



Monthly **G.K. MANIA**

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





NATIONAL NEWS

Himalayan Chandra Telescope Saw Two Decades

Located on Mt Saraswati at an altitude of 4,500 metres at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), the Himalayan Chandra Telescope successfully completed 20 years of scanning the night sky in search of comets, stellar explosions, exo-planets and asteroids. The Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore had installed it in 2000. Equipped with three major science instruments viz. Near-IR Imager, Himalayan Faint Object Spectrograph and Optical CCD Imager, the two decade old telescope employs delicate satellite communication links from the Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST), Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA). The observations via this telescope led to publication of more than 260 research papers.

The Virtual Platform IQWAT?

Ex country head of Apple India Sanjay Kaul, ex CEO of Jubilant Food Works Ajay Kaul and ex CTO, Gain Capital, USA Mukesh Kachroo introduced a virtual platform, 'IQWAT' to preserve and promote Kashmiri Pandit culture that will be rolled out in January 2021. It is meant to aggregate Kashmiri Pandits and engage them in professional and social networking in order to seek, explore, inspire, and collaborate. The platform acts as a bridge between the past and the present. The platform is on purpose of keeping them in contact with their roots, culture and rich traditions. The app is expected to revive the folk tales and songs that have been lost in

time. It will lay a foundation for the youth of the community to rise and shine. It is disheartening to learn that Kashmiri Pandits have faced exodus seven times. The last one was in 1990. This led to erosion of their culture, language and heritage.

The Positive Pay System for Cheques Payments

The Reserve Bank of India has launched a "Positive Pay System" which will be effective from January 2021 to make the cheque payment more secure. The system will mandate re-confirmation of key details of cheques for the payments beyond Rs 50,000. According to the new system the issuer of the cheque will now have to submit details of the cheque including the name of the beneficiary, date, amount of the drawee bank etc via internet banking, mobile app or ATM, which will be cross-checked by the banks before the cheque is presented for payment and in event of discrepancies in the Cheque Truncation System, some redressal measures will be followed. It is worth knowing that the Positive Pay System that has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India is not new for India as ICICI is using this system since 2016.

Kerala Conceived The First Medical Devices Park Of India

In order to provide world-class products at affordable prices for treatment, the Central government approved the setting up of four medical device parks in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala on the lines of the "Make in

India". Among them, Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan laid the foundation stone for one of the first medical devices parks of India, "MedSpark" at Life Science Park, Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram. The proposed park is a joint initiative of Technical Research Centre for Biomedical Devices (TRC) at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC), the industrial and investment promotion agency of the Government of Kerala. It is good to learn here that SCTIMST has best expertise and experience in the biomedical devices sector.

Celebrities In Role Of Brand Ambassadors

Recently, a leading Personal Computer brand, Acer India signed Sonu Sood as brand ambassador. The actor will support the range of innovative products of Acer over social media and campaign on the commitment of Acers in improving the lives of the people via technology. In another event, RPG Group company Ceat Tyres roped in Bollywood actor Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador, who will now feature in its various campaigns across media platforms. The actor has signed a two-year contract with Ceat Tyres Ltd to play the role of its ambassador. Besides these, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) appointed cricketer Yuvraj Singh as its brand ambassador.

The cricketer will promote the company and its various brands including Aakash Institute, Aakash IIT-JEE, Aakash Digital and Meritnation. Another cricketer Robin Uthappa has been roped by Kerala Startup Entry of Thiruvananthapuram as its Brand Ambassador. The Entry is a local learning app that offers content to

people seeking jobs. The company has also tied up with Hotstar to run advertising campaigns in five languages during the current IPL season. The cricketer has been with Entry for a pretty long time and he is well conversant in four languages that qualified him for this ambassadorship

established under the National Medical Commission Act that made the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET) compulsory for admissions in undergraduate and postgraduate medical institutions.

Kerala Won United Nation Interagency Task Force Award



Kerala won the United Nation Interagency Task Force Award for its remarkable performance in 2019 for controlling non-communicable diseases (cancers, heart attacks, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes) related to Sustainable Development Goals and mental health. The state has facilities at all levels to treat lifestyle diseases from public health centres to

hospitals. The state succeeded in controlling the death rate of COVID-19 as it focused on Non-Communicable Diseases. It is worth learning here that mental health, injuries, violence, environmental issues and nutrition issues affect non-communicable diseases. The other programmes run by the state viz. Cancer Treatment Programme, Lung Disease Programme and Paralysis Control Programme were also considered for the award.

The Beginning of Journey of National Medical Commission

Country's top regulator of medical education and profession, the National Medical Commission has become operational. It has replaced the Medical Council of India. It is now the apex regulator of medical education. The commission has 33 members headed by a chairperson who is a medical professional. It also accommodates 10 ex-officio members and 22 part time members to make policies to regulate medical professionals and medical institutions, find out requirements of healthcare infrastructure and human resources, ensure the State Medical Councils comply with rules and regulations and framing guidelines to determine fee structure of private medical institutions. The Commission will administer the Undergraduate Medical Education Board, Medical

Assessment and Rating Board, Postgraduate Medical Education Board and Ethical and Medical Registration Board. It is worth recalling here that the National Medical Commission was

Deployment of India's First Indigenously Built Sonar Dome

Constructed by Goa-based composites manufacturing company Kinenco Limited, India's first indigenously built Sonar Domes have been mounted on the Indian Navy's Kolkata and Visakhapatnam-class stealth destroyers of Indian Navy, P15 Alpha for the first time. Sonar dome is a structure fitted over the sonar array of all Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) ships structure below the waterline which acts as a ship's underwater eyes and ears to protect its electronics and sensors against hostile surroundings and environments like wave slamming, minor collisions etc. It is worth recalling here that Kinenco Limited became the first Indian company to manufacture indigenous composites sonar domes in 2018. DRDO has designed it under Make in India initiative.

Khushi Chindaliya: Regional Ambassador of UNEP-TEG

Because of her interest in nature and conservation of environment, a 17-year-old girl from Surat, Gujarat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador (RA) for India for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza Eco-Generation (TEG). In this role, she will work on various climate change and environmental protection awareness projects with TEG till February 2021 and will also discuss India's contribution in environmental protection and role of education to help this process. It is worth knowing here that Khushi's essay was among the several essays, which were chosen by UNESCO for publication in the book 'Year 1 AC (After Coronavirus): Essays by 100 Young Indians'. She was also inducted as Member and International Ambassador of the National Society of High School Scholars (run by the descendants of Sir Alfred Nobel in 2019).



Bone of Contention in J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020

The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, which won approval of Lok Sabha confronted a lot of opposition. Gujjar and Sikh communities protested the exclusion of Gojri and Punjabi languages from the bill and condemned it as an anti-minority move. Although only 0.16% population of J&K speaks Urdu which links the Jammu and Kashmir region, yet the language enjoyed the 131-year-old status of official language of the region. The party in opposition stated that the central government lacks legislative competence to frame the bill with respect to the language and no other region has five official languages. The bill finalized five i.e. Urdu, Hindi, Kashmiri, Dogri and English official languages for the region and among these Urdu, Hindi and Dogri are among the list of 22 official languages recognized by the Constitution under Eight Schedule Languages viz. Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Tamil, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Telugu, Sindhi (added by 21st Amendment Act, 1967), Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali (added by 71st Amendment Act, 1992), Maithili, Bodo, Santhal (added by 92nd Amendment 2003) as the official languages.

Tamil Nadu : The First State To Embrace ABC Policies

Tamil Nadu government green flagged Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy 2020 and Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020 (Nicknamed as ABC Policies) during the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'Connect 2020' event. With this, the state became the first state in the country to release policies on Ethical AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity. Among these, Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020 is meant to promote invest-

ments in AI Research & Development in Tamil Nadu, provide a framework for inclusive, safe and ethical use of AI within government domains and build fairness, equity, transparency and trust in AI assisted decision making systems. It also recommends a six-dimensional TAM-DEF Framework for evaluation of the AI-based systems and DEEP-MAX scorecard. Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy 2020 is on purpose of bringing transparency and efficiency to government processes, and adding a Blockchain Backbone infrastructure (network) for Tamil Nadu, which will act as trust anchor for government processes and data. Drafted by Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd & Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020 defines the overall scope of the cybersecurity-related agencies in the state through the formation of Security Architecture Framework of Tamil Nadu.

The IIIT Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020

In order to confer the tag of Institutions of National importance upon IIIT Bhopal, IIIT Agartala, IIIT Surat, IIIT Bhagalpur and IIIT Raichur, which are under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, the Parliament approved the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020. There are 20 IIITs of national importance and now with these five, the total number will become 25. As the institutions of national importance, the new joiners will have the power to give degrees and categorise them as B.Tech, M.Tech or Ph.D. degree, which is currently issued by a University of National Importance. Further, they will be able to attract more students to develop a strong information technology research base in the country. This new bill has amended the principal Acts of 2014 and 2017. Now the institutes working as societies, registered under the Societies Registration Act of

1860, will fall under the IIIT (PPP) Act, 2017. It will also create the post of Director and Registrar in each of these IIITs without any additional financial burden.

The Taxation Bill To Relax Compliance Requirements For Taxpayers

With the purpose of deferring various compliance deadlines under GST and Income Tax (I-T) Act during the COVID-19 times, Lok Sabha approved The Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020, to relax compliance requirements for taxpayers. The bill will also give tax exemption for contributions made to the PM-CARES Fund. The reliefs cover extending deadlines for filing returns and for linking PAN and Aadhaar. It will replace the Taxation and other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020, issued in March. The bill also seeks to make faceless assessment applicable to at least eight processes under the I-T Act, which includes collection and recovery of tax and gathering of information.

O-SMART Scheme of Tsunami Warning Centre

The Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsha Vardhan presented a written reply in Rajya Sabha stating that the Indian tsunami early warning centre at Indian national Centre for Ocean information Services (INCOIS) Hyderabad, is serving 25 Indian ocean countries via 'Ocean Services, Modelling, Applications, Resources and Technology scheme (O-SMART)' scheme of the Ministry of earth sciences. The O-SMART system generates and updates information on Marine living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone; keeps an eye on free water pollutants and uses the data for health assessment

of coastal waters of India; develops shoreline change maps that help assist the coastal erosion due to anthropogenic activities and natural calamities; develops wide range of ocean observation systems for real time data from the seas in India and provides warnings, advisories and user-oriented Ocean information for the benefit of the society and much more. The scheme carries out exploration of polymetallic nodules from the water depth of 5500 metres.

The Plans Of GoI

The Government of India has planned to bring hydrogen energy development under its renewable energy Future Plans. Currently, hydrogen is being produced for non-energy applications in petroleum refineries and fertilizer Industries. Presently, the Government of India has set a target to generate 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022 via 100 Watts of solar power, 60 gigawatts of wind, 10 GW from biofuels and 5 gigawatts from hydro based projects excluding Hydrogen energy resource. If the country shifts its focus towards a carbon neutral economy, then according to The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the hydrogen being a zero-emission fuel, used in India will expand between 3 to 10 times by 2050. The government will tap this resource through the National hydrogen energy road map, which was adopted in 2006. Apart from this, the Government of India will establish 21 Neutrino Observatories in the country in Karnataka (6), Uttarakhand (4) and one in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar Island operated by the Indian Institute of geomagnetism. The proposed observatories will study about the neutrino particles from the Sun and from the earth's atmosphere.

The Bills That Obtained Will Of Parliament

Parliament approved Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020 that amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 which provides a time bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and also among individuals. It advocates temporary suspension of initiation of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process, (CIRP) under the Code. It has provision in context to defaults arising during the six months from 25th of March this year, CIRP can never be initiated by either the company or its creditors. And the central government can extend this period to one year via notification. It is worth noting here that Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt. Apart from this, Lok Sabha gave nod to the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020 (amends Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973) and the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (amends Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970). The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020 sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homoeopathic education and practice. It increases the period for the supersession of the Central Council from two years to three years. The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020 provides for the constitution of a Central Council which regulates the education and practice of the Indian medicine system including Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy.

Hike In Minimum Support Price of Rabi Crops

The Government of India disbursed Rs 1.13 trillion as Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers for rabi crops and increased the MSP of rabi crops. Among these MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 50 per quintal. The MSP of grams

has been increased by 8.3%, mustard by 7% and barley by 5.7%. The move is a step in the backdrop of widespread protests in Punjab and Haryana over the passage of two farm bills in the Parliament viz. Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. Because of these bills the Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal had recently laid her resignation. In context to the Minimum Support Price, it is worth learning that the MSP is fixed based on the recommendations made by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission (Swaminathan Committee) that visits the states for on-spot assessment of constraints faced by farmers in selling their produce.

Special Benches For Criminal Cases Against Legislators

In response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that sought a ban on the convicted politicians from fighting elections, the Apex Court ordered the Chief Justices of High Courts to form Special Benches to solve the long-pending criminal cases against all those sitting and former legislators immediately. There are around 180 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 15 cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and more than 2500 criminal cases against sitting legislators. The interim stay that was granted by the higher courts to the powerful MPs and MLAs has been the root of these pending cases. It is worth recalling here that in 2002, Association for Democratic Reforms v. Union of India (ADR) case, 2002, Supreme Court mandated for the candidates contesting the election to disclose the information related to the criminal antecedents, educational qualification, and personal assets. In 2013, in context to Lily Thomas vs. Union of India, the Supreme Court stated that sitting MP/MLA would be disqualified immediately if he/she is convicted.

Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik Summit 2020



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit on 2nd October 2020. This will kickstart a month-long deliberation session from 3rd October to 25th October 2020 via webinar. The Summit is expected to enable the deliberations on thought process, practices and

R&D culture. This initiative of S&T and Academic Organizations of India is aimed at bringing out the comprehensive roadmap to enable the expertise and knowledge of global Indian researchers for solving the emerging and ongoing challenges. It will seek the collaboration and cooperation in instruments between academia and scientists in India; creation of an ecosystem of Knowledge and Innovation in the country through a global outreach; working out mechanisms to advance the education, research and entrepreneurship in India as an element for sustainable development. It will invoke the NRI scientists with Indian roots, whose global outlook and experience can play a vital role in the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

Swasner', A First of Its Kind Helmet-like Ventilation Device to Ease Breathing

International Institute of Information (IIIT), Bhubaneswar has developed 'Swasner', a first of its kind helmet-like ventilation device to help COVID-19 patients breathe more conveniently. A group of 7 engineering students have

developed this economical hyperbaric chamber device that has a bubble enclosure for the head and works on the principle of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT), which is principally used to treat diving-related illness and other medical complications. HBOT is a type of treatment employed to speed up healing of carbon monoxide poisoning, gangrene, stubborn wounds, and infections in

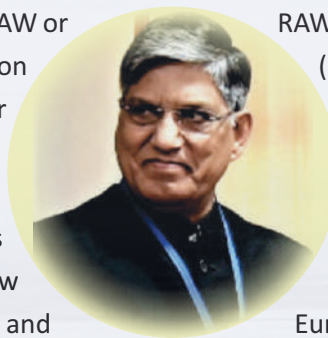
which tissues are starved for oxygen. A prototype of this device has been developed and tested in a hospital in Cuttack.

An Approval For FELUDA

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given nod to the gene-based COVID-19 paper strip test called 'Fncas9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection (FELUDA)'. Developed by scientists based in Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology CSIR-IDIB along with the TATA Group, the test uses cutting edge Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) gene editing technology to detect the COVID-19 virus. The test has the potential of diagnosing the virus in 2 hours. It is worth registering here that this is the first test in the world to deploy Cas9 protein to detect the virus. The test holds 96 % of sensitivity and 98 % of specificity in detection of the novel coronavirus. With less than rupees 600, the test works well under laboratory conditions. It is a make in India initiative that validates faster, cheaper and accurate disease diagnosis for a range of diseases other than COVID-19.

Anil Dhasmana: The New Chief Of National Technical Research Organisation

The former Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) or new chief of National Technical Research Organisation Chandra Ala, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra 1981-batch Indian Police Service officer of Madhya has served RAW for the last 23 years and was January, 2017 and was retired in 2019. The new Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and



RAW), Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the (NTRO). He has taken the place of Satish for 2 years. The Appointments Committee of Modi approved the appointment of this Pradesh cadre. Prior to this appointment, he appointed as the Chief of R&AW on 31 appointee has also handled South Asian Europe desks

Indian Teen Among 2020 Class of Young Leaders

An 18-year-old boy from India, Udit Singhal, has been named by the United Nations to the 2020 cohort of young leaders for the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs). He has been chosen for this highest-profile recognition opportunity at the world body for leading efforts to combat the world's most pressing issues. Singhal, the founder of Glass2Sand, a zero-waste sand. ecosystem, has addressed the growing menace of glass waste in Delhi in which the empty glass bottles are prevented from being dumped into landfills and are crushed into commercially valuable sand.

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The Unique Tree transplantation Policy

The Delhi Cabinet approved a tree transplantation policy to prevent felling of trees due to developmental works in the national capital. The proposed policy will be a first-of-its-kind in the country. For a clean and green Delhi around 80% trees will be transplanted at different locations. Besides this, the Cabinet has also approved a proposal to install a 'smog tower' worth Rs 20 crore in Delhi's Connaught Place to deal with air pollution. The two measures are part of the Delhi government's ongoing "Yuddh, Pradushan Ke Viruddh (Battle against pollution)" campaign in the national capital.

No Interviews For Government Jobs

The Minister of State for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Jitendra Singh informed on 12th October 2020 that 23 states and 8 Union Territories including J&K and Ladakh

have abolished the conduction of interviews for recruitment in Group-B (non-gazetted) and Group-C posts in the Central government. And the selection for the job is being done purely on a written test assessment. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has been working for this since 2016. The interviews were said to have triggered disturbances and apprehensions among families of candidates and there had been complaints, grievances and allegations about manipulation of marks for favoured candidates in interviews.

The Ongoing National Postal Week

The Department of Posts is celebrating National Postal Week from 9 to 15 October 2020, to mark the occasion of the World Postal Day. Like every year, the National Postal week is being organised to generate awareness of the role and activities of the postal services among the public and media on a national scale. Under this an online campaign is in process to create awareness about new offerings and availability of citizen-centric services in Post Offices.

Release Of Rs 100 Commemorative Coin In Honour Of Vijaya Raje Scindia

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of 100 rupees in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia, best known as Rajmata of Gwalior to mark her birth centenary on 12th October 2020 under Coinage Act 2011. Initially, She contested the elections with a Congress ticket in Madhya Pradesh in 1957 but later quit Congress in 1967. She was one of the co-founders of the Bharatiya Janata Party. She was also an active in Jana sangh. The prominent Indian political personality was ranked among the highest Royal figures during the British raj days. She was elected to

Lok Sabha 7 times and to Rajya Sabha twice. She was the wife of the last ruler of Gwalior Jiwaji Rao Scindia.

Chetan Anand : The Brand Ambassador Of Transform

Commonwealth Games medallist shuttler Chetan Anand has been appointed as the brand ambassador of India's first-ever badminton brand 'Transform' which was launched recently. He is a former world no.10 shuttler, who won a bronze medal in the men's singles at the 2006 Melbourne CWG. With this appointment he has become the face of the homegrown equipment brand which produces racquets, nylon shuttles, shoes, and apparels, which have the ability to appeal to the new age badminton players with its design, style, and colors. This initiative has been promoted by VICKY Sports, which is one of India's top three sports brands, that specializes in sports good manufacturing since 1978.

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee Meeting

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that recently inducted Economists Jayant Varma, Shashank Bhide and Ashima Goyal held its meeting from October 7, 2020 to October 9, 2020. The committee kept the repo rate i.e. the key interest rate at which the RBI lends funds to commercial banks - at 4.0% and the reverse repo rate or the key borrowing rate - at 3.35%. It is worth recalling here that in the MPC meeting of August 2020, the repo rate and reverse repo rate were maintained at 4% and 3.3% respectively. They conducted Open Market Operations (OMO) worth Rs 20,000 crores and kept Ways and Means Advance Limits of the Centre at Rs 1.25 lakh crores. GDP for the fiscal year 2021 have been predicted at 9.5% and it has chances of strong rebound.

The Launch of First Native Calcium Nitrate & Boronated Calcium Nitrate

On October 9, 2020, Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Ltd, Bhavnagar, Gujarat as well as Solan of Himachal Pradesh launched an indigenous variety of calcium nitrate and boronated calcium nitrate in the retail market. This is the first occasion when Calcium Nitrate and Boronated Calcium Nitrate has been manufactured locally in India as prior to this, India used to import it from other countries. The launch is a step in "Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Atma Nirbhar Krishi". Calcium nitrate better known as Norges Saltpeter is an inorganic compound having chemical formula $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$. This colorless salt absorbs moisture from the air and is a water-soluble fertilizer. The chemical is used in agriculture, wastewater treatment and to increase the strength of cement concrete. Its tetrahydrate is sometimes employed in regenerable cold packs. And Boronated Calcium Nitrate is a combination of Calcium Nitrate with Boron, which is being used in fruits and vegetables. It is important for the growth, physical strength, fruit set and flowering fertilization of the plants. These compounds are highly water soluble and are ideal for both soil and foliar applications.

The Gyan Circle Ventures

In order to infuse entrepreneurship in young minds, the Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal launched the Gyan Circle Ventures on October 8, 2020. Developed by the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Andhra Pradesh, it is MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI). Gyan Circle Ventures functions as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) incubation

center. The incubator is meant to hold the institutions' entrepreneurial spirit by utilizing its intellectual capital. It encourages the usage of emerging technologies viz. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block-chain, Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), Cyber Security, Internet of Things (IoT) and Robotics.

Gujarat Conceived Country's First Two Organic Spices Seed Parks

The Gujarat Chief Minister granted the sanction letters to two Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for a NABARD-supported Organic Spices Seed Park for saunf (fennel seed) within the Banaskantha district and jeera (cumin seed) in Patan for promotion of natural seed worth chain of the spices. The proposed parks will be India's first two organic spices seed parks. It is worth knowing that each of these parks will be allotted ₹23 lakh in grant. These specialised establishments will gather seeds, which will be dispatched for testing on high quality management.

The First Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton

On 7th October 2020 Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani introduced the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on the occasion of Second World Cotton Day. With this India's premium cotton will now be recognized as 'Kasturi Cotton' brand in world cotton trade, which will represent Whiteness, Softness, Brightness, lustre, Purity, Uniqueness and Indianness. This key commercial crop of India is livelihood for about six million farmers. It is worth knowing that India is the second largest cotton producer as well as the largest consumer of cotton in the world. This soft and fluffy staple fiber (pure cellulose) grows in a protective case around the seeds of the cotton plants. The cotton plant is a shrub. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has prescribed the highest Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation of cotton. It has also opened 430 procurement centres in all cotton growing states. Cotton is native to tropical and subtropical regions that includes America, Egypt, Africa, and India and the biggest diversity of wild cotton species is found in Mexico which is followed by Australia and Africa.



Conversion Of Educational Materials Into Indian Sign Language

In order to make education materials accessible for Deaf children, Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) and NCERT inked an agreement. With this, the education print materials, teachers' handbook, supplementary materials and NCERT Textbooks will be available in their preferred digital format of communication. This will enhance the literary skills of 18.9% of the deaf Indian population. In this context it is worth recalling that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the second edition of Indian Sign Language Dictionary that was developed by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre. It is available in digital as well as print format. The dictionary includes 6000 words under categories including the legal, technical, academic, medical and every day terms.

Rajeshwar Rao: The New Deputy Governor of RBI

Rajeshwar Rao has been appointed as the new Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India by the government of India on 7th October 2020. The post was lying vacant since March 2020 when the previous Deputy Governor N R Vishwanathan resigned because of health issues before completion of his term, which was due in September 2020. In this new role, Rao will manage internal debts, financial market operations, and international and secretarial departments at the central bank. Besides this, earlier the Government of India has also appointed economists Jayant R Varma, Shashank Bhide and Ashima Goyal as members of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that fixes interest rates, repo rate, reverse repo rate.

Madhabi Puri Buch Got 1 Year Extension

The Whole-Time Member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch got the extension in her term from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a period of one year beginning from October 4, 2020. It is worth knowing here that Madhabi Puri Buch is SEBI's first woman Whole-Time Member and the first from the private sector to get appointed as a SEBI Board member. This is her second time extension, while the first extension was given to her for six-months in April 2020, after her three-year tenure as SEBI WTM ended in March 2020.

Chowringhee Road, Kolkata — 20 and ii) Institute of Alternative Medicine and Research, 8-A, Diamond Harbor Road Bultechinn, 24 Floor, Thakurpukur, Kolkata — 700 063). Odisha (2)(i) Nababharat Shiksha Parishad, Anupurna Bhawan, Plot No. 242, Pani Tanki Road, Shakti Nagar, Rourkela — 769 014 and ii) North Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, University Road Baripada, Distt. Mayurbhanj, Odisha — 757 003,). Karnataka (1)(i) Badaganvi Sarkar World Open University Education Society, Gokak, Belgaum), Kerala (1)(i) St. John's University, Kishanattam, Kerala), Maharashtra (1)(i) Raja Arabic University, Nagpur), Puducherry (1)(i) Sree Bodhi academy of Higher Education, No. 186, Thilaspeth, Vazhuthavoor Road, Puducherry — 605 009) and Andhra Pradesh (1)(i) Christ New Testament Deemed University, # 32-23-2003, 7th Lane, Kakumanavarithota, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh — 522 002 or # fit No. 301, Grace Villa Apts., 7/5, Srinagar, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh — 522 002). UGC has also scrapped the word "University" from their names.

UGC condemned 24 Universities as fake



The University Grants Commission announced a list of 24 unrecognised universities dubbed as 'fake' on 7th October 2020 under the provisions of UGC Act. It has been done to maintain the standards of higher education in the country. Among the enlisted universities the maximum number of these universities are operating from Uttar Pradesh (8)(i) Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Varanasi, U.P./Jagatpuri, Delhi;

ii) Mahila Gram Vidyapith / Vishwavidyalaya, (Women's University) Prayag, Allahabad (U.P.); iii) Gandhi Hindi Vidyapith, Prayag, Allahabad (U.P.); iv) National University of Electro Complex Homeopathy, Kanpur; v) Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University (Open University), Achaltal, Aligarh (U.P.); vi) Uttar Pradesh Vishwavidyalaya, Kosi Kalan, Mathura (U.P.); vii) Maharana Partap Shiksha Niketan Vishwavidyalaya, Pratapgarh (U.P.) and viii) Indraprastha Shiksha Parishad, Institutional Area, Khoda, Makaanpur, Noida Phase-2, (U.P.)). It was followed by Delhi (7) (i) Commercial University Ltd. Daryaganj, Delhi; ii) United Nations University, Delhi; iii) Vocational University, Delhi; iv) ADR-Centric Juridical University, ADR House, 8J, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place, New Delhi — 110 008; v) Indian Institution of Science and Engineering, New Delhi; vi) Viswakarma Open University for Self-employment, India, Rozgar Sewasadan, 672, Sanjay Enclave, Opp. GTK Depot, New Delhi — 110 033 and vii) Adhyatmik Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University), 351-352, Phase-1, Block-A, Vijay Vihar, Rithala, Rohini, Delhi — 110 085). Then West Bengal (i) Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, 80,

**List of Fake Universities
black-listed by UGC**



PARAM Sidhi-AI : India's fastest AI Supercomputer

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) commissioned the largest High Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, 'PARAM Sidhi-AI' on October 5, 2020. Based on the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD and with 210 AI Petaflops speed, PARAM-Sidhi-AI will accelerate cyber security, education, health care, education, space, agriculture and automotive using NVIDIA Next Generation technology, C-DAC software stack and Cloud platform. It will help in catalyzing tie ups with MSMEs, Start ups, Academia and Industries. The super-computer has placed India among top countries in global AI supercomputing research and innovation

New Appointments in SBI

State Bank of India (SBI) appointed Dinesh Kumar Khara as the new Chairman for a period of three years and Charanjit Singh Attra as the new Chief Financial Officer of the bank. Dinesh Khara, who was the Managing Director of the bank has taken place of incumbent Rajnish Kumar, whose three-year term ended on October 7, 2020. As MD, Khara looked into the International Banking Group, Corporate and Treasury operations of the bank. Charanjit Singh Attra has taken place of the former Deputy MD & CFO Prashant Kumar, who was appointed as the CEO of Yes Bank in March 2020. Meanwhile C Venkat Nageshwar was serving the post in an interim capacity. Attra is a former Partner at global consulting firm EY India and had also worked as the CFO at the ICICI Securities.

Puducherry Airport : AAI's first 100% Solar-Powered Airport

The Airports Authority of India did the feat of converting the Union Territory of Puducherry's airport into its first completely solar-powered airport in the country i.e. "absolutely power-neutral" airport with the commissioning of 500KWp (kilowatts peak) ground-mounted solar power plant at an estimated expenditure of Rs 2.8 crore. Inaugurated by Lok Sabha member V Vaithilingam, the solar powered airport will save a power bill of Rs 10 lakh per month and will also see a drop in carbon emission footprint by 6,570 metric tonne, which is equivalent to planting 32,850 trees. It is worth learning that the annual electrical energy consumption of the Puducherry airport on an average is 0.72 million units which will now be met up by this new solar setup that has 1,540 highly efficient polycrystalline solar PV panels, and generates an average 2,000 units of energy per day.

Pandian won the 10m air rifle event

Indian Shooter Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship. The 16-year-old champion shot 251.4 to book the title by a clear margin of two points. Earlier in the qualification, he had shot the second best score of 630.8. The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria, who had shot the best qualification score of 631.4, grabbed the third spot.

"Purified Antisera" : Another Treatment For Covid-19

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Biological E. Hyderabad announced development of a highly purified 'antisera' for prevention and treatment of prophylaxis and the novel coronavirus pandemic. It is worth knowing here that according to the top medical body such measures have previously been used in medical science to curb many viral and bacterial infections, including Rabies, Hepatitis B, Vaccinia virus, Tetanus, Botulism and Diphtheria. It is worth knowing here that Biological E. Limited is among Serum Institute of India, Cadila Healthcare, Bharat Biotech International Limited, Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Limited, Aurbindo Pharma Limited, and Gennova Biopharmaceuticals Limited that has been allowed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to manufacture the vaccines for limited use.

NITI Aayog Organized PV Edge 2020

NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Invest India organised a Global symposium called the "India PV

Edge 2020" on October 6, 2020. The summit was meant to promote cutting edge technologies in solar manufacturing in India. It should be kept in mind that Disruptive Photo-Voltaic Chemistries; Utilisation of Build of Material components like special coatings and glasses as well as Manufacturing of custom-engineered advanced production equipment are the three so called pillars of the cutting edge solar manufacturing. The summit witnessed sessions on "Wafers and Cells" and also sessions on "Modules and Production Equipment" and "Supply Chain". It is worth knowing that India has set an ambitious target of achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and out of this, 300 GW is to be solar.

The "Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission (ASIIM)"

Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot introduced "Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission (ASIIM)" under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SC)(VCF-SC) for promotion of innovation, enterprise among SC students in Higher Education Institutions and make them fit for the role of Job Givers. The scheme promotes Entrepreneurship among SC Youth with focus on Divyangs (Person with Disabilities) and supports 1000 Innovative ideas (till 2024) through Technology Business Incubators (TBIs). Framed on lines of the Government of India's Stand Up India Programme, the ASIIM initiative will identify 1,000 SC youths in the next four years through TBI in higher educational institutions and Rs. 19, 320 Lakhs is the budget of ASIIM for four years

Shukrayaan: ISRO's Venus Mission for 2025

The French Space Agency, the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) is all set to participate in ISRO's Venus Mission 'Shukrayaan', which will be launched in 2025. ISRO's orbiter mission to Venus will study the atmosphere of Venus, which is primarily made up of carbon dioxide, "super-rotation" of the atmosphere of Venus as well as how it interacts with solar radiation and solar winds. The atmosphere of Venus is said to be dense and hot. ISRO will employ the Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker (VIRAL) instrument that has been co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNES.

India's First Five Animal Bridges

In order to prevent man-animal conflict and avoid collisions between animals and vehicles in the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, the Central Wildlife Board gave nod to construction of the first five animal overpasses or bridges in India. The Rajasthan Government has also approved this project that will connect Mukundra and Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuaries. This will be executed by the National Highway Authority of India by November or December, 2020. Under this proposed project, the animals will get passage at every 500-metre interval. A forest corridor with trees with boundary wall of eight metres with a sound barrier of 3-4 metres in the wildlife section. According to the plan five underground stretches will be developed and the combined length of these stretches will be 2.5 km.

'Tribes India E-Marketplace'

Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace "Tribes India E-Marketplace" on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. This is said to be a path breaking initiative of TRIFED that displayed the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across India. In addition to these, the Minister flagged off many other TRIFED initiatives aimed to support tribal people viz. inauguration of Tribes India's 123rd and 124th outlets in Rishikesh and Kolkata, inclusion of new tribal products ranges from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and partnership of TRIFED and Tribes India with Amazon in their Seller Flex program. The Minister also launched Pakur Honey which is dubbed as 100% natural honey, gathered by Santhal Tribals from Pakur, Jharkhand.

The RAISE 2020, Artificial Intelligence Summit

PM Modi inaugurated the Global Virtual Summit "Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE)" on Artificial Intelligence on October 5, 2020. Organised by the Government of India in partnership with academia and industry, the Summit led to the exchange ideas of Artificial Intelligence for inclusion, social empowerment, transformation in key areas like agriculture, health care, education and smart mobility. It is worth recalling here that in June 2020, India joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence along with US, Australia, UK, France, Germany, and Canada. More than 38,700 stakeholders participated in this event from 125 countries and it is said that the event envisaged addition of 957 billion USD to the Indian economy by 2035.

Atal Tunnel Rohtang: The World's Longest Highway Tunnel

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 9.02 kilometres long Atal Tunnel (Rohtang Tunnel), which is said to be the globe's longest highway tunnel. This engineering marvel ensures all year connectivity of Manali in Himachal Pradesh and Lahaul-Spiti, which previously suffered a cut off for about



6 months every year because of heavy snowfall and inclement weather. The Atal tunnel has a big strategic significance as it will greatly assist in the movement of armed forces. The tunnel is located at an altitude of 10,000 Feet from the Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas. It has reduced the road distance by 46 kilometres between Leh and Manali and the journey time by around 4 to 5 hours. It is worth knowing here that the concept of the tunnel was conceived by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and its foundation stone was laid on May 26, 2002. The tunnel has the shape of a horseshoe and it is a single tube double lane tunnel with a roadway of 8 metres and an overhead clearance of 5.525 metres. It can permit passage of 3,000 cars and 1,500 trucks per day with a maximum speed of 80 km/hr. It is 10.5-metre in width tunnel and is well equipped with various security features like CCTV cameras, telephone connections at every 150 metres for any emergency, fire hydrant mechanism at every 60 metres and auto incident detection system. The Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has supplied 9,000 tonnes of steel including 6,500 TMT (Thermo Mechanically Treated) bars, 1000 tonnes of steel plates and 1,500 tonnes of structural for its construction.

'Kritagyata' : An online Portal For Pension Submission And Tracking

The Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal has launched a portal "Kritagyata", an online pension submission and tracking system to lend convenience to the pensioners in getting their pension related claims addressed well in time. The portal will enable the retired government employees to submit the pension related papers online and avail the opportunity to check the status of his pension. The portal is on lines of the "Bhabhisya" portal of Government of India. Besides this, on the 70th foundation day of Assam Police a Cyber safety awareness campaign was launched in the state on October 1, 2020 to raise awareness on cyber crimes and safety. It is being jointly conducted by the Assam Police and cyber-security think tank Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).

Success of DRDO's Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile(ATGM)

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Indigenously built Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun at KK Ranges in Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC&S) in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra on October 1, 2020. Developed by Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune and Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun, the ATGM employs a Tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) Warhead to beat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles with a range from 1.5Km to 5 km

Swachh Bharat Awards, 2020 presented

The Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Skekhawat presented the Swachh Bharat Awards, 2020 on October 2, 2020. The awards were presented under three categories viz. Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya, Gandagi Mukth Bharat and Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan. The first prize winners under Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category are Gujarat (state level), The Tirunelveli of Tamil Nadu (district level), Kharchrod block in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh (block level) and the Chinnanur



village of Tamil Nadu (Gram Panchayat level). The winners under the Samudayik Shouchalaya category are Gujarat and Uttar (best performing states), Prayagraj and Bareilly (best performing districts). And the winners under the Gandagi Mukth Bharat Mission are Telangana and Haryana.

India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App

Private lender HDFC Bank introduced India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App. In order to enhance efficiencies for the Agri value chain, the app will help customers in managing the loan against pledge of commodities online without any physical intervention or visits to the Bank branch. The launch of the App is very apt at this point of time when numerous parts of the country are still in phase of unlocking, and travel restrictions are still effective to curb the spread of corona.

Alapan Bandopadhyay : The New West Bengal Chief Secretary

The 1987-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre, Alapan Bandopadhyay has been appointed as the new West Bengal Chief Secretary. He took the place of Rajiva Sinha who retired on September 30, 2020. Before this, Bandopadhyay was the state home secretary. Now HK Dwivedi, the finance secretary of the state, will be the home secretary and Manoj Pant, who is the principal secretary of the Land and Land Reforms and Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department will now be the new finance secretary.

RBI Brought Amitabh Bachchan For Customer Awareness Campaign

In order to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters, the Reserve Bank appointed Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign. The apex bank in its public awareness initiative keeps informing about dos and don'ts that have to be followed by customers to transact safely and securely. It is running the campaign for more than a year in English, Hindi as well as in several regional languages for maximum reach. It is interesting to learn that RBI's main Twitter handle has 9.66 lakh followers, which is far more than the world's most powerful central bank US Federal Reserve, that has only about 6.64 lakh followers and the Frankfurt-headquartered European Central Bank, which is said to be the second most powerful monetary authority in the world with 5.81 lakh followers. The star of the millennium shared a message saying "the cost of awareness is hardly a penny, but ignorance can cost you hard earned money" on RBI's another twitter account called 'RBI Says'.



Moctar Ouane: The New Prime Minister Of Mali

Interim President of the Republic of Mali, Bah Ndaw appointed 64 year old Moctar Ouane as the new Prime Minister Of Mali. In the past, Ouane was minister of foreign affairs from 2004 to 2011 under former President Amadou Toumani Toure's tenure. He was also Mali's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1995 to 2002 and later served as a diplomatic adviser to 15-nation West African regional bloc ECOWAS. It is worth noting here that this appointment of a civilian prime minister was a major condition imposed by ECOWAS in Mali to lift sanctions. ECOWAS had deliberately shut borders to Mali and stopped financial flows to pressurize the junta (so called the National Committee for the Salvation of the People) to quickly return to a civilian government.



be Silent) in 2009 to condemn chronic and systemic impunity (exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action) in cases of sexual violence within Colombia's internal war. She was awarded the 2020 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Award (April 2020), Press Freedom Grand Prix from the Inter-American Press Association (SIP-Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa) (August 2019) and the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression International Press Freedom Award and International Women's Media Foundations(IWMF) Courage in Journalism Award (2001) for her outstanding efforts.

The World Risk Report 2020

The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) released the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020 covering 181 Countries. The World Risk Index is a statistical model for the evaluation of global risk of disasters like earthquakes, storms, floods, droughts and sea-level rise. Vanuatu topped the list with 49.74 points indicating Very High Risk, followed by Tonga (29.72; Very High Risk). On the other hand, Qatar (0.31) had the lowest risk, followed by Malta (0.66) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (0.81). India has been ranked at the 89th spot (6.62; Medium Risk). It is behind Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives in terms of abilities to cope with extreme disasters, adaptive capacities and the preparedness to deal with extreme events. In the South Asian region, India is currently the fifth-most-at risk after Bangladesh (13),

Afghanistan (57) and Sri Lanka (74) & Pakistan (87).

Jineth Bedoya Lima : Golden Pen of Freedom Awardee 2020

An annual press freedom award of the World Association of News (WAN) Publishers, 'Golden Pen of Freedom Award 2020' was conferred upon Colombian Journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima for her contribution towards promoting and protecting women rights and her courage to overcome her personal tragedy which inspires other women worldwide. Lima is the deputy editor for El Tiempo Newspaper, Colombia, who fearlessly addressed drug trafficking and women rights issues and armed conflicts of Colombia for more than two decades which fetched her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2016. She also introduced the campaign "No Es Hora De Callar" (It is Not Time to

Mohamed Hussein Roble: The New PM of Somalia

Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (nickname- Farmaajo), President of Somalia appointed Mohamed Hussein Roble, as the new Prime Minister of Somalia after the removal of the former PM Hassan Ali Khaire in July 2020. All the 215 MPs who attended the session chaired by President Farmaajo voted in favour of the appointment of Hussein Roble as PM, who is a Swedish trained civil engineer and political neophyte. The new PM is expected to create an effective government that solves some of the key issues of the country, including having fair presidential and parliamentary elections. Somalia is looking forward to hold the first fully democratic election "one man, one vote" since 1969.

Alexander Lukashenko Assumed His Sixth Presidential term In Belarus

After claiming a landslide victory in a disputed election on August 9, 2020, the long-serving Belarusian leader, Alexander Lukashenko (Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko or Alyaksandr Ryhoravich Lukashenka) took oath as the President of the Republic of Belarus for a new 5 year term in September 2020 at the age of 66. He garnered (amassed) approximately 80% of the vote and his opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya took about 10% of the vote. This is the sixth presidential term of this independent or nonpartisan politician, who had won this election in alliance with Belaya Rus, which is a Belarusian public association founded on November, 17 2007 to support him. He took the oath in Minsk, Capital of Belarus in presence of hundreds of top government officials. This happened after six weeks of mass protests against the official results of August 9, 2020. It should be noted that Lukashenko has held the post of president of Belarus since the establishment of the Presidential office 26 years ago, on 20 July 1994. Before that, he worked as the director of a state farm (sovkhoz), and served in the Soviet Border Troops in the Soviet Army.

World Day Against the Death Penalty

END THE
DEATH
PENALTY



10th October 2020 marked the 18th edition of observation of World Day Against the Death Penalty which advocated the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences.

Aquatic species turning poisonous; Change in Earth's magnetic field because of which whales lose their sense of direction. In another unfortunate event 330 Botswana Elephants died because of toxins produced by Cyanobacteria (cyanobacterial neurotoxins) in water. Botswana is home to roughly one third of Africa's elephants population with about 130,000. Toxic cyanobacteria are occurring more frequently due to climate change and increasing global

temperatures. According to the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Africa's temperatures are rising at twice the global average in the southern part. Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic bacteria as well as nitrogen-fixing bacteria. They live freely in moist soils and water or they are found in a symbiotic relationship with plants or lichen-forming fungi.

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Economics

American economists Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson are the 2020 Nobel Prize laureates of Economics, who worked for improvements in auction theory and inventions of new auction formats. They have studied how auctions work and have also poured their insights to design new



auction formats for goods and services that are difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies. Their discoveries have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers worldwide. It is worth learning here that the Nobel Prize in Economics is technically known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences awarded in Memory of Alfred Nobel. Established in 1969, it has been awarded 51 times so far. The prize carries a 10-million krona (\$1.1 million) cash award.

"Access to counsel — A matter of life or death" was the theme for this year. This initiative led to manifestation of more than 180 local initiatives across the globe and has been well supported by Canada, France, Italy, Mexico, Belgium, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the European Union.

Aava Murto's Single Day Stint As PM Of Finland

Aava Murto from the small village of Vaaksy in southern Finland became Prime Minister of Finland for a single day on 7th October 2020 to highlight the impact of technology on gender equality, which is this year's theme for the annual event observed by the

Finnish government. The 16-year-old girl assumed Finland's PM post in place of Sanna Mirella Marin to draw attention towards harassment that girls face online, which is one of the major issues worldwide. The Young PM in her address spoke that "Girls' access to technology is a significant, global equality issue that needs to be taken seriously." She met several Cabinet members and lawmakers, among others on that day. It is worth registering here that Finland regularly scores near the top when it comes to women's rights. PM Marin leads Finland's center-left coalition government, comprising five parties whose leaders are all females.

Demise of Nobel Prize winner Mario Molina

Mexican scientist Mario Jose Molina, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995 breathed his last at the age of 77 in Mexico City, Mexico. He shared the Nobel Prize with Frank Sherwood Rowland of the United States and Paul Crutzen of the Netherlands for their 1970 research on the damage to the Ozone layer. They published a paper in 1974 that highlighted the thinning of the ozone layer because of chlorofluorocarbons, chemicals used in a range of products. This research led to the drafting of the first international treaty on the subject, the Montreal Protocol, which phased out the use of the chemicals. Later, Molina focused on combating air pollution in major cities to promote sustainable development. The deceased was a member, among other institutions of the National Academy of Sciences and was also one of the 21 scientists who composed President Barack Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

World Mental Health Day

Like every year, the World Mental Health Day was celebrated on October 10 to prevent mental disorders, spread mental health awareness and adopt best



recovery practices. The World Federation for Mental Health had instituted this day in 1948. The theme for this year was 'Mental health for all'. As per WHO's definition of mental health, it is defined as a state of well being in

which an individual realises his or her own potential and handles stresses of everyday life working productively and fruitfully. It is about the emotional and social well being. In countries like Australia, the day is a part of Mental Health Week.

Resignation of Kuwait's Prime Minister Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah

The Kuwaiti government, headed by Prime Minister Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah submitted its resignation to Emir Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah in anticipation of the upcoming general elections of November 2020. He has been the PM since 2019. Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah began his career in 1978, with the ministry of foreign affairs, where he served in several capacities that includes membership of Kuwait's permanent mission to the United Nations (1983-1989) as well. The Emir named the Deputy Head of the National Guard, Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as the crown prince of Kuwait. It is worth registering that this nomination will be put forth to the National Assembly (parliament).

The 2020 Nobel Peace Prize

The Norwegian Nobel Committee selected the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. WFP was started in 1963 in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of Eradicating Hunger to combat malnutrition and address the acute hunger issues especially in the war zones and conflict affected areas. The programme has assisted around 100 million people in 88 countries in 2019. Besides WFP, the United Nations also started several

programs like Building blocks program, 2017 (food assistance for mainly Syrian refugees in Jordan), Purchase for progress (P4P) project 2018(ensuring small landholding farmers' access to the agricultural market), Take home ration programs and school feeding programs in 71 countries and many more.

The 2020 Nobel Prize In Chemistry

Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and American biochemist Jennifer Doudna became the first two women to share the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry worth



10 million krona (£861,200; \$1,110,400) for their work on the technology of genome editing. The duo developed the tool i.e. Crispr-Cas 9 dubbed as 'genetic scissors' to edit DNA. They discovered ways of making specific and precise changes to the DNA contained in living cells and with this they have developed tools to rewrite the code of life. The ability to cut DNA where you want has revolutionised the life sciences. Their discovery can also be used to treat inherited illnesses. They studied bacterium *Streptococcus pyogenes* and discovered a previously unknown molecule called tracrRNA, which is a part of the organism's system of immune defence. It can disarm viruses by cleaving their DNA - like genetic scissors. In their natural form, the bacterial scissors recognise DNA from viruses. In this the two scientists showed that they could be reprogrammed to cut any DNA molecule at a predetermined site.

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature

The Swedish Academy crowned American poet Louise Gluck with the 2020 Nobel Literature Prize 'for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal'. The Nobel laureate made her debut in 1968 with 'Firstborn' and was pretty soon acclaimed as one of the most prominent poets in American contemporary literature. She has published twelve collections of poetry and some volumes of essays on poetry. 'The Wild Iris' (1992) is her most lauded collection that describes the miraculous return of life after winter in the poem 'Snowdrops'. She seeks the universal,

and draws inspiration from myths and classical motifs.

Bisher Al-Khasawneh : The New PM Of Jordan

Jordan's King Abdullah II designated his chief policy adviser, Bisher Al-Khasawneh as the new Prime Minister of Jordan after accepting resignation of former Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz. King Abdullah II had dissolved the parliament a week before Razzaz's resignation at the end of its four-year term. Razzaz had resigned in the backdrop of failure in handling the virus pandemic. Jordan was said to have nearly 20,5200 confirmed virus cases, including more than 130 fatalities in the last week of September 2020. Now

Bisher Al-Khasawneh will oversee parliamentary elections of November 10, 2020 and will form a new government. He is expected to enhance coordination with other Arab countries and expand economic ties with them, as well as facilitate foreign and Arab investments.

Sadyr Zhaparov : the Acting PM of Kyrgyzstan

After the resignation of the former PM Kubatbek Boronov amid post-election vote rigging protests, the founder of the Mekenchil party, Sadyr Zhaparov was appointed as the Acting Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan. The past reveals that Sadyr Zhaparov was elected twice to the parliament of Kyrgyzstan and was detained in 2017 to serve a sentence of 11 years and 6 months for taking hostage a government official in 2013. 16 Major Parties denied the results and the election results of 4th October and as a result the election commission annulled the votes on the pretext of the uprising protests. The People's Coordination Council constituted by the several opposition parties, dissolved the parliament and assumed the state power, refusing to acknowledge the interim cabinet of Zhaparov. The Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres invited the parties of Kyrgyzstan to discuss and agree on a way forward within the constitutional framework.

TSIRKON: Russian Hypersonic Cruise Missile

Russia test-fired TSIRKON (Zircon) Hypersonic Cruise missile successfully in the Barents Sea on 7th October, 2020. It was conducted from the Frigate Admiral Gorshkov Vessel in White Sea and the Missile hit the destined target located at a distance of 450 km in less than 4 and half minutes.



The Missile captured the hypersonic speed of more than Mach 8. It is worth recalling here that this was the second time Russia conducted a test fire of the Missile, as the first successful test one was done in January 2020. The Missile was launched from white sea and it hit the target located in Barents Sea. Prior to this, in August 2019, the test trial of Missile Zircon had badly failed due to the radiation leak that killed two people at Nyonoksa military range, since then the incident is dubbed as the Nyonoska Radiation Incident. This military range is the main rocket launching site of Russian navy.

The Ongoing World Space Week

The United Nations General Assembly instituted World Space Week (WSW) in 1999 between October 4-10. It is worth knowing that October 4, 1957 marked launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, that opened the way for space exploration and the October 10, 1967 marked the signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of

States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. "Satellites to improve lives" is the theme of this week for this year. In this international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the improvement of the human condition, webinar series on the chosen theme, space education and outreach events are being conducted across the globe.

The objective of this World Space Week

is to offer unique leverage in space outreach and education; educate people worldwide about the benefits that they receive from space; encourage greater usage of space for sustainable economic development; demonstrate public support for space programs; generate interest of young people in science, technology, engineering, and math and foster international cooperation in space outreach and education.

The Right Livelihood Award 2020

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation conferred the 2020 Right Livelihood Award 2020 (also known as the alternative Nobel Prize in Stockholm) upon four activists Ales Bialiatski of Belarus, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States(US) and Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua for their contribution towards equality, democracy, justice and freedom. Among the winners, Ales Bialiatski and Nasrin Sotoudeh received the award for their contribution to the realisation of democracy in Belarus and human rights in Iran respectively. The US civil rights lawyer, Bryan Stevenson received the award for his efforts to reform the criminal justice system and the advance racial reconciliation in the US. And Lottie Cunningham was chosen for the award for her contribution in protecting native lands and communities from exploitation

2020 Nobel Prize for Physics

Roger Penrose, Andrea M Ghez, and Reinhard Genzel received the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physics for discovering a supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way. Among them Penrose has been awarded the prize for the discovery "that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity". It is worth learning here that although Einstein proposed the theory of relativity, yet he himself did not believe that black holes exist. Einstein presented his theory in November 1915, providing a new way to look at and understand gravity that shapes the universe. Gravity not only shapes space but also influences the passage of time. Penrose used Einstein's general theory of relativity to prove that the process of formation of black holes is a stable one.

He proved that black holes exist and described them in detail in 1965. It is this gravity, which is so great inside a black hole that is able to bend space and slow down time. The other two scientists Genzel and Ghez have been honored for the discovery of a "supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy." They discovered that an invisible and an extremely heavy object governs

the stars' orbit at the centre of the Milky Way. This extremely heavy object has the mass equivalent to 4 million solar masses and is packed into an area about the size of our solar system. In order to see through to the middle of the Milky Way, Genzel and Ghez worked on developing methods and employed some of the world's largest telescopes for this.

The 2020 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine

The discoverers of Hepatitis C Virus, American scientists Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice and British scientist Michael Houghton have been jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology along with a gold medal. Their work gave impetus to the fight against blood-borne hepatitis, which is a major global



threat that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer in people worldwide. Their discovery led to the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C. It is disheartening to learn that there are more than 70 million cases of Hepatitis in the world and more than 400,000 deaths occur due to the disease. Hepatitis is a chronic disease that causes liver inflammations and cancer. In 2019, scientists Peter Ratcliffe, Gregg Semenza and William Kaelin were the Nobel Prize laureates for Physiology or Medicine for discovering how the body cells sense and react to low oxygen levels.

Northrop Grumman Launched SS Kalpana Chawla Cygnus

American global aerospace and defense technology company, Northrop Grumman



launched their next Cygnus vehicle named as S.S. Kalpana Chawla and an Antares rocket for the NG-14 mission to the International Space Station via Pad 0A at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport in Virginia. The mission is on purpose of delivering thousands of

kilograms/pounds of equipment, crew supplies etc. to the ISS. Equipped with a pressurized Cargo Module built by Thales Alenia Space in Turin, Italy, the spacecraft carried with itself a new space toilet called the Universal Waste Management System, which is 65% smaller and 40% lighter than the current toilet being used at ISS. The capsule carried a radish-growing experiment to find out about survival and feasibility of growing plants in space as well as a cancer treatment technique required to test cancer drugs in microgravity conditions.

India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission meeting

Foreign Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar of India and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen presided over the 6th round of Joint Consultative Commission of India and Bangladesh in which the entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two nations was reviewed. Both the nations reiterated their commitment to the finalization of the agreement for sharing the waters of Teesta and felt the need for the early conclusion of Framework of Interim Agreement on sharing the waters of six other joint rivers viz. Muhuri, Manu, Gumti, Khowai, Dudhkumar and Dharla. They also discussed the significance of Bangladesh in India's 'Neighbourhood First' Policy and India reiterated the commitment of supplying of COVID-19 vaccine to Bangladesh. India announced the launch of a commemorative postal stamp on the occasion of birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman on December 16, 2020. Besides these, both the countries agreed to initiate 'air travel bubble' flights to meet the requirements of travellers.

World Habitat Day

Like every year, the World Habitat Day was celebrated on the first Monday of October i.e. 5th October 2020 on "Housing for All-A better Urban Future" theme to remind the people that they have all power and responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities. Instituted by the United Nations, it was first celebrated in 1986 in Kenya under the theme, "Shelter is My Right". It is worth registering that around 1.8 billion people are still living in the slums and a large part of the global population is still homelessness in cities due to inadequate housing. The United Nations is running the Human Settlement

Programme to make cities socially and environmentally sustainable and envisions efficient cities, well-planned and governed human settlements. The United Nations is trying its best to provide universal access to basic services such as energy, water and sanitation. In addition to this the UN also presents the "Scroll of Honour" award annually, which is said to be the most prestigious award of human settlement in the world.

World's First Asteroid Mining Robot For Space

A space start-up, Beijing-based company, Origin Space of China is ready to send out the world's first mining robot named 'asteroid mining robot' into space by November 2020 under NEO-1 mission. This space mission is meant to evaluate the asteroid mining robot's capabilities in finding out how well it can identify and extract valuable resources vis-a-vis asteroid mining. The proposed robot will be launched into space by a Chinese Long March series rocket. This robot will not be actually engaging in any mining work, but it will be testing technologies. It will verify and demonstrate multiple functions like spacecraft orbital manoeuvre, simulated small celestial body capture, intelligent spacecraft identification and control etc.

Resignation of prime minister-designate Adib

Lebanon lost its third prime minister in eight months when prime minister-designate, Mustapha Adib resigned after Iran-backed factions sabotaged his attempts to form a government. This made the crisis-struck country witness a new low against the US dollar exchange rate that soared with its value exceeding 9,000 Lebanese pounds within three hours. The move sparked sporadic

protests in Tripoli. Adib's efforts to form a new government were again and again blocked by the demands of the two dominant Shiite parties viz. Iran-backed Hezbollah and its ally, where the Amal Movement stressed on retaining hold of the key finance ministry. Now Adib's departure is seen as a blow to Macron's roadmap to weed out corruption and implement requisite reforms to repair an economy crushed by a mountain of debt.

The IATA & UNOCI Private Partnership

International Air Transport Association (IATA) inked a Memorandum Of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to strengthen the cooperation with the Netherlands, European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), Australia, Japan, India-funded United Nations (UN) Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme). It is worth knowing that IATA will join the CT Travel Programme as the first non-government partner of the initiative by offering advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) traveler data to governments to curb terrorist mobility. UNOCT Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov and Director General and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IATA, Alexandre de Luniac were the signatories of the agreement. The CT Travel Programme is meant to improve the tracking of suspected terrorists, employing state-of-the-art software by helping member countries in enhancing the detection of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and serious criminals, via the collection, identification, and analysis of their passenger data by using API, PNR, and other passenger data, in line with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019)



Lewis Hamilton Equalled Michael Schumacher's Record Of 91 Victories

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton celebrated with a red helmet after winning the Eifel Grand Prix at the Nurburgring, Germany. With this win, the Briton drew level with Michael Schumacher's record of 91 Formula one race wins. This victory catapulted the Mercedes driver closer to a seventh world championship. While the Briton won at the Nurburgring, the German circuit where Ferrari great

Schumacher won five times, teammate Valtteri Bottas suffered a huge hit to his title hopes with a first retirement of the season. Red Bull's Max Verstappen grabbed second spot, and took a bonus point for fastest lap, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo at third position for Renault in his first podium since 2018 when he was at Red Bull. It is worth noting that Hamilton, celebrating his seventh win of the season, is now 69 points clear of the Finn in the standings with six rounds remaining.

Rafael Nadal Won French Open, 2020

Rafael Nadal won his 20th Grand Slam and 13th French Open title in the form of the French Open, 2020 after defeating World's number 1 Serbian player Novak Djokovic on October 11, 2020. It is worth knowing that Rafael Nadal is a Spanish Tennis champion, who is currently the world number 2 player as per the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings. He has booked two Olympic medals, 21 ATP Tour 500 titles, 35 ATP Tour Masters 1000 titles on his name. He had won 13 French Open, one Australian open, two Wimbledon, four US open. It is worth noting that he holds a stand alone record of the player with most clay court titles. Due to this, he is called "The King of Clay" in the sport of Tennis. In the female category of French Open, 2020, Iga Swiatek won the title. It is worth remembering here that she was the first player from Poland to win a Grand Slam.



Chetan Anand : The Brand Ambassador Of Transform

Commonwealth Games medallist shuttler Chetan Anand has been appointed as the brand ambassador of India's first-ever badminton brand 'Transform' which was launched recently. He is a former world no.10 shuttler, who won a bronze medal in the men's singles at the 2006 Melbourne

CWG. With this appointment he has become the face of the homegrown equipment brand which produces racquets, nylon shuttles, shoes, and apparels, which have the ability to appeal to the new age badminton players with its design, style, and colors. This initiative has been promoted by VICKY Sports, which is one of India's top three sports brands, that specializes in sports good manufacturing since 1978.

Shoaib Malik : The First Asian to complete 10,000 runs in T20 cricket

Veteran Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik, who is one of the most dependable players in the shortest format of the game, 'T20 cricket' has become the first Asian to complete 10,000 runs in T20 cricket. The 38-year-old achieved this special landmark when he smashed a 44-ball 74 for his side against Balochistan. He has been consistent in this format not just for Pakistan but also for several franchises that he played for worldwide. It is worth learning that Malik is the third-highest run-scorer of all time in the shortest format. He is now the third cricketer in the world after Chris Gayle and Kieron Pollard to score 10,000 runs in the shortest format.

Demise of Dean Jones

Australian cricketer Dean Mervyn Jones died of cardiac arrest in Mumbai. The 59 year old was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team. The deceased played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia and was one of the great ambassadors of the game associating himself with Cricket development across South Asia. He discovered new talent and nurturing young cricketers and was in Mumbai with the commentary team for the Indian Premier League.

Suresh Raina will establish cricket schools in J&K

An aggressive left-handed middle-order batsman and an occasional off-spin bowler, Suresh Raina will set up five

schools in Kashmir division and an equal number in Jammu division to train the aspiring cricketers on request of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar. These schools are especially meant to impart training to the youngsters from remote areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Lt Governor appreciated his gesture and informed him of the government's resolution of developing sports culture in the Union Territory.

Leh Will Conceive Various Sports

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has laid foundation stones for various sports facilities at an expenditure of more than 12 crore rupees. He laid the foundation for a Synthetic Track & Astroturf for football in Leh at an open stadium. He also suggested Ladakh UT Administration to institute awards and incentives like jobs for local sports persons to encourage them to excel in the sporting field. He requested the Ice Hockey associations across the country to come together to garner recognition for the sport. He further proposed training in 23 centres of excellence across the country for the sportspersons, who will excel in local events.

Demise of the young Afghan Cricketer

Afghanistan batsman Najeeb Tarakai passed away after a road accident. The 29-year-old opening batsman was hit by a car while crossing the road in eastern Nangarhar in Jalalabad. The right-handed batsman, who made his international debut at the 2014 T20 World Cup in Bangladesh. He represented Afghanistan in 12 T20Is and one ODI. His highest international score was 90 which he posted against Ireland in a T20 International series in March 2017. And his last international appearance was in September 2019 against Bangladesh.

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek : The new French Open Champion

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek has become the new French Open Champion after defeating the American Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin in the Women Singles final by 6-4, 6-1. The 19-year-old Swiatek has earned \$1,900,000 for the incredible achievement and has moved to 17th position in the world ranking.

Nihal Sarin : Champion of Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship

Young Indian player Nihal Sarin became the winner of the Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship in Chennai after defeating Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7 in the final. The title win fetched 8,766 US Dollars to the 16-year old and booked his berth for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature

the world's best players. He succeeded in defeating American Andrew Tang, Australia's Anton Smirnov and Armenian Haik Martirosyan en route the title.

Kamran Akmal Broke Wicketkeeping Record Of Ms Dhoni

Pakistan wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal succeeded in creating history in the ongoing National T20 Cup in Pakistan as he became the first wicketkeeper in history to effect 100 stumpings in T20 cricket. He accomplished this feat during the game between Central Punjab and Southern Punjab on Tuesday and that has placed him with past greats like MS Dhoni and Kumar Sangakkara. It was when Kamran Akmal stumped Southern Punjab captain Shan Masood off Zafar Gohar for 50. Although Dhoni is second on the list with 84 but overall, he heads the list for most stumpings combined across all international cricket formats.

Kiren Rijiju launched new logo of Sports Authority of India

Recently the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju has launched the new logo of Sports Authority of India's (SAI) at Delhi's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. The new logo of SAI features a flying figure which symbolizes the freedom an athlete to leapfrog his/her career in SAI. The figure features Indian Tricolour and blue colour of the chakra. The logo signifies SAI's journey of transformation from identifying and nurturing grassroots level sporting talent to creating sporting excellence in the country.



Robert Lewandowski : The UEFA Men's Player of the Year for the 2019/20 season

Polish soccer star Robert Lewandowski has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for the 2019/20 season. He was chosen among German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne, who were also on the list for this title. Lewandowski plays for German club Bayern Munich and is also

recognised as the best striker. It is worth knowing here that the 2019/20 season was one of the greatest in Bayern's 120-year history, and no player contributed more to it than Lewandowski. The Poland striker scored in every game en route to the UEFA Champions League final in Lisbon. He picked up 15 goals and six assists as well as the trophy he had coveted for so long. He hit 34 goals in 31 Bundesliga matches and six in five German Cup games as well.

Pandian won the 10m air rifle event

Indian Shooter Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship. The 16-year-old champion shot 251.4 to book the title by a clear margin of two points. Earlier in the qualification, he had shot the second best score of 630.8. The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of



France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria, who had shot the best qualification score of 631.4, grabbed the third spot.

Demise of Former New Zealand cricketer John R Reid

October 2020 witnessed the death of Former New Zealand cricket allrounder, John Richard Reid. The deceased was New Zealand's oldest surviving Test player. It is worth remembering here

Novak Djokovic Claimed Men's Singles Italian Open

Number one tennis player Novak Djokovic won a record 36th Masters title by defeating Diego Schwartzman in the Italian Open at Rome on 22nd September 2020. The Serb won the final with 7-5, 6-3 in the final and ensured his berth in French Open. Djokovic has also surpassed childhood idol Pete Sampras for the second-most weeks at No. 1 with 287 and is now trailing behind Roger Federer's 310 weeks in the top spot.



Djokovic succeeded in drawing level with Rafael Nadal in August 2020 on the all-time list of Masters winners with his Western and Southern Open title, but is now clear. The French Open will start on 27th September 2020 and Nadal will seek a record-extending 13th men's singles title in Paris. It is worth recollecting that in Women's tennis, number one tennis player Simona Halep of Romania won her first Italian Open title after defending champion Czech Karolína Pliskova, who retired midway through the final with an injury. Halep was leading 6-0, 2-1 when Czech player Pliskova stopped playing after just 31 minutes.

that he was the first cricketer to lead New Zealand to a Test victory. He posted 3428 runs in 58 Test matches with an average of 33.28, hitting 22 half-centuries and six centuries in a career that spanned for more than 16 years. In 1954, he scored his maiden

test century, a knock of 135, against South Africa in Cape Town.

Sachin Tendulkar:

The New Brand Ambassador of Paytm First Games



A subsidiary of digital financial service platform Paytm, Paytm First Games (PFG) has appointed legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as its brand Ambassador. In this role the god of cricket will create awareness about the genre of fantasy sports (sporting events played virtually) in India and will also

promote and generate excitement around all sports including kabaddi, football, and basketball. It is worth recollecting here that Paytm is the official umpire partner for IPL till 2022 and has been the title sponsor for Indian cricket. It should be noted that PGF intends to reach 100 million users in the upcoming T20 league via investment of Rs 300 crore on marketing and promotions during the remaining six months of the current financial year

Sourav Ganguly:

The New Brand Ambassador Of Bengal Peerless



Kolkata Kolkata based Real Estate Developer, Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited roped former National Cricket

Team Captain and current President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador. The cricketer will drive the campaign of Bengal Peerless's Residential Project Avidipta II. Established in 1994, Bengal Peerless has successfully built about 5000 residential units for people of all sections of the society. West Bengal Housing Board and the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited are the cofounders of this establishment.



Current Affairs

1. Sooronbai Jeenbekov, who resigned from the post, was the President of
 (a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Kazakhstan (c) Uzbekistan
 (d) Tajikistan (e) Turkey
2. penned a book titled "The Khalistan Conspiracy: A Former R&AW Officer Unravels the Path to 1984".
 (a) Rajiv Jain (b) P.K. Sinha (c) GBS Sidhu
 (d) Sudha Pillai (e) R.K. Shukla
3. Uday Kotak got extension as the Non-Executive Chairman of IL&FS.
 (a) 6 months (b) 1 year (c) 2 years
 (d) 3 years (e) 4 years
4. Card launched a new brand campaign 'Contactless Connections'.
 (a) ICICI (b) SBI (c) BOB
 (d) HDFC (e) Axis
5. Nihal Sarin became champion of the 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship of
 (a) Football (b) Hockey (c) Archery
 (d) Chess (e) Swimming
6. Nilesch Shah re-elected as of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
 (a) Chairman (b) Vice Chairman (c) Secretary
 (d) Treasurer (e) member
7. Deputy CM of Manish Sisodia launched a book "Bapu-The unforgettable"
 (a) Gujarat (b) Delhi (c) Uttar Pradesh
 (d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Bihar
8. Kiren Rijiju laid the foundation stone of a Synthetic Track & Astroturf for in Leh.
 (a) Hockey (b) Football (c) Cricket
 (d) Basketball (e) None
9. Rajnath Singh launched a book titled 'A bouquet of flowers' written by
 (a) Robin Sharma (b) Shiv Khara (c) Rashmi Bansal
 (d) Biswaroop Roy Chowdhury (e) Dr Krishna Saksena
10. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2021 will take place in
 (a) Denmark (b) Norway (c) Sweden
 (d) Switzerland (e) Poland
11. Which of the following banks partnered with Bayer's Better Life Farming initiative in India to help the rural farm community?
 (a) IndusInd Bank (b) Yes Bank (c) IDBI Bank
 (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank (e) Axis Bank

12. Which of the following apex sports bodies launched its new motto?
(a) Indian Boxing Federation (b) All India Football Federation (c) Cycling Federation of India
(d) Badminton Association of India (e) Hockey India
13. Which of the following states launched the Smart Ration Card Scheme?
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Bihar (e) Gujarat
14. The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its Anniversary on 8th October 2020.
(a) 85th (b) 86th (c) 87th
(d) 88th (e) 89th
15. Vijai Vardhan has become Chief Secretary of
(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Uttar Pradesh (e) Gujarat
16. Which of the following banks tied up with BSE to empower small business companies?
(a) IndusInd Bank (b) Yes Bank (c) IDBI Bank
(d) Kotak Mahindra Bank (e) Axis Bank
17. has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Live Online Tutoring Platform Vedantu.
(a) Salman Khan (b) Aamir Khan (c) Shahrukh Khan
(d) Emraan Hashmi (e) Arbaaz Khan
18. series author Anand Neelakantan penned his debut kids' book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids".
(a) Jannat (b) Housefull (c) Dhoom
(d) Baahubali (e) Krrish
19. India successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile.....
(a) Rudraksh-1 (b) Rudramani-1 (c) Rudram-1
(d) Rudrast-1 (e) None
20. Union Minister Piyush Goyal released results of which edition of National Startup Awards in October 2020 ?
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third
(d) Fourth (e) Fifth



ANSWERS



- 1.(a) Sooronbai Jeenbekov, who resigned from the post, was the President of **Kyrgyzstan** after 10 days of unrest caused by protesters who have demanded his removal from office. He was re-elected as the President in the Parliamentary election on 4th October 2020. The 61-year-old has served as the President of Kyrgyzstan from 2017 to 2020. He was also the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan from April 2016 to August 2017.
- 2.(c) **GBS Sidhu** penned a book titled "The Khalistan Conspiracy: A Former R&AW Officer Unravels the Path to 1984". The book speaks about a series of interconnected events that led to the rise of the Khalistan movement, Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 and the anti-Sikh violence unleashed thereafter.
- 3.(b) Uday Kotak got a **1 year** extension as the Non-Executive Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS). With this he will continue on the board of troubled infra lender IL&FS for one more year till October 2, 2021. This is the second extension for Kotak to continue on the IL&FS board.
- 4.(b) **SBI Card** launched a new brand campaign 'Contactless Connections'. The campaign is an effort to bring a fresh breath of positivity by demonstrating that people can connect emotionally and spread joy despite the social distancing practices by which we are bound. The card allows consumers to simply wave their card or phone or scan a QR code to make safe, secure payments, without handing over their card or punching in the PIN.
- 5.(d) Young Indian player Nihal Sarin became the winner of the **Chess.com's** 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship in Chennai after defeating Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7 in the final. The title win fetched 8,766 US Dollars to the 16-year old and booked his berth for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature the world's best players.
- 6.(a) Nilesh Shah re-elected as **Chairman** of the industry body of SEBI, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). He was earlier elected as the Chairman for 2019 – 2020. Besides him, Saurabh Nanavati (Chief Executive Officer, Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited.) has been re-elected as the Vice-Chairman of AMFI.
- 7.(b) Deputy CM of **Delhi** Manish Sisodia launched a book "Bapu-The unforgettable" on the 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a coffee table book that provides a glimpse of the ideology and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and holds several untouched aspects of history, rare photographs, epigraphs and other details about Delhi.
- 8.(b) Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has laid foundation stones for various sports facilities at an expenditure of more than 12 crore rupees. Among them is a Synthetic Track & Astro turf for **football** in Leh at an open stadium. He also suggested Ladakh UT Administration to institute awards and incentives like jobs for local sports persons to encourage them to excel in the sporting field.
- 9.(e) Rajnath Singh launched a book titled 'A bouquet of flowers' written by **Dr Krishna Saksena**, who is the first lady to get a PhD, in 1955 from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The book has been designed to allow the readers to travel their own journey and arrive at their own very personal realization and be inspired by it.
- 10.(d) The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2021 will be held in Lucerne-Burgenstock, **Switzerland** from May 18 to 21, 2021. It will be based on "The Great Reset" theme. It will focus on the solutions that are required to address the world's most pressing challenges.

- 11.(e) **Axis Bank** partnered with Bayer's Better Life Farming initiative in India to help the rural farm community. This will ensure provision of enhanced and holistic financial solutions to smallholder farmers and rural farming communities. Axis Bank will offer a wide range of end-to-end financial solutions and services like affordably priced loans, deposits, withdrawals, payments etc. through Bayer's Better Life Farming centers which are owned and operated either by a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), Federation, agri-graduate or a local farmer/entrepreneur.
- 12.(b) **All India Football Federation** launched its new motto (AIFF) 'Indian Football Forward Together' defining the new brand direction. AIFF is committed to developing every aspect of the game including coaches, referees, clubs, leagues, regional federations and tournaments while accelerating the overall growth of the sport in the country.
- 13.(a) **Punjab** launched the Smart Ration Card Scheme, for providing subsidised foodgrains in the state. The state-funded scheme is meant to provide subsidised rations to most deserving nine lakh beneficiaries not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of the Central Government.
- 14.(d) The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its **88th** Anniversary on 8th October 2020. The IAF was established on October 8, 1932. The celebration involved air display by various aircraft.
- 15.(b) Vijai Vardhan has become Chief Secretary of **Haryana** in place of Keshni Anand Arora. Vardhan shall be looking after Haryana General Administration, Personnel, Training, Parliamentary affairs, Vigilance, Administrative Reforms departments and will also be Secretary Incharge of Plan coordination.
- 16.(b) **Yes Bank** tied up with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to empower the SME segment through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes. They will conduct knowledge events for SMEs, export promotion of SME scale companies, in addition to providing banking and financial solutions.
- 17.(b) **Aamir Khan** has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Live Online Tutoring Platform Vedantu. Vedantu's new ad film campaign shows the way to effortless learning through enjoyable experiences. It is India's second-most valued EdTech start-up and a pioneer in live online tutoring.
- 18.(d) "**Baahubali**" series author Anand Neelakantan penned his debut kids' book titled "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids". The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school. The book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets.
- 19.(c) India successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile **Rudram-1**. It is twice the speed of sound. It will be integrated with the Sukhoi fighter jets of the Indian Force once the missile is ready for induction.
- 20.(a) Union Minister Piyush Goyal released results of the **first** edition of National Startup Awards in October 2020 to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions. It included sectors like Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry 4.0 and Urban Services.