The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan, introduced a Scheme called “SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)” on October 29, 2020. It is exclusively meant for women scientists on an e-platform. The scheme will identify women researchers in the age group of 35-55 years and will provide for a fellowship of Rs 15,000/- per month apart from regular income, A Research grant of Rs 10 lakh annually and an overhead of Rs

90,000 on an annual basis will be provided. The duration of the fellowship will be 3 years.

Term Extension For Officiating Chairperson Of NCLAT

The Central Government issued orders for extension of the term of (Retd.) Justice Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), till 31st December 2020 or until a regular Chairperson is appointed or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. Prior to this, the government had extended his term till October 16, 2020. He was first appointed to the post on March 12, 2020, and took charge on March 15, for a period of three months. His tenure was thereafter extended by the Centre for a further period of three months with effect from June 15, 2020.

The Approval Of 7.5% NEET quota Bill

Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit approved the NEET quota bill titled “Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homeopathy on

Preferential Basis to the Students of Government Schools Bill 2020” that has a provision of 7.5% horizontal reservation in undergraduate courses in medicine, dentistry, Indian medicine and homeopathy for government school students who have cleared NEET. This bill was approved by the state assembly on 15th September 2020. However, it should be noted that this bill would not apply to seats reserved for the all-India quota.

DTC & NBCC Contract For Multi-Level Bus Depots

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the construction of 'first of its kind', multi-level bus depots in the national capital after an agreement between Public transporter Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and construction major National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC). The duo will construct the proposed depots at Hari Nagar and Vasant Vihar localities of New Delhi. It will be equipped with all modern facilities and by its virtue more buses will be parked in limited available space at an economical parking cost.



New Zealand Will Declare Climate Emergency

Because of catastrophic loss of life and people facing more extreme weather conditions in the country, Greenpeace New Zealand is urging the New Zealand government to declare a climate emergency. The Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern is about to introduce a motion in the Parliament that will bring climate change to the centre of policy making. With this, New Zealand will join the row of other countries like Japan, France, Canada and Britain and Portugal that have taken significant courses of action on tackling climate change. Prior to this, last year, New Zealand had passed the Zero Carbon Act for achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050. It is worth knowing that in order to tackle climate change challenges, Japanese lawmakers have

framed a timetable for net zero emissions; France is banning all heating terraces as well as protecting 30% of its land surface from being developed; UK committed to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2025 as compared to 1990 levels; Canada adopted Methane regulations, short-lived climate pollutant regulation, clean electricity and other regulations for Oil and Gas sector as well as created a low carbon economy fund that creates jobs, support innovation, deliver clean growth and reduce energy bills.

UAE Began Generating Electricity From Coal

The United Arab Emirates announced a set up of a coal plant named 'Hassyan' worth 3.4 billion USD in Dubai to generate 600 MW of electricity and with this, it will become the first Arab country

to generate electricity from coal. Moreover, it has plans of increasing the capacity of the proposed plant to 2,400 MW by 2023. It will cater to 20% of the energy requirements of Dubai. The new coal-based power plant is expected to emit less carbon as per the standards set by the World Bank and the European Union. It is worth knowing that in most of the Gulf countries electricity requirements are catered via gas-based power plants as the region is rich in oil and natural gas.

The Latest FIFA Rankings

After witnessing around 160 full internationals played in November, including qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup, CAF Africa Cup of Nations, and UEFA EURO 2020, the latest edition of the FIFA World Ranking registered plenty of changes within the top ten list. Belgium continued to lead the FIFA rankings followed by France, Brazil, England, Portugal, Spain, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico and Italy that completed the top 10. Other countries in the list are Romania (37th), Hungary (40th) Egypt (49th), Cameroon (50th), Costa Rica (51st) and Ghana (52nd). It is worth knowing that two African countries Equatorial Guinea (134th, +10) and Burundi (138th, +10) emerged as the biggest climbers this month. It is good to learn that the Indian national team has moved up to 104th spot in the latest FIFA Rankings in comparison to the 108th rank in the October 2020 rankings.

Demise Of Former World Bank President James Wolfensohn



Australian-American lawyer, investment banker, and economist James Wolfensohn, who served as the ninth President of the loan-offering global development organisation, World Bank passed away in Manhattan, New York. He had served the World Bank Group for 10 long years from 1995 to 2005. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative of 1996 that provided over \$53 billion in debt relief to 27 of the world's poorest countries is one of his credentials that he achieved with the

collaboration of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The deceased was a great guiding force for a couple of the most well-known cultural institutions in the U.S. He was born in Australia, served Wall Street for many years before becoming the head of the World Bank in 1995 and was nominated by then-President Bill Clinton. He looked into issues like corruption in the organisation's development projects, and stressed on paying attention to the needs and priorities of the countries doing the projects.

Shanghai : The most connected city in the world

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) in its 76th annual general meeting announced Shanghai as the most connected city of the world. It was followed by Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Chicago, Shenzhen, Los Angeles at the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh spots respectively. Prior to this, London was the most connected city in the world that has now fallen to 8th spot in the list. Heathrow Airport of London is the second busiest airport across the globe that welcomed more than 80 million passengers in 2019. The air traffic and connectivity of London has now dropped by 67% according to the IATA. Similarly, the air traffic and connectivity of Tokyo has dropped by 55%. Seoul, Hong Kong and Bangkok are the other cities that saw a major decline in connectivity this year. The Middle East nations witnessed a fall of 88% in the air connectivity. Europe and Africa suffered a drop of 93% of air connectivity. According to the IATA systematic testing is the only immediate solution to re-connect the lost connectivity in the world.

UNDP & Invest India Will Launch the SDG Investor Map

The National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, Invest India and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India tied up to develop the first-ever 'SDG Investor Map for India'. The proposed map has 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in six critical SDG enabling sectors like education, healthcare, agriculture & allied activities, financial services, renewable energy & alternatives that can accelerate India on the Sustainable Development path. This initiative is said to be an instrumental stride in India's development trajectory as this data-backed research and insights will serve

as the blueprints to comprehend how best the SDG financing gap can be reduced in India. In the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, investing in the SDGs at this point is crucial to 'Building Back Better' and making the economy and our societies more resilient and sustainable. This map has employed critical factors like enhanced productivity, technology adoption and increased inclusion to identify the most attractive sectors for investors.

The ongoing China's Chang'e-5 Lunar Mission

China projected Chang'e-5 lunar mission on 24th November 2020 from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on Hainan Island in China. The mission is meant to land in the previously unexplored 'Mons Rumker' region of the moon and collect a 2 kg sample of the lunar rock possibly by digging about 2 metres deep into the surface of the Moon. Equipped with a camera, penetrating radar, a spectrometer, a lunar orbiter, a lander, a robotic arm, a coring drill, a sample chamber and an ascent probe that will lift the lunar samples back into orbit and return them back to Earth, the mission will operate for one lunar day i.e. two weeks long and will return to the Earth around December 15, 2020. With this, China's Chang'e-5 Lunar Mission will become the first probe in more than 40 years to bring back samples of lunar rock from a previously unexplored portion of the Moon. Last year China had launched the Chang'e-4 probe that successfully transmitted images from the far side i.e. the dark side of the Moon.

India-Finland's Agreement On biodiversity conservation

India and Finland inked Memorandum of Understanding in the field of biodiversity conservation and environment protection. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and his counterpart

Krista Mikkonen of Finland were the signatories of this agreement. Both the countries will exchange their best practices in prevention of air and water pollution, waste management, low carbon solutions, sustainable management of natural resources and promotion of circular economy. In addition to this, they will also develop technological, scientific and management capabilities. This will lead to the promotion of sustainable development. It is worth learning here that the diplomatic relations between the two countries was established in 1949 and bilateral trade between them was 1.284 billion USD in 2016-17. India exports mineral fuels, electronic goods, mineral oils, cotton, iron and steel, machinery appliances to Finland. And inland exports nuclear reactors, pulp of wood, boilers, etc. to India. In 2014, India and Finland signed 19 agreements. Among them was an agreement on nuclear energy that led to sharing of nuclear radiation, installation and nuclear safety. It includes radioactive waste management as well.

India-EU's Sixth Round Of Consultations On Disarmament And Non-proliferation

India and the European Union held the 6th round of consultations on disarmament and non-proliferation matter. Exchange of information on development in the field of chemical, nuclear, and biological disarmament, development on outer space security, conventional weapons and non-proliferation, strategic stability of the environment, export control regions, and other development of mutual interest were discussed at length between them. It is worth learning here that the European Union is the largest trading partner of India. As of 2016, the European Union accounts for 12.5% of India's total trade, while China and the

USA account for 10.8% and 9.3 % respectively. India exports pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, Gems, and Jewellery India to the European Union. Between 2005 and 2016 the trade between them has tripled.

The Afghanistan Conference 2020

The United Nations, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the Government of Finland together organized the Afghanistan Conference 2020 on 23rd and 24th November 2020. It was presided over by Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Janez Lenarcic, European Commissioner for Crisis Management and around 70 countries and 32 international organisations along with Afghan Government officials and civil society representatives participated in this conference. The Union Minister Subrahmanyarn Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) represented India in this event committed the Phase-IV of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) in Afghanistan worth USD 80 million i.e. around Rs 592 crore, which includes over 100 projects. So far India has undertaken 400 plus projects in all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces and construction of the Shahtoot dam in Kabul, 202-km Phul-e-Khumri transmission line etc. are among them. The international community reaffirmed its commitments towards the Afghanistan government to determine shared development objectives for 2021-24.

Ten year Extension Of GCNEP

India and the US extended their nuclear energy partnership called the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) for more than 10 years. The GCNEP was signed in 2010 to promote

safe, secure, and sustainable nuclear energy for the service of mankind through global partnership. The duo will deepen the dialogue on nuclear and other radioactive material security by collaborating on advanced projects in the field (e.g. future technology), with the goal of sharing the outcomes in the international arena.

The Emmy Awards 2020

The 48th International Emmy Awards 2020 has been announced in which Delhi Crime (India, Best Drama Series category); Ninguém Ta Olhando (Nobody's Looking) (Brazil, Best Comedy Series) ; Glenda Jackson, Elizabeth Is Missing (United Kingdom, Best Actress); Billy Barratt, Responsible Child (United

Kingdom, Best Actor); Responsible Child (United Kingdom, Best TV Movie/Mini-Series) ; #Martyisdead (Czech Republic, Best Short-Form Series) ; 20th Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards and Reina Del Sur – Season 2 (Best Non-English Language US Primetime Program); Orfaos Da Terra (Orphans Of A Nation) (Brazil, Best Telenovela); For Sama (United Kingdom, Best Documentary); Vertige De La Chute (Ressaca) (France, Best Arts Programming) and Old People's Home For 4 Year Olds (Australia, Best Non-Scripted Entertainment). In Indian context it is worth knowing that Delhi Crime that has won in the Best Drama Series category is a Netflix show, written and directed by Richie Mehta and actress Shefali Shah is the main

International Version of UMANG Application



The Union Information Technology Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs launched the International version of the Unified Mobile Application for New-Age (UMANG) in the UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand on 23rd November 2020. The application will project Indian culture across the globe through its services. In addition to this, the Common Services Centres are being

integrated with the application. The application can also be used to avail various e-government services like Employment Provident Fund Organisation services, filing Income Tax, pension, e-land records, epathshala, Crop Insurance, etc.

character of the show.

Malaysia hosted APEC Summit

Malaysia hosted the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit that was attended by the US President Donald Trump among others. The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 was adopted during the Summit that envisions an open, resilient peaceful Asia Pacific community by 2040. The 1994 Bogor Goals with post 2020 vision was replaced in this summit. How the economies will achieve the post 2020 vision via three economic drivers like trade and investment, strong balance, secure

sustainable and inclusive growth, Innovation and digitalization were discussed at length in this summit. Prior to this, the members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation from Australia, Brunei, Canada, China, Hongkong, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan and United States of America held a ministerial meeting on November 17th November, 2020 in which they committed towards free and open trade and investment. The next APEC meeting will be hosted by New

The World Fisheries Day

Like every year, the World Fisheries Day was celebrated on 21st November 2020 on 'Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain' theme. The United Nations celebrated this day to create awareness about sustainable fishing as over two-thirds of the world fisheries are being overfished. Small scale fisheries are a source of employment for more than 90% of people employed in fisheries. It has been found that around 65% of fish caught from inland fisheries are from low-income food deficit countries. Fish caters more than 25% of world dietary protein and the total fish consumption across the globe is 100 million tonnes. In India, the Department of Fisheries under the aegis of the Ministry of Fisheries organized World Fisheries Day. Assam won the award in this field among Hilly and North East States, while Uttar Pradesh and Odisha emerged as the best performing states among inland states.



Zealand.

Daniil Medvedev wins ATP Finals

Russian tennis player Daniil Medvedev defeated Dominic Thiem to win the ATP tournament held in London on 22nd November 2020. This was Russian world No 4's biggest title win of his career as he defeated the US Open champion Thiem by 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 in a display of calm grit. With this, Medvedev has now won 10 consecutive matches following his title earlier this November at the Paris Masters and his victory will taste sweet a year after a winless debut in London. He defeated five-time champion Novak Djokovic and world number two Rafael Nadal earlier in the week and thus became the first man to outshine all three of the world's top-ranked players at the season finale.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The United Nations observed the annual International Day for Elimination of violence against women on 25th November 2020 on "Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect" theme to create

awareness that women are subjected to domestic violence, rape and other forms of violence worldwide. It is being observed in memory of three Mirabal sisters, who were assassinated upon orders from the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo on November 25, 1960. In 1981, activists from Caribbean Feminist Encuentros and Latin America instituted November 25 as day to raise awareness of violence against women. In addition to this, the UN also started a campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence", which will continue upto December 10 i.e. the Human Rights Day. This campaign was initiated in 1991 in which more than 6,000 organizations from 187 countries took part.

The G20 Summit 2020

Saudi Arabia hosted the G20 summit of 2020 on "realising opportunities of the 21st century for all" theme. It focussed on resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery from covid-19 crisis in which the leaders discussed the preparedness of the countries in response to the pandemic and shared their vision on building a resilient future. Saudi Arabia released a 20 Riyal commemorative banknote to mark the G20 Presidency of the country. The upcoming G20 summits will be held in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in

2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024.

NASA's Sentinel satellite

NASA launched the Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite via SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on 21 st November 2020 to monitor the Earth's sea level rise. The launch was a part of the Mission Jason Continuity of Service to measure the height of the ocean. Measuring the height of the ocean is vital for comprehension of climate change. Another component of the spacecraft will be launched in 2025. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, European Space Agency and European Organization for the Exploration of Meteorological satellite and French National Centre for Space Studies together developed this satellite. The satellite will send pulses to the Earth's surface and will measure the returning signals to provide measurements on global sea level rise. The satellite will also collect data supporting oceanography and will measure water vapour in the earth's atmosphere to measure the sea surface height. This satellite has been named after an oceanographer Michael Freilich, who retired from NASA in 2019. Prior to this, NASA and German Aerospace Centre had launched GRACE Satellites, which revealed that between 2002 and 2017 the ice sheets contributed 1.2 millimetres per year sea level rise. It mainly measured distribution of water across the planet. NASA had also launched other satellites like Aquarius (2011), Jason-1 (2001), Jason-2 (2008) and Jason-3 (2016) to study the ocean.

The SITMEX-2020 Maritime Exercise

The second edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 took place in Andaman Sea to enhance mutual interoperability imbibing best practices between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Thai Navy. The Republic of

Singapore Navy hosted this edition with the 'Formidable' Class frigate 'Intrepid' and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank 'Endeavour'. Indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated from Indian side. And the 'Chao Phraya' Class frigate 'Kraburi' represented Thai Navy. The first edition of SITMEX was hosted by Indian Navy in Port Blair in September 2019.

20 November : Africa Industrialization Day

Like every year, 20 November was celebrated as Africa Industrialization Day on "Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA era" theme. The United Nations General Assembly, instituted this day in 1989 via adoption of A/RES/44/237 within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000). Industrial development is of great significance for sustained and inclusive economic growth in African countries. Industry can increase productivity, the capabilities of the workforce, and generate employment, by introducing new equipment and new techniques. Industrialization along with domestic economies can help African countries achieve high growth rates, diversify their economies and reduce their exposure to external shocks. This will substantially contribute to poverty eradication through employment and wealth creation.

Resignation of Lord Meghnad Desai From UK Labour Party

Indian-origin economist, author and peer Lord Meghnad Desai resigned as a member of the UK's Opposition Labour Party because of its failure to effectively tackle antisemitic racism within its ranks. He resigned after serving the party for 49 years. According to the 80-year-old peer, he has been a Labour Party supporter but was forced to take the decision to cancel his membership after former

party leader Jeremy Corbyn was readmitted after just 19 days of suspension despite findings of "unlawful acts" by the country's human rights watchdog. While laying his resignation, he said "I have been very uncomfortable and slightly ashamed that the party has been injected with this sort of racism. It is out and out racism." The Labour Party has been plagued by charges of antisemitism over the years, with its disastrous electoral defeat in the December 2019 election also added to the crisis. The watchdog found that Labour had broken the law in its failure to handle antisemitism, or anti-Jewish, complaints and there were "serious failings" by its leadership at the time.

nOPV2 Polio Vaccine : The First-ever Vaccine Listed Under Emergency Use

The World Health Organization (WHO) listed a new polio vaccine named "nOPV2" for emergency use. With this, the Indonesian BioFarma vaccine became the first vaccine to get permission from an international organization to get listed for emergency use. It has made way for potential listing of upcoming COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccine will be employed to curb the rising cases of polio in a number of African and East Mediterranean

countries. The Emergency Use Listing (EUL) procedure is meant to evaluate not-yet licensed products to determine if they are suitable for use during public health emergencies like polio and COVID-19. It is to make medicines, vaccines and diagnostics available faster.

Death Of Nobel laureate physicist Masatoshi Koshiha

One of Japan's most eminent scientists, Professor Masatoshi Koshiha, died at the age of 94. Best known for his dogged pursuit of detecting nuclear fusion-created neutrinos, Koshiha shared Nobel Prize in Physics with Raymond Davis Jr, and Riccardo Giacconi "for pioneering contributions to astrophysics, in particular for the detection of cosmic neutrinos" in 2002. Neutrinos, which are also dubbed as ghosts of the universe can travel through solid rock. They are subatomic particles similar to electrons but with no electrical charge and have a very small mass. In the 1960s, Davis and his colleagues were the first to find the neutrinos created by nuclear fusion in the sun through their Brookhaven Solar Neutrino Experiment (also known as the Homestake experiment) in the United States. Koshiha followed up by designing and constructing a neutrino detector in Japan that confirmed Davis's results in

Shuggie Bain Claimed Booker Prize 2020

Novel "Shuggie Bain" authored by Douglas Stuart won the 2020 Booker Prize. This debut novel of the author is about a love story looking at that unconditional, often tested love that children can have for flawed parents. In the 1980s in Glasgow, a boy tries to support his mother as she struggles with addiction and poverty. As per the panel of judges, the book is

"challenging, intimate and gripping and anyone who reads it will never feel the same." The novel follows the life of Agnes Bain, who descends into despair and struggles with alcohol after the breakdown of her marriage. And all but one of her children have been driven away by her deterioration, and that child, Shuggie, struggles to help Agnes while suffering huge personal problems of his own.



the 1980s. Giacconi was an expert in x-ray astronomy who worked in the capacity of director of the Space Telescope Science Institute (operational center for the Hubble Space Telescope) and director general of the European Southern Observatory that operates telescopes in northern Chile.

The Approved Governance Reforms Of Russia

The Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved Governance Reforms on 17th November 2020, which will become effective from 1st January 2021. The reforms are regarding executive level to improve the efficiency of the Executive branch of the Russian Government. The staff within the central administrative office will be reduced by 5% whereas the staff within territorial governments will be reduced by 10%. The reform will establish a special working group that will deal with matters that are related to reform procedures. The reforms will be completed by April 1, 2021. It is worth knowing that President Vladimir Putin recently signed an order to increase the number of Deputy Prime Ministers from 9 to 10. The post of Deputy Prime

Minister is temporary, which is recommended by the Prime Minister of Russia. According to the latest amendment in Russian constitution, although the President holds the highest office in Russia and is the commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed forces, yet he is not a part of the Government of Russia. The Government of Russia consists of a council of ministers and exercises the executive powers. Russia is a federal (union of partially self-governing states) semi-presidential republic, where the President exists alongside a Prime Minister.

RCEP: World's Largest Regional Free-trade Agreement

The 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) viz. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam along with their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partner nations like China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia signed a "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)", which is said to be the World's largest regional free-trade agreement. It happened on the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN virtual Summit 2020

that was hosted by Vietnam. All the member nations who have signed the RCEP pact account for 2.2 Billion People with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 26.2 Trillion. RCEP will lead to creation of an integrated market of 15 countries, through which the products and services of each of the signatory countries will be available across the region. Besides this, RCEP will improve the economies affected by Pandemic via reducing tariffs, strengthening supply chains with common rules of origin and codifying new e-commerce rules. Moreover, it covers a tariff elimination of at least 92% on Traded goods. It should be noted that in the past, India had pulled out of RCEP in 2019 on account of import issues as the flood of imports under RCEP may harm local producers in India.

Japan -Australia's Defence Pact To Counter China

After six years of long negotiations, Japan and Australia signed the "Reciprocal Access Agreement" to counter the growing influence of China in the South China Sea and in the Pacific Island Nations on November 17, 2020. This is expected to bring the two countries closer amidst militarization in the South China sea and a series of disputes over islands in the East China sea. The Reciprocal Access Agreement is the first agreement of Japan to permit foreign military presence in its sovereign territory since 1960. Prior to this, it had inked a Status of Forces Agreement with the US in 1960 and with Djibouti in 2009. It is worth knowing that the countries India, Japan, Australia, and the US are working under QUAD grouping to achieve a free and open Indo-Pacific and intend to reduce and counter the influence of China in the region. Between 2006 and 2017, China has provided 1.5 billion USD of foreign aid to the Pacific Islands and as of 2017, China is the third-largest donor in the Pacific Islands. Since 2010, China has been converting the uninhabited islets into

Maia Sandu : The First Female President of Moldova



The Preliminary results of Moldova Presidential elections proclaim Pro-EU candidate Maia Sandu's victory over pro-Russian incumbent Igor Dodon. The commission's data reveals that Sandu succeeded in garnering 57.74% of the votes and Dodon had 42.26% at the end of counting 99.95% of ballots. With this, Maia Sandu's presidency is almost confirmed and she is all set to become the first female President of one of the poorest countries of the world, Moldova. Maia Sandu has also

been the former Prime Minister of Moldova from 2014 till 2015. Currently, she is serving as the head of the Party of Action and Solidarity. In 2016, Sandu was also chosen as a joint candidate for the pro-European parties viz. PPDA and PAS but was defeated at that time in the subsequent runoff by the pro-Russian Socialist Party PSRM candidate Dodon. The final results will be announced in the upcoming days after the Constitutional Court's approval.

artificial islets.

WHO Will Eliminate Cervical Cancer Globally

The World Health Organization (WHO) released the "Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer" by 2030 during the concluding day of the 73rd World Health Assembly on November 17, 2020. According to this, the international organization aims to decrease more than 40% of new cases by 2050 by screening, vaccination and treatment. Under this, 70% women between the age of 35 years and 45 years will be screened using high-performance tests and 90% of girls of age 15 years will be vaccinated with the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine. WHO has laid provisions for a return of around 3.25 USD to the economy on every 1 USD investment in the cervical cancer programme.

Sadat Rahman : The 2020 International Children's Peace Prize Recipient

Bangladeshi teenager Sadat Rahman has won the International Children's Peace Prize 2020 award for his work in combating cyberbullying. Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai presented this award to him. This 17-year-old has established a social organization and mobile app "Cyber Teens" to stop cyberbullying. He started his campaign after a 15-year-old girl committed suicide after becoming a victim of cyberbullying. His app "Cyber Teens" offers a platform to helpless teenagers needing help. The internationally acknowledged app has already supported over 300 victims of cyberbullying and led to the arrest of eight perpetrators of cybercrimes. Today more than 45,000 teenagers have already access to this app. In context to this accomplishment the awardee revealed that in 2017 Rohingya people sought refuge in Bangladesh due to violence in their country and he started

organizing activities for them, where he discovered the power of youth coming together. His accomplishment was chosen for the reward among 142 applicants from 42 countries as per Twitter.

Resignation Of Manuel Merino

Former speaker of Congress, Manuel Merino, who assumed the post of Peruvian President was forced to resign after Martin Vizcarra's impeachment on 9th November 2020 by the Peruvian Legislature. Merino was expected to stay on the post until July 2021, when Mr Vizcarra's term was due to end but the violent protests punctuated his Presidency with unexpected full stop. With this, Manuel Merino's tenure as President of Peru was less than a week. Background reveals that Peruvian Legislature had thrown out Vizcarra over bribery allegations worth 2.3m soles (\$640,000; £487,000) when he was governor of the southern Moquegua region. It is said that Vizcarra was not affiliated with any political party and had promised an anti-graft agenda that initiated reforms to tackle corruption in the judicial and legislative branches of the Peruvian Government which was seen as a threat by most of the political parties in the country. It is worth knowing here that Vizcarra dissolved the 130-member unicameral legislative body in 2019 that led to a constitutional crisis in the country and parliamentary elections in January 2020. In these elections, Peru witnessed a historic division of parties in which no party received more than 11% vote in the elections.

Demise of World's Longest Serving Bahrain PM

Former Prime Minister of Bahrain, Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa passed away at 84 on 11th November 2020. He was the world's longest serving Prime Minister, who became PM on 19th

January 1970 but took office on 5 August 1971 after Bahrain achieved independence. He was a leader who flourished the modern economy. He was popular for his wealth as he owned an island where he met with foreign dignitaries. He was also recipient of the United Nations' top Honors for strengthening the global goal of sustainable development as well as the winner of World Peace Culture Award in 2017. Now Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa has crowned prince Salman al-Khalifa as the new prime minister of the country.

World's First 6G Experiment Satellite

China projected the world's first 6G experiment satellite into space from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi Province. This 6G test satellite is said to have the technology which is more than 100 times faster than 5G on account of high-frequency terahertz waves to achieve the desired data-transmission. This satellite was launched into orbit along with 12 other satellites. Among them were 10 commercial remote sensing satellites developed by Argentinian company Satellogic as well as one satellite that has technology which will be used for crop disaster monitoring and forest fire prevention.

Abu Dhabi's SWF : The First notified fund to get 100% Income-tax Exemption

After CBDT issued detailed guidelines on 22nd July 2020 to facilitate the process of SWFs' notification, Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), "MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited" on 11th November 2020 became the first foreign SWF that has been notified and granted 100% income-tax exemption for the long-term investments to be made in the specified priority sectors in India. It implies that MIC Redwood has been provided 100% income-tax exemption to

income from interest, dividend and long-term capital gains for its investment in India's priority sector as per the Finance Act, 2020. Besides this, notified foreign Pension Funds have also been granted similar exemption subject to fulfilment of certain prescribed conditions. It is worth knowing here that the income-tax exemption facility was welcomed by the SWFs and Pension Funds worldwide and a large number of SWFs and Pension Funds have shown interest in making investment in India's infrastructure sector.

Vidisha Maitra Is Now In UN's ACABQ

Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra got elected to the UN body - Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) with strong support of the member states. In the Group of Asia-Pacific States, the first Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, Vidisha Maitra received 126 votes. Selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience, Ms Maitra was recommended by the 5th Committee of the General Assembly for a three-year term beginning from January 1, 2021.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Peace Deal

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan have signed a peace deal to end military conflict over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. As per the deal, Azerbaijan will hold on to areas of Nagorno-Karabakh that it has taken during the conflict and Armenia has also agreed to withdraw from many other adjacent areas over the next few weeks. However, the new ceasefire agreement prompted protest in Armenia. The protesters stormed the parliament, beating up the speaker and reportedly

looting the prime minister's office. Therefore Russian peacekeepers i.e. around 1,960 personnel will be deployed to patrol the front line. Flashback reveals that the unrest in Nagorno-Karabakh started with the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the region, backed by Armenia, declared independence from Azerbaijan. Shusha, a district of Azerbaijan was captured by Armenian forces in 1992 and Nagorno-Karabakh established a de facto independence that is not recognized by most of the world. A 1994 ceasefire brought the violent conflict over the enclave to an end, but tensions continued to simmer.

10th November : World Science Day

Globe celebrated World Science Day on 10th November 2020 on "Science for and with Society" theme to highlight the significant role of science in society and



the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. The day also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. UNESCO also organized an online roundtable on the above mentioned theme in context to COVID-19. Amid the ongoing battle with covid-19 pandemic, from the science perspective, UNESCO's response to COVID-19 revolves around three major pillars viz. promoting international scientific cooperation, ensuring access to water and supporting

ecological reconstruction.

INTERPOL's Two New Services

In order to facilitate cybercrime related communication among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) reported creation of two secure and flexible services viz. Cybercrime Knowledge Exchange (CKE) workspace and Cybercrime Collaborative Platform-Operation. The Cybercrime Knowledge Exchange workspace is meant to tackle general, non-police information and is open to all relevant users worldwide. It enables users to discuss the latest cybercrime trends, prevention strategies, detection technologies and investigation techniques. And the Cybercrime Collaborative Platform-Operation is the first of its kind, that assists in the law enforcement operations, with access restricted to the operational stakeholders only. These will ensure more effective and coordinated action based on timely intelligence.

The New Hidden Gene of Covid-19 Virus

According to the latest publication of magazine eLife, researchers of Taiwan's Academia Sinica discovered a hidden gene in SARS-CoV-2 virus that accounts for the unique biology of this virus and renders it the requisite potential for causing the covid-19 pandemic. It is an overlapping gene, ORF3d that has a potential to encode a protein which lasts longer than expected by chance alone. Covid-19 virus already has 15 genes. Earlier the team had detected this gene in previously discovered pangolin coronavirus. It should be noted that the overlapping genes are hard to find because RNA viruses have a high mutation rate, therefore they tend to keep their gene count low to avoid a large number of mutations. This explains the reason why viruses have evolved a system of data compression in which one

letter in its genome contributes to 2 or even 3 different genes.

UAE Twisted Islamic laws

In order to improve the country's economy and ease life of foreigners, the United Arab Emirates announced some major changes to its Islamic laws like loosening of alcohol restrictions, permitting unmarried couples to cohabitate and loosening criminalization of honour killings. Prior to this, the liquor users had to purchase liquor and were permitted to consume it at homes. The new regulation permits Muslims to drink alcoholic beverages freely. The government also liberalized the laws guarding the honour crimes in the country. The law that backed a tribal custom under which a male may evade prosecution has now been relaxed. It is worth knowing that UAE is a country where the expatriates (people who live outside their native country) are more than the citizens with a ratio 9:1 and UAE accommodates one of the world's highest percentage of immigrants. Around 200 nationalities live in the country. Thus laws have been reformed to permit the foreigners to avoid Islamic Shariah courts on issues like divorce, marriage and inheritance.

Joe Biden : The New President Of USA

November 2020 made Joe Biden the 46th President of the US. His oath will be administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and will step in the Presidential office on January 20, 2021 replacing Donald Trump. In the past, Biden had served as the 47th Vice President during the Obama administration between 2009 and 2017. In 2009, he looked into the infrastructure spending of America during the Great Recession. The elections were highly influenced by Indian - American diaspora (4 million) in the United States, which are

said to be the second largest immigrant group in the US after Mexicans. The new President has been a strong supporter of India-US relations, like as a Senator, Biden had pushed other Democrats to back India-US Civil Nuclear Deal in 2006. On the other hand, Biden has always seen China as a grave threat to the US.

United Nations Adopted Nuclear Resolutions

The United Nations finally adopted two resolutions titled "Convention on Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons" and "Reducing Nuclear Danger", which were sponsored by India in the past. Convention on Prohibition of the use of Nuclear Weapons was tabled by India in 1982 that requested the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to commence negotiations to prohibit use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances. Reducing Nuclear Danger was tabled in 1998 was about accidental use of nuclear weapons and it underscored the necessity of reviewing nuclear doctrines, calling for concrete measures to reduce risks and de-targeting of nuclear weapons.

Demise of James Bond

The Scottish actor Sean Connery best known for his portrayal of James Bond in spy movies breathed his last at the age of 90. He acted for 70 long years and won an Oscar in 1988 for his role in The Untouchables. He was knighted by the Queen at Holyrood Palace in 2000. He played a remarkable role in seven popular spy thrillers viz. Dr No (1962); From Russia with Love (1963); Goldfinger (1964); Thunderball (1965); You Only Live Twice (1967); Diamonds are Forever (1971) and Never Say Never Again (1983). Connery rendered the character of James Bond his own blend of ruthlessness with sardonic wit. The Hunt for Red October, Highlander, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade and

The Rock are other memorable movies of the deceased legend.

World Wide Fund Water Risk Filter Report

According to the World Wide Fund



Water Risk Filter report, the number of cities affected with water risks are likely to increase to 100 by 2050. Among them, over half of the cities that are on the verge of facing water risks are located in China and the other identified hotspots are in the middle east, South Asia, Africa and South America. Some of them are Jakarta, Beijing, Johannesburg, Hong Kong, Rio de Janeiro and Mecca. And in India 30 Indian cities including Jaipur, Delhi, Amritsar, Indore, Srinagar, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Thane Visakhapatnam and Kozhikode are likely to face acute water risks. The report has precisely defined "water risk" as battling between flooding and droughts. The reports further state that the listed cities are home to 350 million people and statistics say that over 51% of world population is at high-water risk.

Duarte Pacheco : The New President of IPU

In the ongoing 206th session of governing council of IPU that began on 1st November will continue till 4th November, Duarte Pacheco from Portugal was elected as the new

President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). He has taken the place of Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron and will be on the post from 2020 to 2023. He was chosen among Muhammad Sanjrani from Pakistan, Akmal Saidov from Uzbekistan and Salma Ataullahjan from Canada. Around 144 parliaments are taking part in the session. An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and consisting of Lok Sabha MP Poonamben Maadam and Rajya Sabha MP Swapna Dasgupta is also participating in this event. It is worth learning here that established in 1889, IPU is meant to promote democratic governance, cooperation and accountability with its slogan "For Democracy, For Everyone". Establishment of the United Nations, Permanent Court of Arbitration and League of Nations are its credentials. Governing Council, Assembly, Executive Committee, IPU President and Secretariat form the structure of IPU. There exist six Geo Political Groups of IPU viz. Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Latin America, Arab Group and Twelve Plus. There also exist three standing committees viz. First Standing Committee (for peace and international security); Second Standing Committee (Sustainable Development) and Third Standing Committee (democracy and human rights).

Conclusion of 2020 Global Media and Information Literacy Week

The 10th edition of global celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week on "Resisting Disinformation: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone" theme concluded recently. Hosted by the Republic of Korea and led by UNESCO, this annual event was joined by WHO for looking into disinformation and misinformation. It was observed that the way in which people are being exposed

to information, both good and bad; the modalities of digital participation; trust and transparency; media and information literacy; and health literacy are all elements that impact resilience to mis and dis information.

New Zealand Voted To Legalize Euthanasia

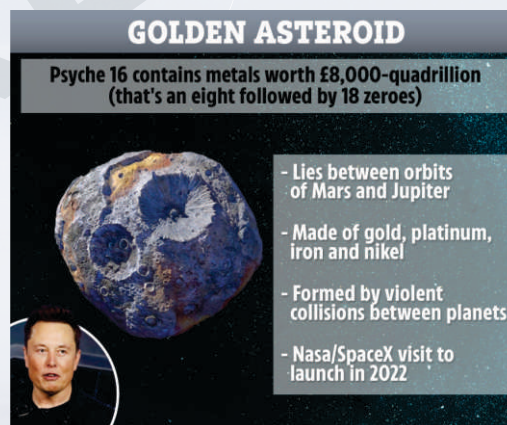
New Zealanders have voted in favor of legalizing euthanasia for people with a terminal illness. The decision was taken in the backdrop of campaigners who advocated that people who are suffering extreme pain should be given a choice of how and when they want to bring their life to an end. The referendum for the same was circulated on October 17, 2020. There exist different categories of Euthanasia viz. Voluntary euthanasia (legal in some countries), Non-voluntary euthanasia (illegal in all countries), Involuntary euthanasia (considered as murder and is illegal in all countries), Passive euthanasia (legal under specific circumstances in many countries), and Active euthanasia (This is legal only after

the approval from the counselors and doctors. But in countries like Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan active euthanasia is non-existent). In India only Passive euthanasia under strict guidelines since March 2018. Apart from this, another referendum for legalizing cannabis was also circulated which failed to get support from the people of New Zealand.

October 31: World Cities Day

The United Nations celebrated October 31, 2020, as the World Cities Day. Celebrated on the "Valuing Our Communities and Cities" theme, it was meant to promote global urbanization, address challenges of urbanization, and boost cooperation among nations for sustainable urban development. The United Nations instituted this day in 2013. The Sustainable Development Goal 11 lays norms for making human settlements safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. It is worth learning here that the United Nations Conference on Housing occurs in a bi-decennial cycle. It

The Rich Asteroid "16 Psyche"



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) discovered that the 16 Psyche asteroid orbiting between Mars and Jupiter and located at around 370 million kilometres away from the earth is made of rare metals such as gold, cobalt, platinum, rhenium and iridium. Scientists are of opinion that the asteroid is likely to carry iron worth \$10,000 quadrillion, which is more than the entire economy on our earth. This so-called one of the most

massive objects found in the asteroid belt of the solar system carries precious metals worth 10,000 Quadrillion USD. This treasured asteroid is said to have come into existence from the leftover of an earlier planet that lost its mantle and crust after suffering multiple collisions during the creation of the solar system. The potato shaped asteroid has a diameter of 140 miles and it was first discovered in 1853 by an Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis and was named after the Greek goddess Psyche. In 2022, Mission Psyche will be launched to find out if the Psyche asteroid is a core or an unmelted material. The mission will also characterize topography of Psyche



Mumbai Indians Won IPL For Record Fifth Time

Mumbai Indians clinched their record-extending fifth IPL title on 10th November 2020 after beating Delhi Capitals by five wickets in the final at Dubai. Delhi Capitals posted 156 runs on account of a magnificent half-century by Rishabh Pant (56 off 38 balls) and a gutsy fifty by skipper Shreyas Iyer (65 not out). Chasing 157 to win, Mumbai Indians did this feat by virtue of Rohit Sharma's 68 and Trent Boult's 3 for 30. Trent Boult was adjudged the Player of the Match. Thus, Reliance Industries' Mumbai Indians became the first team in the 13-year history of the league to win the title for five times viz. 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.



Lewis Hamilton Equalled Seventh Formula 1 title

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won Turkish Grand Prix despite starting sixth on the grid and with this, he succeeded in equaling Michael Schumacher's haul of seven drivers' crowns. This was the 94th career win of the 35-year-old driver. Hamilton won his first title in 2008, adding to his unprecedented roster of records of most wins (94), most pole positions (97), most podium finishes (163) and most consecutive points finishes (47). In this Grand Prix he left behind his teammate and only remaining title rival Valtteri Bottas, who finished 14th after a desultory outing, to claim his 10th victory in 14 races this season. This latest victory gave Hamilton an unassailable lead over Bottas, with two races in Bahrain and the season-closing Abu Dhabi Grand Prix to come. Hamilton returned home over half a minute clear of Sergio Perez for Racing

Point. Four-time former champion Sebastian Vettel, finished third ahead of his Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc.

Chen Meng : The First ITTF Women's World Cup Champion

Chen Meng of China has been crowned as the winner of the first-ever International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Women's World Cup title. She is the world's No.1 women tennis player, who defeated her Chinese compatriot Sun Yingsha by 11-13 11-6 11-9 11-6 11-8 in the Dishang 2020 ITTF Women's World Cup, which was held from 8th to 10th November 2020 at Weihai, China to book the title on her name. The series is also dubbed as #RESTART series of ITTF. With this win, the number of senior singles titles won by Chen has become 19. In this event, Japan's Mima Ito won the bronze title after defeating Germany's Han Ying. Apart from this, China will also host the Men's World Cup tournament from November 13-15 in

Weihai, which will feature 21 players including top-ranked Fan Zhendong and Olympic champion Ma Long. The final event of this restart series will be held from November 19-22 in Zhengzhou, China.

Daniil Medvedev : The Winner of Paris Masters 2020

The world number five tennis champion, Daniil Medvedev of Russia defeated Alexander Zverev in the Paris Masters final to script his 8th ATP title. He got an edge over Alexander Zverev of Germany by 5-7, 6-4, 6-1. With this, he became



the fourth Russian to capture the Paris Masters title after Marat Safin, Nikolay Davydenko and Karen Khachanov. It is worth remembering here that to enter in finals, the World number seven champion Zverev had earlier defeated the World number two champion Rafael Nadal in semi-finals.

Jio named title sponsor for BCCI's Women T20 Challenge 2020

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) informed that Jio is the Title Sponsor of the ongoing 2020 edition of the Women's T20 Challenge. And

Reliance Foundation Education and Sports For All are backing this partnership of BCCI and Jio. This partnership is said to be historic as for the first time a sponsor has signed with BCCI exclusively for the women's matches. This Jio Women's T20 Challenge started on 4th November and will continue upto 9th November in Sharjah. In this Challenge, three teams viz. Velocity, Supernovas and Trailblazers are participating and the finalists will be announced on 9th November, a day before the IPL final.

Shane Watson announces bid farewell to Cricket

Former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson announced retirement from



all forms of cricket, which spelled an end to his two decade long illustrious career during which he was one of the world's premier white-ball all-rounders. Flashback says that the Australian all-rounder had already punctuated his international career with full stop in March 2016 and had only been playing in overseas T20 leagues. The IPL match between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on October 29 was his last game of cricket. The 39-year-old played 145 games for three teams in the competition and scored 3874 runs at a strike-rate of 137.91. He

scored four centuries and also claimed a hat-trick amongst his 92 IPL wickets. In this season the veteran played 11 games and scored 299 runs with two half-centuries.

Conclusion of 2020 Global Media and Information Literacy Week

The 10th edition of global celebration of Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week on "Resisting Disinformation: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone" theme concluded recently. Hosted by the Republic of Korea and led by UNESCO, this annual event was joined by WHO for looking into disinformation and misinformation. It was observed that the way in which people are being exposed to information, both good and bad; the modalities of digital participation; trust and transparency; media and information literacy; and health literacy are all elements that impact resilience to mis and dis information.

Hamilton : F1 Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020 Winner

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain won the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2020 at Autodromo Internazionale Enzo e Dino Ferrari race track, Italy. This came as his 9th victory of the season and 93rd F1 win of his career. Mercedes hitched the seventh consecutive constructors' title for 2020. In this Grand Prix Hamilton finished the

race 5.783 seconds ahead of teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had started on pole position. Valtteri Bottas finished second while Australian Daniel Ricciardo finished third for Renault

India-GCC Troika Dialogue

India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Troika conducted an annual Political Dialogue on November 3, 2020 and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India in this event. India requested the members of GCC to ease the return of Indian professionals and workers to the Gulf countries like Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE. ARAMCO and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will together set up a mega refinery in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. Besides this, ARAMCO of Saudi Arabia recently purchased 20% stake in Indian Reliance industries. It is worth remembering here that earlier, India had strong ties with Iran but after US sanctions on Iran, India, UAE and Saudi Arabia created a trilateral oil cooperation to bring stability in oil cooperation in 2018.

Aryna Sabalenka won Linz Title

Belarusian Tennis player Aryna Sabalenka won the Women Tennis Association (WTA) International Tournament Linz Open title in Linz, Austria. Sponsored by Generali Gruppe, it has been played in hardcourts since

Novak Djokovic Clinched ATP Tour No. 1 trophy

Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic received the ATP Tour No. 1 trophy for finishing 2020 as the year-end No. 1 (world number one). With this, Djokovic became the only second player in tennis history, after Pete Sampras, to claim this trophy for the sixth time. Prior to this, Djokovic had finished as world number one in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. Before this, only Pete Sampras succeeded in finishing six years on top of the rankings which he did between 1993 and 1998.



2009. In addition to this victory the 22 year old Sabalenka traded places with Serena Williams in tennis world rankings. Sabalenka has been ranked at number 9 in singles and number 2 in doubles by the Women Tennis Association. She had won her first Grand Slam at the 2019 US Open. In all she has won twelve WTA titles. Serena has dropped to 11th in ranking and has not played French Open since her Achilles injury.

The Wave Of Resignation In Cricket South Africa

Around six members of the Cricket South Africa (CSA) board have laid their resignations. Among them is the acting president Beresford Williams, who took over from Chris Nenzani in August. He has resigned both from the board and the members' council, while others viz. Donovan May, Tebogo Siko, Angelo Carolissen, John Mogodi and Dheven Dharmalingam quit from their positions as board members but would remain on the members' council. The members' council has appointed Rihan Richards as the acting president of the members' council for the time being. Cricket South Africa has postponed the Mzansi Super League to 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic

Michael Irani : The New International Weightlifting Federation Interim President

The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Constitution and the IWF Executive Board, By-laws appointed Dr Michael Irani as IWF Interim President. Currently, Irani is Chairman of the IWF Medical Committee and a former Chairman of the IWF Anti-Doping Commission. He has sound experience in the fight against doping and in safeguarding athlete welfare. In his speech of gratitude he also mentioned that the IWF Executive Board has decided to extend their agreement with the International Testing Agency for the whole of the next Olympic cycle, until 2024 to ensure continuous successful cooperation on account of which the ITA has managed the IWF's robust anti-doping activity.

The Conclusion Of DANISA Denmark Open 2020

Annual Badminton Tournament DANISA Denmark Open 2020 has recently concluded in Odense, Denmark. The winners of the Tournament are Anders Antonsen (Denmark) (Men's Singles); Nozomi Okuhara (Japan) (Women's Singles); Marcus Ellis (England), Chris Langridge (England) (Men's Doubles); Yuki Fukushima (Japan), Sayaka Hirota (Japan) (Women's Doubles) and Mark Lamsfuss (Germany), Isabel Herttrich (Germany) won in Mixed Doubles. It is worth knowing that the pair of Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge became the first English pair to win the Denmark Open in 45 years. And Anders Antonsen became the first Danish Men's Single winner in a decade. The total Prize Money of this DANISA Denmark Open 2020 is USD 750,000.

Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship

Shooters from six countries viz. India, Bangladesh, Korea, Bhutan, Indonesia & Japan participated in the 60-shot competition of October 2020 Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship. The winners of the Men's Event were Naoya Okada from Japan who won the gold medal with 630.9 score; Shahu Tushar Mane (India, Silver Medal, 623.8 score) and Bald Abdullah Hel (Bangladesh, Bronze Medal, 617.3 score). The winners of women's event are Elavenil Valarivan (India, Gold Medal, 627.5 score), Shiori Hirata (Japan, Silver Medal, 622.6 score) and Vidya Toyyiba (Indonesia, Bronze Medal, 621.1 score)





Current Affairs

1. Jajini Varghese, the popular has been honoured as Outstanding Young Person 2020.
 (a) Cardiologist (b) Plastic surgeon (c) Ophthalmologist
 (d) Endocrinologist (e) Urologist
2. Which among the following topped Forbes' list of World's Best Employer 2020 ?
 (a) Amazon (b) IBM (c) Microsoft
 (d) LG (e) Samsung
3.writer Paul Zacharia selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020.
 (a) Tamil (b) Telugu (c) Malayalam
 (d) Kannad (e) None
4. Which edition of India-Philippines Joint Commission on bilateral cooperation was conducted in November 2020 ?
 (a) 1st (b) 2nd (c) 3rd
 (d) 4th (e) 5th
5. Who among the following launched 'e-Dharti Geo portal'?
 (a) Narendra Singh Tomar (b) Hardeep Singh Puri (c) Prakash Javdekar
 (d) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (e) Harsh Vardhan
6. Which of the following signed Rs.400 crore deal with HAL for enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementation 'Project Parivartan' ?
 (a) TCS (b) Infosys (c) Wipro
 (d) HCL Technologies (e) Tech Mahindra
7. World's first scientoon book "Bye Bye Corona" authored by..... was released by Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh.
 (a) Dr Pradeep Srivastava (b) Paul Kalanithi (c) Samuel Shem
 (d) Atul Gawande (e) Abraham Verghese
8. In November 2020, Indian Naval Ship Airavat reached the port of as part of 'Mission agar-II'.
 (a) Egypt (b) Eritrea (c) Ethiopia
 (d) Sudan (e) Libya
9. PM Modi released a Rs 75 coin to mark the 75th anniversary of of the United Nations.
 (a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 (b) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
 (c) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 (d) International Labour Organization (ILO)
 (e) International Maritime Organization (IMO)
10. Bharti AXA General Insurance launched awareness drive on social media in November 2020.
 (a) AIDS (b) Cancer (c) Hepatitis
 (d) CoronaVirus (e) Xoo infection

11. In November 2020 Litchi of which state got a GI tag ?
(a) Bihar (b) West Bengal (c) Assam
(d) Jharkhand (e) Tripura
12. Vice President launched virtual festival of 'Parampara Series 2020' organized by Natya Tarangini. Natya Tarangini has been organizing this event for the past
(a) 20 years (b) 21 years (c) 22 years
(d) 23 years (e) 24 years
13. The radio burst spotted by NASA for the first time in the Milky Way has a mixture ofrays and radio signals.
(a) Alpha (b) Beta (c) Neutron
(d) Gamma (e) X
14. Which of the following launched the "Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO" initiative ?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Bihar
15. Which of the following banks introduced 'Employee-Assistance Programme' in association with EAP India ?
(a) IDBI (b) HDFC (c) SBI
(d) BoB (e) ICICI
16. Recently released book titled "Archaeology and the Public Purpose: Writings on and by M N Deshpande was authored by
(a) Dipesh Chakrabarty (b) George Menachery (c) Irfan Habib
(d) Nayanjot Lahiri (e) Manu V. Devadevan
17. Who among the following authored a book titled 'How to Be a Writer' ?
(a) Ramchandra Guha (b) Shashi Tharoor (c) Ruskin Bond
(d) Arundhati Roy (e) Paulo Coelho
18. Priyanka Radhakrishnan became the first Indian-Origin woman to become a Minister in
(a) America (b) Australia (c) New Zealand
(d) UK (e) Spain
19. Which of the following governments introduced fish in its nutrition programme?
(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Karnataka
(d) Kerala (e) Tamil Nadu
20. The recently held BRICS Business Forum was chaired by
(a) Brazil (b) Russia (c) India
(d) China (e) South Africa



ANSWERS



- 2.(e) South Korea based electronics conglomerate, **Samsung** topped Forbes' list of World's Best Employer 2020 and Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and LG joined it to complete the top 5 list respectively. From India, HCL Technologies is the top industry in the list, which is at 30th position in global ranking.
- 3.(c) **Malayalam** writer Paul Zacharia selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020. Ezhuthachan Puraskaram is the Kerala government's highest literary honour. He also received Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004.
- 4.(d) The **4th** India-Philippines Joint Commission on bilateral cooperation was conducted in November 2020. It was co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Teodoro Locsin Jr, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Philippines. Both the countries made commitment to fight against shared challenges, majorly in the health sector, cooperate in defence engagement and maritime cooperation.
- 5.(b) Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched the 'e-Dharti GeoPortal' to integrate legacy drawings like maps and lease plans in the management information system and make its geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.
- 6.(e) **Tech Mahindra** signed Rs.400 crore deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementation 'Project Parivartan'. Tech Mahindra will look into the transformation and modernisation of the ERP system as an implementation and support partner enabling HAL to streamline and standardise its business processes across the organisation.
- 7.(a) World's first scientoon book "Bye Bye Corona" authored by **Dr Pradeep Srivastava** was released by Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh. Srivastava is the former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. The 220 pages book contains comprehensive information on novel coronavirus pandemic, its symptoms and its prevention through precautions.
- 8.(d) Indian Naval Ship Airavat carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid reached the port of **Sudan** as part of 'Mission Sagar-II'. Under this Indian government will provide assistance to South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea as well in future.
- 9.(a) PM Modi released a Rs 75 coin to mark the 75th anniversary of the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** of the United Nations. He also released 17 new biofortified crop varieties and reiterated the government's commitment towards procurement of agri crops at minimum support price.
- 10.(b) Bharti AXA General Insurance launched a cervical **cancer** awareness drive on social media in November 2020. Cervical cancer does not cause any noticeable symptoms until it reaches stage 3. But there is a vaccine available for women between 9-26 years.
- 11.(c) In November 2020 Litchi of **Assam** got a GI tag. Tezpur Litchi of Assam is known for its excellent quality, pleasant flavour, juicy pulp with attractive red colour.
- 12.(d) Vice President launched the virtual festival of "Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance" organized by Natya Tarangini and United Nations. Natya Tarangini has been organizing this event for the past **23** years. This festival coincided with the World Day for Audio-visual Heritage.

- 13.(e) According to the November 2020 publication of journal Nature, NASA spotted the first fast radio burst (FRB) in the Milky Way has a mixture of **X** rays and radio signals. The X-ray portion of the simultaneous bursts was detected by several satellites, including NASA's Wind mission, and the radio component was discovered by the Canadian Hydrogen Intensity Mapping Experiment (CHIME), a radio telescope located at Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia. The source of the FRB detected in the Milky Way was a very powerful magnetic neutron star, referred to as a magnetar, called SGR 1935+2154 or SGR 1935, which is located in the constellation Vulpecula and is estimated to be between 14,000-41,000 light-years away.
- 14.(b) **Uttarakhand's** Dehradun Municipal Corporation (DMC) has launched an initiative named Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO to fight against the menace of plastic waste and control the spread of Covid-19. Initially around five thousand face masks have been distributed in exchange for plastic waste.
- 15.(d) Bank of Baroda (**BoB**) started an 'Employee Assistance Programme' that is aimed to help its employees deal with their personal and professional issues by providing them psychological counselling and consulting. The program has been initially introduced as a Pilot project in Mumbai zone and corporate office of BoB.
- 16.(d) Recently released book titled "Archaeology and the Public Purpose: Writings on and by M N Deshpande" was authored by **Nayanjot Lahiri**. The book documents the life and times of former director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Madhusudan Narhar Deshpande. It interweaves the history of post-Independence archaeology in India with the life of M N Deshpande (1920-2008).
- 17.(c) **Ruskin Bond** authored a book titled 'How to Be a Writer' and gave practical advice for every person who is aspiring to write and be published. He has mentioned love of books, languages and life, an observant eye, a good memory, enthusiasm, optimism and persistence as mandatory ingredients of a good author. Ruskin's first novel was 'The Room On the Roof' and his first children's book 'Angry River', was published in the 1970s. He received the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.
- 18.(c) Priyanka Radhakrishnan became the first Indian-Origin woman to become a Minister in **New Zealand**. She is one of five new ministers inducted into freshly re-elected Labour Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's cabinet. She is an IIT alumnus hailing from Kerala's Ernakulam district.
- 19.(b) **Odisha** government introduced fish in its nutrition programme. The state government has signed an agreement with non-profit WorldFish for piloting the project at 50 anganwadi centres in the Mayurbhanj district. Fish is rich in iron, zinc, calcium, vitamin (A, B, D and E) and Omega-3 fatty acids, which will benefit children, pregnant and nursing women, and adolescent girls.
- 20.(b) The recently held BRICS Business Forum was chaired by **Russia**. The BRICS council focussed on "COVID-19 and the economic development of the BRICS countries: problems and actions" and "Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development: pathways to a green economy" themes.