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India Became A Member Of ECOSOC's CSW

India, Afghanistan and China participated in the election to become a member of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women (CSW), which is a body of the prestigious Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In this election India and Afghanistan succeeded in winning the ballot among the 54 members but China failed to reach the half of the ballot. Now India will utilize this four year membership (from 2021 to 2025) to strengthen the initiatives taken by India on the issue of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. CSW is meant to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and ECOSOC is a principal organ of the United Nations that coordinates the economic, social, and other activities of 15 UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions, and five regional commissions.

Harivansh Narayan Singh Continues To Be A Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman

64 year old National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and Janata Dal (United) MP (Member of Parliament) Harivansh Narayan Singh has been re-elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha (RS) via Voice vote. RJD (Rashtriya Janata Dal) MP Manoj Jha, who was proposed by BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) president Jagat Prakash Nadda was his opponent. Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Harivansh Narayan Singh has a background of journalism and has served Times Group, weekly magazine Dharmyug and Anand Bazaar magazine's weekly magazine Sunday. He has also worked in Bank of India in Hyderabad and Patna from 1981 to 1984. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is a constitutional post for which Article 89 of the Constitution of India states that the Rajya Sabha can elect one of its MPs for the post of Deputy Chairman when the post lies vacant. And the post of Deputy Chairman becomes vacant only after the resignation or removal from the post of the Rajya Sabha MP.

Sir David Attenborough: Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awardee

Sir David Attenborough is an English broadcaster and a historian, who popularly writes and presents BBC Natural History unit, became Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awardee for his contribution towards creating awareness to preserve and protect biodiversity of the planet.

Instituted in 1986, the prize carries cash worth Rs 25 lakhs and recognizes peace, disarmament, development and efforts of organizations and individuals working to create international economic order, ensuring use of scientific discoveries for welfare of humanity. It is worth recalling here that Centre for Science and Environment (2018), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2015), ISRO (2014), Kofi Annan (2003), UNICEF (1989), Parliamentarians for Global Action (1986) were previous recipients of this award.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

For sustainable development of fisheries in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana as well as e-Gopala application on 10th September 2020. It will be implemented between 2020-21 and 2024-25 with funds worth Rs 20,050 crores under the scheme. It is worth remembering here that this is the highest ever allocated to the fisheries sector. The scheme is meant to enhance fish production to 70 lakh tonnes by 2024-25 and double income of fish farmers. It will generate employment for 55 lakhs and will reduce the post harvest losses of the fisheries sector. And E-Gopala application is about improving breeds including buying and selling of disease free germplasm and availability of quality breeding services.

The Launch Of 22 Bamboo Clusters

The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched 22 bamboo clusters in nine states viz. Gujarat (1 cluster), Madhya Pradesh (2), Maharashtra (6), Nagaland (2), Assam (1), Uttarakhand (1), Odisha (3), Tripura (5) and Karnataka (1). It is worth recalling here that in 2017, the Central Government amended Indian Forest Act, 1927 to remove bamboo from the category of trees to enable business in bamboo products and the restructured National Bamboo Mission was adopted in 2018-19. It is worth learning here that Bamboo is a multi-utility grass and it was classified as trees in spite of it being a grass, which prevented the North Eastern states from exploiting it. The GoI allocated Rs 1,290 crores for the restructured National Bamboo Mission.

RPF obstructed the use of Real Mango Software

An illegal notorious software developed for booking Tatkal tickets over the IRCTC website, 'Real Mango software' has been blocked by Railway Protection Force (RPF). Through this software the ticket booking agents logged into the IRCTC server through multiple Ids. The software was widely used as it bypassed time consuming captcha code while booking the tickets over the website. The software was permitted to sync with the bank OTP with the help of a

mobile app and fed it to the requisite form to book tickets automatically. It also auto-filled the passenger and payment details in the forms and had made the whole process a quick and less time-consuming process. In a nation-wide probe the RPF arrested around 50 people in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and Gujarat.

RBI Guidelines On PSL

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines to increase funding to segments including start-ups and agriculture. Before learning the new guidelines it is worth knowing that Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Export Credit, Education, Housing, Social Infrastructure, Renewable Energy are the sectors which the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India consider as important for the development and are given priority over other sectors. And banks are supposed to encourage the growth of these sectors with adequate and timely credit. The new categories eligible for finance under the priority sector lending covers Bank finance of up to ₹50 crores to start-ups; Loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps; Loans for seeding the Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants. The revised guideline has put a higher weightage on incremental priority sector credit in 'identified districts' where priority sector credit flow is comparatively small. In addition to these, the agriculture specific targets have also been revised. Now the targets prescribed for 'small and marginal farmers' and 'weaker sections' have been increased. For Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) or Farmers Producers' Companies (FPCs) undertaking farming with assured marketing of their produce at a predetermined price have a high credit limit; the loan limits for renewable energy have been doubled and now the commercial banks have also been instructed to adhere to the revised guidelines. All these revisions will incentivize credit flow to specific segments viz. clean energy, weaker sections, health infrastructure, and credit deficient geographies.

HSTDV: A Landmark Achievement of DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) succeeded in flight testing Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV). This testing will help missiles to travel at six times the speed of sound known as the hypersonic speed and will eventually lead to development of hypersonic cruise missiles. With this, India became the fourth country in the world after the US, China and Russia to do such testing. A glance at HSTDV shows that it is a 1-metric-ton and 5.6-meter long unmanned scramjet (scramjet engine for combustion) demonstration aircraft that is used in hypersonic speed flights. Equipped with several applications like low-cost launch of small satellites, it can work as an efficient carrier vehicle for hypersonic and long-range cruise missiles. For this HSTDV, Israel has helped India in wind tunnel testing and Russia assisted in research of the hypersonic propulsion.

IIT Tirupati's Portable Optical Cavity Sterilization Unit

Researchers of IIT Tirupati (IITT) and IISER Tirupati in collaboration developed a portable sterilisation unit using a new technology called the hybrid sterilization system, which can decontaminate personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for combating COVID 19, easily and rapidly, allowing them to be used multiple times. It is worth noting that unlike the traditional UV systems, this unit follows the optical cavity concept to optimize the employment of photon flux in the treatment area. It is primarily meant for health professionals and other COVID warriors for whom PPEs are essential. Equipped with a UV radiation cavity, cold plasma, and H₂O₂ spray, it can prevent generation of hazardous solid waste from PPEs. And because of its non-thermal nature of the treatment, the proposed unit has potential of sterilizing packed and unpacked food, currency, and other household items as well.

Railways Proposed To Decriminalise Begging

The Ministry of Railways put forth the proposal to decriminalise begging on trains or railway premises as part of an exercise to decriminalise or rationalise penalties under the provisions of the Railway Act, 1989. It also compounds the offence of smoking by imposing spot fine and dropping all charges or action against the person involved. In context to begging, the existing Section 144(2) of the Railway Act says that if any person begs in any railway carriage or upon a railway station, he shall be liable for punishment as provided under sub-section (1) that prescribes imprisonment for a term that may extend to one year, or with fine that may extend to ₹2,000, or with both. And the existing Section 167 of the Act regarding smoking says that no person in any compartment of a train shall, if objected to by any other passenger, smoke therein. Irrespective of any objections raised, the railway administration may prohibit smoking in any train or part of a train.

Assam expanded Kaziranga National Park

The Assam government has given a nod to expand the Kaziranga National Park by 3053 hectares, which will lead to growth of the Park and Tiger Reserve to 1085.53 sq km. Currently the core area of the Kaziranga National Park is 430 sq km. The extended area will be habitat corridors that will provide connectivity to Orang and Nameri National Parks across river Brahmaputra and to the hills of Karbi Anglong to the south of the park. Since these areas are encroachment-evicted areas so it is likely to reduce human-wildlife negative interactions, consolidating the wildlife areas to provide better wildlife conservation.

Andhra Pradesh topped Ease of Doing Business ranking – 2019

Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmla Sitharaman has announced the 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states in which Andhra Pradesh emerged as topper because of the state's investor friendly policy, less regulatory burden and early implementation of various schemes. It was followed by Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Gujarat to complete the top ten, while Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura crept as the bottom three states in this ranking. This Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 was a comprehensive plan that included 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas like Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.

Demise of Kesavananda Bharati

The chief pontiff (Pope) of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala, Carnatic and Hindustani vocalist, and master of Indian art and theater form Yakshagana, Kesavananda Bharati breathed his last on 6th September 2020. The follower of Smartha Bhagavatha tradition and the Advaita Vedanta school of Hindu philosophy, had filed a petition in 1970 in the Supreme court challenging the Kerala Government's attempts to acquire the Mutt's property via the Kerala Land Reforms Act of 1963 as amended in 1969. He protested that this action violated his fundamental right to religion (Article 25), freedom of religious denomination (Article 26), and right to property (Article 31) and on this the Apex Court delivered a landmark judgement that the basic structure of the Constitution cannot be altered. He took Sannyasa at the early age of 19 and headed the Edneer Mutt as the Peetadhipathi until his death.

CBT Of Indian Railways Will Begin In December

According to the latest announcement of the Ministry of Railways, conduction of computer based tests for notified vacancies will begin from 15th of December this year. Standard Operating Procedures for this conduction have been framed. It should be noted that Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) had notified a total of 1.40 lakh vacancies and had received more than 2.40 crore applications. Among them around 35,208 vacancies are for three types of posts of Non Technical Popular Categories viz. guards, office clerks and commercial clerks. Besides these, there are 1,663 vacancies for isolated and ministerial categories viz. steno and 1,03,769 vacancies for Level 1 vacancies such as track maintainers and pointsman.

Approval of Permanent Commission to Women in Indian Army

The Supreme Court of India gave a verdict that women can serve as permanently commissioned (PC) officers in 10 combat support arms and services of the Indian Army. Permanent Commission Selection Board for affected women officers will be scheduled as soon as all affected Short Service Commissioned (SSC) women officers will exercise their option and complete requisite documentation. It directed the government to permit women Army officers as PC and command postings in all services. With this, the women officers will now be entitled to serve till the age of retirement and will not be forced to look for alternative careers after 14 years.

Railway Board Is All Set For Restructuring

The government approved restructuring of the 115-year-old Railway Board. In this zero-cost exercise, money will be saved by surrendering posts in the board and stopping duplication of work. In this restructuring the Railway Board will get its first CEO, Vinod Kumar Yadav. As per the proposal cleared by the Cabinet in December 2019, the strength of the Board will be reduced from eight to five and with this Yadav as chairman and CEO, the board will have Pradeep Kumar as member (infrastructure), P C Sharma as member (traction and rolling stock), P S Mishra as member (operations and business development), and Manjula Rangarajan as member (finance). The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has approved all these posts. Earlier, the railway services were organised into departments like traffic, civil, mechanical, electrical, signal and telecom, stores, personnel, and accounts. This reform was recommended by various committees viz. Prakash Tandon Committee (1994), Rakesh Mohan Committee (2001), Sam Pitroda Committee (2012), and Bibek Debroy Committee (2015) in the past.

Aveek Sarkar : The New Chairman OF PTI

Country's premier news agency, Press Trust of India, chose Aveek Sarkar, the Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications, as its new Chairman. He has succeeded Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers. Aveek Sarkar earned graduation from University of Calcutta and was under the tutelage of the legendary editor of The Sunday Times, Sir Harold Evans. He was schooled in journalism by iconic figures like Edwin Taylor in design and Ian Jack in sub-editing. He is the founding Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books as well as founding Editor of Business Standard and also the pivotal figure behind the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Group in 2003.

India & THE World University Rankings 2021

The latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021 are out. In context to India, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore succeeded in maintaining its lead as the country's top institution in Rankings 2021. 14 more universities registered their presence this year and with this a record 63 Indian institutions have been listed in this list. In addition to this, India has more universities on the list than any other country or region. In the 301-350 band of the list among Indian institutions after IISc Bangalore, IIT Ropar and IIT Indore retained their second and third spots respectively. It is worth knowing that Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (Delhi), King George's Medical University (Lucknow), and the Mahatma Gandhi University (Delhi) ranked highest (601-800 band) made their debut this year. In terms of number, India was followed by the US (13), mainland China (10), Russia, Japan, and Iran (all 9), following a number of new entries. It is worth learning that France's Paris-Saclay University, formerly Paris-Sud University (joint 178th), was the highest ranked new entrant. There was also a first ever entrant from Botswana, the University of Botswana.

Approval Of Mission Karmayogi

In order to lay the foundation for capacity building of civil servants, the Union Cabinet approved the National Programme Services Capacity Building programme called "Mission Karmayogi". The mission will be launched with the institutional framework viz. Public Human Resource Council headed by the Prime Minister; Capacity Building Commission; Coordination Unit headed by the Cabinet secretary; Special Purpose Vehicle to own and operate digital assets; Coordination unit headed by a cabinet secretary. The programme will be delivered by an Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Karmayogi platform. The programme will emphasize on on-site learning; support transition from "rules based" to "roles based" human resource management; create an ecosystem of shared training infrastructure; calibrate civil service positions and strengthen Behavioural and Functional Domain Competencies of civil servants.

Pramod Chandra Mody Will Continue To Be Chairman of CBDT

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India (GoI), approved the extension of Pramod Chandra Mody as Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for 6 months with effect from September 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The 1982 batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre) officer was appointed to the post in February 2019 and his tenure ended on August 31, 2020. On August 2019, was re-appointed to the post for a year till August 31, 2020. Before getting appointed in place of Sushil Chandra, he was a member of administration of CBDT.

National Nutrition Week 2020- 1st September to 7th September

In order to increase awareness about the importance and role of nutrition in the human body, the nation is observing the annual event of National Nutrition Week (NNW) from 1st September to 7th September. The Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development(WCD), Government of India is organizing this programme. Launched in 1982, this National Nutrition Week is directly linked to human resource development, productivity and national growth. Besides this, the Central government launched the POSHAN Abhiyan with an aim to make India malnutrition free by 2022.

Kanpur's First City Metro Line

Kanpur of Uttar Pradesh will conceive its first city metro line via the European Investment Bank (EIB)'s 650 million euro(€) loan. The proposed metro line of Kanpur will be 32.4 km long with 18 elevated and 12 underground stations. This is EIB's second biggest operation outside the European Union(EU) till date after its €450 million investment in the Lucknow metro rail system. Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (UPMRC) is the promoter-Financial intermediary for this project. H.E. Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the EU to India; Andrew McDowell, Vice President of EIB; CS Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance (GOI) etc. were the witness of this agreement.

India's First Female & Oldest Cardiologist Passed Away

India's first female and oldest cardiologist, founder of All India Heart Foundation (AIHF) and National Heart Institute (NHI), New Delhi, Padma Awardee, Dr S Padmavati Sivaramakrishna Iyer died of COVID-19 at 103. She was the first female student to earn a medical degree at Rangoon Medical College, Rangoon and she also started India's first Doctorate of Medicine in Cardiology and other super specialities like the first coronary care unit and the first coronary care van in India. The "GodMother of Cardiology" had established the first cardiac clinic and catheterization laboratory (cath lab) at the Lady Hardinge Medical College in India (Delhi). She was the first and only person to head 3 major institutions viz. Maulana Azad Medical College, Lok Nayak Hospital and G.B.Pant hospital simultaneously. She was honored with Padma Bhushan(1967) and Padma Vibhushan (1992).

Inaugurations At RLB Central Agricultural University

PM Modi did the inaugural ceremony of College and Administration Buildings of Rani Lakshmi Bai (RLB) Central Agricultural University in Jhansi. The University has potential for improving the education infrastructure and contributing to cutting edge research in agriculture and further

farmer welfare. Started in 2014-15, this university runs Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. It is a prominent university in the Bundelkhand region and it has three affiliated colleges with students from 22 states.

The Upcoming Seva Saptah celebrations

On 17th September 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will turn 70 years old and in his honor, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to celebrate this auspicious occasion in the form of Seva Saptah from 14th to 20th September 2020. Following the covid -19 norms, in this duration the party will be distributing masks, sanitizers and medicines. Supporters will also be encouraged to hold blood donation camps.

Coal Has A Role To Play

The Union Minister of Coal and Mines Prahlad Joshi announced at a recent webinar that India is looking forward to 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030 via investments worth Rs 4 lakh crores. In order to reduce energy imports of the country, the government is promoting coal gasification and for this it has provided a concession of 20% on revenue share of coal that is used for gasification. In this process the coal will be converted into synthesis gas called Syngas. It is a mixture of Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen, Carbon Dioxide. It will be used in applications such as making fertilizers. Besides this, the government has been bringing in private firms to set up coal gasification units. This step will make India self-reliant in Urea. Apart from this Coal India is planning to invest Rs 1.22 lakh crores on 500 projects by 2023-24. The proposed investment will be done in two phases for 49 first mile connectivity projects. The project will employ computer-aided loading technology of coal in place of the existing methodology of transportation by road. The Coal India Limited has already identified 15 green field projects for the same.

Assam Will Conceive Skill University at Mangaldoi

The Assam Cabinet passed a resolution to erect a Skill University at Mangaldoi in Assam at an estimated expenditure of Rs 900 crores with financial assistance from Asian Development Bank. The proposed university will have a capacity of 10,000 seats in which around 80% of the seats will be reserved for students of Assam and 20% for North Eastern states. As per the announcements, People of Assam will be able to apply for Group III and Group IV exams up to 40 years and this will improve the opportunities of the unemployed. Apart from this 'Assam Heritage Protection and Preservation Bill' was also approved. For the completion of Dhansiri (a tributary of Brahmaputra that forms a boundary between the Karbi Anglong and Nagaland) irrigation project that was launched in 1975, an amount of Rs 116 crores was sanctioned to NABARD.

India Developed World's Largest Solar Tree

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-CMERI under the aegis of the Ministry of Science and Technology has developed the world's largest solar tree in Durgapur that has an annual capacity of generating 12,000 to 14,000 units of Clean and Green power. There are a total of 35 Solar PV panels in each tree that have been designed in such a way that maximum exposure of each Solar PhotoVoltaic Panel is achieved and each panel has a capacity of 330 watt-power. The Solar Trees can be employed in agriculture to substitute price-volatile fossil fuels and each solar tree worth Rs 7.5 lakhs has the potential of reducing ten to twelve tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. In addition to this, the surplus power from these trees can be fed to the energy grids. The Solar tree can also be incorporated with Internet of Things based features like wind speed, real-time humidity, rainfall prediction and soil analytics sensors.

The Latest Discovery of ARIES

Astronomers of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital discovered the aberration in the formations of the stars in dwarf galaxies that enhanced an understanding about the formation of stars and evolution of less massive galaxies in the Universe. They used Devasthal Fast Optical Telescope (DFOT)(based near Nainital) and Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) for this task. The rate of formation of these dwarf galaxies are slower than the rate of formation of massive galaxies and are at a mass normalised rate of about 10-100 times more than the milky way galaxy. These activities last for a few tens of million years, which is shorter than the age of these galaxies, which are a few billion years. Distribution of hydrogen in the form of isolated clouds, plumes and tails lead to collisions between two galaxies are the probable causes for this.

Demise Of Former President Pranab Mukherjee

The former President Pranab Mukherjee died at 84 due to multiple health issues. The Bharat Ratna awardee of 2019 had undergone an emergency surgery to remove a brain clot. He developed lung infection and his renal parameters were damaged. He was the senior leader of the Indian National Congress, who was nominated as the leader of Rajya Sabha in 1980. He served in the capacity of minister for various ministries. He was the Union Finance Minister between 1982-84 for the first time and second time between 2009 and 2012. He founded the Rashtriya Samajwadi Congress that later merged with the Congress in 1989. He was head of the Planning Commission in 1991 and had served as a foreign minister in 1995 when India was made the full dialogue partner of ASEAN as a part of the Look East Policy. He was Defence Minister when India and US inked the Indo-US Defence Framework deal in 2005. He became the 13th President

of India and served between 2012 and 2017. Several tax reforms were his credentials viz. scrapping the Commodities Transaction tax and the Fringe Benefits Tax; expansion of the funding of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission; expansion of National Highway Development Programme. The deceased also promulgated the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 that led to amendment of the Indian Penal Code.

One Rupee Penalty on Prashant Bhushan

The Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra imposed Re 1 a token penalty on activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan as punishment in a criminal contempt case. Bhushan in his tweet tagged an image of Chief Justice Bobde sitting astride a Harley-Davidson bike, and the Supreme Court's role in destruction of democracy and moreover he did not even apologize for the same. Scandalizing of court means undermining public confidence in the judiciary and so under Contempt of Court Act, 1971, it is a criminal contempt. If Bhushan fails to pay the fine, he shall be jailed three months and will also be debarred from practicing law for a period of three years.

India Withdrew From Kavkaz Exercise 2020

The Defence Ministry broke the news of withdrawal of India from multilateral military exercise 'Kavkaz 2020' which is scheduled from 15th to 26th September 2020 in the Astrakhan region in southern Russia on pretext of pandemic and consequent difficulties in exercise, including arrangements of logistics. Earlier, India planned to send around 150 Indian Army troops, 45 Indian Air Force personnel and a number of Navy officers in this exercise, which is also called as the War Games or the Caucasus or Caucasia is a region between Caspian Sea and the Black sea. Around 20 nations from Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Central Asia are expected to participate in this event.

The Fourth Global Ayurveda Summit

Vice-President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the fourth edition of Global Ayurveda Summit on "Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic" theme. The summit was on purpose to showcase the Ayurveda immunity model at the global level as a solution named 'Health as One' and 'Immunity through Ayurveda'. The event was jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry-Kerala in partnership with Ministry of Ayush, Ayurveda Medical Association of India (AMAI), Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers Organisation in India (AMMOI) and Ayurveda Hospital Management Association (AHMA). The event also got

support from the National Ayurvedic Medical Association (NAMA) in the United States (US), Association of Swiss Ayurveda Doctors and Therapists in Switzerland, Association for Ayurvedic Medicine in the Netherlands. Apart from this, India witnessed the last breath of Padma Shree awardee Ayurveda expert P R Krishnakumar. The deceased was Managing Director of Arya Vaidya Pharmacy and Chancellor of city-based Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, who died of Covid-19 at 69. Krishnakumar had set up an institute by the name AVP Research Foundation (AVPRF) to conduct clinical, literary, field and drug researches to train aspiring ayurvedic scholars. He also conceived and implemented a unique seven and a half year educational programme for Ayurveda totally free of cost which created a unique breed of Ayurveda scholars. He was well acknowledged with numerous prestigious awards like Dhanwanthari Puraskar (2016), Pathanjali Puraskar etc. for his rich contributions in the field of Ayurveda Education, Health and Community.

India's First i-ATS In Delhi

Under the government's flagship 'Make in India' initiative, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) developed indigenous signalling technology "i-ATS". This sub-system of the signalling better dubbed as Automatic Train Supervision is a computer based system, which manages train operations. This indigenously-built Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) based signalling technology for metro railway will reduce the dependence of Indian metros on foreign vendors (European countries and Japan) dealing with such technologies. The technology can work with Train Control & Signaling Systems of different suppliers as well as with different levels of technology of Train control and Signalling systems. It is apt for Indian Railways which is now introducing Centralized Train control, on a large scale, which uses part of ATS functions.

Titan Tied With SBI to Launch Titan Pay

Titan Company Limited has now partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to launch 'Titan Pay' feature that allows the users to make contactless payment. The new Titan watches with this new feature are available in the market at a starting price of Rs. 2,995 up to Rs 5,995. Under this collaboration, payments of up to Rs 2,000 can be made without entering a PIN. The payment will be powered by YONO SBI. According to the watch company, this will be the first time in India that such a facility is being extended. The users with an SBI account will be able to tap on the screen of their Titan Pay watch on contactless payment POS machines for successful

transactions. There will be no need for swiping or inserting any bank card as a secure certified Near-Field Communication (NFC) chip embedded in the watch strap by Tappy Technologies enables all the functionalities of a standard contactless SBI debit card.

Demise of Chanesh Ram Rathiya

Veteran Congress leader and former Chhattisgarh minister Chanesh Ram Rathiya died of Covid - 19 attack in Raigarh at 78. The deceased was a prominent tribal leader from north Chhattisgarh, was elected as an MLA for the first time in 1977 from Dharamjaigarh constituency in the then undivided Madhya Pradesh. He had subsequently won five more Assembly elections in a row from the same seat. He had been an Animal Husbandry Minister in the Digvijay Singh led-Congress government in erstwhile Madhya Pradesh as well as the Food And Civil Supplies Minister in the Ajit Jogi government (2000-2003) after the formation of Chhattisgarh in 2000.

India's first private Jet Terminal at New Delhi

The Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first exclusive private jet terminal at New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport, which will allow movement of 150 jets on a daily basis. The new terminal has the potential of catering Code C Aircrafts with more than 50 passengers in an hour. Spread over an area of eight lakh square feet, it is equipped with more than 57 dedicated Chartered aircraft parking bays. Built at an estimated expenditure of Rs 150 crores, it is meant to serve the growing ultra rich population of India with the net worth of 30 million USD. India's fleet of business jets are likely to expand more than 900% by 2033. Because of this there is a need to increase the number of private jet terminals in the country.

Why Did ONGC Leave Sudan?

African nation Sudan's refusal to pay for oil it lifted from the fields, led India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC)'s exit from Sudan oil fields. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) has announced withdrawal from the block. The facts reveal that OVL had a 25% stake in Block 2A&4 in Sudan. And Sudan failed to pay the OVL since 2011, for oil it bought from the block. Sudan's dues towards OVL stands around USD 430.69 million. Founded in 1965, OVL is the overseas investment arm of ONGC. It is a Miniratna Schedule "A" Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Government of India.

India: The New Observer of Djibouti Code of Conduct

India became an observer of Djibouti Code of Conduct, which is also known as the Jeddah Amendment. With this, it has joined the row of Norway, Japan, UK and US, which are other observers of Djibouti Code of Conduct. Djibouti Code of Conduct is a regional maritime security cooperation agreement formed by International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2008. Eritrea, Ethiopia, Egypt, Comoros, Jordan, Djibouti, Maldives, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Oman, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Seychelles, Somalia, UAE (United Arab Emirates), Yemen, United Republic of Tanzania are the member nations of this Djibouti Code of Conduct. The agreement is about investigation and prosecution of persons that are reasonably suspected to have committed piracy acts, robbery; interception and seizure of suspected ships and property aboard; rescue of persons, property and ships that are subjected to piracy and armed robbery; facilitation of proper care and treatment of seafarers, fishermen and passengers subjected to such acts etc.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Lok Sabha approved the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to amend Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The bill sought to deregulate food items, pulses, cereals and onion. The amendment authorized the Government of India to control, supply, production, distribution, trade and commerce of certain essential commodities like Fertilizers (Inorganic, organic or mixed), oils and edible oil seeds, raw jute and jute textiles, hank yarn made from cotton, Petroleum and Petroleum products, seeds of fruits and vegetables, and seeds of food crops, seeds of cattle fodder, Jute Seeds and cotton seeds. With this, the Central Government will now be able to regulate supply of the mentioned items under the so called extraordinary circumstances like famine, war, natural calamity and extraordinary price rise. The amendment has set conditions to impose stock limits to the essential commodities in events where there is 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce; 50% increase in retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items etc. However, the amendment is not applicable to food items that are covered in Public Distribution Systems. The amendment is expected to clear the coast for investment in the agriculture sector. It is worth knowing that recently the Government of India banned the export of all kinds of onions. Steady increase in the wholesale prices of onions and the high CPI value released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) were the reasons for the same.

Gujarat Again Topped in Providing Strong Ecosystem for Startups

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released a ranking of states and union territories in context to their contribution to development of ecosystems for startups. Gujarat emerged as the best performer among states. And among all the north-eastern states except Assam and all UTs leaving Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands have emerged as the best performers. A total of 22 states and 3 UTs participated in the exercise and they were classified in different categories. Among them Karnataka and Kerala emerged as Top performers; Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Chandigarh (Leaders); Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Nagaland (Aspiring Leaders) and Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim (Emerging Startup Ecosystems).

Sameer Kumar Khare : The New ADB Executive Director

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved appointment of Sameer Kumar Khare as the new Executive Director of Asian Development Bank. The appointee is 1989 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre , who will enjoy three-year tenure abroad. Currently Khare is Additional Secretary in the Union Finance Ministry. In the role of Executive Director of ADB, he will represent India along with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Aditya Puri : Lifetime Achievement Awardee

MD of HDFC Bank, Aditya Puri was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by Euromoney Awards of Excellence 2020 for his skills in building a world-class Indian bank at a time where there were no similar institutions in existence. This was a first-of-its kind recognition for an Indian corporate leader. He is said to have created a highly respected and trust-worthy brand via placing an unremitting focus on customers and creating value for all stakeholders. This recognition came just a month before his upcoming retirement.

Virat Kohli Became Brand Ambassador Of EdTech Major Great Learning

One of India's leading edtech companies for professional and higher education, Great Learning appointed Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. It is worth knowing that the venture, Great Learning, that has developed its programs in collaboration with the world's foremost academic institutions viz. Stanford University, MIT IDSS, IIT Madras, the University of Texas at Austin,

NUS, and Great Lakes Institute of Management, has so far delivered more than 30 million hours of transformational learning from more than 140 countries. It enhanced skills regarding technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Digital marketing and more. The captain of the Indian cricket team and the world's #1 batsman, Virat Kohli, as brand ambassador will lead the brand's latest 'Power Ahead' campaign, that highlights the significance of lifelong learning and showcases how high quality learning at the right time can help professionals and students power ahead in their careers.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020

In order to regulate assisted reproductive technology services across the length and breadth of the country as well as to ensure ethical practices, the central government introduced the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020, in Lok Sabha. Once the bill gets passed then registering of all fertility clinics and banks in India with a national registering authority will be mandatory. National and state boards will be set up to monitor all activities of such clinics. Age-based restrictions for both men and women will be a part of the service. Any woman above the age of marriage but less than 50 years and men, less than 55 years of age will be eligible to use this facility. And only married women with a child aged 3 years will be able to donate eggs for once in her lifetime. Assisted Reproductive Technology is about in vitro fertilization. The bill will ensure women's reproductive rights and protect the rights of the child by smoothening the process through standardization of protocols.

The New Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The government of India has introduced the new Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to empower RBI for restructuring of Cooperative banks. This bill has replaced the Banking Regulation Act of 1949 that authorized cooperative societies as well as the Reserve Bank of India to regulate the co-operative banks. Although the new regulation will bring all the cooperative banks under RBI, yet the existing powers of the state registrars of co-operative societies will remain intact. It is worth knowing that banking regulation is a type of government regulation that is framed to fetch the market transparency between the banking institutions and the concerned individuals and corporations. Formulation of certain requirements, restrictions, and guidelines are part of banking regulation.

International Bullion Exchange in India

International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Center (IGPC) signed Memorandum of Understanding at the Indian Institute of Management - Ahmedabad (IIMA), GIFT City Gandhinagar to provide consultation to facilitate the establishment of International Bullion Exchange(IBE) in India, which will be sponsored by World Gold Council. The independent think tank with in-house expertise in the area of gold markets, IGPC-IIMA shall be a knowledge partner for IFSCA to successfully roll out the IBE. IBE will strike a balance to reduce the current market inefficiency in the Indian bullion trade and will create a transparent platform for bullion trading. It will facilitate market development through higher degree compliance, traceability, and product innovation and will connect India to the rest of the world to address challenges that gold is supposed to bring to the economy.

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.



World Suicide Prevention Day

In order to create awareness about the mental health and prevent suicides globe observed World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 on “Working Together to Prevent Suicide” theme. It is worth knowing that suicide is 10th leading cause of death globally and over 1 million people die by suicide every year globally. International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and World Health Organisation are observing this day since 2003. Suicide is found to be more common in people above age 70, as well as in people in age group of 15-3. As far as India is concerned according to 2018 research by Public Health Foundation of India, India accounts for over one third of the world’s annual female suicides and around one fourth of male suicides. India shares 17.8% of global suicides.

The First India-Angola Joint Commission Meeting

India and Angola conducted their first joint commission meeting on September 8, 2020. They discussed various sectors viz. Food processing, agriculture, defence, pharmaceuticals, health, digitization and telecom and decided to expand their trade relation. Angola is important for India’s energy security as the country has rich oil resources and is the second largest crude oil supplier in the sub Saharan desert, after Nigeria. Presently GAIL imports LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) from Angola.

US Pleads Rescue of Iran wrestler Navid Afkari

The Trump administration of the USA urged Iran not to execute a popular wrestler Navid Afkari, who is said to have killed Hassan Torkaman, a water supply company employee in the southern city of Shiraz, following a 2018 anti-government protest over economic problems. The Judicial authorities of provincial court in Shiraz had pronounced capital punishment for this 27-yr-old wrestler. Besides him, the court ordered 54 and 27 years of imprisonment for his brothers Vahid Afkari and Habib Afkari respectively. The trio were construction workers. The verdicts prompted an outcry both in Iran and across the globe.

Death of Oscar Winning Czech Director Jiri Menzel

Director (film & theatre), writer and actor of Czech Republic, Jiri Menzel passed away at the age of 82 after combating serious health issues. His very first feature film, 'Closely Watched Trains', which was based on a 1965 novel by Bohumil Hrabal won an Academy Award (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language film in 1968. This film is a World War II drama. Besides Oscars, the film also fetched the Grand Prize at the 1966 Mannheim-Heidelberg International Filmfestival among others. 'Larks on a String' was his another film, which was initially banned by the Czechoslovakian government, later won the Golden Bear at the 40th Berlin International Film Festival. His lifetime artistic contribution won the Czech Lion for him from the Karlovy Vary festival as well as IIFA Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2013. He was also acknowledged with the Medal of Merit, the French Order of Arts and Literature and a score of other international awards.

The First World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) of ISA

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) organised the first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) on September 8, 2020. This virtual summit witnessed around 26,000 participants from 149 countries. The summit led to lengthy discussion on affordable and sustainable clean energy; Global Session of CEOs; vision 2030 and beyond; set up of a decarbonised Grid; disruptive solar technologies and solar beyond power sector. The objective of this Summit was to build common knowledge E-Portal; cultivate innovative financial mechanisms and decrease capital cost. It intended to formulate programmes that will promote solar applications, build capacity for absorption and promotion of solar technologies, facilitate research and development among member countries. The summit introduced 8 initiatives and guidelines including Solar Photovoltaic Technician Skill development initiative. There is a provision of Undergraduate Programme (UG) for small Island, Developing states and Least Developed Countries among others. Provision of bankable solar power and an action plan to develop 20 GW of solar parks were also presented in this summit.

International Literacy Day

In order to spread awareness about the importance of literacy, the globe celebrated International Literacy Day 2020 on "Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond" theme on 8th September 2020. It highlighted literacy learning as a life-long learning perspective and mainly focused on the role of educators and changing pedagogies besides youth and adults. UNESCO proclaimed this day at the 14th Session of UNESCO's General Conference on 26th October 1966. This day was celebrated for the first time in 1967. UNESCO's 'Global Monitoring Report on Education for All' (2006) reveals that South Asia has the lowest regional adult literacy

rate, at 58.6% because of severe poverty and the prejudice against women. It is disheartening to learn that still 773 million adults across the globe lack basic literacy skills. It is worth learning that literacy is also a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 4 (SDG 4) and UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On this occasion National Statistical Office (NSO) published a report on 'Household Social Consumption: Education' after surveying 1.13 lakh households across 8,000 villages and 6,000 urban blocks during 2017-18 for the age group of 7 or above. Kerala topped the list with a literacy rate of 96.2%, followed by Delhi (89%), Uttarakhand (87.6) and Assam (85.9%). On the other hand Andhra Pradesh crept at the bottom of the list with 66.4% literacy rate. Average literacy rate of the country is 77.7% and Karnataka and Telangana have a literacy rate lower than the national average. The national gap between male and female literacy rate was found to be 14.4% and the gap between the male and female literacy rate is lowest in Kerala i.e. 2.2%. The state has the lowest gap between the urban and rural literacy rates– 1.9%.

Bangladesh H C Favoured Hindu Widows

The single judge bench of Justice Miftah Uddin Choudhury of the High Court of Bangladesh gave a landmark judgement that Hindu widows are entitled to share in all properties of their deceased husbands. It confirmed the lower court's verdict of 2004 that had ruled that the widow had rights to all the properties of her husband. Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad General Secretary Rana Das Gupta called this verdict a landmark judgement for helpless Hindu widows. Before this, the Hindu widows were entitled only to the homestead property of their husbands. The inheritance rights of a woman on the property of her husband was guided by the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937 which restricted Hindu women of their property rights.

“Green Nudges” Programme Of UNEP

For adoption of environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) released a book titled “The Little Book of Green Nudges”. It is expected to inspire around 200 million students. The book recommends plant-based dishes like “spicy chickpea curry” for eating, use of smaller plates and no trays to discourage food waste in cafeterias, encouraging cycle parking and discouraging car parkings for boosting cycling, sharing of leftover food from meetings or events and making recycling bins eye-catching and easy to use and many more. It offers around 40 ready-made nudges which university campuses can deploy to encourage students and staff to embrace more sustainable behaviours. This book is said to be

UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which it drafted in collaboration with the Behavioural Insights Team and GRID-Arendal that intends to transform human actions.

Relocation of Japanese companies from China to India

The Japanese government has announced subsidies for Japanese companies that shift their manufacturing setup from China to India, Bangladesh and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Countries. The move has come up in the backdrop of disruption of the world's supply chain caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 which originated in China. Moreover China's increasing aggression in the South China Sea and its imposition of draconian national security law in Hong Kong are supplementary factors for this move. The countries are exiting from China to reduce their dependence on it with respect to trade or other procurements. In this series Japan too has begun to decentralise its supply chain by reducing its dependence on a particular country for medical and well as electronic components supply. It is worth knowing that the Japanese government has allocated 23.5 billion yen in the 2020 supplemental budget for the subsidy to encourage companies to disperse their manufacturing sites across the ASEAN region.

Tunisia Cabinet Won Parliament Confidence Vote

The Parliament of Tunisia has granted its vote of confidence to the new cabinet led by Prime Minister - designate Hichem Mechichi. The new cabinet got support of 134 deputies for forming the cabinet. It is worth remembering here that the country is witnessing the third cabinet since October and the ninth since the revolution that brought down the North African autocratic regime in 2011 and triggered Arab Spring uprisings in the region. The current PM, who was former interior minister and lawyer has promised to reduce tax evasion and support institutions affected by the coronavirus pandemic. His cabinet has 25 ministers and three secretaries of state that includes seven women and a blind man. It should also be noted that Mechichi was not nominated by any party but President Saied appointed him as premier in August 2020 after Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from the post on pretext of the allegations of a conflict of interest.

World Coconut Day

World Coconut Day is being celebrated on 2nd September mainly by countries of the Asia-Pacific region which have the world's most coconut growing production centres. Instituted in 2009, the day commemorates the formation of the Asian and the Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) that has headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia and highlights the significance of coconut in increasing health benefits and reducing poverty. With the view of encouraging investments and promoting the development of the coconut industry worldwide, the International Coconut

Community (ICC) celebrated this day on the “Invest in Coconut to save the world” theme. The 20- member ICC covers eight Asian countries (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Timor Leste) , nine Pacific countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu), one Caribbean country (Jamaica) one African country (Kenya) and one South American country (Guyana). In India, Coconut is grown in Kerala, Karnataka, Sundarbans, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Established in 1981, the Coconut Development Board (CCB) under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture looks into coconut production and utilisation in India.

India-Russia Naval drill “INDRA 2020”

India has started a two-day bilateral naval exercise with Russia, “INDRA 2020” in Andaman Sea near the strategic Strait of Malacca today. Three Russian Naval ships are participating in the exercise. Prior to this, in July 2020, Indian Navy held a PASSEX exercise with the US aircraft carrier USS Nimitz in the same area. More than 60,000 commercial vessels traverse every year through the Andaman waters and it is important for the Indian Navy to involve in such frequent naval drills with its close defence partners as the Chinese Naval presence in the region has increased recently in the name of anti-piracy patrols.

The Latest Accomplishment Of Lewis Hamilton

Formula One Champion Mercedes’ Lewis Hamilton won the 89th title of his career in the form of Belgian Grand Prix 2020 at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium. He won the Belgian Grand Prix for the fourth time and with this , in records, he has come at par with Jim Clark and Kimi Raikkonen in 3rd position in all time most wins of Belgian GP. But he is still behind Michael Schumacher, who won this title 6 times and Ayrton Senna who booked this title on his name for 5 times. This victory is Lewis Hamilton’s 5th victory in 7 races this year (2020). It is worth noting here that Lewis Hamilton holds the records for the all-time most- career points (3588), pole positions (93), podium finishes (157), most grand slams in a season (3) and the most points in a season.

Demise of Black Panther Star Chadwick Boseman

Hollywood star Chadwick Boseman, who came in limelight via his role as T’Challa in the film Black Panther (2018) of the Marvel Superhero Franchise died of colon cancer at 43 in the USA. He gave remarkable performances as Jackie Robinson in the sports drama “42” with Harrison

Ford in 2013, James Brown in Get on Up in 2014 and Thurgood Marshall, First African American Supreme Court Justice of the US in the movie Marshall in 2017. He also worked in the Marvel Film, Captain America: Civil War (2016) and acted in the films Avengers: Infinity War and Avengers: Endgame. He also worked in the film 21 bridges (2019) which he co-produced and Da 5 Bloods (2020). Ma Rainey's Black Bottom was his last film, which will be released posthumously on Netflix.

Indian-origin Noor Received Memorial Blue Plaque

Britain's World War II spy, Indian-origin woman Noor Inayat Khan (Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan or Nora Baker), who served in the Special Operations Executive (SOE) has been honored with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former family home in London, United Kingdom (UK) and with this she became the first Indian-origin woman to receive this honor. She was the first muslim war heroine of Britain and first female wireless operator, who was sent from the UK into Nazi-occupied France to help the French Resistance during World War II. Founded in 1866 and conferred by the English Heritage charity, London's Blue Plaque is presented to honour renowned people and organisations of the past. Book 'Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan' penned by Shrabani Basu is about her. Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and BR Ambedkar were also honored with this plaque in the past.

Retirement of Bryan Brothers

42-year-old, American doubles tennis players identical twins Robert Charles "Bob" Bryan and Michael Carl "Mike" Bryan, announced their retirement from the professional circuit of tennis. They made their grand slam debut in the 1995 US open and concluded their career with a 1108 – 359 team win-loss record. 8th September 2003 was a red letter day for the pair as it fetched the No.1 ranking in the ATP doubles ranking to them. The duo succeeded in securing and holding the top position of Men's doubles pair for a total of 438 weeks and 10 seasons during 2003, 2005-2007, 2009-2014. Further their list of accomplishments include 119 trophies that include 16 Grand Slams, 39 ATP Masters 1000s, 4 Nitto ATP Finals, the 2012 Olympic gold medal and 2007 Davis Cup triumph.

The India First Policy of Sri Lanka

The Foreign Secretary Jayanth Colombage of Sri Lanka informed that the Strategic Security Policy of Sri Lanka will have an "India First" approach. This will lead to a transition in its Geopolitical situations with China as China is trying to exercise dominance over the island nation for

its strategic location in the Indian Ocean Region. Currently China is constructing huge modern ports in the Indian Ocean and among them one such is located in Hambantota, Sri Lanka. It is worth noting that the location of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean Region has been of strategic geopolitical relevance which is well reflected in agreements like Maritime Agreement with USSR in 1962, British Defence and External Affairs Agreement in 1948 and Trincomalee was the major port of British Royal Navy during the Second world war.

Diplomat Mustapha Adib: The Next Likely PM Of Lebanon

Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib, having secured major political backing, will probably become the next PM of Lebanon. Four former prime ministers on the eve of binding consultations between the president and parliamentary blocs recommended Adib's name for the post. The French President Emmanuel Macron visited Lebanon to persuade Lebanese officials to formulate a new political pact to lift the country out of its multiple crises. It is worth noting that the Hassan Diab led government quit last month in the wake of an explosion in the capital Beirut.

Ishmael Toroama: The New President Of Bougainville

Former rebel military commander and leader of Bougainville (an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea) People's Alliance Party (BPAP) got elected as the President of Bougainville. He took the oath on 25th September 2020 and replaced the long serving President John Momis. This is the first General Election of Bougainville since its independence from Papua New Guinea in December 2019. He defeated 24 candidates with 48766 votes, under the preferential voting system. Toroama served as the commander of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and he played a key role in the Bougainville Peace Agreement which was signed in 2001 which played a major role in the disarmament process. In the elections, former cabinet minister of Papua New Guinea, Father Simon Dumarinu, grabbed the second place with 30,688 votes.

Retired Colonel Bah Ndaw : Interim President of the Republic of Mali

Former Mali Defence Minister and retired Colonel Bah Ndaw became the Interim President of the Republic of Mali and Colonel Assimi Goita has been appointed as Vice President. Both these appointments were made by a 17-member panel that was chosen by Junta to oversee an 18-month transition that will end in fresh elections. Bah Ndaw was head of the Malian Air Force and Defence Minister under the President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in 2014. Colonel Assimi Goita is the Chief of the Junta which threw away President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020.

International Day of Sign Languages

The United Nations observed International Day of Sign Languages on September 23, 2020 on 'Sign Languages are for Everyone' theme. The day commemorates the establishment of the World Federation of the Deaf. This day was first celebrated in 2018 along with the International Week of the Deaf which was started in 1958 by the World Federation of the Deaf. There are around 72 million deaf people worldwide, who use more than 300 sign languages. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006 to recognize and promote the use of sign languages and facilitate its learning. The convention has been ratified 177 times so far to end the discrimination against disabled persons. Goal 10 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is about the prevalence of disability in the world. It aims to scrape the inequality between the countries by empowering and promoting social, political and economic inclusion for all including the persons with disabilities. India ratified this convention in 2007. Indian government also launched the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan to make public places more accessible to disabled people.

World's first Commercial Hydrogen Aircraft

European multinational aerospace corporation, Airbus has designed and created the world's first commercial hydrogen powered aircraft. This aviation company launched three concepts for the first zero emission commercial aircraft viz. Turbofan design aircraft, that can accommodate 120 to 200 passengers and has potential of flying at a range of 2000 plus nautical miles; Turboprop design aircraft, that can accommodate up to 200 passengers and is capable of travelling at a speed of 1000 + nautical miles. They are apt for short haul trips and Blended wing body design aircraft that can accommodate maximum 200 passengers. In this model the wings merge with the main body of the aircraft. Although this hydrogen powered aircraft is more expensive than those that use fossil fuels, yet it is being used as hydrogen is a clean fuel and can avert anthropogenic climate change. It is worth knowing here that the world's largest hydrogen production Centre is the Fukushima hydrogen energy research field located in Japan. This aircraft will be deployed into service by 2035. Before this, the Russian manufacturer Tupolev had built a prototype called Tu-154. This was the first experimental aircraft that operated on liquid nitrogen.

The Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi won the Medical Education Prize of Ig Nobel Prize 2020 at the 30th First Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony on a virtual platform for "Using the Covid-19 pandemic to show the world that politicians can have more impacts on life and death than

scientists and doctors". With this, he has become the second Prime Minister from India to win this prize after Atal Bihari Vajpayee who won the 1998 Peace award for "Aggressively peaceful explosion of atomic bombs". Instituted in 1991 by Marc Abrahams with an aim to honour the achievements that make people laugh and then think, the award is presented by the magazine "Annals of Improbable Research", which is dedicated to scientific humors as a mockery of the standard academic journal. The award comprises a paper box trophy and a real fake 10 trillion-dollar bill from Zimbabwe. Prime Minister Modi shared this Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education with Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico, Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, Donald Trump of the USA, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan. Besides this, India and Pakistan have been awarded Ig Nobel Peace Prize for "having their diplomats surreptitiously ring each other's doorbells in the middle of the night, and then run away before anyone had a chance to answer the door."

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.

The 2020 Emmy Awards

Jimmy Kimmel from an empty Los Angeles Staples Center announced this year's Emmy Awards that recognises excellence within areas of television and emerging media. The list of winners include Succession (Outstanding Drama Series); Watchmen (Outstanding Limited Series); Schitt's Creek (Outstanding Comedy Series); Jeremy Strong, (Succession) (Best Actor – Drama) ; Zendaya, (Euphoria) (Best Actress – Drama); Eugene Levy (Schitt's Creek) (Best Actor – Comedy); Catherine O'Hara (Schitt's Creek) (Best Actress – Comedy); Mark Ruffalo (I Know

This Much Is True) (Best Actor – Limited Series or Movie); Regina King (Watchmen) (Best Actress – Limited Series or Movie); Andrij Parekh, (Succession) (Outstanding Director – Drama); RuPaul (Drag Race)(Outstanding Reality Host); The Last Dance (Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series); Jesse Armstrong, (Succession) (Outstanding Writing – Drama); The Apollo (Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Special). It is interesting to note that Popular sitcom Schitt’s Creek won maximum awards in a single season by a comedy series. He won seven Primetime awards and nine Emmys in the comedy categories. The family saga series Succession clinched five awards that also include best drama series at the 72nd Emmy Awards. Therefore a new record was set.

World Alzheimer’s Day & International Day Of Peace

Globe observed two international days on 21st September 2020 viz. World Alzheimer’s Day and International Day Of Peace. The theme of World Alzheimer’s Day for this year was ‘Let’s talk about dementia’ to raise awareness about the neurological condition, underlying causes, symptoms and its management. Alzheimer’s is a neurological disorder that causes problems of memory loss, thinking skills, and behaviour. Currently Dementia is one of the biggest global challenges as nearly 50 million people are living with dementia worldwide. International Day Of Peace, which is also known as the World Peace day was celebrated on the “Shaping Peace Together” theme. It was meant to encourage countries to create an environment of “24 hours of non-violence”.

India Will Build IT control Of World’s Largest Telescope

An IT company based in India, Tata Consultancy Services will design IT controls of the world’s largest radio telescope, which is an international initiative dubbed as ‘Square Kilometre Array (SKA)’. Several other leading Indian scientific Institutions viz. Raman Research Institute, Inter University Centre for astronomy and Astrophysics, Indian Institute of Astrophysics Bengaluru and many other IITs will also be contributing to the project under the cap of TCS’s National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA). Around 15 member countries are funding this project. The project has been set up in South Africa and Australia in the southern hemisphere as the Milky Way galaxy is the best visible from here. The project is meant to investigate cosmic magnetism, which is still a mystery to astronomers.

Demise of American Novelist Winston Groom,

The author of the novel Forrest Gump, Winston Groom passed away at the age of 77 at Alabama, United States of America. He penned Forrest Gump in 1985 and published it in 1986 and this

novel was adapted into a movie by Director Robert Zemeckis in 1994 starring Tom Hanks, Sally Field and Robin Wright that won 6 Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Director. He also wrote the follow-up of Forrest Gump in 1995 titled Gump and Co. Besides this, he also penned "Better Times Than These", "The Aviators", "The Generals" etc. Born in Washington, D.C, graduated from the University of Alabama, Winston served in the US Army in the Vietnam War.

Mexico : The First Nation That Issued \$890m SDG Bond

Mexico scripted the news headlines for issuing the groundbreaking seven-year Sovereign Sustainable Development Goal Bond worth USD 890 million. The Government of Mexico tied up with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to transfer the resources from private funds to provide financial aid for SDG-oriented programs. It is worth recalling here that this innovative bond was issued under the new "SDG Sovereign Bond Framework" developed with investment bank Natixis and the transaction reached a demand of USD 5,696 million, equivalent to 6.4 times the allocated amount. And around 267 global investment firms participated in the operation.

"A Promised Land" : The First Volume of Former President Obama

The first volume of the former President of the United States of America, Barack Obama's memoir "A Promised Land" will be released on 17th November 2020 by Crown, a division of Penguin Random House around the world in 25 languages viz. Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Czech, Finnish, Vietnamese etc. This memoir covers Obama's presidential campaign, his term in office and important events during his term. It also captures the personal journey of Michelle and Obama during his term as President. It presents his thoughts and ideas to solve the issues of the country and puts light on how to make the democracy of the US work for everyone. Barack Obama was the 44th President of the United States of America and the first African American President of the Harvard Law Review. "Of Thee I Sing" (children's book), "Change We Can Believe In", etc. were his other books. He was acknowledged with the Grammy awards under Best Spoken Word Album for Dreams From My Father in 2006 and The Audacity of Hope in 2008. He won the Nobel Peace Prize 2009 for his efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation.

Brucellosis: The Next Disease Within Great Wall Of China

The havoc of Corona is not yet over and China has begun to resonate with a new dis-ease, Brucellosis, also known as Malta fever, that has recently affected thousands of people in

Northwest of China. This too raised its hood after a leak from a Bio pharmaceutical company, veterinary Research Institute located in Gansu province of China. It happened when the company used expired sanitizers and disinfectants while producing the brucella animal vaccine. Contrary to the expectation, all the bacteria were not removed in the waste gas that was released into the atmosphere. Thus the contaminated waste gas containing the bacteria formed aerosols and leaked into the air by the wind. This Mediterranean fever is generally caused by direct contact with livestock carrying the bacteria called brucella. Fatigue, fever, muscle pain and headache are its symptoms and an advanced brucellosis causes chronic symptoms like swelling in certain organs or arthritis. According to the latest research of the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the human to human transmission of the disease is extremely rare and the disease is said to spread by breathing in the bacteria or by eating contaminated food.

International Coastal Clean-Up Day

Like every year, the International Coastal Clean-Up Day was celebrated on the third Saturday of the month of September i.e. on 19th on “Achieving a Trash free coastline” theme. The day encouraged people to clean beaches and remove garbage plaguing the beach. Established by the Ocean Conservancy organization, the day was initiated in 1986 by Linda Marnaniss and Kathy O Hara. India celebrated the day by adding an eco-label to its BEAMS programme. The programme is executed by the Integrated Coastal Zone Management project of India. In addition to this, India has recommended eight beaches to the Blue Flag certification.

G20 Global Initiative : Land Degradation & Coral Reef Programme

As a part of Sherpa Track (meetings of ministers on education, agriculture, climate, digital economy, anti-corruption, employment, energy, tourism, health, trade and investment) for the G20 Leaders Summit 2020, the G20 Environment Ministers Meet was held virtually on “Realizing opportunities of 21st century for all.” The meeting focussed on empowering people, creating conditions where all the people can live, work and thrive, safeguarding the planet through collective efforts and protecting global commons, shaping new frontiers and adopting long term bold strategies and emerging technologies. Besides these, Global initiative on reducing land degradation to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation within G20 member states under Sustainable Development Goals to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030 was launched. In addition to this a Coral Reef Programme was also introduced to give impetus to research and development in conserving, restoring coral reefs and protecting them from further degradation.

Resignation of Libyan Prime Minister

The Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Serraj will resign by the end of October 2020. Before proceeding with the news story, it is worth knowing that in 2015, the United Nations formed the Government of National Accord with Prime Minister Fayez Serraj as its head, that controls the Western parts of Libya from Tripoli. This United Nations backed government of national accord failed to provide stability to Libya. It has no security forces, no public administration and very few banks are functioning in this region. In addition, these regions are also facing a lot of water, petrol and power shortages. On the other hand the Libyan National Army backed Tobruk based Parliament governs the Eastern parts of Libya. Going deeper into the past, we learn that Libya has been experiencing intense turmoil and instability due to intervention of NATO forces in Libyan Civil war in 2011 that created a breeding space for Islamist groups and armed militias.

World Patient Safety Day

Globe observed the second edition of World Patient Safety Day on 17th September on 'Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety' theme to create a global awareness for patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer. The 72nd World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA 72.6 'Global action on patient safety' on 25 May 2019 and instituted this day which was observed on 17th September 2019 for the first time. Providing due recognition to health workers' dedication and hard work, particularly amid the current fight against COVID-19 and engaging multiple stakeholders and adopting multimodal strategies to improve the safety of health workers and patients are objectives of this observation.

Life In Clouds Of Venus

Using the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) in Hawaii, a team of researchers discovered a rare molecule 'phosphine (PH₃)' in the clouds of Venus that indicates the presence of microbial life in the atmosphere of our neighbouring planet. It is interesting to learn that according to National Geographic, phosphine can only be found in rocky planets like Earth and Venus and can only be made by living creatures (human or microbe). Besides this, it can be manufactured as well. It was used as a chemical weapon in World War 1. Venus has the same size as Earth and was earlier expected to offer a second home for humans in the solar system. However, this hope was marred by the earlier known fact that with a surface blazing at 900 degrees Fahrenheit and with clouds of sulfuric acid, Venus was said to be literally a hellhole.

IBSA Foreign Ministers Meet

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar presided over the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Foreign Ministers meet. The ministers committed on issues regarding peace, security, climate change, countering terrorism, multilateral trading system, non-proliferation, disarmament and South-South Cooperation. They also decided to renew their commitment towards the United Nations Security Council and extend cooperation towards African Union Peace and Security Council, United Nations, etc. They also encompassed Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration of African Union.

TikTok Will Merge with Oracle

Chinese Company, Byte Dance, which owns a popular video-sharing app called TikTok broke the news of its merger with US-based firm Oracle. The move came after Trump's administration asked it to either close its operation in the US or sell the company to a US-based company. The Trump administration in its probe found that TikTok had its database in China which posed a big threat to the privacy of the US people and federal employees in the US government as TikTok could manipulate the data and could use it in an evil manner. Besides this, TikTok was also trapped in a controversy where India banned its operation and app use in the entire country. Initially the Chinese company was looking to merge with Microsoft but now its merger with Oracle is final. The Chinese firm has submitted a proposal to the Treasury Department of the US which is awaiting final ratification related to security concerns.

China Launched Nine Satellites From Ship

Using a solid-propellant carrier rocket, the Long March 11-HY2, the 10th member of the Long March 11 family, China succeeded in launching nine satellites from a ship stationed in the Yellow Sea. The high-resolution Earth-observation nine satellites belong to the Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group. Each of the satellites weighs about 42 kgs and has been developed by Changguang Satellite Technology in Changchun, Jilin province. The satellites will provide remote-sensing services to users in agriculture, forestry, land resources and environmental protection.

International Day of Democracy 2020

In order to review the state of democracy in the world all UN member states observed International Day of Democracy 2020 on 15th September. An international organisation of national parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted the "Universal Declaration on Democracy" on 15th September, 1997. Seeking 'equal and inclusive world' was the theme of this year. Article 21(3) of this declaration linked democracy and human rights and it affirmed the

principles of democracy, the elements and exercise of democratic government and the international scope of democracy. In 1988 after the Philippines overthrew the 20-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon C, an International Conferences on New and Restored Democracies (ICNRD) was held.

Demise of Bill Gates Sr

94 year old William Henry Gates II, better known as Bill Gates Sr. died of Alzheimer's disease at his beach home on Hood Canal, in Seattle. He was an American attorney, philanthropist, civic leader, lawyer and father of Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, who founded the law firm Shidler McBroom & Gates. He played a vital role in establishing the world's largest philanthropy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He served as co-chair of the foundation that started in 2000.

CAREER FLITE



Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex, Hiranagar

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha and Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region(DoNER) laid the e-foundation stone of the Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex in Hiranagar, Kathua. The proposed Complex will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.23 crore under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) to provide the required infrastructure to promote sports culture in J&K. It is worth knowing here that the northern region is provided with Rs. 200 crores under the PMDP for the development of this sports complex.

Sports Ministry Extended Contracts Of Athletics Foreign Coaches

In view of the 2024 Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games 2022, the Sports Ministry decided to extend the contract of 9 foreign coaches and support personnel, including High Performance Director of athletics. It is to ensure consistent training for Olympic-bound athletes and keep their continuity with one coach intact for improving their performance as per the international standards. According to the Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju there exists a well-defined roadmap ahead for our athletes for the best of preparations for 2024 and 2028. The Sports Ministry and Athletics Federation of India consider language as a barrier with foreign coaches but this extension of contracts is likely to enhance the understanding between the coach and the athlete.

T20 cricket tournament Began In J&K

In order to resume different sports activities that were halted due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr G N Itoo of J&K inaugurated T20 cricket tournament at Kungamdora Pattan in presence of District Youth Services and Sports Officer. On this occasion Itoo mentioned that in the 'Back to Village- Phase 3' programme starting from 2nd October to 12th October 2020 attention will be focused on redressal of issues and grievances of the youth. It is worth knowing here that in phase I of this Back to Village programme, efforts were made to understand people's grievances and demands of every Panchayat of J&K. Phase-II was focused on the devolution of powers to panchayats understanding their functioning, grievances and demands.

The National Sports Day

Like every year, India celebrated National Sports Day on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand, who was born on August 29, 1905. Dubbed as “The Wizard”, Dhyan Chand performed the feat of scoring more than 1000 goals during his international career. He represented India in more than 185 matches and had scored more than 400 goals. He claimed three Olympic gold medals in the field of hockey in 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles) and 1936 (Berlin). He received the third highest civilian award, Padma Bhusha in 1956. On this occasion Rohit Sharma, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Manika Batra, Vinesh Phogat, Rani Rampal were presented Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. Besides this Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award and Dhyan Chand Award were also distributed. In addition to this, Adventure Awards were also presented in which Para swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohia of Madhya Pradesh became the first Divyang sportsperson of the country to receive this prestigious Adventure Award. It is good to learn that Lohia is also the first Asian Divyang swimmer, who crossed the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes.

Novak Djokovic disqualified From The US Open!

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic got disqualified from the US Open after striking a line judge with a ball during his fourth-round match. It happened when Djokovic went 5-6 down in the first set to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta when he hit a ball in the direction of the female official and it struck her in the throat. This shockingly marked a stunning end to his 29-match winning streak and bid for an 18th Grand Slam title. As a result of this incident Carreno Busta became the winner by default. Further, his departure implies that there is no male player left in the field who has won a Grand Slam singles title. Because of this now whoever will emerge as champion will be the first-time major trophy winner in men's tennis since 2014, when Marin Cilic won the US Open.

Demise of England all-rounder David Capel

Former Northamptonshire all-rounder and coach David Capel has died at the age of 57 after a long illness. Capel represented the county for 17 years, and also represented England at Test level and in one day internationals. He made 270 first-class appearances for Northamptonshire between 1981 and 1998, as well as played 300 List A matches, and in 1987, he succeeded in becoming the first Northamptonshire born cricketer to represent England at Test level since fellow local hero George Thompson 77 years earlier. He had scored 10,869 first-class runs and claimed 467 wickets for the club making his debut (as player number 331) against the touring Sri Lankans at Northampton in 1981. He served as coach from 2006 to 2012. The deceased was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Wantage Road earlier this year.

India & Russia: The Joint Winners of 2020 Online FIDE Chess Olympiad

The International Chess Federation (FIDE)'s president Arkady Dvorkovich decided to award the gold medal to Indian and Russian teams. The final of this Chess Olympiad was marred by internet disconnection on 30th August 2020. Initially Russia was declared the winner after two Indian players, Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh, lost out on time in the final after suffering a disconnection with the server. India appealed against the decision. And eventually the two countries were declared winners. It should be noted that this was the first occasion when India entered the finals of the FIDE Chess Olympiad.

CAREER FLITE



Current Affairs

1. National Seeds Corporation (NSC) signed an agreement for improving productivity of in the country.
(a) Flax (b) Squash (c) Pumpkin
(d) Dried coconut (e) Jute
2. A book titled 'One Arranged Murder' of will be released on September 28, 2020.
(a) Meghna Pant (b) Avalok Langer (c) Nidhi Dugar Kundalia
(d) Palash Krishna Mehrotra (e) Chetan Bhagat
3. Who among the following released a book on Cancer edited by noted Oncologist Dr Ashok Vaid?
(a) Jitendra Singh (b) Shripad Yasso Naik (c) Harsh Vardhan
(d) Harsimrat Kaur Badal (e) Prakash Javadekar
4. Which of the following ministries launched online registration and renewal of gold hallmarking ?
(a) Commerce and Industry
(b) Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(c) Corporate Affairs
(d) Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
(e) Mines
5. Bank tied up with Accenture to accelerate its digital transformation
(a) HDFC (b) ICICI (c) Axis
(d) Kotak Mahindra (e) RBL
6. The following Ministries signed a contract with TAAI & FICCI Ladies Organisation for Women's Economic Empowerment ?
(a) Health and Family Welfare (b) Education
(c) Social Justice and Empowerment (d) Tourism
(e) Women and Child Development

7. Bicycler Alexander Kristoff of won the opening stage of the annual multiple stage bicycle race, Tour de France.
(a) Denmark (b) Switzerland (c) Sweden
(d) Norway (e) Greenland
8. Mental Rehabilitation Health line KIRAN was launched by the Ministry of
(a) Health and Family Welfare (b) Home Affairs
(c) Social Justice and Empowerment (d) Science and Technology
(e) Women and Child Development
9. The Book “Delhi Riots 2020: the Untold Story” authored by and teachers of Delhi University was released.
(a) Amrita Pritam (b) Monika Arora (c) Jhumpa Lahiri
(d) Ruskin Bond (e) Vikram Seth
10. According to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), witnessed the highest fall of the national average of women’s share in NREGS
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Uttar Pradesh
11. A book titled 'Cricket Drona' on has been released on 2nd September 2020.
(a) Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe (b) Kapil Dev (c) Ravi Shastri
(d) Anil Kumble (e) Sachin Tendulkar
12. Which of the following collaborated with the Niti Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support women entrepreneurs across the country ?
(a) TCS (b) Infosys (c) HCL Technologies
(d) Wipro Limited (e) Tech Mahindra Ltd
13. Which of the following won the CII-GBC ‘National Energy Leader’ award ?
(a) Bengaluru International Airport, Bangalore.
(b) Anna International Airport, Chennai.
(c) Kolkata International Airport, Kolkata.
(d) Hyderabad International Airport, Hyderabad
(e) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai

14. According to NASA, the melting ice sheets could add inches to global sea level rise by 2100.
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20
(d) 25 (e) 30
15. A two-day naval exercise, 'PASSEX' between India and was conducted in September 2020.
(a) Australia (b) USA (c) Canada
(d) UK (e) New Zealand
16. Which of the following nations became the first nation to introduce a Climatic Financial Report for companies to tackle the climate crisis?
(a) Australia (b) USA (c) Canada
(d) UK (e) New Zealand
17. World First Aid Day 2020 was observed on September.
(a) 10th (b) 11th (c) 12th
(d) 13th (e) 14th
18. Which of the following will implement an alternative for paddy stubble utilisation ?
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Delhi
(d) Uttar Pradesh (e) Bihar
19. The Shipping Ministry launched a dispute redressal mechanism called Ports.
(a) SINDHU (b) SAROD (c) SAGAR
(d) RATNAKAR (e) PAYODHI
20. Which of the following IITs developed first-of-its-kind self-check Kiosk ?
(a) IIT Guwahati (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT Delhi
(d) IIT Bombay (e) IIT Kanpur



ANSWERS



- 1.(e) National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and Jute Corporation of India (JCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve the production and productivity of raw **Jute** in the country.
- 2.(e) A book titled ‘One Arranged Murder’ of **Chetan Bhagat** will be released on September 28, 2020. It portrays a murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage. It will be published by Westland Publications Ltd. This is Chetan’s 9th novel and 11th book overall.
- 3.(a) **Jitendra Singh** released a book “Gastric Cancer” on Cancer edited by noted Oncologist Dr Ashok Vaid. Vaid is a Noted Oncologist, who was awarded Padma Shri in 2009 for his outstanding work in the field of medicine.
- 4.(b) Ministry of **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** launched online registration and renewal of gold hallmarking. The online system can be accessed through the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) web portal – www.manakonline.in.
- 5.(e) **RBL** Bank tied up with Accenture to accelerate its digital transformation. The alliance will enable RBL Bank to offer next-generation banking services and improve its operational efficiency.
- 6.(d) Ministry of **Tourism** signed a contract with Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (FLO) for Women’s Economic Empowerment. As per contract to develop skills among women and to create digital awareness training will be imparted.
- 7.(d) Bicycler Alexander Kristoff of **Norway** won the opening stage of the annual multiple stage bicycle race, Tour de France. The Tour de France rolled out from the French Riviera city of Nice.

- 8.(c)** Mental Rehabilitation Health line KIRAN was launched by the Ministry of **Social Justice and Empowerment**. The helpline number “1800-599-0019” will help in providing psychological support, psychological crisis management etc.
- 9.(b)** The Book “Delhi Riots 2020: the Untold Story” authored by advocate **Monika Arora** and Sonali Chitalkar (political Science) and Prerna Malhotra (English) teachers of Delhi University was released. It was published by Garuda Prakashan. It is a 190-page book that presents the story of the three-day violence that affected North East Delhi in February 2020.
- 10.(a)** According to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), **Andhra Pradesh** witnessed the highest fall of the national average of women’s share in NREGS. The participation of women in the scheme in the state of AP was 60.5% in 2019 and has now declined to 56.47%.
- 11.(a)** A book titled 'Cricket Drona' on **Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe** has been released on 2nd September 2020. He played an important role in shaping the careers of India’s greatest cricketers like Gavaskar, Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma. The book is written by Vasudev's son and current national selector Jatin Paranjpe along with Cricket Journalist Anand Vasu and published by Penguin.
- 12.(e)** **Tech Mahindra Ltd** collaborated with the Niti Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support women entrepreneurs across the country. Tech Mahindra will provide mentorship, co-create solutions leveraging new-age technologies and support in developing a go-to-market strategy.
- 13.(d)** **Hyderabad International Airport, Hyderabad** won the ‘National Energy Leader’ and ‘Excellent Energy Efficient Unit’ awards of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC) at the 21st National Awards for ‘Excellence in Energy Management’. The award recognizes significant and innovative practices of the energy efficiency sector, for the energy-efficient and sustainable growth of the Indian industry.
- 14.(b)** According to NASA, the melting ice sheets could add **15** inches to global sea level rise by 2100. The gigantic ice caps contain enough frozen water to lift oceans 65 metres. Greenland and Antarctica’s ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 centimetres to global sea level rise by 2100.

- 15.(a)** A two-day naval exercise, 'PASSEX' between India and **Australia** was conducted in September 2020 in the Indian Ocean. It included various anti-aircraft drills, complex naval maneuvers, and helicopter operations. HMAS Hobart were deployed in the exercise by the Royal Australian Navy and Karmuk and Sahyadri ships from Indian side.
- 16.(e)** New Zealand became the first nation to introduce a Climatic Financial Report for companies to tackle the climate crisis. This new regime will be in the form of Compilation or Explanation based on the framework of Task Force on Climate related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). Other countries like Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Japan and the European Union are all working to form a Climate risk report.
- 17.(c)** World First Aid Day 2020 was observed on **12th** September by Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world. The theme for this year was 'First aid saves lives.' Established in 2000 by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), it is meant to encourage first aid training for everyone.
- 18.(b)** In order to curb Stubble (residue left out of the paddy and wheat field is normally burnt in the field itself) burning, which is the biggest problem in North India, the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) in association with the Government of **Punjab**, will implement an alternative for paddy stubble utilisation. PEDA has set up plants which will use the stubble for generation of power.
- 19.(b)** The Shipping Ministry launched a dispute redressal mechanism called 'Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes (**SAROD**)' ports. Established under Societies Registration Act, 1860, it is meant for timely resolution of disputes and enrichment of dispute resolution mechanism.
- 20.(a)** **IIT Guwahati** developed first-of-its-kind self-check Kiosk in collaboration with Workspace Metal Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Udaipur to check whether one is running a fever, low blood oxygen levels and, therefore, potentially has COVID-19 or any other viral or bacterial infection. The Kiosk costs from Rs 3.5 lakh to 7.5 lakh depending on the specification and features and checks whether one is safe to enter a particular premise or not within 30 seconds.