

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1



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### Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/Others
June 28 to July 4	World Allergy Week	Allergy care does not stop with COVID-19
July 1	National Doctor's Day (Birth & death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy)	Lessen the mortality of Covid-19
July 1	National Postal Worker Day	
July 1	Chartered Accountants Day or CA Day	Transforming the Future: Enabling Excellence, Augmenting Trust
July 2	World UFO Day	Recognized by World UFO Day Organization in 2001.
July 2	National Anisette Day	NA
July 2	World Sports Journalist Day	Marks the anniversary of International Sports Press Association
July 3	International Plastic Bag Free Day 2020	
July 4	Independence Day USA	NA
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of July	International Day of Cooperatives	Cooperatives For Climate Action
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, a zoonotic disease
July 7	World Chocolate Day	
July 10	National Fish Farmers Day	
July 6-10	2nd Counter-Terrorism Week	Observed by United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
July 11	World Population Day (Established by UNDP in 1989)	Putting the brakes on COVID19:How to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now



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July 12	World Malala Day	In 2013 first “Malala Day: An Education for All Children” was celebrated
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	Skills for a Resilient Youth in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond
July 15	Educational Development Day of Tamil Nadu	117th birth anniversary of K. Kamaraj (Received Bharat Ratna award in 1976)
July 17	World Day for International Criminal Justice	Anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute in 1998
July 17	World Emoji Day	Celebrated since 2014
July 17	World Crocodile Day	
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day	Declared by the United Nations in November 2009
July 20	International Chess Day	Teach someone how to play chess
July 22	Pi Approximation Day	
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of July	National Refreshment Day	
July 23	National Broadcasting Day	Firstever broadcast tookplace in 1927
July 24	National Thermal Engineer Day	Founded by Advanced Thermal Solutions, Inc(ATS) in July 2014
July 24	Income Tax Day/Aaykar Diwas	Celebrated Since 2010
July 25	World IVF Day	
July 26	21 <sup>st</sup> Kargil Vijay Diwas	
July 27	82 <sup>nd</sup> CRPF Raising Day	Came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	Hepatitis-free future
July 28	World Nature Conservation Day	
July 26	International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem	Adopted by UNESCO in 2015
July 29	International Tiger Day	Created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit
July 30	World day against trafficking in persons (Celebrated since 2013)	Committed To The Cause -Working On The Frontline To End Human Trafficking
July 30	International Day of Friendship	



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July 31	World Ranger Day	
June 28 – July 4	2020 World Allergy Week	Allergy care does not stop with COVID - 19
August 1	National Mountain Climbing Day	Established in honor of Bobby Matthews and Josh Madigan.
August 1	Muslim Women Rights Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Muslim Women Rights Day observed in 2020
August 1 – August 7	World Breastfeeding Week	Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet
August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	Campaign was first organised in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies
August 3	World Sanskrit Day	
August 6	Hiroshima Day	
August 7	National Handloom Day	To commemorate the Swadeshi Movement
August 8	Quit India Movement Day	Known as August Movement or August Kranti
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (World Tribal Day)	COVID-19 and indigenous people resilience
August 9	Nagasaki day	
August 10	World Bio-Fuel Day	Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat
August 10	World Lion Day	
August 11	National Son's and Daughter's Day	
August 12	International Youth Day	Youth Engagement for Global Action (1 <sup>st</sup> IYD was observed in 2000)
August 12	World Elephant Day	
August 13	International Left Handers Day	1 <sup>st</sup> observed in 1976 by Dean R. Campbell
August 13	Organ Donation Day	
August 14	Youm-e-Azadi or Pakistan Independence Day	
August 15	74 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day	
August 17	Indonesian Independence Day	
August 19	World Photography Day	



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August 19	World Humanitarian Day	
August 20	World Mosquito Day	Malaria
August 20	Sadbhavna Diwas	Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary
August 21	International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Online high-level event entitled "Not Forgotten: Stories of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism", was held
August 21	World Senior Citizen's Day	
August 22	Earth Overshoot Day	
August 22	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition 2020	
August 24	World Gujarati day	
August 26	Women's Equality Day	Celebrated in the United States
August 24 to 28	World Water Week (organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute)	Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action
August 26	International Dog Day	1 <sup>st</sup> National Dog Day in the US - 2004
August 29	National sports day	Celebrated for the first time in 2012
August 29	International Day against Nuclear Tests	Established on December 2, 2009
August 30	International Day of the Disappeared	It was first observed in 2011
August 30	National Small Industry Day	
September 1 to 7	National Nutrition Week	Events of NNW are organised by the Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
September 2	World Coconut Day (1 <sup>st</sup> celebrated in 2009)	Invest in Coconut to save the world
September 5	International Day of Charity	Declared by the United Nations General



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		Assembly in 2012
September 5	Teachers' Day	birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan
September 8	International Literacy Day (by UNESCO)	Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond
September 9	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	Established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly (1 <sup>st</sup> time in 2020)
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	Working together to prevent suicide
September 12	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	Pathways toward the SDGs through South-South solidarity beyond COVID-19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of September	World First Aid Day	Campaign is to promote the importance of first aid training in preventing injuries and saving lives.
September 14	Hindi Diwas	In 1949, the constituent assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language
September 15	Engineer's Day	Birth anniversary of Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.
September 15	International Day of Democracy	COVID-19: A Spotlight on Democracy
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer or World Ozone Day	Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection (It marks 35 years of the Vienna Convention)
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety (Slogan: Safe health workers, Safe patients)
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	First time in 2020
September 18	World Bamboo Day	BAMBOO NOW (established at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009 and declared by the Thai Royal Forest Department)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September	International Coastal CleanUp Day	
September 21	International Day of Peace	Shaping Peace Together
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Let's talk about dementia



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September 22	World Rhino Day	Five Rhino Species Together (World Wildlife Fund-South Africa announced the day in 2010)
September 22	World Car Free Day	NA
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	Sign Languages Are for Everyone
September 24	World Maritime Day	Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet
September 25	World Pharmacist Day	Transforming global health
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	Birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya.
September 26	World Environmental Health Day (Launched by the IFEH Council)	Environmental Health A Key Public Health Intervention in Disease Pandemic
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
September 26	World Contraception Day	
September 27	World Tourism Day (Since 1980)	Tourism and Rural Development
Last Sunday of September	World Deaf Day	Reaffirming Deaf People's Human Rights
4th Sunday of September	World Rivers Day	Day of Action for Rivers
4th Sunday of September	International Daughters Day	
September 28	World Rabies Day	End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to Information	Access to Information – Saving lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope
September 29	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet
September 29	World Heart Day	
September 30	International Translation Day	Finding the words for a world in crisis
Month of September - World Alzheimer's Month, National Nutrition Month		
Month of October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month		
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	Leave No One Behind
October 1	International Coffee Day	Launched First World Coffee Day in 2015 at



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		Milan
October 1	World vegetarian day	It was founded in 1977 by the North American Vegetarian Society
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	2020 marks 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
October 2	World Day for Farmed Animals	
October 4	World Animal Day	
October 4 - 10	World Space Week (In 1999, the United Nations declared as World Space Week)	In 2021, World Space Week celebrates Women in Space. 2020 - Satellites Improve Life
October 5	International Teachers Day	Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future
October 5	Ganga River Dolphin Day	Ganga Dolphins were declared national aquatic animals in 2010
First Monday of October	World Habitat Day	Housing For All — A Better Urban Future
October 2 to October 8	Wildlife Week	RoarR (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships
October 7	World Cotton Day	WCD was hosted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2019.
October 8	88th Anniversary of Indian Air Force	IAF was officially established on 8 October 1932
Second Thursday of October	World Sight Day	Hope In Sight
October 9	World Post Day	Anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Berne
Second Friday of October	World Egg Day	
Oct 09 to Oct 15	National Postal Week	9 <sup>th</sup> October - World Post Day; 10 <sup>th</sup> October - Banking Day; 12 <sup>th</sup> October - PLI Day; 13 <sup>th</sup> October - Philately Day; 14 <sup>th</sup> October - Business Development Day; 15 <sup>th</sup> October - Mails Day.



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October 9	IFS Day	Celebrated every year since 2011
October 10	National Postal Day	
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Mental Health for All: Greater Investment – Greater Access
October 10	World Migratory Bird Day	Celebrated bi-annually; Birds Connect Our World
October 10	World Day Against the Death Penalty	Access to counsel – A matter of life or death (Organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2003)
October 11	International Day of the Girl	My voice, our equal future
October 12	World Arthritis Day	It's in your hands, take action (Observed since 1996)
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	
October 13	National Philately Day	
October 14	World Standards Day	Protecting the planet with standards
October 14	International E-Waste Day	It has been developed by the WEEE Forum
October 15	Global Handwashing Day	Hand Hygiene for All
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19
October 16	World Food Day	Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all
October 20	World Statistics Day (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Connecting the world with data we can trust
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	Campaign - THAT'S OSTEOPOROSIS
October 20	International Chefs Day	Healthy Food for the Future
October 21	Police Commemoration Day	
October 21	Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day/ World Iodine Deficiency Day	
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back
October 23	World's Snow Leopard Day	





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October 24	United Nations' World Development Information Day	
October 24	United Nations Day	United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945
October 24	International Day of Diplomats	It was proposed by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K.
October 27 to November 2	Vigilance Awareness Week (Birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel)	Satark Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Your Window to the World (Commemorative day was chosen by UNESCO in 2005)
October 27	Infantry Day (74 <sup>th</sup> )	Celebrated by Indian Army
October 28	International Animation Day	Celebrated since 2005.
October 29	International Internet Day	
October 29	World Psoriasis Day	INFORMED
October 24-30	Disarmament Week	
October 31	National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas	The day was introduced in 2014. 2020 marks the 145th birth anniversary of Patel.
October 31	World Cities Day	Valuing our communities and cities
November - Lung Cancer Awareness Month		
November 1	World Vegan Day	Founding day of The Vegan Society in the United Kingdom
November 1	Army Aviation Corps	
November 2	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	Corps was raised as a separate formation on November 1 in 1986
First Wednesday in November	National Stress Awareness Day	Established by the International Stress Management Association
First week of November (Nov 2 to 6)	International Stress Awareness Week	Establishment of Stress Awareness Day was in 1998
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day	The day has been observed ever since its inception in December 2015
November 6	International Day for Preventing	



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	the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
November 8	World Urbanism Day (World Town Planning Day)	
November 9	National Legal Services Day	First observed in the country in the year 1995
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Science for and with Society in dealing with COVID-19
November 11	National Education Day or Rashtriya Shiksha Diwas	Birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
November 12	Public Service Broadcasting Day	
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	Every Breath Counts (Established in 2009)
November 13	World Kindness Day	Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness (Introduced in 1998)
November 14	World Diabetes Day (Created in 1991)	The Nurse and Diabetes
November 14	National Children’s Day	Tribute to India's First Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru
November 15	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	First Responders
November 16	National Press Day	Press Council of India started functioning on this day
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	United Nations marked the year of Tolerance in 1995
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of November	National Epilepsy Day	
November 17	International Students' Day	
November 18	National Naturopathy Day	Declared by the Ministry of AYUSH
November 19	World Toilet Day	Sustainable sanitation and climate change
November 19	International Men’s Day	Better health for men and boys
November 19	National Integration Day (Quami Ekta Divas in India)	2020 marks the 103rd birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi
November 19	Women's Entrepreneurship Day	



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November 20	World Children's Day (established in 1954)	Investing in our future means investing in our children
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of November	World Philosophy Day	It was first introduced by UNESCO in 2002.
November 20	Africa Industrialization Day	Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA and COVID-19 era
November 21	World Television Day	
November 21	World Fisheries Day	
November 18 to 24	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	United to preserve antimicrobials
November 24	Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur	Remembered as Shaheedi Divas every year
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!
November 16 to 22	59th National Pharmacy Week	Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals
November 23 to 27	Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020	Observed by Airports Authority of India
November 26	Constitution Day (National Law Day)	
November 26	National Milk Day	Birth anniversary of Verghese Kurien
November 27	National Organ Donation Day (11 <sup>th</sup> edition)	Tamil Nadu has been adjudged the best in organ donation in the country for the sixth consecutive year.
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	
December 1	World AIDS Day	Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: resilience and impact
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	It was commissioned by the United Nations General Assembly.
December 2	World Computer Literacy Day	It was originally founded by the Indian computer company NIIT.
December 2	National Pollution Control	



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December 3	Agricultural Education Day	Indian Council of Agricultural Research has designated as Agricultural Education Day
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Not all Disabilities are Visible
December 4	International Bank Day	
December 4	Indian Navy Day	Navy Week: Navy to Earth-2020
December 5	World Soil Day	Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
December 5	International Volunteer Day	Together We Can Through Volunteering
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day	Recognised by the UN system in 1996
December 7	International Armed Forces Flag Day	Celebrated since 1949
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day	United Against Corruption (It was first celebrated in the year 2005)
December 9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	UNGA was established in September 2015.
December 10	World Human Rights Day (It was established in 1950)	Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights
December 11	International Mountain Day (It was first celebrated in 2003)	Mountain biodiversity (2002 was declared as the UN International Year of Mountains)
December 11	UNICEF Day	The day was created in 1946.
December 12	International Universal Health Coverage Day	Health For All: PROTECT EVERYONE
December 12	International Day of Neutrality	It was first observed in 2017
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	The Act was first implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau
December 15	International Tea Day (It was first celebrated in 2015)	Harnessing Benefits for all From Field to Cup
December 17	International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers	
December 16	Vijay Diwas/Victory Day	Celebrated the 49th Vijay Diwas in 2020. The day observed in Bangladesh as Bijoy



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		Dibos
December 18	International Migrants Day	Reimagining Human Mobility
December 18	Minorities Rights Day	Celebrated by the National Commission for Minorities
December 18	World Arabic Language Day	Arabic Language Academies: Necessity or Luxury? (Established by the UNESCO)
December 19	Goa Liberation Day	
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	
December 22	National Mathematics Day	2020 ensures 133rd birth anniversary of Ramanujan
December 23	National Farmers Day	The day was first celebrated in 2001.
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day	The Sustainable Consumer
December 25	Good Governance Day	It was founded in 2014 to honour Mr Vajpayee
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	

### Important Banking News

#### RBI

#### RBI announces additional special liquidity facility of Rs 5000 cr each for NHB & NABARD

- RBI has decided to provide an additional standing liquidity facility (ASLF) of Rs 5,000 crore to National Housing Bank (NHB), over and above Rs10,000 crore already provided, for supporting housing finance companies (HFCs). The facility will be for a period of 1 year and will be charged at the RBI's repo rate.
- An ASLF of Rs 5,000 crore provided to NABARD for a period of 1 year at the RBI's policy repo rate for refinancing Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)- Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other smaller NBFCs of asset size of Rs 500 crore and less to support agriculture and allied activities and the rural non-farm sector.

#### RBI introduced ASISO facility to help banks manage liquidity in COVID-19 scenario

- RBI introduced an optional automated sweep-in and sweep- out (ASISO) facility in RBI's electronic platform e-Kuber to help banks manage liquidity amid COVID-19.
- Under the ASISO facility, banks will be able to set the amount (specific or range) that they wish to keep as balances in their current accounts with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), i.e. cash reserve ratio (CRR), at the end of the day.
- This facility will be available on all real-time gross settlement (RTGS) working days between 9 am and 11:30 pm.

#### RBI launches surveys on consumer confidence, inflation expectations

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the launch of the latest round of its surveys to capture consumer confidence and inflation expectations from households, which are useful inputs for monetary policy.
- The central bank has been regularly conducting the Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) and the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH).
- The results of these surveys "provide useful inputs for monetary policy", the RBI stated while announcing the launch of September 2020 round of CCS and IESH through two statements.
- The CCS survey seeks "qualitative responses" from households, regarding their sentiments on general economic situation, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending.
- The IESH survey aims to capture subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, of about 6,000 households, based on their individual consumption baskets, across 18 cities.

### RBI extended provisions of restructuring of MSME loans for borrowers with loan outstanding upto Rs 25 cr

- The Central Bank also extended the restructuring of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) debt until March 31, 2021 from December 31, 2020, on the condition that the borrower's account was classified as standard with the lender as on March 1, 2020.
- Also, the aggregate exposure, including non-fund based facilities, of banks and NBFCs to the borrower does not exceed Rs 25 crore as on March 1, 2020.

### RBI to set up innovation hub

- The Reserve Bank will set up an innovation hub aimed at roping in start-ups to come up with ideas for addressing issues related to financial inclusion and efficient banking services.
- The new innovation hub will encourage solutions in areas such as cyber security, data analytics and delivery platform.
- Six proposals were accepted under the sandbox, the pilot studies/trials of which have been delayed on account of the Covid-19 situation.

### RBI announces 'positive pay' feature to enhance safety of cheque payments

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce a mechanism of 'Positive Pay' for all cheques of value Rs 50,000 and above.
- Under the 'positive pay' system, a customer who issues the cheque clicks a picture of the cheque before handing it over to the beneficiary and uploads the same on the bank's mobile application.
- The limit of Rs 50,000 will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value.

### Offline Retail Payments Using Cards and Mobile Devices

- RBI permitted small value offline transactions through cards and mobile devices for single payments of up to Rs 200 on pilot basis till March 31, 2021. The scheme is aimed at encouraging customers to opt for digital payments even in those places where the internet connectivity is poor.

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- The upper limit of a payment transaction shall be Rs 200, although the total limit for offline transactions on an instrument will be Rs 2,000, at any point of time

### RBI to introduce online dispute resolution mechanism for digital payments

- RBI also mandated Payment System Operators (PSOs) to implement Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) as there is a concomitant increase in the number of disputes and grievances as digital transactions rise significantly.

### RBI permits banks to invest in debt instruments through mutual funds

- RBI has permitted banks to invest in debt instruments through mutual funds or exchange traded funds without allocating additional charges.
- As per RBI's extant Basel III guidelines, if a bank holds a debt instrument directly, it would have to allocate lower capital as compared to holding the same debt instrument through a mutual fund- or exchange traded fund.
- The RBI Governor stated the general market risk charge of 9 per cent will apply on both direct holdings, as well as through mutual funds or ETFs.

### RBI to implement system-based asset classification in urban co-operative banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to implement system-based asset classification in urban co-operative banks (UCBs), prescribing a timeline based on their asset size.
- The RBI stated UCBs having total assets of Rs.2,000 crore or above as on March 31, 2020, have to implement system-based asset classification with effect from June 30, 2021.
- UCBs having total assets of Rs.1,000 crore or above but less than Rs.2,000 crore as on March 31, 2020, and having self-assessed themselves as being under Level III or Level IV in terms of the Comprehensive Cyber Security Framework for UCBs, have to implement system-based asset classification with effect from September 30, 2021.

### RBI Tightens Norms for Core Investment Companies; Formation of Group Risk Management Committee Mandated

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the guidelines applicable for Core Investment Companies (CICs) on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group (WG) to Review the Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies (CICs), constituted under the Chairmanship of Tapan Ray.

#### Key points:

CICs with assets of over Rs 5,000 crore will have to appoint a chief risk officer (CRO).

While computing Adjusted Net Worth (ANW), the amount representing any direct or indirect capital contribution made by one CIC in another CIC, which exceeds 10% of owned funds of the investing CIC, shall be deducted.

### RBI Board approves transfer of Rs 57,128 cr as surplus to central govt

- The RBI Board has approved the transfer of 57,128 crore rupees as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2019-20.
- In a statement, RBI has informed that it has also decided to maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5 percent.
- These decisions were taken at the 584th meeting of RBI's Central Board.



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### RBI releases framework for pan-India entity for retail payments

- Reserve Bank of India has unveiled the framework for setting up of pan-India Umbrella Entity for Retail Payments. As per the framework, the companies with a net worth of over 500 crore rupees will be eligible to set up an umbrella entity.
- The entity will be expected to monitor national as well as international developments so as to avoid shocks and frauds that may adversely affect the system and the economy in general.
- Inviting applications by February 2021, the RBI stated that the promoter/promoter group of the umbrella entity shall be owned and controlled by resident Indian citizens.

### RBI releases guidelines for forming self-regulatory organisation in payments

- A recognised Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for Payment System Operators (PSOs) has to work towards establishing minimum benchmarks, standards and help instil professional and healthy market behaviour among its members, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- As per RBI's "Draft framework for recognition of a SRO for PSOs", such an SRO shall promptly inform Reserve Bank about any violation of the provisions of the Payments and Settlement Systems Act that comes to its notice or any other regulation issued by RBI.
- The SRO, which will serve as a two-way communication channel between its members and Reserve Bank, will investigate any matter referred to by RBI. It shall establish a uniform grievance redressal and dispute management framework across its members.
- The SRO shall impart training to the staff of its members and others. It shall conduct awareness programmes for spreading safe digital transactions.
- An SRO is a non-governmental organisation that sets and enforces rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry (members) with the aim of protecting the customer and promoting ethics, equality, and professionalism.

### RBI unveils 5-year national strategy for financial education

- The Reserve Bank of India released a national strategy for financial education to be implemented in the next five years. The central bank stated the multi-stakeholder led approach is aimed at creating a financially aware and empowered India.
- To achieve these strategic objectives, the document recommends adoption of a '**5 C**' approach for dissemination of financial education through emphasis on development of relevant **Content** (including curriculum in schools, colleges and training establishments), developing **Capacity** among the intermediaries involved in providing financial services, leveraging on the positive effect of **Community** led model for financial literacy through appropriate **Communication** Strategy, and lastly, enhancing **Collaboration** among various stakeholders.
- The strategy also suggests adoption of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the progress made.



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### Highlights of RBI Annual Report 2019-20; India's Growth Projected at -4.5%

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Annual Report for 2019-20.
- In the report, RBI projected that India's growth at minus 4.5% for 2020-21. It will be (-) 3.7% in the single hit scenario and (-) 7.3% in the double hit scenario in FY2020-21.
- On the global front, the growth is projected at (-) 6.0% in the single hit scenario and (-) 7.6% in the double hit scenario in FY20-21.

### Balance Sheet of RBI:

- The RBI's balance sheet increased by 30%, or Rs 12,31,888 crore, from Rs 41,02,905 crore to Rs 53,34,793 crore.
- The gross total income for the year 2019-20 declined by 29% to Rs 149,672 crore as compared to Rs 193,036 crore in 2018-19.
- Its expenditure for the year 2019-20 is Rs 92,540 crore compared to an expenditure of Rs 17,045 crore in 2018-19.

### Bank frauds more than double in FY20 to Rs 1.85 trillion

- As per the RBI annual report FY19-20, bank frauds of Rs100,000 and above have more than doubled in value to Rs 1.85 trillion in FY20, with the number of such cases increasing 28% in the same period.
- The top 50 credit-related frauds constituted 76% of the total amount reported as frauds.
- Public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for 80% of the Rs 1.85 trillion reported as frauds in FY20, followed by private sector banks at 18%. Frauds in loans constituted 98% of the total frauds or at Rs 1.82 trillion.

### Setting up GST Council type authorities for land, labour, power

The Reserve Bank suggested setting up GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council type apex authorities for land, labour and power to drive structural reforms and expedite implementation of national infrastructure pipeline.

### RBI to dissolve Banking Codes and Standards Board of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to dissolve the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI).
- BCSBI was set up by the Reserve Bank in February 2006.
- The Reserve Bank has since set up CEPD (Consumer Education and Protection Department), issued the Charter of Customer Rights (CoCR), and considerably strengthened the Ombudsman mechanism to enhance consumer protection.
- CEPD acts as the single nodal point for receipt and disposal of all external complaints on deficiency of services provided by the Reserve Bank of India and the Reserve Bank-regulated entities.

### Integration of three existing Ombudsman schemes into one

- RBI will be implementing the recommendations of an in-house committee for integrating three existing Ombudsman schemes – Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006; Ombudsman Scheme for NBFCs, 2018; and Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 – into one scheme.

### RBI announces OMO worth Rs.20,000 crore to tame G-Sec yields

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- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities (G-Secs) under open market operation (OMO) for Rs.10,000 crore, in a bid to tame G-Sec yields, which jumped almost 24 basis points in the last six trading sessions.
- This announcement seems to have had the intended effect, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year G-Sec immediately softening about 5 basis points. One basis point is equal to one-hundredth of a percentage point.

### RBI committee recommends multiple interoperable QR codes

- A committee headed by Prof. Deepak B Phatak set up by the Reserve Bank of India to review the **Quick Response (QR) Code** has recommended that payment system providers should make these codes interoperable.
- According to the recommendations of the committee, there should be multiple interoperable QR codes to drive the acceptance infrastructure. The committee stated that there should be multiple **QR codes** like Bharat QR Code and UPI QR to enable faster on-boarding of all types of merchants for digital payments.

### RBI signs \$400 mn currency swap facility for Sri Lanka

- The Reserve Bank of India has agreed to a **\$400 million** currency swap facility for Sri Lanka till **November 2022**, the Indian High Commission tweeted.
- **Currency swaps** are used to obtain foreign currency loans at a better interest rate than could be got by borrowing directly in a foreign market.
- Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in the region, India had proposed a virtual meeting to discuss the request. Sri Lanka **owes \$960 million** to India.

### RBI launches inflation expectations survey; to gather responses over telephone amid pandemic

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched **the inflation expectations survey of households** and responses of the participants will be gathered over telephone in view of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **The July 2020 round** of the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households has been launched. • The survey aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, of **approximately 6,000 households**, based on their individual consumption baskets, **across 18 cities**.

### Gross NPA of banks may rise to 12.5% by March 2021: RBI Financial Stability Report

- In accordance with the 21st issue of Financial Stability Report (FSR), July 2020 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the gross nonperforming assets (GNPA) ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5% in March 2020 to 12.5% by March 2021 under the baseline scenario; the ratio may escalate to 14.7% under a very severely stressed scenario.

### RBI conducted OMO of purchase and sale of G-secs for Rs 10,000 cr each; Borrowing facility to banks extended till Sept 30, 2020

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the simultaneous purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs), maturing between 2027 and 2033, and sale of 182 day and 364 day treasury bills (DTBs) under Open Market Operations (OMO)

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for Rs 10,000 crore each. This OMO is a part of “Operation Twist” to ease pressure evolving liquidity and market conditions.

### FDI Up by \$19 bn in FY20; Portfolio Investment Down by \$13.7 bn: IIP Data Released by RBI

In accordance with the India’s International Investment Position (IIP) data as at end-March 2020, released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country has raised by \$19 billion while portfolio investment declined by \$13.7 billion during 2019-20.

### RBI to set up Rs.500-cr fund to expand payment infrastructure

- **Reserve Bank of India** announced the creation of a **Rs.500 crore Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)** to encourage deployment of **Point of Sale (PoS)** infrastructure (both physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and the North-East.

### RBI bars People's Co-operative Bank from granting fresh loans, accepting deposits for 6 months

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** barred **Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank** from **granting fresh loans and accepting deposits for six months**, due to its weak financial position.
- These directions will remain in force for **six months** from the close of business on June 10.
- The bank will continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till its financial position improves

### RBI constitutes Internal Working Group to review structure of pvt sector banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has constituted a **five-member Internal Working Group** to review the guidelines related to **ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks**. RBI informed that RBI Central Board Director **P K Mohanty** will head the committee, which will submit its report by 30th September, 2020.

### RBI proposes upper age limit of 70 years for CEOs, whole-time directors of banks

- The RBI has proposed an **upper age limit of 70 years** for **CEOs and whole-time directors** of banks and a **maximum term of 10 years** for those belonging to the promoter group, as part of the exercise to improve governance in the banking sector.

### RBI proposes to increase minimum Net Owned Fund size of HFCs

- The **Reserve Bank** proposed to increase the **minimum Net Owned Fund size** of Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). The proposal comes as part of a draft regulatory framework which will be applicable to HFCs.
- The Bank proposes to increase the minimum NOF for HFCs from the current requirement of **Rs 10 crore to Rs 20 crore**, the draft regulatory framework stated.
- In other words, non-deposit taking HFCs (HFC-ND) with asset size of **Rs 500 crore and above**; HFCs with asset size below Rs 500 crore will be treated as **non-systemically important HFCs (HFC-non-SI)**.

### RBI increases PMC account withdrawal limit to Rs 1 lakh, extends restrictions by 6 months

- The **Reserve Bank of India** increased the withdrawal limit for depositors at the crisis-hit **Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC Bank)** to **Rs 1 lakh** from **Rs 50,000**.

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- The apex bank also extended the restrictions by another **six months** to **December 23, 2020**, as the resolution process of the lender has been affected by the COVID 19-induced lockdown.

### Reserve Bank of India extends enhanced borrowing limit to banks under MSF till Sept 30

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend the **enhanced borrowing facility** provided to the banks to meet their liquidity shortages till **September 30**.
- The RBI, as a temporary measure, had increased the borrowing limit of scheduled banks under the marginal standing facility (MSF) scheme from **2 per cent to 3 per cent** of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) with effect from March 27, 2020.
- The marginal standing facility rate currently stands at **4.25 per cent**. The RBI has also extended the relaxation on the minimum daily maintenance of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 80 per cent for a further period of three months till September 25, 2020.

### RBI Extends Rs 50,000 Crores Special Liquidity Window for YES Bank by 3 months

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended a special liquidity window for Rs 50,000 crores to Yes Bank for three months, to help private lenders cover for shortfall in deposits.

### RBI Releases New Framework For Financial Market Infra, Retail Payment System; NPCI & NEFT classified as FMI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made some changes to the monitoring structure of Financial Markets Infrastructure (FMI) and Retail Payment Systems (RPSs) with the aim to ensure the security and stability of the payment structure.

### RBI moots comprehensive norms for sale of loans

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed a comprehensive set of norms for sale of loans by banks which could be either **standard or sub-standard**.
- The revised guidelines include the recommendations of the Committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitisation Market in India chaired by Dr. Harsh Vardhan and the Task Force on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans chaired by Thothala Narayanaswamy Manoharan, which were set up by the Reserve Bank in May, 2019.

### RBI extends benefits under SLF-MF to all banks

- The **RBI** allowed **regulatory benefits** to banks meeting the liquidity needs of mutual funds without using **RBI's Special Liquidity Facility for MFs (SLF-MFs)**.
- RBI opened a special liquidity facility of **Rs 50,000 crore** to ease the liquidity strain on mutual funds, which had intensified due to redemption pressures sparked by the closure of some debt schemes.

### RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based CKP Cooperative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based **CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd**. The licence of CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd has been cancelled with effect from the close of business on **April 30, 2020**, as the bank's financial position had worsened.

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- The central bank has maintained that the CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd was not in a position to pay its present and future depositors due to its financial instability.

### RBI extends moratorium for 3 more months

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the moratorium on term loans and deferment of interest on working capital facilities by **three more** months to **August 31, 2020**. The three month moratorium and deferment was to come to an end on May 31.
- The RBI also stated the deferred interest on the working capital facility can be converted into funded interest on term loan, repayable by March 31, 2021.
- RBI has increased the single borrower exposure limit for banks to **25 per cent** of their capital funds

### RBI extends Rs.15,000 crore credit line for EXIM Banks

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** decided to extend a **Rs.15,000 crore** line of credit to the Export-Import Bank of India (**EXIM Bank**) for **90 days** to meet its foreign currency resource requirements.
- The line of credit for EXIM Bank comes with a rollover of up to one year to enable it to avail a US dollar swap facility.

### RBI imposes penalty on 3 lenders

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, stated it has imposed a monetary penalty on **Bank of India** (Rs.5 crore), **Karnataka Bank** (Rs.1.20 crore) and **Saraswat Co-operative Bank** (Rs.30 lakh).
- The central bank has imposed the penalty on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions issued by it on 'Income Recognition, Asset Classification (IRAC) and provisioning pertaining to advances - Divergence in NPA (non-performing asset) accounts', 'opening of current accounts by banks – Need for discipline', and 'classification and reporting of frauds.'

### RBI imposes Rs.4 crore penalty on Citibank

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty** of **Rs.4 crore** on **Citibank** for non-compliance of no-objection certificate (NOC) norms at the time of opening current accounts.
- RBI had imposed a fine of Rs.6.5 crore on three banks, Bank of India, Karnataka Bank and Saraswat Co-operative Bank. While Bank of India (BoI) was fined Rs.5 crore, Karnataka Bank and Saraswat Co-operative Bank were fined Rs.1.2 crore and Rs.30 lakh, respectively.

### RBI raises WMA limit for H1FY21 to Rs1.20-lakh crore

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has upped the **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** limit for the first half of the financial year 2020-21 (April 2020 to September 2020) to **Rs 1.20-lakh crore** from **Rs 75,000 crore** in the year-ago period.
- The RBI stated it may float fresh market loans when the government utilises 75 per cent of the WMA limit.
- The interest rate on the WMA is the repo rate, which is currently **4.40 per cent**. The interest rate on the overdraft is 2 per cent over the repo rate or 6.40 per cent.

### RBI announces more measures to deal with economic fallout of Covid-19



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- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced more measures, including extension of period for realisation and repatriation of export proceeds, to deal with the economic fallout of Covid-19 pandemic.
- It also increased ways and means advances (WMA) limit by 30 per cent from existing limit for all states and union territories. Time period for realization and repatriation of export proceeds for exports made up to or on July 31, 2020, has been extended to 15 months from the date of export.

### RBI announces more measures to foster orderly market conditions

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will conduct additional special open market operations involving the simultaneous **purchase and sale of government securities** for **Rs 20,000 crore** in two tranches of Rs 10,000 crore each.
- The RBI will conduct **term repo operations** for an aggregate amount of **Rs one lakh crore at floating rates** (that is at the prevailing repo rate) in mid-September to assuage pressures on the market on account of advance tax outflows.
- Currently, banks are required to **maintain 18 per cent** of their **net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) securities**. The extant limit for investments that can be held in **held for trading (HTM) category** is **25 per cent** of total investment.

### RBI Issues Revised PSL Guidelines to Increase Credit Penetration

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised guidelines for priority sector lending to enable better credit penetration to credit deficient areas and increase lending to small and marginal farmers besides weaker sections.
- The RBI stated bank finance to start-ups up to Rs 50 crore, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps, and loans for setting up compressed bio-gas (CBG) plants have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.

### RBI revises PSL guidelines; Bank loans to start-ups to get priority sector tag

- **Reserve Bank of India** has revised **Priority Sector Lending guidelines**. RBI stated the move is aimed at addressing regional disparities in the flow of priority sector credit.
- Bank finance to start-ups up to **50 crore rupees**, loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid connected agriculture pumps and loans for setting up Compressed Bio Gas plants have been included as fresh categories eligible for finance under priority sector.

### Kamath committee identifies 26 sectors for loan restructuring

- **Reserve Bank of India** released the **K V Kamath-led Committee report**, which had recommended financial parameters to be factored in the resolution plans under the '**Resolution Framework for Covid19-related Stress**' along with sector specific benchmark ranges for such parameters.
- The RBI had formed a **five-member committee** under the chairmanship of **Kamath** to make recommendations on the financial parameters to be considered for the one-time restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Other members of the committee are former State Bank of India executive **Diwakar Gupta**, current Canara Bank chairman **TN Manoharan**, consultant **Ashvin Parekh** and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) CEO **Sunil Mehta** who was also a secretary to the committee.

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### RBI issues guidelines for appointment of CCO in banks

- **Reserve Bank of India** has issued guidelines for appointment of **Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)** in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry.
- Accordingly, RBI has stated that the CCO must be appointed for a minimum fixed period of **three years**. The person should be a **senior executive** of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position or he could also be recruited from outside.

### RBI mandates automated recognition of NPAs, provisioning by June 2021

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** mandated the automation of bad-loan recognition by banks by **June 30, 2021**.
- Banks had earlier been advised to have appropriate **information technology (IT) systems** in place for **identification of non-performing assets (NPA)** and **generation of related data/returns**, both for regulatory reporting and banks' own management information system (MIS) requirements.

### RBI suggests five-pillared approach to deal with cybersecurity issues in UCBs

- The **Reserve Bank** came out with a **five-pillared strategic approach 'GUARD'** to deal with **cyber security** threats being faced by **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**.
- The RBI stated in its document '**Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Cooperative Banks 2020-2023**' that the number, frequency and impact of cyber incidents and attacks have increased manifold in the recent past, more so in the case of the financial sector, including UCBs.

### RBI approves 3-member committee of directors to manage Lakshmi Vilas Bank

- **Reserve Bank of India** has approved appointment of **three-member Committee of Directors (CoD)** to run the daily affairs of debt-ridden **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)**.
- The RBI appointed the CoD composed of three independent directors **Meeta Makhan, Shakti Sinha, and Satish Kumar Kalra**. The committee will be headed by **Meeta Makhan**.

### RBI extends WMA limit relaxations for six months

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to extend the interim relaxation in **WMA (Ways and Means Advances) limits** and **OD (overdraft) regulations** for States/ Union Territories (UTs) for another **six months** till March 31, 2021.
- For OD up to 100 per cent of WMA limit, the interest rate is 2 per cent above the Repo rate.
- For OD exceeding 100 per cent of the WMA limit, the interest rate is 5 per cent above the Repo rate.

### RBI imposes monetary penalty on DCB Bank, Jio Payments Bank for rule violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary penalty on **DCB Bank** and **Jio Payments Bank** for various **rule violations**.
- The central bank has imposed a penalty of **Rs 22 lakh** on DCB Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions on marketing/distribution of mutual fund/insurance etc.

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- In the case of Jio Payments Bank, the RBI imposed a penalty of **Rs 1 crore** for non-compliance with RBI directions on timely submission of application in the case of reappointment of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act), the RBI stated.

### RBI to extend trading hours to 3:30 pm from 2 pm starting November 9

- The Reserve Bank announced **phased restoration of trading hours** for various debt as well as currency market.
- The market opening time was revised to 10 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. for all segments. Closing timing too was revised to 2 p.m.
- The trading hours have been extended by 90 minutes till 3:30 p.m. for most of the segments. In case of 'market repo in government securities' the timing from next week will be **10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, and 'tri-party repo in government securities' **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
- **Trading hours** for 'Commercial paper and Certificates of Deposit', 'Repo in Corporate Bonds', 'Government Securities', 'Foreign Currency/Indian Rupee Trades including Forex Derivatives', 'Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives', and 'Call/notice/term money' will be **10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** However, **the market** will continue to open at **10 a.m. instead of 9 a.m.**

### Reserve Bank to evaluate impact of 'RBI Kehta Hai' campaign

- The Reserve Bank will evaluate the impact of **multi-media public awareness campaign 'RBI Kehta Hai'**, which was launched in **14 languages** to educate the public about safe banking and financial practices.
- 'RBI Kehta Hai' was the first even 360 degree campaign initiated by the central bank using all mass media, including media such as television, radio, newspapers, hoardings, web banners, gifs, social media and SMS.
- In order to evaluate the impact of the public awareness campaign, the RBI has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible companies and other entities which have successfully completed at least **five similar projects**.

### RBI announces co-lending scheme for banks, NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines under the **co-origination model** so that **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** and banks can jointly **lend**. The model envisages a joint lending process such that risks and rewards are shared. As per the guidelines, NBFCs need to retain a minimum of **20% share of the loans** on their books.
- The regulator has also prohibited banks from entering into a co-lending arrangement with an NBFC belonging to their promoter group.

### RBI cancels Certificate of Authorisation of five PSOs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the **Certificate of Authorisation (CoA)** of **five Payment System Operators (PSOs)**, including **Aircel Smart Money Ltd** and **Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd**.
- The five PSOs, which also includes **Pyro Networks Pvt Ltd**, **Card Pro Solutions Pvt Ltd**, and **InCashMe Mobile Wallet Services Pvt Ltd**, were issued COA for issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.



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- The five PSOs, which also includes **Pyro Networks Pvt Ltd**, **Card Pro Solutions Pvt Ltd**, and **InCashMe Mobile Wallet Services Pvt Ltd**, were issued COA for issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.

### RBI imposes Rs 1 crore penalty on Punjab National Bank

- State-run **Punjab National Bank** stated the **RBI** has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1 crore** on it for contravention of the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed the Rs 1 crore penalty for "contravention of the nature referred to in Section 26 (6) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)", it added. PNB's shares closed at Rs 29.50 a piece on BSE, up 1.37 percent.

### RBI Imposes Over Rs 5.78 Crore Fine on Six Entities Including PNB, Sodexo and PhonePe

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a total fine of over **Rs 5.78 crore** on six entities, including **PNB**, **Sodexo** and **PhonePe**, for violating regulatory guidelines. In exercise of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the RBI has imposed monetary penalty on these entities for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines, it stated.
- Except Punjab National Bank (PNB), the remaining five entities are non-bank prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers. RBI imposes the penalty on **Sodexo SVC India Pvt Ltd**, **Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance Ltd**, **QwikSilver Solutions Pvt Ltd**, **Phonepe Pvt Ltd**, **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd**, and **Punjab National Bank**, stated the release.

### RBI panel proposes to raise promoters cap to 26% in private banks

- An internal working group set up by the **RBI** has proposed to raise the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current **15 per cent to 26 per cent in 15 years**.
- The Reserve Bank of India had constituted the internal working group (IWG) to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks. The central bank released the groups' report.
- On eligibility of promoters, it stated large corporate/industrial houses may be allowed as promoters of banks only after necessary amendments to the **Banking Regulations Act, 1949** to deal with connected lending and exposures between the banks and other financial and non-financial group entities.

### RBI imposes penalty on Muthoot Finance, Manappuram Finance for non-compliance with gold loan norms

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs.10 lakh** on **Muthoot Finance Ltd, Ernakulam**, and **Rs.5 lakh** on **Manappuram Finance Ltd, Thrissur**, for non-compliance with its directions.
- In the case of Muthoot Finance, RBI stated the penalty is for non-compliance with directions on maintenance of **Loan to Value (LTV) ratio** in gold loans and on obtaining copy of PAN (Permanent Account Number) card of the borrower while granting loans in excess of Rs.5 lakh.

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### RBI restricts withdrawals from Jalna-based Mantha Urban Coop Bank for 6 months

- **Reserve Bank of India** imposed **restrictions on withdrawals** from **Maharashtra-based Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank** for **six months**.
- **RBI** has imposed **monetary penalty** of **Rs 20 lakh** on **Bengaluru-based Shushruati Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- It also imposed a **penalty of Rs 1 lakh** on **The Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank, Vijayapura, Karnataka**. It has imposed a **penalty of Rs 10 lakh** on **Muthoot Finance, Ernakulam**, for non-compliance with directions on maintaining loan to value ratio in gold loans.
- The central bank has also imposed a **penalty of Rs 5 lakh** on **Manappuram Finance, Thrissur** for non-compliance with directions on verification of ownership of gold jewellery

### RBI places LVB under moratorium until Dec 16

- With **Lakshmi Vilas Bank's** efforts to raise capital reaching a dead-end, the Reserve Bank of India superseded the board of the loss-making lender, placed the bank under moratorium and announced a draft scheme for its amalgamation with **DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL)**.
- According to the RBI, the LVB board has been superseded for **30 days** owing to serious deterioration in its financial position.
- According to the 'order of moratorium' issued by the Finance Ministry on an application by the RBI, deposit withdrawals have been capped at **Rs.25,000** per depositor during the moratorium period.

### RBI names 2 startups as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme

- **Reserve Bank of India** has announced the **names of two startups** that have been selected as a part of its regulatory sandbox programme.
- The two companies are **Jaipur based Natural Support Consultancy Services Private Limited** and **New Delhi based Nucleus Software Exports Limited**. While the former has named its product '**eRupaya**', which will facilitate offline Person-to-Merchant transactions and offline digital payments in remote locations; the second company's product '**PaySe**', proposes to help in digitisation of payments in rural areas, starting with Self Help Groups, through an offline payment solution and a digitised SHG-centered ecosystem.

### RBI defers Basel III provisions amid covid uncertainty

- The **Reserve Bank of India** deferred implementation of provisions made under **Basel III capital** due to uncertainty related to Covid crisis.
- RBI had asked banks to build up CCB of 2.5% in stages. The final stage of 0.625% was to be kept from 30 September 2020. This has been deferred to **1 April, 2020**. The RBI had earlier deferred the implementation by six months from **31 March 2020**.

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- As per the guidelines, banks in India were required to maintain NSFR of 100% from 1 April 2020. The RBI has now deferred it for a second time to 1 April 2021.

### Interest subvention on MSME loans extended till end of March 2021: RBI

- Reserve Bank of India** has stated that the **two per cent interest** subvention scheme for **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** on loans offered by **co-operative banks** has been extended till **31st of March next year**.
- RBI has further informed that the scheme, initially announced for just two years, has been extended for the financial year 2020-21.
- RBI has also asked co-operative banks to take appropriate action as envisaged in the operational guidelines and issue necessary instructions to their branches or controlling offices for successful implementation of the scheme.

### RBI to discontinue system-based automatic caution-listing of exporters

- In an effort to provide flexibility to exporters in the realisation of export proceeds, **the Reserve Bank** has decided to discontinue the **system-based automatic caution-listing of exporters**.
- As part of automation of the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System, the '**Caution/De-caution Listing**' of exporters was automated in 2016.
- After contracting for six months in a row, India's exports grew by **5.27 percent** year-on-year to 27.4 billion dollars in September while the trade deficit narrowed to a three-month low of **2.91 billion dollars**.

### RBI expects real GDP to fall by 9.5%

- India's recovery is likely to be a three-speed recovery predominantly, with individual sectors showing varying paces depending on sector-specific realities, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- For the year 2020-21 as a whole, the central bank expects **real GDP** to decline by **9.5 per cent**, with risks tilted to the downside: **(-)9.8 per cent** in Q2 (July-September) 2020-21; **(-)5.6 per cent** in Q3 (October-December); and **0.5 per cent** in Q4 (January-March 2021).
- Real GDP growth for Q1 (April-June) 2021-22 will see a rebound, with the RBI placing it at **20.6 per cent**.

### Reserve Bank of India reallocates portfolios of deputy governors

- Reserve Bank of India has reallocated portfolios of deputy governors, with the department of regulation entrusted to the newly-appointed **M Rajeshwar Rao**.
- Mr Rao was appointed to the post vacated by **NS Vishwanathan**, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure on health grounds.
- MD Patra** – Monetary policy department; **MK Jain** - Central security cell, corporate strategy and budget department, consumer education and protection department, department of supervision, and human resource management department, among others.
- BP Kanungo** - Coordination, currency management, external investments and operations, department of government and banks accounts, IT, payment and settlement systems, foreign exchange department, internal debt management department, Right of Information (RIA) Division, and secretary's department.

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### RBI raises banks' aggregate exposure limit for small businesses to Rs 7.5 cr

- The **RBI** raised **banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit** to entities with **turnover up to Rs 50 crore to Rs 7.5 crore, up from Rs 5 crore.**
- The **risk weight of 75 per cent** will apply to **all fresh exposures** and **also to existing exposures** where incremental exposure may be taken by the banks up to the revised limit of Rs 7.5 crore.
- The RBI has also been decided to extend the dispensation of the enhanced **Held to Maturity (HTM) limit of 22 per cent** for SLR securities acquired between September 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, up to **March 31, 2022.**
- RBI has also decided that the enhanced HTM limit would be **restored to 19.5 per cent** in a phased manner, beginning from the quarter ending **June 30, 2022.**

### RBI imposes Rs 4.5-cr penalty on IndusInd Bank for non-compliance with its directions

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 4.5 crore** on **IndusInd Bank Ltd** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by it.
- RBI also flagged non-compliance of its directions on '**SPARC** (Supervisory Programme for Assessment of Risk and Capital) – Monitoring of Information Submission by bank', 'Creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures - Across Banks' read with directions on 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) – Revision in Reporting', and 'Disclosure in Financial Statements - Notes to Accounts'.

### Reserve Bank bars payment system operators from launching new QR codes

- The **Reserve Bank barred Payment System Operators (PSOs)** from launching any new proprietary QR code for payment transactions.
- Currently, there are two interoperable QR codes -- **UPI QR and Bharat QR.**
- The decision to continue with the two existing Quick Response (QR) codes was based on the recommendations of the committee which was set up by the Reserve Bank **under the chairmanship of Deepak Phatak.**
- PSOs that use proprietary QR codes shall shift to one or more interoperable QR codes; the process of migration shall be completed by **March 31, 2022.**

### NBFCs approach RBI for inclusion as beneficiaries to on-tap TLTRO

- **Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** have written to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to include them as beneficiaries for availing funds under on tap **targeted long-term repo operations (TLTRO) scheme.**
- To ensure comfortable liquidity conditions in the system, the RBI on October 9 announced to conduct on tap TLTRO worth **Rs 1 lakh crore.**
- The industry body also suggested to carve out a part of the on tap TLTRO funds for the NBFCs including small NBFCs to avail of loans from banks for the purposes of on-lending to the desired sectors only.
- The on tap TLTRO scheme will remain operational from **October 22, 2020 till March**

### RBI revises norms for housing finance firms

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- Home financiers must have at **least 60%** of all their assets in **housing finance** by **31 March 2024**, with individual loans making up at least 50% of all assets.
- By March 2022, they must have 50% in housing finance and 40% in individual loans. By March 2023, the ratio should be at least 55% and 45%, respectively.
- In its review of the regulatory framework for **housing finance companies (HFCs)**, the central bank also outlined what type of loans can be classified as housing finance.
- RBI also set a **three-month deadline** for **mortgage lenders** to submit a board-approved plan to meet these criteria, along with a timeline for transition.
- A home financier holding a certificate of registration and having net owned fund below **Rs.20 crore** may continue to carry on the business of housing finance, if it can achieve **Rs.15 crore** by 31 March 2022, and Rs.20 crore by 31 March 2023.

### RBI asks HDFC to stop new digital business launches; avoid adding new Credit Card customers

- The Reserve Bank of India has asked country's largest private bank, HDFC, to stop new digital business launches and avoid adding new Credit Card customers after repeated reports by its customers facing multiple cases of technical glitches.

### RTGS To be Made 24X7 from December 14

- Presently RTGS system is available for customers between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- On 24x7 availability of Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System, the RBI stated it has been decided to make RTGS available round the clock on all days of the year with effect from 00:30 hours on December 14, 2020.
- The RBI also decided to increase the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals from January 1, 2021

### RBI Announces Introduction of LAF And MSF for Regional Rural Bank

- Reserve Bank of India introduces Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

#### Eligible For the Scheme

- These include Implemented Core Banking Solution (CBS),
- A minimum CRAR of nine per cent
- Full compliance with the terms and conditions for availing LAF and MSF issued by Financial Markets Operations Department (FMOD).

### RBI cancels licence of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has cancelled the licence of The **Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd**, Karad, **Maharashtra**, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- It does not comply with the relevant provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- More than **99 per cent** of the depositors of the bank will get full payment of their deposits from **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**, the Reserve Bank stated.
- With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank will be set in motion.
- On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of **Rs 5 lakh only** from the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** as per usual terms and conditions.

### RBI to set up Automated Banknote Processing Centre in Jaipur

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to set up an **Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC)** in **Jaipur** for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes.
- The functions of the ABPC will also include processing of banknotes received from currency chests (CCs) and bank branches, and destruction of soiled banknotes in an automated manner.

### RBI slaps 50 lakh fine on Urban Co-operative Bank in Kerala

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹50.00 lakh** on The **Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd in Kerala**.
- This fine is for non-compliance with directions issued on **Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC)** norms and on Management of Advances-UCBs.
- Statutory inspection of the bank with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019, conducted by RBI, revealed that the bank had not complied with the directions, the central bank stated.

### RBI cancels licence of Subhadra Local Area Bank, In Maharashtra

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the banking licence issued to **Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd, Kolhapur**, citing problems in the way the bank was run.
- The licence has been cancelled under Section 22 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the order is made effective from close of business on December 24, 2020.
- There are only two Local Area Banks operational in India, i.e.- Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd and Krishna Bhima Samruddhi LAB Ltd.

### RBI working paper defends 4% inflation target for India

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** working paper has recommended that maintaining the inflation target at **4 percent** is appropriate for the country.
- The paper, authored by Harendra Kumar Behera and Michael Debabrata Patra, finds that there is a steady decline in trend inflation to 4.1-4.3 per cent since 2014.

### RBI Released Draft Guidelines for NBFCs' Dividend Payouts: December 2020

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its recent 4th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) 2020-21 announced to issue guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) with regard to distribution of dividend.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The guidelines will be applicable for dividends to be declared for the financial year beginning April 01, 2020 (FY 2020-21) onwards.

### RBI Further Extends Restrictions on PMC Bank till March 31, 2021

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) further extended the restrictions of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra Limited for a period of 3 months from December 23, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
- All other terms and conditions of the Directives under reference shall remain unchanged. Earlier the restriction was imposed till June 23, 2020 and then changed until December 22, 2020.

### RBI extended CKYCR to Legal Entities from Individual Accounts w.e.f. April 1, 2021: December 2020

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended the Master Direction (MD) on "Know Your Customer (KYC)", dated February 25, 2016, by extending the applicability of centralized KYC registry to legal entities (LEs), from individual accounts w.e.f. April 1, 2021.
- In this regard, Regulated entities (REs) will upload the KYC data pertaining to the accounts of LEs opened on or after 1 April 2021, on to CKYCR in terms of Rule 9 (1A) of the PML (Prevention of Money-laundering) Rules.

### Policy Rates:

Parameter	Percentage
Repo Rate	4%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio	3%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	18%

### SBI

#### NE states, UP, Bihar top in pandemic management: SBI Study

- According to a study conducted by State Bank of India (SBI) Research, North-Eastern (NE) states (All NE states combined as one) topped the list of states in managing Pandemic, Bihar came second, followed by Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh were placed at the bottom.
- Soumya Kanti Ghosh, SBI Group Chief Economic Advisor was the author of the report. They were ranked based on 2 parameters – i. macro (Fiscal deficit) & Consumer Price Inflation.5 performance of states on Central Government Schemes (one nation one ration card, PM Svanidhi, PM Samman, emergency credit linked guarantee scheme and PM Awas Yojana).

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### Policy Rates:

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### SBI

#### SBI planning to launch loan product 'SAFAL' for organic cotton growers

- **State Bank of India** is planning to launch a loan product, **SAFAL**, primarily focussed on **organic cotton growers** who don't have any credit history, stated a top official of the country's largest lender.
- The bank is using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Machine Learning (ML)** in a big way for generating business, SBI managing director C S Setty stated speaking at a Fintech conference organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

#### SBI Modernizes its Payment Switching System with ACI Worldwide Technology

- **ACI Worldwide**, a global provider of real-time **digital payment software and solutions**, has modernized payments infrastructure for **ATM** and **point-of-sale (POS)** at **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country's largest bank with more than 440 million account holders.
- The solution enables SBI's ATM network to acquire **Visa, Mastercard** and **RuPay cards**, as well as manage ATM/POS authorizations. Transaction processing volumes frequently exceed **30 million transactions** per day.

#### SBI General Insurance, YES Bank ink corporate agency agreement

- **SBI General Insurance** and **YES Bank** have signed a **corporate agency agreement** for the distribution of the **general insurer's retail products** to customers of the private sector lender.

#### SBI plans 24x7 OTP-based cash withdrawal above Rs.10,000

- State Bank of India has decided to extend **OTP-based cash withdrawal** of **Rs.10,000** and above throughout the day across all its ATMs starting September 18.
- India's largest bank had introduced OTP-based cash withdrawals above Rs.10,000 between 8 pm and 8 am through its ATMs from January 1.
- For withdrawing Rs.10,000 and above, SBI debit card holders now have to enter the OTP sent on their registered mobile numbers, along with their debit card PIN each time, the bank stated.

#### Titan with SBI launches first contactless payment watches



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Titan Company has partnered with the country's largest lender YONO-State Bank of India (SBI) to launch contactless payment watches.
- Known as Titan Pay, Titan and SBI are launching a range of stylish new watches with contactless payment functionality for the first time in India. Payments of up to Rs.2,000 can be made without entering a PIN.
- 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.

### SBI starts women self-reliance programme in Assam

- State Bank of India (SBI) started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme) in Guwahati, Assam.
- The basic objective of the programme is to create a strong bonding with the SHG member besides extending credit linkages to the women SHGs nurtured and sponsored by NRLM, Assam for self-reliance and economic upliftment.
- SBI branches of Assam sanctioned 856 numbers of SHGs sponsored by NRLM with financial outlay of Rs. 38 crore.

### SBI Card launches new brand campaign 'Contactless Connections'

- SBI Card, India's second largest credit card issuer, announced the launch of its new brand campaign, "Contactless Connections" that spreads the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.
- Contactless payments, enabled by SBI Card, allow consumers to stay safe. Consumers can simply wave their card or phone or scan a QR code to make safe, secure payments, without handing over their card or punching in the PIN.

### SBI rolls out YONO Krishi review to empower farmers

- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced "KCC (Kisan Credit Card) Review option" on its digital agricultural solution platform, YONO Krishi, to enable farmers to access their KCC limit in four clicks.
- YONO Krishi has four offerings/sections: Khata (caters to agriculture credit solutions like agri gold loans), Bachat (financial Super store for farmers investment & insurance needs), Mitra (agriculture advisory services) and Mandi (online market place for purchasing agricultural inputs & farm equipment).

### SBI General Insurance Launched a 1st of its Kind offering, 'Shagun – Gift an Insurance' Policy for Personal Accident

- SBI General Insurance Co Ltd launched a 1st of its kind offering, 'Shagun – Gift an Insurance', a unique gift of Personal Accident policy which provides complete financial protection to the insured person against uncertainties such as accidental death and partial or total disabilities, and permanent & temporary disabilities resulting from an accident.

### PFS secures Rs.300-cr term loan from SBI to fund biz plans

- PTC India Financial Services Ltd (PFS) has secured a Rs.300 crore term loan from State Bank of India, to meet its business growth needs..

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- SBI has sanctioned us a **term loan - working capital** augmentation (TLWC) of **Rs.300 crore** with a door-to-door tenor of three years, including a moratorium of six months, with sub-limit of Rs.300 crore as investment limit for investment in commercial papers/non-convertible debentures/bonds within the overall TLWC limit..

### SBI to invest up to Rs.1,760 crore in Yes Bank

- State Bank of India will invest up to **Rs.1,760 crore** in troubled private sector lender **Yes Bank**, which is set to come out with a follow-on public offer.
- SBI has been a knight in shining armour for the troubled lender. As part of the reconstruction scheme, SBI along with other domestic banks and financial institutions invested **Rs.10,000 crore** in Yes Bank. As on **March 31, 2020**, it **owned 48.21 per cent stake** in the lender.

### SBI providing USD 16 million liquidity support for local businesses in Maldives

- The State Bank of India (SBI) is providing liquidity support of **USD 16.20 million** for local businesses and deferred loan repayment for **over 200 retail accounts Maldives**.
- **'India First' policy of Maldives and 'Neighbourhood First' policy of India** has set the foundation of the growing relationship.
- Assistance of **USD 400 million** through an extended currency swap arrangement has been made available already to tide over liquidity shortage.

### IRCTC and SBI Card launched a Co-branded Contactless Credit Card on RuPay Platform

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited(IRCTC) and SBI Card launched a co- branded contactless credit card, IRCTC -SBI Platinum Card on RuPay Platform to reward the frequent railway(train) travellers. The card is equipped with Near Field Communication (NFC) technology by which users can facilitate their transactions at the point of sale(POS) machines by Tap and Pay Option. This enables consumers to transact safely and securely online.

### SBI Partners with AddaCorner to Launch 'Online Home Carnival'

- State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with India's First Real-Time Group Negotiation E-Platform, AddaCorner to launch 'Online Home Carnival', which will help in boosting the Real Estate market in Bangalore. Along with the launch of 'Online Home Carnival', AddaCorner was also launched.

### SBI in tie-up to offer digital payment solutions to HUL retailers and distributors

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), under which the bank will provide its digital payment and financing solutions to the FMCG company's retailers and distributors.
- SBI will offer an instant paperless overdraft facility of up to **Rs.50,000** to retailers for their billings with distributors as well as financing facilities to HUL's distributors.
- It will provide **UPI-based solutions to HUL retailers** for hassle-free, safe and instant cashless payments to their dealers from HUL's retailer application '**Shikhar**'.

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### SBI authorised to issue, encash Electoral Bonds from Oct 19-28

- The Ministry of Finance has stated that the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, in the **14th Phase of sale**, has been authorised to issue and encash **Electoral Bonds** through its **29 Authorized Branches**.
- Electoral Bonds will be valid for **fifteen calendar days** from the date of issue and no payment will be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

### SBI raises USD 1 billion untied loan with JBIC, other lenders

- The **State Bank of India** signed a loan agreement amounting to up to **one billion US Dollars** with the **Japan Bank for International Cooperation**. The loan is intended to promote the smooth flow of funds for the whole range of business operations of Japanese automobile manufacturers in India.
- As part of the agreement, **600 million US Dollars** will be financed by **JBIC** while the remaining amount will be financed by other participating banks. The facility will be co-financed by SMBC, MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank and Bank of Yokohama.

### SBI ties up with global education platform edX

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has entered into a strategic partnership with global **non-profit education platform edX**, where the bank will offer its **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)**.
- Initially, SBI will be offering three courses – Unleashing Creativity at the Workplace, Relationship Marketing Strategy for Financial Services, and Conflict Resolution, stated SBI.

### SBI raises Rs 5,000 crore by issuing Basel-III compliant bonds

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** stated it has raised **Rs 5,000 crore** by issuing **Basel-III compliant bonds**.
- The committee of directors of capital raising met and accorded its approval to allot 50,000 Basel-III compliant non-convertible, taxable debt instruments, SBI stated in a regulatory filing. The debentures qualifying as tier II capital of the bank of face value of **Rs 10 lakh each**, at par, bearing a coupon of 5.83 per cent aggregating to Rs 5,000 crore were allotted to bond subscribers on October 26, 2020, it stated.
- The interest on the bonds will be paid annually for a tenor of **10 years** and call option **after 5 years**.

### IFFCO Bazar partners with SBI YONO Krishi App to boost accessibility of quality agri-products

- **IFFCO Bazar** announced its integration with the **State Bank of India (SBI) YONO Krishi**, a dedicated portal catering to **farmer's needs**.
- The portal, [iffcobazar.in](http://iffcobazar.in) offers a wide variety of products speciality fertilisers, organic agri-inputs, seeds, agrochemicals, agri-machinery amongst others.

### SBI Signs Pact With Luxembourg Stock Exchange

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with the **Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe)**. The MoU will help SBI and LuxSE set up a long-term cooperation mechanism, and promote ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) and green finance.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- State Bank of India has raised **\$800 Mio** in the **Green Bond Market** to date.

### Mercedes-Benz joins hands with SBI to target HNI customers

- **Mercedes-Benz** has joined hands with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to offer financial benefits to the lender's **High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customers**.
- This collaboration will give the luxury automobile manufacturer access to State Bank of India's High Net Worth Individual (HNI) customer base, while the bank's customers will enjoy exclusive benefits at the time of booking a Mercedes-Benz car.

### NE states, UP, Bihar top in pandemic management: SBI Study

- According to a study conducted by State Bank of India (SBI) Research, North-Eastern (NE) states (All NE states combined as one) topped the list of states in managing Pandemic, Bihar came second, followed by Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh were placed at the bottom.
- Soumya Kanti Ghosh, SBI Group Chief Economic Advisor was the author of the report. They were ranked based on 2 parameters – i. macro (Fiscal deficit) & Consumer Price Inflation.5 performance of states on Central Government Schemes (one nation one ration card, PM Svanidhi, PM Samman, emergency credit linked guarantee scheme and PM Awas Yojana).

### World Bank

#### World Bank so far provided three loans worth 2.5 bn dollars to support India's response to COVID-19 pandemic: Govt

- Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur has stated that the **World Bank** has so far provided **three loans** worth **2.5 billion dollars** to support Government of India's response to COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Mr Thakur stated, for health **1 billion dollars**, for social protection **0.75 billion dollars** and for economic stimulus **0.75 billion dollars** have been provided and the benefits of which have accrued to all States and UTs.

#### World Bank approves 200 million dollar loan for safe water & sanitation in Bangladesh

- **The World Bank (WB)** has approved a **200 million dollar loan** for **Bangladesh** to improve access to safe water and sanitation services in the rural areas of the country.
- The WB stated that the project will help prevent diseases and protect from pandemics like COVID 19 by providing better access to **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** facilities at homes and in public places.

#### World Bank approves \$750 mn emergency response fund for India's MSME sector

- The World Bank approved a **\$750 million loan** to support increased flow of finance into the hands of India's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the Covid-19 crisis.
- The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response program will aim to address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some **1.5 million** viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs.

#### World Bank approves US \$500 mn budgetary support for Pak to tackle Covid-19

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- The World Bank (WB) has approved **US \$500 million** in budgetary support for Pakistan to address the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The money support for Pakistan has been approved under the "Resilient Institutions for Sustainable Economy" program.

### GoI, World Bank ink 750 million US dollar agreement for MSME Emergency Response Programme

- The Government and the World Bank have signed a **750 million US dollar** agreement for the **MSME Emergency Response Programme**. It aims at supporting increased flow of finance to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

### World Bank approves 120-mn to improve transport sector of Meghalaya

- The **Government of India, Meghalaya government** and the **World Bank** signed a **120 million dollar** project to improve and modernise the **transport sector** of Meghalaya.
- This will help the state to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism. The project will improve **about 300 kilometres** of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions.

### DIPAM inks agreement with World Bank

- **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, DIPAM** signed an agreement with **World Bank**.
- Under the agreement, World Bank is to provide advisory services to DIPAM for asset monetization.
- DIPAM is mandated with facilitating monetization of non-core assets of government CPSEs under strategic disinvestment or closure and enemy property of value of **Rs. 100 crore** and above. DIPAM has a framework for monetizing non-core assets.

### GOI, World Bank sign 400 million dollar project to protect India's poor from COVID-19

- The **Government of India** and the **World Bank** have signed a **400 million dollar** project to protect India's **poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19**.
- The programme will strengthen the capability of state and central governments to provide coordinated and adequate social protection to the poor and vulnerable from the shocks triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### World Bank Comes Out with Corrected Doing Business Rankings

- **World Bank** has announced that **China's ranking** would have been lower by **seven notches** in the index for 2018. The World Bank has corrected the Doing Business rankings for 2018 of **Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan**.
- The ranking of Azerbaijan has been improved to 28 from 34. As per the 'Doing Business' 2020 report, India has improved its rank by 79 positions in five years (2014-19).

### World Bank approves \$800 million project to better education quality

- The **World Bank** has approved **4 India projects** worth **\$800 million** to support development initiatives.



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The 4 Projects are :

- USD 250 million : Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2)
- USD 68 million : In Nagaland, Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project
- USD 100 million : Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG)
- USD 400 million : Second Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program.

### ADB

**India, ADB sign 500 million US dollar loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System corridor**

- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 500 million US dollar loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor. The first tranche of a total one billion dollar facility, to build a modern, high-speed 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor will improve regional connectivity and mobility in India's national capital region (NCR).

**ADB to Provide Rs.4.66 Billion Loan to ENGIE for a 200 MW Solar Project in Gujarat**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and ENGIE have signed a long-term loan agreement worth Rs.4.66 billion (~\$65.6 million) to develop and operate a 200 MW (AC) solar project in Gujarat.
- Electro Solaire is expected to commission the 200 MW solar power project in the first half of 2021. The project is expected to generate 440 GWh of electricity while reducing 385,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

**ADB, JICA to fund ORR-Airport Metro rail connectivity**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to invest \$500 million to Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation's (BMRCL) line linking Central Silk Board Junction to Kempegowda International Airport — ORR-Airport Metro – Phase-2A and 2B.
- For the 56-km ORR-Airport Metro, Karnataka government is looking for sovereign guarantee lending through ADB and JICA.

**ADB approves Rs 2,200 crore loan to develop Rajasthan's secondary towns**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 300 million dollar (about Rs 2,200 crore) loan to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of Rajasthan.
- The project is expected to build citywide access for improved water supply services for about 5.7 lakh people and enhanced sanitation services for about 7.2 lakh people in at least 14 secondary towns.

**ADB to lend Thailand \$1.5 billion to aid its coronavirus response**

- The Asian Development Bank will provide a USD 1.5 billion loan to Thailand to aid its response to the coronavirus pandemic. The loan is being provided under the ADB's COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program.

**ADB Approves \$750,000 Technical Assistance to Develop Distance Education Platform in Armenia**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a grant-financed \$750,000 Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance project to help Armenia improve resilience to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The project will support the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS) to ensure quality and continuous education during times of emergency and normal situations.

### ADB approves USD 1 billion package for rapid transit system in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about Rs. 7,485 crore) loan to support the construction of the modern, high-speed Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system, a first of its kind in India.
- The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

### ADB Approves \$250 Million Loan to Support Myanmar's COVID-19 Response

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$250 million loan to help the Government of Myanmar respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ADB's COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program is funded through the COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) under ADB's Countercyclical Support Facility.

### ADB Approved USD 1 billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System, a 1st of its kind in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 1 billion (about Rs 7,485 crore) loan to construct the modern, high-speed 82-kilometer Delhi – Meerut, Uttar Pradesh Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in India.
- The finance of the Delhi- Meerut RRTS project will be given in 4 tranches between August 2020 and May 2025. The NCR Transport Corporation (NCRTC) will execute the project.

### ADB signed USD 200 mn financing deal with Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited for 718 mw power plant in Bangladesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a USD 200 million financing deal with the Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited (RBLPL) to build and operate a 718 megawatt (mw) combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh.

### ADB Becomes Observer Of Network For Greening The Financial System

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has joined the central banks and supervisors **Network for Greening the Financial System** (NGFS) as an observer..
- **NGFS** is a valuable network to share ADB's approaches and experience in addressing climate risk management in the financial sector, stated ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada.

### ADB and GCF join hands towards 'green recovery' on the impacts of COVID-19 disease

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) agreed to partner toward the "Green Recovery". This is to help hands for the people who are facing the harsh economic impact due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### ADB, IEA Renew Pact To Collaborate On Energy Sector Sustainability And Resilience

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- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has renewed a memorandum of understanding with the **International Energy Agency (IEA)** to scale up collaboration and advance progress on sustainability with an increased focus on **energy sector resilience** in Asia and the Pacific.

### ADB approves \$3 million grant to India to combat COVID-19

- The grant, which is financed by the Japanese government, will be used to procure thermal scanners and essential commodities
- Multilateral funding agency ADB stated it has approved **\$3 million** (about Rs.22 crore) grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic.

### ADB signs 177 million dollars loan to upgrade major roads, highways in Maharashtra

- **Asian Development Bank** signed a **177 million US dollars** loan to upgrade **450 km** of **state highways and major district roads** in **Maharashtra** .
- Under the Maharashtra state road improvement project, two major district roads and 11 state highways, with combined length of 450 km will be upgraded to two-lane standard across seven districts.

### ADB approves 300 million US dollar loan to finance water supply, sanitation infrastructure in Rajasthan

- India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **300 million US dollar** loan to finance inclusive and **sustainable water supply** and sanitation infrastructure and services in 14 secondary towns of the state of **Rajasthan**.
- Through the project, water supply systems in at least eight project towns are expected to improve by 2027, benefiting more than five lakh 70 thousand people.

### ADB, India Sign \$270 Million Loan to Improve Urban Services in 64 Madhya Pradesh Small Cities

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** have signed a **\$270 million loan** to develop water supply and integrated storm water and sewage management infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies for improved service delivery in the state of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Through this project, ADB will continue innovative approaches and good practices of the ongoing project including universal coverage with **100% household metering, full operation and maintenance cost recovery, and reducing nonrevenue water**.

### ADB approves USD132.8 million loan to improve power distribution network in Meghalaya

- The **Asian Development Bank** has approved **USD 132.8 million loan** to improve and upgrade the power distribution network in **Meghalaya**. The project fully supports Meghalaya's initiative in improving the distribution system & financial sustainability of the Department," the power minister stated.
- The **Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL)** has a huge outstanding against the power purchased from central power generating stations and to the **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)**, the minister had stated.



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### ADB allocates \$20 mn to help developing members access Covid-19 vaccine

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** stated it has allocated **\$20.3 million aid** to its **developing member countries** to access coronavirus vaccine and establish systems to enable equitable and efficient vaccine distribution.
- ADB expects to implement the technical assistance with its partners **UNICEF** and the **World Health Organization**, in coordination with **COVAX, Gavi, the World Bank**, and bilateral agencies, among others.
- The funds comprise \$20 million from **ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF)** and \$300,000 from the High-Level Technology Fund financed by the government of Japan.

### ADB approves \$50 mn loan to improve resource planning in West Bengal

- The **Asian Development Bank** stated it has approved a **USD 50 million loan** to improve **operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in West Bengal**.
- The loan will be supplemented by a USD 350,000 technical assistance grant for capacity building, monitoring of IFMS (Integrated Financial Management System) reforms, and strengthening the integration of social and gender aspects in reform areas.

### ADB and GOI Signed loan for strengthen Meghalaya's power distribution Sector

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$132.8 million loan** to strengthen and modernize the distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to households, industries, and businesses in India's northeastern state of **Meghalaya**.

### ADB, India sign 50 million loan to boost West Bengal's digital platforms for public finance reforms

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$50 million policy-based loan to improve financial management procedures and operational efficiencies aimed at achieving more fiscal savings, promote informed decision making, and improve service delivery in the state of West Bengal.
- The loan is proposed to be supplemented by a \$350,000 technical assistance grant for capacity building, monitoring of IFMS reforms, and strengthening the integration of social and gender aspects in reform areas.

### Asian Development Bank approves \$190 mn loan to upgrade power distribution system in Bengaluru

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 190 million (over Rs 1,400 crore) loan for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in Bengaluru.
- The funding for the Bengaluru Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution Project by ADB includes a USD 100 million sovereign loan and a USD 90 million without sovereign guarantee loan to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).

### ADB approves USD 2.5 mn technical assistance for advanced biofuel development in India

- The Manila Bades Multilateral lending agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) stated it has approved a USD 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore) technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India.

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- The grant is funded from the Asia Clean Energy Fund, financed by the Government of Japan under the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility, and the Republic of Korea's e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund.

### ADB launches \$9 billion Covid-19 vaccine scheme

- The Manila-based **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has launched an initiative called the **Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX)**.
- The **\$9 billion** coronavirus scheme, structured as a credit facility, will support Asian developing countries' efforts to procure vaccines against the deadly virus rapidly as well as their investments in vaccine production and distribution systems.

### ADB and India sign \$300 million loan to upgrade power projects in Uttar Pradesh

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a **\$300 million** loan to upgrade rural power distribution networks to provide reliable electricity supply to consumers in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Overall, the **\$430 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)** has been approved for the project constituting two tranches.

### ADB Announces To Give Rs 2100-Crore Loan To Tripura

- The **Asian Development Bank** has announced to provide **Rs 2,100 crore** loan to the **Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism** in the northeastern state that borders Bangladesh,
- From the total amount of Rs 2,100 crore expected to be provided by the ADB as loan, Rs 1600 crore will be for urban development and Rs 500 crore for the tourism sector.
- Under this, all **20 urban local bodies** in Tripura would be covered and in the tourism sector, all tourism destinations, roads leading to them and tourist facilities would be covered.

### ADB Approves \$231 Million Loan to Construct Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Plant

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$231 million (Around Rs 1,705 crore) loan to construct the Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power (LKHEP) plant in Central Assam, India.
- This loan is the 3rd and largest tranche of the \$300 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) Assam Power Sector Investment Program that was approved by ADB in 2014.

### ADB, Northern Arc Capital Ltd Signed a \$40 million loan to Support Microfinance Borrowers and MSMEs in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$40 million (around Rs 295 crore) loan to Northern Arc Capital Ltd (NACL) for on lending to microfinance borrowers, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and affordable housing finance companies in India who are facing difficulties to attract debt funding from investors.

### AIIB

### AIIB in talks with India for financing \$8 billion health infrastructure scheme

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- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is in discussion with the Indian government for financing a USD 8-billion scheme for improving health infrastructure at the district level to make the country better prepared for the future healthcare challenges.

### Government of India and AIIB Sign Agreement For \$500 Million To Improve Network Capacity Of Mumbai Suburban Rail

- The Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed a loan agreement for a \$500 million Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III to improve the network capacity, service quality and safety of the suburban railway system in Mumbai.
- It is estimated that among primary beneficiaries of the project, 22% are female passengers who will benefit from improved safety and quality of service.

### AIIB extends \$50 mn loan to L&T Infra Finance for Renewable Energy

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has released **\$50 million** in the first tranche of assistance to **L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd** for funding Renewable Energy projects in the country.
- The bank has sanctioned total **\$100 million loan** to unit of L&T Finance Holdings. This is AIIB's first loan to a non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India.

### AIIB plans to approve loans worth \$3 billion over next 12 months for infra projects

- **AIIB** is looking to provide loans worth **USD 3 billion** for various **large infrastructure projects**, including **Delhi and Meerut Rapid Rail, Mumbai Metro Rail and Chennai Peripheral Ring Road project**, over the next 12 months.
- India is the largest borrower, which accounts for 25 percent of the total lending by AIIB.

### AIIB approves \$750 million loan for India's COVID-19 response

- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** stated it has approved a **USD 750 million** loan to India to help the government strengthen its battle against the adverse impact of COVID-19 on **poor and vulnerable households**.

### Beijing-based AIIB mulls \$500 mn funding for healthcare system in India

- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** is considering a proposal for financing **\$500-million project** in India to strengthen country's **national health care systems**. Crisis Recovery Facility to provide upto **\$10 billion** due to high client demand.

## IMF

### IMF Approves \$18 Billion Emergency Financing For 50 Countries During COVID-19

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has already authorised financial assistance for **50 member countries** during the coronavirus pandemic, stated IMF Spokesperson Gerry Rice.
- The IMF's Executive Board has approved financing under the **emergency facilities** at record speed for **50 countries**, totalling about **18 billion dollars** at this point.

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### Other Banking News

#### ICICI Bank launches virtual property exhibition

- **ICICI Bank**, launched a virtual property exhibition that digitally showcases real estate projects from key cities across the country.
- Called **Home Utsav**, the exhibition is available for everyone, including ICICI Bank's customers, and those who are not customers of the bank.

#### Federal Bank & Innoviti Tie-Up To Extend Affordability In Times Of COVID Crisis Through Debit Card EMI On POS Terminals

- **Federal Bank and Innoviti Payment Solutions** announced their partnership to provide convenient and affordable options of Federal Bank Debit Cards through Innoviti POS terminals.
- This partnership will offer convenient EMI options to over 7.5+ million Federal Bank Debit Card holders at over 70,000+ Innoviti POS terminals across 1000+ cities.

#### Irdai sets up panel to study index-linked products for life insurance companies

- **Insurance regulator Irdai** constituted a **six-member working group** to examine various aspects for allowing **life insurance companies to offer index-linked products**.
- **The working group will be headed by Dinesh Pant**, appointed actuary of LIC, and submit the report within two months.

#### RBL Bank launches cardless cash withdrawal facility through ATMs

- **RBL Bank** has launched **cardless cash withdrawal facility from ATMs**, leveraging the Instant Money Transfer (IMT) system.
- It has tied-up with **Empays Payment Systems**, a global financial technology provider, to offer this service.

#### PayPal & DSCI report on 'Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments'

- Data Security Council of India and PayPal India, released a study report on Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments by Lt. Gen (Dr) Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator.
- UPI transactions in India have crossed 1.49 bn in volume and USD 41bn in transaction value, in July 2020. RBI predicts the number of digital transactions to increase from INR 2069cr in Dec'2018 to INR 8707cr by Dec'2021.

#### Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ceased to Be Banking Company: RBI

- **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank** has ceased to be a **banking company** within the meaning of the **Banking Regulation Act**.
- The 'Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited' has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** with effect from **July 28, 2020**.

#### LazyPay launches LazyUPI digital credit card

- **LazyPay** has launched a digital credit card that combines the power of **UPI and the Buy-Now-Pay-Later** concept., Called **LazyUPI**.

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- The offering enables users to access real-time credit using UPI across omnichannel networks, including offline merchants and e-commerce platforms.

### Srei Equipment Finance bags €10-m loan from KfW IPEX-Bank

- **Srei Equipment Finance** has bagged a **€10-million** (about Rs.87 crore) loan from **KfW IPEX-Bank** to facilitate **German exports** to India. The financing is backed by cover from Euler Hermes.

### WE HUB, NutriHub partner to aid women entrepreneurs in agri business

- **WE HUB** has announced its partnership with **NutriHub**, a first of its kind incubator to cater start-ups needs in the **Nutricereals sector**.
- **NutriHub** is the Central government's Department of Science & Technology (DST) supported Technology Business Incubator hosted by the Indian Institute of Millet Research, ICAR – IIMR, Hyderabad.

### NABARD organizes awareness cum sensitization programme for newly proposed FPO in J&K

- In **Jammu and Kashmir**, an awareness cum sensitization programme for newly proposed **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)** was organized by **NABARD** in coordination with District Administration in Anantnag.
- The **District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD** informed the farmers that central government has recently launched the scheme for providing financial assistance and training to the farming community for establishment of FPO's.

### ESAF Bank announces fintech conclave

- **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has announced its **first fintech conclave** providing fintech firms a platform to showcase their **new digital banking solutions** that facilitate last-mile financial inclusion.

### Bank of India launches 'Signature Visa Debit Card' for HNIs

- **Bank of India (BoI)** launched "**Signature Visa Debit Card**" for the affluent/high net worth individuals maintaining an average quarterly balance of **Rs.10 lakhs** and above.
- This card will have a spending limit of up to **Rs.5 lakhs** on POS & e-commerce and **Rs.1 lakh** on ATM.

### Finance Minister unveils Doorstep Banking Services and declares EASE 2.0 Index Results

- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. **Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated **Doorstep Banking Services** by **PSBs** and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on **EASE Banking Reforms Index**.
- **Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India, and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce** were felicitated for being the top three (in that order) in the '**Top Performing Banks**' category according to the **EASE 2.0 Index Results**.
- **Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India &erstwhile Corporation Bank** were awarded in the '**Top Improvers**' category basis **EASE 2.0 Index**.
- **Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Canara Bank** were also recognized for outstanding performance in select themes.

### PNB launches festival offer, waives processing charges on some loans



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- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched 'Festival Bonanza Offer' for its customers to give a push to subdued loan demand due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- On home loans, customers are now exempted from paying the processing fees i.e. 0.35% of the loan amount, maximum Rs.15,000, besides the documentation charges.
- On car loans, customers can now save up to 0.25% of the total loan amount. The bank now offers an attractive interest rate at 7.10% on home loans and 7.55% on car loans effective September 1, 2020.

### ICICI Prudential Life partners with NSDL Payments Bank to offer insurance products

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has entered into a corporate agency agreement with NSDL Payments Bank, a subsidiary of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL).
- ICICI Prudential Life will provide its customer-centric protection and savings products to customers of NSDL Payments Bank.

### Mastercard launches CBDC testing platform for central banks

- Mastercard has built a virtual testing platform to help central banks assess and explore national digital currencies.
- Mastercard is looking to support these efforts with its new platform, which promises to enable the simulation of issuance, distribution and exchange of CBDCs between banks, financial service providers and consumers.

### Sebi issues clarification on asset allocation framework for multi-cap MFs

- Regulator Sebi stated that mutual funds have many options to meet with the requirements of its circular pertaining to asset allocation framework for multi cap schemes based on the preference of their unit holders.
- It is required to invest a minimum of 25 per cent each in Large, Mid and Small Cap stocks, and giving flexibility to the fund manager with the balance 25 per cent.

### NABARD to implement new loan scheme for women's self help groups

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development - NABARD - will be implementing a new loan scheme for women's self help groups to start production of value added food products like chips, pickles, jams etc from the next Gandhi Jayanthi day on October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- This was announced by NABARD Chairman Shri G R Chinthala in Virudhunagar, Tamilnadu.

### LVB merger with Clix Group on track; completes substantial due diligence

- Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) stated the mutual due diligence relating to the proposed amalgamation of the Clix Group with the Bank is substantially complete, and the parties are in discussions on the next steps.
- The private sector bank, in a regulatory filing, observed that as per the mutual understanding between parties, the exclusivity period was extended till September 15, 2020 due to prevailing pandemic situation.

### ICICI Lombard General Insurance, YES Bank enter into bancassurance pact

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with private sector lender YES Bank.
- The partnership will provide the bank's diverse customer base access to the insurer's portfolio and make insurance more accessible to its customers across India.



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### Mastercard (MA) Rolls Out Premium Debit Card With SBM Bank

- **Mastercard Incorporated MA** and **SBM Bank India** have collaborated to launch **SBM World Debit Card**, a premium and exclusive card. This card will be custom-built and offered to SBM Private Wealth customers on request.
- **The SBM World Debit Card** will club niche **banking solutions** and carefully curated lifestyle privileges including some of **the finest shopping and dining opportunities**.

### Volvo Car India Partnered With HDFC Bank To Launch Volvo Car Financial Services

- **Volvo Car India** has introduced **Volvo Car Financial Services** in collaboration with **HDFC Bank** to enable buyers to receive easy finance for a Volvo car of their choice.
- Loans can be availed for upto 7 years.

### Irdai to develop standardised products for bridging protection gap

- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)** is looking to come out with a series of **standardised products for various sectors** so that the protection quotient in each segment can be increased significantly.
- **Two offerings in the MSME segment--one for micro enterprises, the other for small industries.**

### IDFC Mutual Fund launches 'SIP in Fixed Income' campaign

- **IDFC Mutual Fund** has started a new campaign called **SIFI** or '**SIP in Fixed Income**' to make investors more aware about the benefits of investing in fixed income products via **Systematic Investment Plans**.

### Canara Bank introduces i-Lead 2.0 to boost customer services

- **Canara Bank** has launched **lead management system (LMS) - i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0)**.
- This new initiative is being introduced with the motive of building and sustaining **business relationships with both new customers to bank and existing customers to bank**.

### HDFC Bank launches video KYC facility for savings, salary accounts and personal loans

- **HDFC Bank** launched its **Video KYC (Know Your Customer) facility** for **Savings and Corporate Salary accounts and Personal Loans**.
- After a successful completion of the pilot project, the bank deployed its consent-based Video KYC facility as an alternate method of establishing the prospective customer's identity during account opening process.

### StanChart launches online remittance service

- **Standard Chartered Bank, India**, announced the launch of its **online remittance service solution** for both **outward and inward remittances**.
- The outward remittance online service will enable clients to transfer funds overseas using their laptops or mobile phones. The inward remittance option will be available for existing NRI clients through the bank's internet banking platform, it further stated.

### Bandhan Bank sets up new vertical to serve unbanked customers

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- **Bandhan Bank**, which recently completed five years of operations as a bank, has **set up a new vertical** called **Emerging Entrepreneurs Business (EEB)** to support the **emerging needs of the unbanked and underbanked segment of customers**.
- The bank has further appointed **Kumar Ashish** as the **Executive President and Head to spearhead EEB**.

### ICICI Home Finance launches home loan scheme 'Apna Ghar Dreamz' for skilled workers in Delhi

- **ICICI Home Finance** has launched a **new loan scheme "Apna Ghar Dreamz"**, with credit amount in the range of **Rs 2 lakh to 50 lakh**, for **skilled workers** employed in the informal sector in **Delhi**.
- The customers should have a minimum account balance of **Rs 1,500** for loan up to 5 lakh and **Rs 3,000** for loan above 5 lakh. Under **PMAY-CLSS**, a borrower is eligible for maximum subsidy of **up to Rs 2.67 lakh**.

### KVGB launches new gold loan scheme Vikas Laghu Suvarna

- The **Dharwad -headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has launched a **special gold loan scheme -- Vikas Laghu Suvarna --** with a reduced interest rate of **7.25 per cent**.
- A maximum loan of up to **Rs.15 lakh** will be provided. The loan is repayable within six months.

### Kazakhstan Financial Regulator Cancels Licence of PNB Subsidiary

- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** stated the financial regulator of **Kazakhstan** has revoked licence of its associate for failure to meet prudential standards and other mandatory norms. **PNB** holds **41.64 per cent** in **JSC Tengri Bank**, the bank stated in a regulatory filing.

### Bharti AXA launches new unit linked individual insurance plan

- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** announced the launch of **Bharti AXA Life Wealth Pro**, a **unit linked individual insurance plan**.
- The plan provides protection and wealth creation benefits from an **early age of 91 days up to the age of 99 years** by paying premiums either for a limited duration or once at the commencement of the plan.

### Sebi constitutes technical group on social stock exchange Headed by Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

- **Sebi** set up a **technical group on social stock exchange** to develop a framework for onboarding non-profit organisations and for-profit enterprises as well as prescribe disclosure requirements on financials and governance.
- The regulator has constituted the technical group under the chairmanship of **Harsh Kumar Bhanwala**, former chairman of Nabard.

### Bajaj Finserv launches health tech solutions business

- **Bajaj Finserv** entered the **healthcare sector** with the launch of its **health tech solutions business**.
- "The new venture, **Bajaj Finserv Health**, brings to the market its core offering — **Aarogya Care**, an industry-first product, providing preventive, personalised, prepaid health care packages to consumers," it stated, adding that it uses a mobile-first approach.

### HDFC Life joins hands with Yes Bank to sell insurance policies

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- **HDFC Life Insurance** stated it has joined hands with **corporate agency agreement** with **Yes Bank** to offer a comprehensive bouquet of **life insurance solutions** to the bank's customers across the country.

### All standard health insurance policies to cover COVID-19 hospitalization treatment including "Arogya Sanjeevani": IRDAI

- The COVID-19 hospitalization cases are increasing which posing financial burden on patients or their families due to hospitalization expenses. As a financial relief measure to the COVID-19 positive cases, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has made the coverage of hospitalization treatment costs of COVID-19 mandatory under standard health insurance product "Arogya Sanjeevani".

### IDFC First Bank to launch contactless debit card transaction facility 'SafePay'

- **IDFC First Bank** is set to launch **SafePay**, a digital facility that allows **contactless debit card payments** by simply **waving one's smartphone** against a Near Field Communication (NFC)-enabled POS terminal.
- **SafePay embeds Near Field Communication (NFC) technology** in the **IDFC First Mobile App** to enable **secure payments** using a debit card issued by the Bank.
- SafePay enables contactless payments of **up to ₹2,000 per transaction** and up to a limit of **₹20,000 per day**, making everyday purchases easy.

### CRIF India, SIDBI team-up to unveil sector-based insight reports

- **CRIF High Mark**, Indian credit bureau owned by CRIF has joined hands with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** apex financial institution for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India, for launching of sector-based insight reports titled '**Industry Spotlight**'.

### BOB Financial Solutions Limited partners Signzy to unveil its 'Video KYC'

- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)** has selected **RegTech firm Signzy**, in a bid to digitize its customer verification through '**Video KYC**'.
- By leveraging Signzy's Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-enabled Video e-KYC solution, BFSL would now be able to easily onboard more than one lakh new credit card customers every month.

### HDFC Bank launches warehouse commodity finance app

- **HDFC Bank** launched a **Warehouse Commodity Finance App**.
- This will enable customers in drawing down and managing the loan against pledge of commodities online without physical intervention or multiple visits to a bank branch.

### Axis Bank to provide affordable loans via Bayer's Better Life Farming initiative

- **Axis Bank** has joined **Bayer's Better Life Farming initiative** in India to provide holistic financial solutions to smallholder farmers and rural farming communities.

### Sebi comes out guidelines for investment advisers on client segregation, fees

- **Sebi** has come out with detailed guidelines for investment advisers asking them to ensure segregation of advisory and distribution activities at the client level.

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- Sebi has fixed a cap on fee that **investment advisers (IA)** can charge from clients. It has also put in place a procedural framework pertaining to audit and record-keeping.

### Vakrangee gets RBI nod to set up BBPS unit to handle billing services

- **Vakrangee Ltd** said the **Reserve Bank** has granted in-principle approval to set up **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)** to handle payment services **related to bills**.
- Vakrangee (VL) has received in-principle authorisation to set up and operate BBPOU under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

### Flipkart, Bajaj Allianz launch cyber insurance cover

- **Flipkart** and **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** have launched a cyber-insurance cover for online financial frauds.
- The product, '**Digital Suraksha Group Insurance**', will help customers who want to cover themselves against financial losses caused as a result of **cyber-attacks**. Customers can opt for a one-year cover at premiums as low as **Rs.183** for a cover of **Rs.50,000**.

### Yes Bank joins hands with BSE to empower small business companies

- **Yes Bank** has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **BSE — India's premier exchange** and the **world's fastest Stock Exchange** to empower the **SME segment** through awareness and knowledge-sharing programmes.
- Under this MoU, both BSE and Yes Bank will conduct knowledge events for SMEs, **export promotion of SME scale companies**, in addition to providing banking and financial solutions.

### IDBI Bank becomes first bank to enable document embedding feature on SFMS

- **IDBI Bank** has become the **first lender** to enable **document embedding feature** on a structured financial messaging system managed by **Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services**. IFTAS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
- IDBI Bank have implemented the new feature of document embedding facility over SFMS platform of IFTAS through its middleware application **i@Connect-SFMS** developed by IDBI Intech Limited, the bank has stated .

### SIDBI, TransUnion CIBIL launch financial knowledge platform for MSMEs

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India in association with TransUnion CIBIL has launched a comprehensive financial education and knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises.
- The one-stop knowledge portal- **MSMESaksham**, will guide MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) seeking seamless and quick access to finance and will also support them in managing their credit obligations.

### Canara Bank ties up with three insurers to provide Corona Kavach policies

- Canara Bank has tied up with New India Assurance Company Ltd, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co Ltd and HDFC ERGO Health Insurance.
- The bank in association with the tied-up insurance companies has launched the Corona Kavach Policies at a very competitive premium structure, starting with as low as Rs.300.

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- Among the key features of the policy are - purchase on individual and family floater basis, minimum sum insured of Rs.50,000 to a maximum of Rs.5 lakh.

### **Kotak Mahindra Bank launches two-month campaign with offers, discounts**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched a special two-month campaign “Kona Kona Umeed” with offers and discounts across its suite of products, including for loans, savings accounts, current accounts, corporate salary accounts as well as important deals on Kotak debit cards, credit cards and digital payments.

### **Sebi to set up virtual museum of securities market**

- Regulator Sebi is planning to set up a virtual museum of securities market to highlight achievements and milestones in the Indian capital market.
- Sebi has invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from agencies to develop the virtual museum.
- The virtual museum will engage the audience with creative content through various means like video, audio, chat bot, voice assistants, virtual reality, analytics, interactive and animated elements.

### **Paisabazaar.com launches 'Paisabazaar Stack' - to offer completely digital lending solutions**

- Paisabazaar.com announced the launch 'Paisabazaar Stack' - a Stack of capabilities that would make loan disbursements and credit card issuance completely digital.
- Paisabazaar.com is currently partnering with IndusInd Bank to offer customers on its platform a completely digital process for credit cards, using Paisabazaar Stack.

### **Bank of Baroda Credit Card offers EMIs on PoS Terminals in partnership with Innoviti**

- BOB Financial Solutions Limited ties up with Innoviti Payment Solutions.
- Bank of Baroda Credit Card customers get another unique offering in terms of convenient and affordable EMI options.
- The proposed solution design has been kept simple in-line that offer great payment experiences. Customers wanting to opt for EMI, only need to notify the cashier during billing.

### **IFSCA sets up panel to suggest ways for development of international retail business**

- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) announced setting up an expert committee suggest ways for the development of international retail business.
- The committee will be headed by Pradip Shah (Chairman, Indasia Fund Advisors Pvt Ltd.).
- IFSCA has been mandated to develop and regulate the financial services market in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.

### **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Provides a Health Cushion to Customers for COVID-19 with New Services and Products**

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance (ABHICL) has introduced an array of services and product solutions that will enable customers to take care of their health in such difficult times.
- ABHICL has also launched an initiative ‘Active Dayz@Home’ during the lockdown to facilitate seamless healthcare to patrons during the lockdown.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### Bandhan Bank holding firm sells 20.95% stake to meet RBI norms

- Bandhan Bank Ltd stated it has met the promoter holding norms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after its holding company Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd (BFHL) sold 20.95% stake in the bank to at least seven investors.
- GIC is an existing shareholder of Bandhan Bank, owning a 4.9% stake through Caladium.
- Under the Reserve Bank of India norms, Bandhan's holding company was required to bring its shareholding to 40% of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank.

### Airtel Payments Bank Partnered with NSDC to Skill Rural Youth for Financial Services Sector Jobs

- Airtel Payments Bank Ltd has partnered with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to train and skill the youth in rural India. This will enable them to find employment opportunities and become entrepreneurs in the financial services sector.

### Airtel Payments Bank partners Bharti AXA General Insurance to secure retailers and merchants

- Airtel Payments Bank has entered into a partnership with Bharti AXA General Insurance to offer shop insurance to the bank's retailers and merchants.
- The Smart Plan Shop Package Policy covers assets inside the shop against burglary, fire and allied perils such as flood, earthquake, landslide, rockslide, riots, strike and malicious damage, among others. It also covers the loss of money in safe because of an accident. The shop insurance has a flexible sum insured option, starting from Rs.2 lakh up to a maximum of Rs.25 lakh.

### BOB Financial Solutions Limited partners Fiserv Technology for Digital Transformation

- BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) has selected Fiserv, Inc., to enable the digitization of their end-to-end card issuance and processing cycle and support the unveiling of several new and high-tech products namely contactless credit cards, tokenisation and integration with branded wallets, and virtual credit cards.

### PayU introduces payouts solutions to scale up financial operations for merchant

- PayU has introduced Payouts from Payins feature that will help merchants in receiving payments (settlements and payments) directly into virtual accounts created by PayU, eliminating the need for constant recharging.
- This will help in enhancing its flexible fund source management and beneficiary management capabilities with its enhanced Payouts product suite.

### NPCI launches loyalty platform 'nth Rewards'

- NPCI has launched business intelligence and analytics enabled omni-channel multi-branded loyalty platform, **nth Rewards**. It will allow users to earn points through various bank transactions and redeem them on various products, such as e-vouchers, donations, hotel and flight bookings.
- NPCI has created a comprehensive platform for the banks, which will enable them to retain and grow their customer base. This integration with the banking system will be secured with PCI-DSS compliance and APIs, with an onboarding time of 4 to 6 weeks.

### SBM Bank collaborates with InstaReM to enhance outbound remittance



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- SBM Bank India has partnered with InstaReM to improve existing outbound remittance service offerings from India.
- SBM Bank India has partnered with InstaReM, the consumer and SME brand under global fintech platform Nium, to improve existing outbound remittance service offerings from India, including introduction of new remittance corridors, increased frequency of transactions for outbound transactions and enhanced delivery timings for transfers.

### IBBI amends Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India, Liquidation Process, Third Amendment, Regulations, 2020

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, Liquidation Process, Third Amendment, Regulations, 2020.

- The Regulations require the committee of creditors to fix the fee payable to the liquidator.

The amendment made to the Regulations clarifies that where a liquidator realises any amount, but does not distribute the same, he shall be entitled to a fee corresponding to the amount realised by him. These are available at [www.mca.gov.in](http://www.mca.gov.in) and [www.ibbi.gov.in](http://www.ibbi.gov.in).

### South India Bank gets RBI nod for setting up non-financial subsidiary

- South Indian Bank (SIB) said the RBI has given an in-principle approval for setting up a wholly owned non-financial subsidiary.
- SIB, which has been struggling to come out of its large bad loans trap, seems to be preparing the ground to set up subsidiaries or associate companies in order to try its hand at other areas including retail financing, insurance, reinsurance etc.

### EXIM Bank extends USD 250 mn line of credit to Mozambique

- Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) has extended a USD 250-million (about Rs 1,870 crore) line of credit (LOC) to Mozambique for improving power supply quality in the country.
- EXIM Bank till date has extended 14 LOCs to Mozambique, taking their total value to USD 772.44 million. EXIM Bank has now in place 264 LOCs with credit commitments of around USD 25.98 billion, available for financing exports from India.

### Equitas SFB appointed as official retail banking partner for Chennai Super Kings

- Equitas Small Finance Bank announced that it has been appointed as the official retail banking partner for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) IPL team with effect from August 1, 2020.
- The Chennai-based bank was the principal sponsor of CSK in 2018. Equitas then announced that it will be the banking partner of Team CSK for three years.
- “The Bank becomes the official retail banking partner for the Chennai Super Kings Indian Premier League (IPL) team.

### CDSL gets nod for e-KYC authentication

- Central Depository Services (India) Ltd, has received approval for local Authentication User Agency (AUA)/e-KYC User Agency (KUA) from UIDAI.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The CDSL Group's AUA/KUA will facilitate intermediaries to offer seamless online account opening using online Aadhaar based eKYC, stated the depository.
- The Aadhaar-based eKYC service coupled with eSign service will facilitate online account opening and will reduce the turnaround time for online KYC and account opening, it further stated.

### **Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund launches Arbitrage Yojana**

- Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund has launched -Mahindra Manulife Arbitrage Yojana, an open ended scheme for investment in arbitrage opportunities available in equity, derivatives and debt markets.
- Mahindra Manulife Arbitrage Yojana would invest minimum 65-100% in equity and equity related instruments including equity derivatives, upto 35% in debt and money market securities including tri-party repo, reverse repo upto 35 - 100% in debt and money market securities including tri-party repo, reverse repo, and upto 10% in units issued by REITs & InvITs.

### **Razorpay launches payment gateway 'Button' to digitise freelancers, NGOs**

- Razorpay has introduced a feature that allows micro-entrepreneurs and freelancers to instantaneously accept digital payments online, a move attempted to corner the market of the rapidly digitising small businesses amid the ongoing pandemic.
- The feature called the 'Payment Button' will enable businesses and freelancers to add a single line of code on a website or blog and go live with a payment gateway within a few minutes.

### **Federal Bank chooses Fiserv to support launch of first independent credit card**

- Federal Bank has chosen global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions Fiserv to enable digitisation of the bank's end-to-end card issuance and processing cycle, and support the launch of its credit card.

### **Sebi levies penalty of Rs.10 lakh each on LIC, SBI, Bank of Baroda**

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) penalized three state-owned financial companies, including State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Bank of Baroda (BoB), for failing to reduce their stakes in UTI Asset Management Co. (AMC).
- The three companies have to bring down their stakes in UTI to 10%, each, from the existing 18.24%, each.
- The three public sector companies have considerable stakes in other fund houses, including LIC Mutual Fund, SBI Mutual Fund and Bank of Baroda Mutual Fund.
- The adjudicating officer fined the three companies Rs. 10 lakh each.

### **Standard Chartered & Airtel Africa partner to drive financial inclusion across Africa**

- Standard Chartered Bank has entered into a strategic collaboration with Airtel Africa to drive financial inclusion across key markets in Africa by providing customers with increased access to mobile financial services.
- Through the collaboration, both Standard Chartered and Airtel Africa will work together to co-create new and innovative products aimed at enhancing the accessibility of financial services and, serve to people across Africa better.

### **Digital Apnayan: PNB launches campaign to encourage digital banking**

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Punjab National Bank launched a campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
- Under the campaign 'DIGITAL APNAYEN', the bank will contribute Rs 5 towards the PM CARES Fund on behalf of each customer conducting the first financial transaction to activate their RuPay Debit card either on point of sale (PoS) or e-commerce platform.

### **Bharti AXA Life, SBM Bank India enter into bancassurance partnership**

- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has entered into bancassurance partnership with **SBM Bank India** for distribution of **life insurance products** through the latter's network.
- Under this agreement, Bharti AXA Life Insurance will offer its entire suite of life insurance products.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance tied up with **Karnataka Bank** as its first major bancassurance partnership to distribute its various insurance solutions.

### **Lakshmi Vilas Bank launches instant account opening facility**

- Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) has launched **LVB DigiGo**, a digital initiative to enable opening of savings account instantly.

### **Muthoot Finance, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance partner to offer COVID-19 cover**

- Muthoot Finance has teamed-up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance in bid to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against gold loan.
- The company will be providing complimentary COVID-19 insurance cover to their eligible customers through **Muthoot Finance Ayush Gold Loan**, an exclusive initiative of Muthoot Group.

### **Fino Payments Bank launches Aadhaar Auth based Digital Savings account to offer Neo-Banking Experience**

- Fino Payments Bank has launched Jan BachatKhata, an Aadhaar Authentication based digital savings account that brings neo-banking experience to consumers.
- The Jan BachatKhata (JBK) is available to everyone who is comfortable with AadhaarAuth based banking on fingertips.

### **PayMate launches full stack supply chain payments automation platform**

- B2B payments player PayMate launched the country's first full-stack supply chain payments automation platform for large enterprises and their suppliers (SMEs).
- The new version of the PayMate platform will add further value to supply chains by allowing enterprises to extend payables using commercial cards and SMEs to receive early payments towards outstanding invoices.

### **YES BANK launches digital `Loan against Securities` under the Loan in Seconds platform for instant loan disbursements**

- YES BANK announced the launch of digital 'Loan against Securities', a unique solution enabling customers to lien mark their mutual funds digitally and avail quick and hassle-free loan.
- This digital solution has been launched under YES BANK's 'Loan in Seconds' platform, allowing customers to set an instant credit limit against securities held.

### **Benefits of the solution**

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Instant availability of funds in account within minutes
- Loan up to Rs. 1 crore against debt mutual funds
- Available against both Debt and Equity Mutual Funds
- Customer retains mutual fund portfolio without liquidation
- Interest applied only on amount utilized for the number of days of utilization

### **IRDAI group recommends setting up loss prevention entity for non-life insurers**

- A working group constituted by the insurance regulator has recommended the setting up of a non-profit company to reduce insurance losses arising from property and motor related liabilities for the industry.
- The ten-member committee headed by Irdai member T L Alamelu has recommended the regulator and industry participants to join hands in establishing this company.

### **Edelweiss Tokio Life partners with Element AI for AI transformation journey**

- Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has partnered with Element AI, a global developer of artificial intelligence-powered (AI) solutions and products, to develop a strategic AI roadmap for the new-age insurer and prioritise investments.

### **KVG Bank inks pact with SBI General Insurance**

- The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) and SBI General Insurance Co Ltd have signed an MoU to sell general insurance products through the branches of KVGB.
- The customers of KVGB will get access to bouquet of products that can cover their health, **home, motor, property** through the range of solutions that the company offers.

### **SBI partners with AddaCorner to boost real estate deals in Bengaluru**

- State Bank of India (SBI) unveiled an online home carnival in partnership with real-time group negotiation e-platform AddaCorner.
- This will ensure that buyers are able to unlock group pricings and negotiate the best deal on the property while allowing developers to close sales in bulk

### **Bharti AXA's non-life insurance business to merge with ICICI Lombard General Insurance**

- Bharti AXA's non-life insurance business is set to merge with ICICI Lombard General Insurance, in what will end up creating the country's third largest non-life insurance company.
- Based on the share exchange ratio recommended by independent valuers and accepted by the respective boards of the companies, the shareholders of Bharti AXA will receive two shares of ICICI Lombard for every 115 shares of Bharti AXA on the date when the Scheme of Arrangement is approved by the boards of both companies.
- The combined entity shall have a market share of about 8.7 per cent on pro-forma basis.

### **HSBC India comes up with green deposit programme for corporate clients**

- HSBC India launched a "green deposit programme", exclusively for corporate clients, under which deposits will be used by the bank to finance green initiatives and environment friendly projects. The deposit scheme will come in the form of a term deposit, which typically attracts higher interests as compared to savings deposits.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- HSBC has extended green loans to support environment friendly projects in the past across multiple sectors. In India, it has extended credit to a 250 MW wind power project at Kutch, Gujarat, India.

### **Digit Launches SME Buddy to Simplify Insurance for SMEs and Startups**

- Digit Insurance has launched an exclusive do-it-yourself (DIY) advisory tool for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups, SME Buddy.
- The online tool helps entrepreneurs calculate the insurance coverage for their business in just a few simple steps. The business owner has to key in details about the nature of his business, its industry, assets linked to the enterprise and the businesses resources.

### **Paytm Payments Bank enables banking through Aadhaar cards**

- Paytm Payments Bank has enabled banking services through Aadhaar cards by integrating Aadhaar-enabled Payment System.
- Paytm Payments Bank's customers can now access basic banking services such as cash withdrawal, balance enquiry and obtain a mini statement through the business correspondent of any banking and financial institution in the country.

### **RBL Bank Selects Accenture to Accelerate Its Digital Journey**

- RBL Bank announced that Accenture (NYSE: ACN) will transform and enhance the future readiness of the bank's information technology (IT) systems and accelerate its digital transformation journey.
- Accenture will provide managed services and help RBL Bank modernize and consolidate its large and disparate applications environment to help streamline and automate key business processes such as finance and compliance, human resources and sales.

### **Axis Bank launches hiring initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'**

- Axis Bank has launched a new initiative named 'Gig-a-Opportunities'. The initiative aims to attract skilled talent that can work with the bank remotely, from anywhere in the country.
- This hiring model comprises two working patterns. One is the full-time permanent job and the second is based on the duration of a project and is temporary in nature.
- GIG-A-Opportunities will attract talent through two work models – 1) 100% virtual roles and 2) flexible, project based short term contracts.

### **Nabard introduces debt and credit guarantee product**

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has introduced a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product, 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program for Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)', to ensure unhindered flow of credit to the last mile in rural areas hit by the pandemic.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Average size of Rs.500 crore of assets under management) that operate in rural hinterlands and serve farmers, traders, rural businesses and households.

### ICICI Bank Becomes First in India to Use Satellite Data To Assess Farmer Loans

- ICICI Bank has announced that it will make use of satellite data, in combination with technologies from agri-tech and fin-tech firms, to offer advanced, remote credit assessment for extending loans to farmers.
- The technology will involve using advanced satellite imagery to assess farm lands in parameters such as land quality, location, irrigation and year-round crop patterns.

### SBI General Insurance Launches 'Shagun – Gift an insurance' policy

- SBI General Insurance announced the launch of first-of-its-kind offering, 'Shagun – Gift an Insurance', a unique gift of Personal Accident policy. This product was filed by SBI General under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDAI) Sandbox regulations.

### Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launches cover for pet dogs

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched its pet insurance product called 'Bajaj Allianz Pet Dog Insurance Policy'.
- This policy provides comprehensive coverage to domesticated pet dogs of indigenous origin, pedigree, non-pedigree, cross-bred and also exotic breeds over the lifetime of the dogs from age three months to 10 years, the insurer stated.
- The premium starts from Rs.315 and a 5 per cent discount on premium is available in case the dog is RFID-tagged.

### HSBC launches one-stop solution for multiple payment options

- HSBC India introduced Omni Collect — a one-stop solution to provide multiple payment options on single platform.
- The aim is to simplify the way businesses collect payments through various digital modes.
- Some of key features of Omni Collect are — 1) Centralised digital collections management, 2) Integrated collections solution with partnered aggregators, 3) Real-time connectivity via API for immediate collection and transaction status enquiry, 4) A comprehensive report including Customer Reference number (Order ID) and transaction amount, 4) Data of all transactions (card/mobile wallet, etc.).

### Axis Bank Introduces 'Liberty Savings Account' for the Indian Youth

- Axis Bank announced the launch of its 'Liberty Savings Account'.
- This unique proposition offers customers the flexibility to either maintain a minimum balance of Rs 25,000 per month or spend the same amount every month through the Liberty debit card or savings account (via NetBanking, Axis Mobile or UPI) on lifestyle requirements.
- The Liberty Savings Account also offers a complimentary hospital cash insurance cover of upto Rs 20,000 per year.

### Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance launches real-time assistance service

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has launched a new technology service called 'Smart Assist' that provides real-time assistance to customers.
- Smart Assist is designed to help customers know all about their product, through virtual assistance, since face-to-face meetings have been a challenge amid the coronavirus pandemic.



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### International Financial Corporation to Invest Rs.75 Crore in Endiya Partners Fund II

- The International Financial Corporation(IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has committed to invest Rs 75 crore (about USD 10million) in Endiya Partners Fund II. In addition to this, IFC has also committed an additional USD 10 million for direct co-investments.

### Paytm Launched India's 1st Pocket Android POS Device, 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS'

Paytm has launched India's 1st Pocket Android POS(Point of Sale) Device, 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' for contactless ordering and payments in India. It is an effort to digitise and empower a large number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

### Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd Collaborates with BSE EBIX to sell General Insurance products

- Universal Sampo General Insurance Company Ltd has collaborated with BSE EBIX Insurance Broking Private Limited (BSE EBIX ) to sell General Insurance products in a fully digital environment using the distribution network of BSE EBIX.

### Tata Capital Ltd Launched a New Service, 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' on Whatsapp

- Tata Capital Ltd(Tata Capital), the financial services arm of the Tata Group launched its new service called, 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' (SIPL) on WhatsApp. Through the new service, the existing customers can easily apply for loans and receive sanctions for personal loans (on a single platform) using TIA, a chatbot of Tata Capital on Whatsapp.

### MasterCard and Goals101.ai Partnered to create Targeted and Personalised Offers for Bank Cardholders

- Mastercard has entered into an alliance with Goals101.ai, the leading bank-tech and Artificial Intelligence(AI) company. Through this alliance, Goals101.ai connects merchants and issuers using big data, AI and automation to create targeted and personalized offers for Bank cardholders.

### Innoviti and Visa Partnered to develop installments platform for face-to-face transactions

- Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd.(Innoviti) and Visa have partnered to develop an installment platform, which will enable the issuers to extend credit to their cardholders at face-to-face Point of Sale(PoS) in India.

### HDFC Bank launches instant auto loan product

- **HDFC Bank** announced its plans to offer instant auto loans called ZipDrive to its customers in 1,000 cities.
- The offering is now being extended to Tier 2 and 3 cities, such as **Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh, Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Thalassery in Kerala, and Balasore in Odisha** among other places, across India.

### Kotak Mahindra Bank & Innoviti Collaborates to Offer EMIs on Kotak Debit Cards Swiped on Innoviti POS Terminals

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) and Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. announced that they have collaborated to provide Equated Monthly Installments(EMI) billing options on Kotak Debit Cards which are swiped on Innoviti Point of Sale(POS) terminals.

### ICICI Bank launches instant loan facility against mutual funds

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- **ICICI Bank** has launched a facility that enables retail customers to get loan of up to **Rs.1 crore** instantaneously by pledging their holdings in both debt and equity mutual funds.

- ICICI Bank has launched '**Insta Loans against Mutual Funds**' in partnership with '**Computer Age Management Services**' (CAMS). 'Insta Loans against Mutual Funds' is an extension of the Insta LAS, an instant loan facility against equity.

### **Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited launches Video KYC Account**

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited** becomes one of the leading banks in the country to launch video KYC account.

- This is a web application designed to conduct a remote verification process through a video call. The customer has to submit their Aadhaar and pan details on the video call for bank to verify.

### **Irdai committee to examine Surety Bonds for road contracts**

- Irdai has formed a panel under **G Srinivasan**, director, National Insurance Academy, to assess the suitability of the Indian insurance industry or any other sector to offer Surety Bonds for road contracts in the country.

- Currently, **Surety Bond** for contractors is not being offered by insurance companies in the market to guarantee satisfactory completion of a project by a contractor and provide performance security to various government agencies.

### **Public, Private Sectors banks sanctioned loans worth over Rs 1.10 lakh cr under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme**

- Public and Private Sectors banks have sanctioned loans worth over **one lakh ten thousand crore** rupees so far under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

- The scheme was launched by the government to provide relief to the MSME sector by incentivizing member lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to three lakh crore at low interest to enable MSMEs to meet their operational requirements during the COVID-19 crisis.

- The top lenders under the Scheme are SBI, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank.

### **NPCI to set up Rs.500-crore data centre to handle digital transactions**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will set up a '**Smart Datacentre**' in Hyderabad with an investment of **Rs.500 crore**.

- Telangana Information Technology and Industries Minister **KT Rama Rao** laid the foundation stone for the **Tier-IV data centre** at Narsingi.

- The data centre will host data related to a number of Digital India initiatives. It will make Hyderabad one of the major hubs for processing payments. The total value of transactions is pegged at **Rs.15 lakh crore** and the number of transactions at **4,000 millions a month**.

- The Telangana Government has announced a **Data Centre Policy** to make Hyderabad a hub for data centres.

### **Union Bank revamps Insurance distribution channels post amalgamation**

- **Union Bank of India** has revamped its distribution network for insurance products after amalgamation and expanded the number of insurers whose policies it would sell to nine.

- The outlets of bank will offer Insurance products of **three life insurers; four general insurers and two standalone health insurers**. Expansion of insurance distribution channel will help the bank increase insurance penetration.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Bank executives stated Reliance General Insurance is no longer part of tie-up under new arrangement. The lender earned about **Rs 128 crore** through sale of **Third Party products** on standalone basis, predominantly insurance policies (life, health and general) in 2019-20.

- **Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank** amalgamated with **Union Bank** with effect from April 01, 2020, a network of more than 9500 branches.

### IndiaFirst Life to Offer Exclusive COVID-19 and Hospital Cash Cover to Bank of Baroda Credit Cardholders

- **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited** (IndiaFirst Life), promoted by **Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India**, has associated with BOB Financial Services Limited (BOB Financial) to offer a unique group insurance covering that provides financial support upon hospitalisation or on COVID-19 diagnosis.

### Karur Vysya Bank partners with Star Health Insurance

- The **Karur Vysya Bank** (KVB) has entered into a tie-up with **Star Health and Allied Insurance** to provide health insurance products to its customers.
- This would help the bank provide cost effective insurance products and quick settlement of claims to its customers.

### SBM Bank India partners with Mastercard to facilitate cross-border transactions, remittances

- **SBM Bank India** and global payments technology major **Mastercard** have joined hands to facilitate **cross-border payments and remittances services**.
- The SBM Bank India customers will be able to make real-time domestic business-to-consumer transfers quickly and efficiently using '**Mastercard Send**'.

### Karur Vysya Bank in corporate agency pact with Bajaj Allianz Life

- **Karur Vysya Bank**, an old private sector bank, has signed up a corporate agency partnership with **Bajaj Allianz Life** to offer life insurance solutions to its customers.
- Under the deal, KVB will provide **Bajaj Allianz Life's insurance solutions** to its customers, while the insurance company will empower the Bank's customers to avail the living benefits of life insurance, according to a statement.

### YES Bank launches instant loan disbursement facility

- **YES Bank** has launched a solution for instant disbursement of retail loans for the bank's pre-approved liability account holders.
- Called **Loan in Seconds**, the algorithm assesses a loan application in real-time and eliminates the need for documentation.

### Fino Payments Bank launches 'Bhavishya' savings account for minors

- **Fino Payments Bank Limited** announced the launch of a savings account scheme for minors aged between **10-18 years**.
- **Bhavishya**, a subscription-based savings account, can be opened by paying a nominal amount.
- The bank will initially introduce the Bhavishya savings account in **UP, Bihar, and MP** and gradually in other states.

### Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund launches voice-based services via Google Assistant

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- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund (ABSLMF)** has launched voice-based services for its investors with Google Assistant.
- The Google voice assistant uses the latest in **AI and NLP** to provide a simple conversational experience and provide the relevant solution. The fund house also has plans to be soon available on other voice assistant platforms such as Amazon's Alexa and Apple's Siri.

### BSE partners with LIC Mutual Fund for BSE eKYC services

- **BSE** has now partnered with **LIC Mutual Fund** to power its eKYC services on **BSE StAR MF**, the market leading MF platform.
- The digital KYC process will facilitate our Members to ensure zero contact, hassle-free customer on boarding process, especially during this COVID situation.
- The entire process is very user friendly and simplifies the user experience to perform the entire KYC process seamlessly.

### Karur Vysya Bank partners with Tata Motors to offer car loans at attractive terms

- **Karur Vysya Bank** has entered into an arrangement with **Tata Motors** to fund buyers of Tata passenger vehicles.
- KVB is offering a special product for buyers of Tata Motor passenger vehicles under which **100% on-road finance** with a 6 month holiday period is provided at attractive interest rates. The scheme is applicable only for 3 models, viz., Tata Tiago, Tata Nexon and Tata Altroz. The loans are available to both the salaried and self-employed.
- Loans are offered for both salaried and self-employed persons and repayment period is upto **60 months** with attractive rates of interest.

### IRDAI forms panel on 'Indian Pandemic Risk Pool'

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a working group to examine the feasibility of '**Pandemic Risk Pool**'.
- **Suresh Mathur**, Executive Director, Irdai, will be the Chairman for the 9-member working group with industry representatives as members.
- Apart from studying the need for such as pool, the group will also recommend the **structure and operating model**.

### SEBI rejigs advisory committee on mutual funds

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revamped its committee that advises the capital markets regulator on matters related to **regulation and development of mutual fund** industry.
- The **20-member** advisory committee on mutual funds is headed by **Usha Thorat**, former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a latest Sebi update showed.
- Earlier in 2013, the panel **had 15 members** and was headed by **Janki Ballabh**, former Chairman of SBI.

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### NSE launches new gold standard for delivery

- The National Stock Exchange has announced **NSE Refiner Standards (NRS)** for **BIS-Standard gold** to be delivered for settlement of the gold futures contracts traded on its platform.
- Currently, the NSE accepts serial-numbered gold bars produced by London Bullion Market Association-approved refiners for settlement of the gold contracts traded on the commodity derivatives segment of the exchange.
- This initiative is in line with the government's efforts towards **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **'Make in India'** programme. It will facilitate more participation by domestic market players in the exchange traded deliverable bullion commodity derivatives.

### IRDAI gives its nod to Insurance companies to launch corona Kavach Health Insurance Policies PIC

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, IRDAI, has allowed **30 general and health insurers** to launch short-term **'Corona Kavach'** health insurance policies. The policy will cover medical expenses occurred due to coronavirus disease.
- The insurance regulator stated that it has designed a standard Covid specific product addressing basic health insurance needs of insuring public with common policy wordings across the industry. The **sum insured amount** of the policy ranges between **fifty thousand rupees to five lakh rupees**.
- This policy can be availed by persons between the age of **18 to 65 years**. People can avail the Corona Kavach policy for Self, spouse, parents, parents-in-law and dependent children up to **25 years of age**.
- The authority had issued clearance to **30 General and Health Insurance companies** to market this Corona Kavach Policy.

### HDFC ERGO Launches Corona Kavach Policy

- HDFC ERGO announced the launch of **'Corona Kavach'** policy.
- This new indemnity health policy will offer cover against medical expenses incurred due to hospitalization of individuals seeking treatment for COVID-19, on positive diagnosis for the virus in a government authorized diagnostic centre.
- The policy will also cover road ambulance expenses, in case the service is opted for the purpose of hospitalization due to COVID-19. **Home Care Expenses benefit** (up to a period of 14 days) will also be covered in the policy for those seeking treatment within the comfort of their own homes, on the advice of a medical practitioner.
- Policyholders will also be liable for Hospital daily cash, which will be 0.5 per cent of sum insured per day for a **maximum of up to 15 days**, during a policy period.

### HSBC India rolls out digital payment products for retail customers

- **HSBC India** announced the launch of a comprehensive range of digital payment products for its retail customers.
- HSBC is now part of **e-NACH** (Electronic National Automated Clearing House).
- It has also launched real-time bill payments powered by **Bharat Bill Payments system (BBPS)** on its net banking and mobile application.



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- The bank's customers can now use their internet banking to pay directly at over 2 lakh merchant websites.

### Visa partners with Federal Bank for rolling out Visa Secure for e-commerce

- Visa has entered into a partnership with **Federal Bank** to roll out Visa Secure to the bank's cardholders.
- Visa Secure is a global authentication program that uses the latest standards of the **EMV 3DS (3D Secure) protocol**.

### Income Tax Department launches tool for Banks to ascertain TDS applicability rates on cash withdrawals

- The **Income Tax Department** has facilitated a new functionality for Banks and Post offices through which they can ascertain the **TDS applicability rates** on cash withdrawals.
- Under it, the Banks and Post Offices can ascertain the TDS applicability rates on cash withdrawals of above **20 lakh rupees** in case of a non-filer of the income-tax return and that of above one crore rupees in case of a filer of the income-tax return.
  - TDS is deductible at the rate of **2 per cent** if cash withdrawal exceeds one crore rupees if the person withdrawing cash is a filer of the income-tax return. It stated, TDS is deductible at the **rate 2 per cent** if cash withdrawal exceeds **20 lakh rupees** and at the **rate of 5 per cent** if it exceeds one crore rupees in case the person is a non-filer of the income-tax return.
  - TDS at the higher rate of **5 per cent on cash withdrawal** exceeding **one crore rupees** by the non-filers.

### Nabard announces Rs.5,000-crore concessional refinance facility

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), announced a concessional refinance facility to the tune of **Rs.5,000 crore for banks** and financial institutions for on-lending to beneficiaries in its **2,150 watershed development projects**.
- Nabard has launched a **Rs.5,000-crore** grant-based scheme for computerisation of **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** to enable these ground-level entities provide seamless credit services to their farmer members.

### NABARD Launched Development Projects worth Rs 44 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) launched development projects of Rs 44 lakhs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to strengthen the Atmanirbhar Bharat through rural entrepreneurship.

### NHB provides Rs.25,000 crore to housing fin cos as refinance assistance in last 4 months

- The National Housing Bank (NHB) has in the **last four months** (March to June 30, 2020) provided a total refinance assistance of **over Rs.25,000 crore** to the housing finance companies (HFCs) alone.
- Total refinance disbursements during July-June 2020 grew **24 per cent** year -on-year to touch **Rs.31,250 crore** under its various refinance schemes.
- Under the Aatmanirbhar Package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the NHB was provided a **Special Liquidity Facility of Rs.10,000 crore** by the Reserve Bank of India to address the pandemic related liquidity issues of housing finance sector.



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### 2% interest subvention on Shishu loans operationalised via SIDBI

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) stated that **SIDBI** will provide funds to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) upfront under the government-approved **2 per cent interest subvention for SHISHU loans**.
- It may be recalled that Union Cabinet in June approved a scheme for interest subvention of **2 per cent to Shishu loan** category borrowers under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana outstanding as on March 31, **for a period of 12 months** to eligible borrowers.
- The move to allow **SIDBI** to provide amount to MLIs upfront would benefit 9.37 crore small loan accounts, the DFS tweeted.
- Mudra loans are designed to bring enterprises into the formal financial system. They are available to non-farm micro or small enterprises engaged in income generation through manufacturing, trading and services. Shishu loans are loans that are up to **Rs.50,000 per borrower**.

### HSBC to set up IFSC Banking Unit at GIFT City

- **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)** has received an in-principle approval from the GIFT SEZ Authority to set up an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at **GIFT- International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- **GIFT IFSC Banking Units** have played a pivotal role in the development of IFSC in India by providing dollar financing to Indian corporates.

### PSBs to purchase NBFC Bonds/CPs worth Rs 14,667 cr under extended PCGS: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme, PCGS was revamped under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package to support the liability side of Non Banking Financial Companies, NBFCs. It provides a **20 per cent portfolio** guarantee to Public Sector Banks for the purchase of Bonds or Commercial Papers rated AA and below which are issued by NBFCs.
- Ms Sitharaman stated, under the extended PCGS, Public Sector Banks have approved the purchase Bonds or Commercial Papers issued by **67 NBFCs** amounting to **14 thousand 6 hundred 67 crore rupees**.
- Of these 6 thousand 8 hundred 45 crore rupees is for Bonds or Commercial Papers rated below AA, providing liquidity support to NBFCs with lower rated Bonds or Commercial Papers.
- She stated, further, the purchase of Bonds or Commercial Papers of **6 thousand 1 hundred 25 crore rupees**, including 5 thousand 5 hundred 50 crore rupees of Bonds or Commercial Papers rated below AA, is currently under various stages of approval or at negotiation stage.

### IndusInd Bank Adopts Agile Technology Platform For Deeper Customer Engagement

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- **IndusInd Bank** announced successful integration with a leading enterprise solution provider which will simplify the process of customer on-boarding, introduce new products and meet customer demands by automating and customising processes to fit the modern-day financial requirements.

- The **CRMNEXT platform** will empower IndusInd Bank with an intelligence-driven customer action centre which will provide complete information on customers acquired from multiple sources, and make it available on a single intuitive screen.

### Bank of Maharashtra launches OD facility against fixed deposits

- **Bank of Maharashtra** (BoM) has launched an **overdraft facility** (OD) against fixed deposits (FDs) for its individual customers holding a savings bank account.

- Under this facility, up to **90 per cent of the FD value** can be availed as OD. The interest rate on this facility will be **2 percentage points** over and above the FD rate.

- The OD facility can be availed from the comfort of home in three simple steps using Bank of **Maharashtra's Mahamobile App**.

### NABARD sanctions ₹795 cr to re-construct infra damaged by cyclone in Bengal

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned **₹795 crore** for reconstructing infrastructure damaged by cyclone Amphan that ripped through **West Bengal** in May.

- The state government had sought **₹1,028 crore** from **NABARD** for repairing impaired embankments under **Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)**.

- The amount of **₹795 crore** was sanctioned following the appeal of the government.

- NABARD has already provided **₹145 crore** under RIDF to the state as special liquidity support for boosting rural infrastructure in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches Punjab National Bank's Nation-wide CSR campaign for Distribution of Mask and Sanitizer to prevent Spread of COVID-19

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched Punjab National Bank's (PNB) campaign to distribute face masks and sanitizers to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### Banks sanction over Rs 1.27 lakh cr loans under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

- There is an increase of over **4,237 crore rupees** in the cumulative amount of loans sanctioned and over 9,301 crore rupees in the cumulative amount of loans disbursed by both public and private sector banks till now as compared to 15th of July.

- As of 20th of July, the total amount sanctioned under the **100 percent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** by the banks stands at over 1.27 lakh crore, of which over 77,613 crore rupees have already been disbursed.

- Finance Ministry stated under the **100 percent ECLGS**, the loan amounts sanctioned by Public Sector Banks increased to over 70,894 crore rupees of which over 45,797 crore rupees have been disbursed.

### LIC-UBI announce corporate agency pact

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- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Union Bank of India**, after its amalgamation with **Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank**, have announced a corporate agency agreement to distribute LIC policies.

### Bank of Baroda rolls out 'Insta Click Savings Account'

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched '**Insta Click Savings Account**', a **100 percent paperless digital self-assisted online savings account**.
- Insta Click Savings Account uses a new form of digital KYC (know-your-customer) and Aadhaar-based OTP (one-time personal identification number) authentication of the customer.
- The account is activated in real-time, which means the customer can start transacting, using the **Baroda M Connect Plus application** with the MPIN received on the mobile number, immediately, it added.

### NPCI launches UPI Autopay

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched **UPI Autopay**, a facility that would allow recurring payments at regular intervals.
  - If the **amount exceeds Rs.2,000, customers have to execute every mandate with UPI PIN.**
- The facility was launched at the **Global Fintech Fest**.
- Any UPI-enabled application would also have a '**Mandate**' section, through which customers can create, approve, modify, pause as well as revoke auto debit mandate, NPCI further stated.

### PhonePe, ICICI Lombard team up to offer Hospital Cash cover

- **PhonePe** announced the launch of its Hospital Daily Cash benefit under Group Safeguard Insurance in partnership with private insurer **ICICI Lombard**.
- It is a customised hospitalisation policy that allows **PhonePe users** to get an assured amount if they are hospitalised due to injury or illnesses including Covid-19, the company explained.
- PhonePe users can buy the insurance through the app, from the "**My Money**" section.

### Bharti AXA General Insurance receives Rs.800 crore worth crop insurance mandate from Maharashtra, Karnataka under PMFBY

- Bharti AXA General Insurance, had received **Rs.800 crore worth crop insurance** mandate from the governments of **Maharashtra and Karnataka** to insure their farmers under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
- The company has secured authorisation for a **period of three years** from both the state governments to implement the PMFBY in **six districts of Maharashtra and three districts of Karnataka**.

### Corona Care: India's first coronavirus hospitalization insurance by PhonePe for Covid-19 treatment

- To provide support for such cases, Digital payments company PhonePe has launched India's first COVID-19 hospitalization insurance policy called Corona Care in collaboration with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for people who have been infected and hospitalised for covid-19 treatment.
- The policy will provide an insurance cover of 50,000 on a one-time payment of Rs 156 for people

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who are under 55 years of age.

### SBM Bank collaborates with EnKash and Yap to launch co-branded Business Credit Card on RuPay network for MSMEs and start-ups

- **SBM Bank India**, EnKash, YAP and RuPay joined hands to launch India's most comprehensive business credit card, the SBM EnKash RuPay Business Card.
- This corporate credit card would utilise the RuPay network and will be available upon immediate issuance through digital and paperless on-boarding for SMEs, MSMEs and Start-ups at any SBM Bank touch point.
- The **SBM EnKash RuPay Business Card** is designed to streamline business expenditure and finances, through a blend of expense tracking and a **30-day credit period** on business purchases, bill payments, travel expenses, automated GST, rental payments, payments to suppliers, online purchase of software, cloud bills payments, utility bills payments, online purchase of inventories among others.
- **SBM EnKash RuPay Business Card**, with the launch of the **RuPay Commercial card portfolio**.

### Muthoot Fincorp launches mentoring portal for MSMEs

- Muthoot Fincorp, has launched a portal **Restartindia**, a free mentoring platform to help the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector to restart businesses across the country.
- The portal is designed to address the needs of the MSME sector, particularly nano and micro enterprises, and offer solutions for problems faced by a large number of women entrepreneurs.
- Restartindia was conceptualised jointly by **Muthoot Fincorp and INKtalks**, a free and open platform for advisory support.

### Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFCs/HFCs: FinMin sanctions 5 proposals for Rs.3,090 crore

- The Finance Ministry stated that five proposals involving an amount of **Rs.3,090 crore** had been sanctioned under the **Rs.30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme** for NBFCs and HFCs.
- The scheme has been launched to improve the liquidity position of NBFCs/HFCs through a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** to avoid any potential systemic risks to the financial sector.
- The scheme is being implemented by **SLS Trust**, the SPV set up by **SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAP)**.

### Adani Ports signs up for Science-Based Targets initiative

- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ)** has signed up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) becoming the first Indian port to commit to set science-based emissions reduction targets — across their entire value chain — that are consistent with keeping global warming to **1.5°C above** pre-industrial levels.

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- Companies signing a commitment letter to SBTi have **24 months** to have their targets approved and published by the SBTi, a collaboration between CDP, the **United Nations Global Compact**, **World Resources Institute (WRI)** and the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**.

### Microsoft, NBA team up to put virtual fans in basketball arenas

- **Microsoft Corp and the NBA** stated they have joined forces to put "virtual" fans in the stands of each game using Microsoft's Teams app and giant screens.
- The two will equip each game court with **17-foot-tall (5.2 m)** LED screens that wrap three sides of the arena.

### African Development Bank commits \$98 million to Rwanda for multisector COVID-19 response

- The **African Development Bank** approved a concessional loan of **\$97.675 million to Rwanda** to strengthen its national budget as it works to mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The funding will take the form of an **African Development Fund loan**, which the Bank is providing the under its COVID-19 Response Facility.

### Tata AIA Life Insurance launches express claims service that promises payouts in 4 hours

- Private sector Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced a new facility that promises to process life insurance claim pay-outs within **four hours of registering** them.

### Bharti AXA General Insurance Launches 'Bohot Zaroori Hai' Campaign For Farmers

- Bharti AXA General Insurance, one of the world's largest insurance companies, has launched its crop insurance campaign - '**Bohot Zaroori Hai**' - for farmers in **Maharashtra and Karnataka** to encourage them about their yield protection and financial security.
- The company has secured the mandate to insure **Rs 800 crore worth insurance to the farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka for a period of three years under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)**.

### SBI Card, IRCTC launch co-branded contactless credit card on RuPay platform

- **SBI Card** in collaboration with **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation**, launched the **IRCTC SBI Card**.
- The card is equipped with **Near Field Communication technology**, which enables customers to tap and pay. It is released by National Payments Corporation of India.
- It also offers a **1 per cent transaction fee waiver and 350 bonus reward points** upon card activation.

### Bank of Maharashtra, Uniken partner for Omni-channel security

- **Bank of Maharashtra has teamed-up with Uniken**, a pioneer in the field of digital security in India. As a part of this partnership, the bank will use Uniken's REL-ID technology for Omni-channel security.

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- One of the leading cyber security companies in India - Uniken -has been chosen by the state-owned Bank of Maharashtra for its innovative and unique **REL-ID technology** to secure not just their internet banking channels but also mobile, card, call centres, ATM etc. using **REL-ID's Omni-channel verification mechanism**.
- The launch of **MahaSecure by Bank of Maharashtra** and making it mandatory for all its customers who perform Internet banking activities clearly indicates its efforts towards ensuring data security and keeping cyber fraud at bay for their customers.

### **Banks sanctions about Rs 90,000 crore concessional credit to 1.1 crore Kisan Credit Card holders**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated banks have sanctioned **Rs 89,810 crore** to about 1.1 crore Kisan Credit Card (KCC)holders to help farmers meet finances for kharif sowing and allied activities.

### **Axis Bank launches AI-powered conversational voice BOT for IVR**

- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** unveiled as **Automated Voice Assistant 'AXAA'**, which is an artificial intelligence-powered conversational voice BOT.
- **AXAA** operates like a humanoid and has power to change the paradigm of customer experience from conventional **Interactive Voice Response (IVR)** system to a new era of call steering and precise response with very high degree of accuracy and consistency.
- It can converse in **English, Hindi and Hinglish** and is capable of handling one lakh customer queries and requests per day.

### **Sundaram Mutual launches 'Any-day SIP'**

- **Sundaram Mutual** has given investors the freedom to select a date on which their **systematic investment plan (SIP)** needs to be deducted from bank account rather than choosing from the six different dates usually fixed by the fund houses.
- The **'Any-day SIP'**, which is available in all open-ended schemes, will be available for transactions made through the Sundaram Mutual website starting July 29. Investors can also choose to modify their existing SIP date on the Sundaram Mutual platform.

### **MobiKwik launches personal UPI payment link mpay.me**

- **MobiKwik** launched **mpay.me**- a UPI payment link service to send and receive money from any UPI payment app.
- Through **mpay.me**, users and merchants can set up a link using their mobile number to start receiving money.
- This single link created using **mpay.me** can be shared anywhere to send and receive money and will work seamlessly on mobile as well as desktop.

### **Craft Silicon, PayU announce strategic tie-up to advance digital loan repayment**

- **Craft Silicon** announces a strategic association with **PayU**, India's online payment solutions provider.
- Craft Silicon has enabled loan repayment in a safe and convenient manner for retail consumers. This has been achieved through **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** and payment gateway integration with PayU, as per the official release.

### **HDFC Bank to Offer 'ZipDrive', an Online Instant Auto Loans to its Customers**



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- HDFC Bank announced that it will offer 'ZipDrive', an online instant auto loan to its customers in 1,000 cities. The auto loan disbursement product is only for customers with pre-approved offers. It is a technology-enabled loan product where credit assessment is done by banking software.

### NABARD organised a 'digital choupal' to mark its 39th Foundation Day

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has celebrated its 39<sup>th</sup> Foundation day. NABARD has organized its first "digital choupal", a video conference which brought together farmers from across the country who have been associated with NABARD in 7 development projects in rural India.

### NABARD disbursed Rs 2.51 cr grant assistance to SHGs & Rs 221.89 cr to support 298 watershed project in Karnataka

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has disbursed Rs 2.51 crore of grant assistance to Self Help Groups (SHGs) for promotion, skill development and digitisation of records in Karnataka.
- This funding is a part of EShakti or Digitisation of SHGs an initiative of Micro Credit and Innovations Department (mCID) of NABARD.

### Small Savings Scheme - Interest Rates.

Rates for small savings schemes are **revised quarterly**

Schemes	Interest Rates
Public Provident Fund	7.1%
Time deposits	1-1.4%
Time deposits for 1-3 years	5.5%
5-year Time Deposits	6.7%
5-year Recurring Deposits	5.8%
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	7.4%
National Savings Certificate	6.8%
Kisan Vikas Patra	6.9% (Maturity period - 124 months)
Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme	7.6%

### Indian Bank Agreement With SIDBI For MSMEs

- Indian Bank has entered into an agreement with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to use the latter's asset restructuring module for MSME borrowers.
- Indian Bank has also introduced an online training programme – **MSME Prerana** – to train the MSMEs in basic accounting, maintenance of books of accounts and government / bank schemes meant for MSMEs.

### Mumbai-based fintech start-up has decided to deploy 12 lakh wireless Bharat ATMs by March 2021

- Mahagram** is all set to deploy **12 lakh wireless ATMs** that will empower **kirana shops** and other retail stores to disburse cash to people, as banks are finding it increasingly unviable to operate and maintain ATMs across the country.

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- The four most popular ATMs in the country are those of ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and SBI, which are big brands.

### QRMP Scheme Launched For GST Payers With Turnover Up To Rs 5 Crore

- The government has launched the 'Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment' scheme for small taxpayers under the Goods and Services Tax system.
- The notifications were issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- Taxpayers with an aggregate annual turnover of up to Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year and have filed their October GSTR-3B (sales) return by Nov. 30, 2020, are eligible for this scheme.

### Punjab National Bank launches LenS-The Lending Solution

- Punjab National Bank launched a tech-based loan management solution called 'LenS-The Lending Solution', to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals.

### Axis Bank and Rupifi launch credit card for MSMEs

- Axis Bank strengthened its offerings for the MSME segment with the launch of a business credit card in partnership with Rupifi, an embedded lending fintech company that provides financial solutions to MSMEs.
- The co-branded credit card, powered by Visa. There is a joining fee of Rs 1,000 and there are no annual fees for the co-branded card. It's a revolving card with 51 days interest free credit period. The average credit limit offered will be in the range of Rs 1 and 2 lakh per month

### Kotak AMC launches India's first international REIT fund of funds

- On December 7, 2020 Kotak Mahindra Asset Management launched Kotak International REIT funds, which is India's first diversified REIT mutual fund (MF).
- It is an open ended mutual fund scheme that will invest in units of SMAM Asia REIT sub Trust Fund .

### BoB Launches Atmanirbhar Women Gold Scheme

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has launched the **Atmanirbhar Women Scheme** as part of its Baroda Gold Loan.
- Under the scheme, the bank is offering loans at **0.50%** concession for women.
- The bank under the gold loan scheme is also offering agri-gold loan at **0.25%** concession and for retail loan at **0.50%** concession.

### Central Bank of India ties up with NPCI to launch RuPay Select

- The **Central Bank of India** has launched a unique variant of a contactless debit card under the name RuPay Select, in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- It comes up with an accidental and permanent disability insurance cover up to 10 lakh at no extra cost to customers.

### Indian Army, Bank of Baroda sign MoU for 'Baroda Military Salary Package

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- **Indian Army and Bank of Baroda** have entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for **Baroda Military Salary Package**.

### Punjab National Bank introduce PNB e-Credit Card

- Nation's leading public sector bank, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, introduced **PNB e-Credit Card**, a digital replica of a physical Credit Card.
- Customers can view PNB e-Credit Cards details by clicking on the e-Credit Card facility in PNB Genie Mobile app.

### Businesses with monthly turnover of over Rs 50 lakh to pay at least 1% GST liability in cash

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has introduced new rule business with monthly turnover Rs 50 lakh will have to mandatorily pay at least **1 percent of their GST liability** in cash, instead of using input tax credits.
- CBIC has introduced Rule 86B in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules which restricts use of input tax credit (ITC) for discharging GST liability to 99 percent.

### CBIC Makes it Compulsory to Mention 8-digit HSN Code in GST Invoice for 49 Chemical-Based Products

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs(CBIC) made it compulsory for a registered person to mention the 8 digit HSN(Harmonised System of Nomenclature) code or tariff code for 49 chemical based products at the time of issuing Goods and Services Tax (GST) invoice. It is to be noted that this is the first time a specific category of supplier is mandated to use 8 digit HSN Code on every invoice irrespective of the aggregate turnover.

### Centralised Investment Clearance cell by April 15

- The Centralised '**Investment Clearance Cell**', under the proposed single window system, aimed at **facilitating businesses through a one-stop digital platform**, is planned to be launched with relevant Ministries and Departments and select States by **April 15, 2021**.
- The Investment Clearance Cell, which is an integral part of the single window system being worked out by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

### AU Small Finance, ICICI Pru Life tie up to offer life insurance solutions

- **AU Small Finance Bank** announced a strategic partnership with **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to offer life insurance solutions.
- The tie-up aims to deliver paperless, secure, and hassle-free life insurance.

### ICICI Bank and Google Pay collaborate to bring digital registration of FASTag

- **ICICI Bank** has announced that it is collaborating with **Google** to issue FASTag.
- It has become the **first bank to join hands with Google Pay** for the issuance of FASTag.
- Customers will now be able to order, track and recharge ICICI Bank FASTag via the Google Pay app.

### Bank of Baroda starts digital lending platform

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched its **Digital Lending Platform (DLP)**, which will allow prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a paperless process.

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- The bank will also offer 'Online Loan against Fixed Deposits' via DLP.
- BoB also launches **Atmanirbhar Women Gold Scheme**.
- The bank envisages that the digital share of disbursement in retail lending will grow to **74 per cent over five years**.

### City Union Bank introduces whatsapp banking option

- Tamil Nadu-based City Union Bank (CUB) is now available on India's most popular messaging application—**Whatsapp**.
- The bank has recently launched a **new Video KYC** facility through which anyone can open a new bank account from the comfort of the home or office, as a next step towards digitisation, through the platform.
- **Services offered through the platform** include Instance Account Openings, Account Balance Enquiry, Deposit Opening, Deposits Balance Enquiry, Mini Statement, Green PIN for Net/Mobile Banking, Bill Payment, Card Blocking and several others.

### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Introduces 'Money Mitra' For its Customers

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) Ltd headquartered at Bengaluru(Bangalore), Karnataka introduced 'Money Mitra', a new channel, to make banking services accessible to its customers in their neighbourhood.
- Money Mitra facilitates entrepreneurs of local businesses like kirana/medical stores or Insurance agencies to offer retail banking solutions to Ujjivan SFB customers exclusively.
- Currently, Ujjivan SFB has established over 100 Money Mitra outlets across the country.

### ICICI Lombard and Plum Partners Co-Create India's Health Insurance Products

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Limited partnered with Plum Benefits Private Limited to co-create India's first technologically backed group health insurance products to offer employers and employees flexibility, transparent pricing, and exceptional healthcare experience.

### Federal Bank Enters into an Online Rupee Remittance Tie-up with OrbitRemit Limited

- Federal Bank entered into an online Rupee remittance tie-up with OrbitRemit Limited.
- This partnership will facilitate Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and small businesses in New Zealand to transfer money to India in a modern, low cost, fast, easy and more reliable way. Usage of OrbitRemit' App and online platform: NRIs in New Zealand can also make use of the mobile app of OrbitRemit and an online platform to transfer money to India.

### ICICI Bank Becomes Designated Bank for all financial transactions under NHM in WB

- ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank headquartered at Mumbai won the mandate to be the designated financial institution for all monetary transactions under National Health Mission (NHM) in West Bengal (WB) as it quoted the lowest bid.

### RBL Bank & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Enters into a Bancassurance Partnership

- RBL Bank Ltd & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Ltd entered into a bancassurance partnership to offer a range of life insurance products, i.e., protection and long-term savings products of ICICI Prudential Life to the customers of RBL Bank.

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### IRDAI proposes a cap of Rs 1 cr in draft norms on Standard Accident Insurance Policies

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued draft guidelines on standard personal accident insurance policies.
- Under them, the insurance watchdog has recommended that all general and standalone health insurers will have to offer this product from April 1, 2021.

### SBI General Insurance & Mahindra Insurance Brokers made partnership to Increase Insurance Penetration

- SBI General Insurance Company Limited entered into a strategic partnership with Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd. (MIBL) to increase the insurance penetration in tier 2 & 3 cities (Rural Indian Cities).
- MIBL has collaborated with SBI General Insurance under its 'Sajhedaari program'.

### YES Bank in Partnership with Mastercard Launches 'Yes Private Prime Credit Card'

- YES Bank in partnership with Mastercard launched 'Yes Private Prime Credit Card' for the Affluent and Ultra High-Net-Worth- Individuals (HNWIs) of India. The card is available on the Mastercard World Elite platform.
- The card is a strictly by-invitation-only lifestyle Credit Card.

### Google Pay, PhonePe Together Accounts for More than 82% of UPI market by volume in November 2020: NPCI Data

- As per the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Google Pay and PhonePe together account for more than 82% of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) market by volume and more than 86% by value in November 2020. Google Pay has done 960.02 million transactions, worth Rs 1.61 trillion and PhonePe has done 868.4 million transactions, worth Rs 1.75 trillion.

### Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance launched its new digital campaign, #heroesofmycity

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) Life Insurance launched its new digital campaign, '#heroesofmycity'. This 2-month long campaign is an extension to the initiative #meformycity.
- #meformycity was launched by Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance in 2018. The purpose of designing the new digital campaign is to recognise the heroes of everyday life of the people who kept the city going when everything was stopped due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd Launches 3 in 1 Account

- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd (ESFBL) headquartered at Chennai, Tamil Nadu launched a 3-in-1 account (tripartite account), which comprises savings, trading and demat accounts for its customers.
- The account enables customers to hold all their bank and financial investments under one umbrella.
- This account was launched to widen the bank's product offerings.

### IRDAI Standardised Health Policies for Robotic and Bariatric Surgeries

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has standardised all health policies for robotic and bariatric surgeries. The robotic surgeries minimise the trauma caused to the patient.
- India is the most preferred country to get high-quality treatment across the world. Bariatric surgery is also called as Weight loss surgery, or metabolic surgery.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### ICICI Lombard and Plum Partners Co-Create India's Health Insurance Products

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Limited partnered with Plum Benefits Private Limited to co-create India's first technologically backed group health insurance products to offer employers and employees flexibility, transparent pricing, and exceptional healthcare experience.

### DBS Bank India Partners with Haqdarshak to Help Indian MSME

- DBS Bank India partnered with Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions Private Limited to help Indian MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to recover from COVID-19 pandemic.
- This aid will happen through the newly launched Haqdarshak MSME platform.

### Bharti AXA Life Introduced #GotYouCovered Campaign for Frontline Workers

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Limited introduced '#GotYouCovered Campaign', during the observation of Universal Health Coverage Day 2020. The campaign is a special initiative to appreciate the frontline healthcare workers who are working to protect people from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

### Exim Bank Extends \$ 448-million Line of Credit to Uzbekistan

- Export-Import Bank of India has extended a Line of Credit (LOC) of \$448 million to the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan for financing the latter's various projects in the Roads & Transport, Water and Technology & Communication sectors.

### SEBI forms Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID) to check Promoter Frauds

- SEBI has set up a specialised department Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID) to tackle initial public offering (IPO) proceed fraud, diversion of funds, bank loans and resources by company promoters. The new department will be headed by one of SEBI's executive director.

### Aceware in Association with ICICI Bank Launches 'AceMoney Micro ATM service'

- Aceware in association with ICICI Bank launched 'AceMoney Micro ATM(Automated Teller Machine) service' in Kochi, Kerala.
- This service will enable people to withdraw money from their bank account from home. The customers of all banks can avail this service. The money will be delivered, within 30 to 40 minutes.

### HDFC Bank invests in smallcase Technologies

- HDFC Bank has invested an undisclosed amount in Smallcase Technologies, and bought a minority stake, as part of a recent Series B fund-raise of \$14 million by the Bengaluru-based fintech startup.

### Edelweiss General Insurance launches a first of its Kind, Open API Gateway

- Edelweiss General Insurance Company Limited launched a first of its kind, Open Application Programming Interface (API) Gateway to enable full digital collaboration with its business partners.
- The authorised partners of Edelweiss General Insurance, with this gateway can integrate their systems with the technology platform of the company.



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### Canara Bank Launches 'FX 4 U'

- Canara Bank launched 'FX 4 U', a new technology(tech) product. This product helps the users of its Internet Banking (IB) to handle forex transactions.
- The purpose of Launch is for forex remittance through internet banking.

### Ewire Softech in Partnership with YES Bank Launched 'EWIRE - YES BANK Prepaid Card'

- Ewire Softech Pvt Ltd under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) launched 'EWIRE – YES BANK Prepaid Card' in partnership with YES bank to establish its presence across the country in its digitisation drive.
- The co-branded digital card will help the common public and corporate houses with providing loans, insurance and CASA account through its channel partners.

### SBI General Insurance Partners with IntraCity RailYatri to Provide Insurance

- SBI General Insurance Company Limited has partnered with IntraCity RailYatri to provide domestic travel Insurance to bus customers who travel through IntraCity RailYatri.
- Every IntraCity SmartBus traveler can avail complementary travel cover of Rs. 5 Lakhs along with the travel ticket.

### Citibank and NCPA Partners to Offer Scholarships for Young Musicians 2020-21

- Citibank and National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) partnered to offer 'Citi-NCPA Scholarships for Young Musicians 2020-21(Hindustani Music)' for vocal – khayal / dhrupad and percussion – tabla / pakhawaj.
- The value of scholarship is Rs 10, 000 for one month for one year (April 2021 to March 2022).

### Kotak Life Launches 5 city Outdoor Campaign for its 1st Health Insurance Policy, Kotak Health Shield

- Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company (Kotak Life) launched its five-city outdoor campaign to increase awareness about its 1st health insurance product, 'Kotak Health Shield'.
- The 5 cities are Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Pune.

### YES Bank Partners with Visa to Enhance Payments Efficiency

- YES bank partnered with Visa as a payment processor to enhance salaried and YES FIRST account holders' payment experience.
- The bank has also introduced a new line of vertical Debit cards under the E-series across Mastercard and VISA cards.

### IndusInd Bank Partners with Mastercard to Launch its 1st Metal Credit

- IndusInd Bank in partnership with Mastercard launched its 1st metal credit card, 'Pioneer Heritage Credit Card'.
- This Contactless Credit Card is designed to meet the needs of High-Net-Worth-Individuals.
- This card is a part of the Mastercard's 'World Elite' platform that offers privileges to complement the lifestyle of HNI cardholders.

### PayU Collaborates with Google Pay to Introduce Tokenised Payments Flow for Merchants

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- PayU collaborated with Google Pay to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants in India. This collaboration enables the merchants of PayU to offer Google Pay users the option to use their debit cards, credit cards, or Google Pay UPI to make repeated payments without the need to physically share their card details.

### **NPCI Introduced RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature**

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature that also provides reloadable wallets within RuPay Card, for daily transit payments.
- NPCI has also introduced RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature for retail payments on pilot basis.

### **IIFL Home, ICICI Bank join hands for affordable housing, MSME loans**

- IIFL Home Finance Ltd, the subsidiary of IIFL Finance has joined hands with ICICI Bank for sourcing and servicing arrangement to provide affordable housing and MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) loans.

### **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Launched 'ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund', an Open-Ended Equity Scheme**

- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launched 'ICICI Prudential Business Cycle Fund', an open-ended equity scheme following business cycles-based investing theme.
- The scheme will invest in equity and equity-related securities in Indian markets with a focus to ride business cycles through dynamic allocation between various sectors and stocks at different stages of business cycles.

### **Snapdeal Partners with NPCI to Enable Doorstep QR Code Payments for Orders**

- Snapdeal partnered with National Payments Corporation of India to enable buyers to make Quick Response (QR)-based digital payments on getting delivery of their orders.
- New or first-time users who are not comfortable to pay in advance for items at the time of purchase.

### **SBI along with NPCI & Japan's JCB launched "SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card"**

- State Bank of India in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India and Japan's JCB (formerly Japan Credit Bureau) International Co. Ltd. unveiled "SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card" with a unique dual interface feature.

### **YES Bank Relaunches 'YES Premia' with Premium Banking Services to Customers**

- YES Bank relaunched 'YES Premia' with a premium banking program. It offers personalized solutions focusing on particular needs of key consumer segments, i.e., from small business owners to salaried professionals and senior citizens.
- During 'Truly Yours' Week, from December 1 – 7, 2020 Yes Bank will celebrate the launch of the program.

### **NPCI Allowed Payment Banks and Fintechs in its Shareholding upto 0.44%**

- The National Payments Corporation of India has completed private placement of 4.63% of its equity shares worth Rs 81.64 crores.
- This placement has enabled small finance and payment banks, as well as fintechs to be its shareholders up to 0.44%.

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- With this placement, now the total shareholder entities for NPCI stand at 67.

### Paytm Partners with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to Offer Instant Digital Loans to MSMEs

- Paytm partnered with Suryoday Small Finance Bank(SFB) Ltd to offer collateral-free instant digital loans to MSMEs.
- This partnership aim to democratize access to loans for small businesses and merchants and promote financial inclusion.

### NABARD Signs MoU with SBI to Take up Joint Intervention Projects in Karnataka

- NABARD, Karnataka Regional Office Bengaluru signed MoU with SBI, LHO, Bengaluru to provide concessional refinance facility to the beneficiaries of watershed development and tribal development projects.

### IFSCA Became Member of International Association of Insurance Supervisors

- International Financial Services Centre Authority obtained membership of International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).Now, IFSCA can access IAIS's global network and would be able to exchange ideas and information relating to insurance with other global regulators.

### Razorpay and PayPal Partnered to Enable Seamless International Payments for Indian MSMEs and Freelancers

- Razorpay and partnered to enable Indian MSMEs and Freelancers to seamlessly accept international payments.
- It helps MSMEs and freelancers to accept international payments on cards through payment gateways.They lose their prospective global clients due to highly complex payment and banking infrastructure, processes and systems.

### Finin Becomes India's 1st full-fledged Consumer Neobank in Partnership with SBM Bank India

- Finin was launched as India's 1st full-fledged consumer 'neobank'. Finin has launched Hyper-personalised SmartBanking platform in partnership with SBM Bank India.
- The platform helps the users to manage,save and invest their money in a smarter, secured and simpler way.

### HDFC Life & Ketto India Initiated a Nationwide Crowdfunding Campaign. 'PromisewalaDabba'

- HDFC Life in association with Ketto India has initiated 'PromisewalaDabba'.
- As part of the campaign, a PromisewalaDabba will be delivered that includes essential supplies such as staple food ingredients, spices and accompaniments, sanitizers and toiletries to their homes.

### PayNearby in partnership with NPCI & YES Bank Launched "PayNearby shopping card" for Retailers

- PayNearby Technologies Pvt. Ltd., in collaboration with YES Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the "PayNearby shopping card" powered by RuPay for its retail partners to provide maximum benefits of e-commerce in a risk-free mode over mass market category.

### HDFC Life launches HDFC Life Click 2 Wealth ULIP Digital Campaign

- HDFC Life launched HDFC Life Click 2 Wealth ULIP(Unit Linked Insurance Plan) digital campaign. The campaign focuses on the role of ULIPs as part of a wise financial plan. The campaign disproves the false myths surrounding the ULIP category.

### KVGB Launches 'Kirishi OD' Scheme for Farmers

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- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) launched 'Kirishi OD(Overdraft) scheme' for farmers. The OD facility is given to farmers based on the value of the land.
- 'Kirishi OD' scheme was launched by Neeraja Kumara Verma, Chief General Manager of NABARD, in Dharwad, Karnataka.

### Mastercard, ni-msme and CII Partners to Launch Digital Saksham

- Mastercard, National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) entered into partnership to launch Digital Saksham, a capacity building initiative to drive awareness about digitization for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. Digital Saksham, an expansive program is designed to strengthen MSME's competitiveness by building their digital know-how and acceptance.

### LIC launches digital application tool for agents

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has launched a digital application for agents for onboarding to get a life insurance policy.
- The Digital Application is called "**ANANDA**", which is an acronym for **Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application**. It's called 'ANANDA', which is an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application.

### RXIL, Tata AIG initiate trade credit insurance in sandbox environment

- **Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL)** initiated a **Trade Credit Insurance (TCI)** backed transaction with **Tata AIG** as the insurer and **ICICI Bank and Yes Bank** as the **financiers** in a **sandbox environment**.
- The adoption of Trade Credit Insurance on TReDS will pave the way for a completely digital bite-sized credit insurance model, it further stated.

### Kotak Mahindra MF launches ESG Opportunities Fund

- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company** has launched **ESG Opportunities Fund**, which will focus on **environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors** and the principles for responsible investing.
- The Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund will invest in companies based on financial parameters and non-financial factors such as environmental, social and governance as a part of its research process to identify material risks and growth opportunities.
- It will also assess governance performance, in addition to corporate governance practices and disclosures as required under the **Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI's (LODR) 2015**, whistle-blower and anti-corruption policy, no child labour policy, anti-sexual harassment policy, diversity and inclusivity policies and practices etc.

### Yes Bank launches co-branded prepaid card with Neokred for cashless payments

- **Yes Bank** stated it has launched a **co-branded prepaid card** in partnership with **Neokred Technologies** to **facilitate cashless payments**. The card offerings can be personalised to suit the requirements of corporates seeking salary cards or expense cards for their employees.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Yes Bank in partnership with Neokred Technologies has launched 'Yes Bank Neokred Card', a co-branded prepaid card, encouraging cashless payments, the lender stated.

### Equitas Small Finance Bank Launches 'EVA' - a Unique Savings Account aimed at Women

- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has launched a new product aimed at women, 'Eva', a **unique savings account** tries to address the well-being of **Indian women** in every aspect such as Health, Wealth and Prosperity.
- Along with **7% interest** in savings account, it also offers **Free Health Check-up** and unlimited **teleconsultation** with women doctors, gynecologists and mental health experts.
- Meanwhile Equitas Small Finance Bank announced **Smriti Mandhana - Indian Woman cricketer as the new Brand Ambassador.**

### SBM Bank India set to launch a neo banking platform

- **SBM Bank India** is focussing on **technology** to reach out to customers and is set to launch a **neo banking platform.**
- They have **tied up** with a fintech **PayNearby** and launched a service called **Nivesh** which is a recurring deposit platform.
- SBM Bank India was the first foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Wholly Owned Subsidiary in January 2019.

### RBL Bank selects Amazon Web Services to drive digital transformation

- **RBL Bank** has selected **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** as its **preferred cloud service** to drive **digital transformation.**
- Around **40 per cent** of the bank's mission-critical applications are on the **cloud.**
- The bank first migrated its corporate website to AWS cloud and with the experience gained initiated a **10-in-10 project** (a complete migration of 10 applications in 10 days).

### HDFC Bank Launches 'Mooh Band Rakho' Campaign To Create Awareness On Cyber Frauds

- **HDFC Bank Ltd,** announced the launch of "**Mooh Band Rakho,**" a campaign to increase awareness on cyber frauds and preventing them.
- The "**Mooh Band Rakho**" campaign was initially launched by the Bank to fight COVID 19 and it has now been extended to fighting cyber fraud.

### Karnataka Bank launches CASA campaign

- **Karnataka Bank** launched **CASA (current account, savings account) mobilisation campaign** which will run from November 17 to March 4, 2021.
- The bank stated that it intends to mobilise **over 4.10 lakh current** and savings accounts with an accretion of Rs.650 crore of business.

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### HDFC ERGO implements AI enabled solution to automate motor claim settlements

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance** announced the launch of the **AI tool IDEAS (Intelligent Damage detection Estimation and Assessment Solution)** for motor claim settlements.
- The IDEAS module uses Neural Network image processing and Analytics, Machine Learning and Natural Language that supports instant damage detection as well as calculation of the claims estimate for the surveyors to help in motor claims settlement in real-time.

### ICICI Lombard, FreePaycard offer bite-sized, convenient health insurance solutions

- **ICICI Lombard** in partnership with **Freepaycard** has launched **Group Safeguard Insurance**. The plan will be offered to the members of Freepaycard, allowing them to receive an assured amount in case of any injury or hospitalization for treatment.

### Centre extends Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme till Nov 30

- Union Government has extended the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** by one month till **30th of November** or till an amount of **Rs. three lakh crore** is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier.
- This has been done in view of the opening up of various sectors in the economy and the expected increase in demand during the ongoing festive season.
- Interest rates under the scheme are capped at **9.25 per cent** for Banks and FIs and 14 per cent for NBFCs.
- Tenure of loans provided under the scheme is **four years**, including a moratorium of one year on principal repayment.

### AU Bank enters into agreement with Care Health

- **AU Small Finance Bank** entered into agreement with **Care Health Insurance Company** for health insurance products as Corporate Agent.
- The Bank has been issued certificate of registration CA0515 under Registration of Corporate Agents - Regulations, 2015 by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Bank has entered into agreement with **Care Health Insurance Company (formerly known as Religare Health Insurance Company)** for health insurance products.

### Visa Partners With DigitSecure, HDFC Bank For Global-First Live Deployment Of PCI Certified Tap To Phone Card Acceptance Solution

- **Visa** has announced the **first successful live deployment of a PCI certified Tap to Phone card** acceptance solution, in partnership with **DigitSecure and HDFC Bank**.
- **DeliveryPlus** is the first merchant to go live with HDFC Bank as the acquirer.

### Bank of Baroda launches employee-assistance programme

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has introduced a new employee-centric initiative, called the **Employee Assistance Programme**, aimed at helping employees deal with personal and professional issues through **psychological counselling and consulting**.
- BoB has introduced this as a pilot project in the Mumbai Zone and its corporate office.



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### Paytm ties up with SBI Card to launch co-branded credit cards

- **Paytm** has partnered with credit card company **SBI Card** to launch **Paytm-SBI Card co-branded credit cards**. This is the **second credit card product from Paytm**; the first one was launched in partnership with **Citibank**.
- Available in two variants, **Paytm SBI Card** and **Paytm SBI Card SELECT**, the product has been launched on the **Visa platform**.

### ICICI Bank launches banking stack for millennial customers

- **ICICI Bank** has launched a **banking stack for millennial customers** which offers an **instant savings account**, a feature driven **iMobile application** that offers investment guidance, curated credit and debit card, instant personal loans and overdrafts, and an experiential branch with social engagement space.
- Called **ICICI Bank Mine**, any millennial aged up to 35 years can apply digitally for the account from November 6 through the bank's website or through the app.

### WhatsApp's payments service gets NPCI nod

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** finally allowed Facebook-owned messaging platform **WhatsApp** to roll out its payments service in the country in a "graded" manner.
- The announcement by NPCI came just minutes after the organisation made a crucial change to its regulations concerning the use of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The change puts a limit on single third parties such as WhatsApp or its rivals Google Pay and Walmart's PhonePe where they can only handle 30 per cent of overall UPI transaction volumes.

### Whatsapp Partners with 5 Banks for UPI Payment

- **WhatsApp** had partnered with five Indian banks, **ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, the State Bank of India, and Jio Payments Bank**, for the **payments service**.
- Recently, WhatsApp received **NPCI approval** to 'Go Live' on **UPI** in a graded manner.

### SEBI increases overseas investment limits for mutual funds

- The market regulator, **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has **increased the limits** of overseas investment per fund house. This limit was enhanced **from the existing USD 300 million to USD 600 million**.
- Whereas, the **overall limit of the mutual fund industry** would stand at **USD 7 billion**.
- Further, limits for making investments in the **overseas exchange-traded funds (ETFs)** have **raised to USD 200 million per fund house** from the **earlier limit of USD 50 million per fund house**, while the limit set for the overall industry would be **USD 1 billion**.

### Karnataka Bank launches National Common Mobility Debit card

- **Karnataka Bank Ltd** has launched **National Common Mobility Debit Card**. This **Rupay card** is a **contactless debit-cum-prepaid** and interoperable transport card.
- It stated that the users can make payments without inserting the card at **PoS terminals**.

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### Airtel Payments Bank ties up with Bharti AXA General for car insurance

- **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **Bharti AXA General Insurance** to offer comprehensive **car insurance** to the payments bank's customers.
- The **Smart Drive Private Car Insurance** offers financial protection against damage to the vehicle due to accident, theft, and natural and man-made disasters.

### Indian Overseas Bank seeks about Rs 1,000 crore capital support from govt

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has sought a capital support of about **Rs.1,000 crore** from the government in order to create **buffer for any exigency**.
- The state-owned lender, which has posted profit for the last three consecutive quarters, expects to continue the trend in the remaining part of the current fiscal year with increased focus on recovery and business pick up.

### SEBI introduces Flexi-Cap Fund category for MFs

- Capital market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** introduced **Flexi- Cap Fund** category, **providing relief to mutual funds** after issuing new rules for Multi-Cap funds in September.
- Under the new category, the scheme should have a **minimum investment of 65 percent** of total assets in equity and equity-related instruments, while it is an open-ended dynamic equity scheme investing across large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap stocks.
- **The AMC** shall ensure that a suitable benchmark is adopted for the Flexi-Cap Fund.

### KfW lends EUR 545 million to MMRDA for infra projects

- The German state-owned development bank **KfW** has **extended two loans** totaling over **EUR 545 million** or **Rs 4,767 crore** to the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)** for infrastructure projects.
- The funds to be disbursed through an agreement with the **Union Ministry of Finance** will be utilised to support two key mass transit projects in Mumbai.

### Bharti AXA General Insurance launches cancer awareness drive on social media

- **Bharti AXA General Insurance** has launched **#CancerSendsNoNotifications** campaign – a special initiative to increase **awareness and spread knowledge** on detecting the disease early among people in India.
- Through this cancer awareness drive, Bharti AXA aims to engage with close to a million Indians on **Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn**.

### Paytm introduces Payout Links for businesses

- **Paytm** has launched **Payout Links** for businesses, enabling them to instantly process payouts to customers, employees and vendors, without collecting their bank details.
- The receiver needs to simply open the link and is automatically provided a list of saved accounts such as **Paytm Wallet, Paytm UPI** and connected bank accounts, which can be chosen to receive money instantly.

### Flipkart offers customised group health insurance cover issued by Bajaj Allianz

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Flipkart**, announced that it now offers **group health insurance** cover ranging from **Rs.3 lakh to Rs.20 lakh** issued by **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** and **Care Health Insurance** to its large and growing pan-Indian customer base.

### IRDAI sets up panel to revisit retail business of engineering tariff

- **Insurance sector regulator IRDAI** has set up a working group to **revisit product structures of engineering tariffs** relevant for the retail category in the wake of continuous advancement in technology.
- The **nine-member panel** has been asked to revisit the product structures of the erstwhile engineering tariffs relevant for the retail category and make suitable recommendations for revising them.
- The group, **headed by R Chandrasekaran**, former secretary general of GI Council, has to submit report within three months.

### IFSCA approves draft Banking regulations for banking operations at IFSCs

- **International Financial Services Centres Authority**, IFSCA has approved **draft Banking regulations** for **banking operations at IFSCs**. The IFSC Authority approved the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (Banking) Regulations, 2020**. This will pave the way for putting in place the rules for the various aspects of banking operations that would be permissible at the IFSC.

### Muthoot Finance to be added to MSCI India domestic index

- As part of MSCI's (Morgan Stanley Capital Index) semi-annual review of indices, **Muthoot Finance** will be added to the **MSCI India Domestic Index** from the close of November 30.
- MSCI is at the forefront of constructing global benchmarking indices, and the MSCI India Index is designed to measure the **performance of the large- and mid-cap segments** of the Indian market.
- It is estimated that MSCI's India portfolio attracts **around \$ 30-32 billion** of passive fund investments.

### HDFC Bank Launches SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0

- **HDFC Bank** announced the launch of India's first comprehensive banking and payment solution for merchants – **SmartHub Merchant Solutions 3.0**.
- This first-of-its-kind solution allows merchants and self-employed professionals to instantly open a current account and start accepting payments in-store, online, and on-the-go.

### Sebi forms expert group to review norms related to share-based staff benefit, issue of sweat equity

- **Sebi** has set up an **expert group** to review the **framework of share-based employee benefit and issue of sweat equity**.
- The **seven-member expert group** would be chaired by **Sandip Bhagat** Partner at S&R Associates.

### SBM Bank India set to launch a neo banking platform

- **SBM Bank India**, which is the **wholly-owned subsidiary** of **State Bank of Mauritius**, is focussing on technology to reach out to customers and is **set to launch a neo banking platform**.
- SBM are piloting with fintech PayNearby. SBM have launched a service called Nivesh which is a recurring deposit platform.

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- It was the first foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from RBI in January 2019

### Mastercard, USTATED join hands for Project Kirana to empower women through financial inclusion

- **Mastercard** has joined hands with the **United States Agency for International Development (USTATED for Project Kirana)** that will help increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion and digital payments adoption of kirana shops that are owned or operated by women.
- Project Kirana will work to increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion and digital payments adoption of kirana shops that are owned or operated by women, Mastercard stated.

### South Indian Bank, Canara, Axis, Indian Bank purchase stake in IBBIC

- **Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Indian Bank and South Indian Bank** have acquired **6.67% stake** each in financial technology firm, **IBBIC**, at Rs 10 per equity share for a cash consideration of Rs 5 lakh each.
- Canara Bank (down 0.27%), Axis Bank (down 1.54%), Indian Bank (up 0.40%) and South Indian Bank (up 4.56%) advanced.
- Post investment, all the partners will hold 6.67% shareholding in IBBIC on fully diluted basis through acquisition the of 50,000 equity shares. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of December 2020.

### StashFin Partners With Visa To Launch Co-branded Prepaid Cards With Credit Lines

- Singapore-based **neobanking startup StashFin** announced to have partnered with **Visa** with an aim to launch **co-branded prepaid cards** with credit lines and expand its digital banking footprint in existing and new geographies.

### Infibeam Avenues collaborates with Bank Muscat for digital payment services

- **Infibeam Avenues Limited** announced its collaboration with **Bank Muscat, Oman's biggest bank**, to offer **high-end payment gateway** services to merchants in Oman.
- Under the agreement, Infibeam Avenues, through its digital payment solution, **CCAvenue Payment Gateway Service (CPGS)**, will process online card transactions of various payment networks for Bank Muscat and help the bank to authorise online payment for its merchants which intends to boost fast growing e-commerce sector in the region, a company statement stated.

### HDFC Bank rolls out 'Mouth Shut' campaign against cyber frauds

- **HDFC Bank** has launched the **'Mouth Shut' campaign** across Tamil Nadu to increase awareness about cyber frauds.
- The bank plans to conduct **Secure Banking workshops**, numbering about a hundred across the State in the next four months.
- The campaign aims to sensitise people against sharing card details, **CVV, OTP, Net and mobile banking** login details and password and more.

### Muthoot Finance, Bajaj Allianz in tie-up for gold jewellery insurance

- **Muthoot Finance** has tied up with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** to provide insurance on **gold jewellery** as part of their new initiative, **Muthoot Gold Shield**, which is backed and powered by Group Affinity All Risk policy of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

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- Muthoot Gold Shield is provided at a nominal premium, which is lower than industry average. Zero documentation is required and it takes **less than 2 minutes** to generate a policy, a release stated

### NSDL Payments Bank, HDFC ERGO Join Hands To Offer Customised Insurance Solutions To Customers

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** has tied up with **NSDL Payments Bank Limited** to offer a range of **general insurance products** to the bank's customers, a company statement stated. NSDL Payments Bank Limited is a subsidiary of **National Securities Depository Ltd.**

### Home Ministry relaxes FCRA account norms for NGOs

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** has relaxed the norms for the **NGOs** mandated to maintain **FCRA account** under the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** with the State Bank of India.
- The MHA stated in its 5-page order that the FCRA account holder shall have complete freedom to transfer the foreign contribution received in their **SBI FCRA Account** to **another FCRA Account**.

### Key Highlights

- The Home Ministry has set **March 31, 2021** as the deadline for the NGOs registered to open an account at the specified branch of SBI.
- The MHA order also stated that no inward remittance will be allowed in any account other than the FCRA account opened in SBI main branch in New Delhi from the date of opening the FCRA account or from March 31, 2021 whichever is earlier.
- The Ministry has, however, allowed the NGOs to maintain their existing FCRA Accounts for keeping or utilization purposes.

### IPPB ties-up with PNB MetLife to extend PMJJBY Insurance

- **India Post Payments bank (IPPB)** has tied-up with **PNB MetLife India Insurance**, for its customers availing the **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**.
- The renewable coverage of one year, will have an entry age of **18 years** and a maximum of **50 years**, whilst maximum maturity age for the scheme would be 55 years. The scheme ensures a maximum coverage of **Rs 2 lakh per life**, at a premium of Rs 330 payable on an annual basis.

### HDFC Life, HDFC Ergo partner for complete cover against Covid -19

- **HDFC Life Insurance** and **HDFC Ergo Health Insurance** have partnered to launch a combi product that aims to provide a complete financial protection package in the current Covid-19 pandemic.
- Called **Click 2 Protect Corona Kavach**, the policy will provide all the benefits and features of Click 2 Protect 3D Plus and Corona Kavach.

### Sebi launches SMARTs program to strengthen investor education framework



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- **Sebi** launched the **Securities Market Trainers (SMARTs)** program, an initiative aimed at enhancing investor education and awareness. The launch of SMARTs program comes amid **World Investor Week** being celebrated across the country.
- The first batch of SMARTs empanelled by Sebi includes **40 individuals** across 16 states and union territories, covering 31 districts on a pan-India basis. They have also undergone four days of training at the National Institute of Securities Market (NISM).

### NHB imposes penalty of Rs.1.5 lakh plus GST on HDFC

- Mortgage lender **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC)** Ltd stated that NHB has levied a monetary penalty of **Rs.1.5 lakh** and GST on it for non-compliance with two provisions of the Housing Finance Companies Directions.
- The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested under **Section 52(A)** of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, it added.

### Indian Bank launched Green-Tech Initiative "IB-eNote"

- **Indian Bank** has launched a green initiative named "**IB-eNote**" to enable a **total paperless working environment**.
- The bank for this initiative has customised SharePoint, one of the features of Microsoft Office. The Bank also launched '**Ind Guru**', an e-learning platform for its employees.

### NABARD launches refinance scheme for WASH programme, earmarks Rs 800 cr for FY'21

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** announced a special refinance facility to support the government's **Water, Sanitisation and Hygiene (WASH)** programme.
- An amount of **Rs 800 crore** has been earmarked for this purpose for the financial year 2020-21.
- NABARD will provide concessional refinance with a repayment period of **up to 36 months**.
- The support will be channelised to fund **WASH activities**, a thrust area eligible for **95 per cent refinance**. The bank credit will also be extended to **NBFCs-MFIs ( Non-Banking Financial Companies-Microfinance Institutions) and other MFIs (Societies, Trusts, etc)**.

### PNB launches financial inclusion initiative Gram Sampark Abhiyan

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched a financial inclusion and literacy initiative '**Gram Sampark Abhiyan**' to commemorate the **150th birth anniversary** of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The campaign is centred on four key themes — **digital, credit, social security** and **financial literacy** that will encapsulate various activities and prescribes the cherished theme of '**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**', it stated.

### Indian Bank's Kisan credit card loan for TN fishermen

- **Indian Bank** has introduced a **Kisan credit card loan scheme** for fishermen in Tamil Nadu. Under this scheme, Kisan credit card loans of up to **Rs.2 lakh** as working capital with low-interest rate will be provided.



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- The features of the scheme include the availability of revolving credit up to Rs.2 lakh, 7 per cent interest rate, interest subvention of 3 per cent for those who repay the loan within a period of one year. The loan can be renewed once in a year.
- This loan will be provided under Mudra scheme. Borrowers will get Rupay Kisan Credit Card and beneficiaries can use the card to withdraw money from ATMs, BC (banking correspondent) points, and also make purchase through merchant POS.

### Indian Bank launches its first Customer Acquisition & Processing Centre in Chennai

- Chennai-headquartered public sector lender **Indian Bank** opened its **first centralised Customer Acquisition & Processing Centre (CAPC)** in Chennai.

### BFSL, ICSI launch co-branded credit card for Company Secretaries

- **BOB Financial Solutions Ltd (BFSL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and **the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**, have launched an exclusive co-branded credit card for **Company Secretaries (CS)**.

### Reliance General partners SatSure Analytics for crop insurance business

- **Reliance General Insurance** stated it has partnered with **SatSure** for **satellite-based crop monitoring and predictive analytics support** to better risk management and improve efficiency of its crop insurance business operations.
- The insurer stated it is in 4th year of successful execution of its crop insurance business and has always relied on technology to strengthen its capabilities. RGCIL is a **100 per cent** subsidiary of Reliance Capital.

### ICICI Bank offers debit card to borrowers availing Loan Against Securities

- **ICICI Bank** has introduced a **debit card facility** for those **borrowers** who are availing the **Loan Against Securities (LAS) from the Bank**. The card is available on the **Visa platform**.
- Customers get a digital debit card within one business day of availing LAS, which can be accessed on the Bank's mobile app **iMobile**.

### Key benefits of the debit card include:

- **Transaction limit:** The card offers a maximum daily transaction limit of Rs. 3 lakh each for POS and online transactions.
- **Digital card:** The Bank provides a digital card to customers, which is made available on iMobile app within one business day.
- **Automatic renewal:** The card is automatically renewed upon renewal of the LAS account.

### Sebi introduces very high risk category in mutual fund schemes

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has introduced detailed guidelines for determining the place of a mutual fund on its **risk o meter tool**.

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- Separately, Sebi introduced labelling norms for the dividend options of mutual funds which will come into effect from **1st April 2021**. Under the new norms, mutual funds will have to rename dividend options as income distribution cum capital withdrawal.
- Under the new riskometer, there are **six categories of risk**, going from low to very high.

### FM launches Indian Bank's business mentoring programme for MSMEs

- **Indian Bank** has come out with '**MSME Prerana**', an **online Business Mentoring Programme** for MSMEs. The bank says it is the first-of-its-kind initiative by a bank in the country for the (MSME) sector.
- The programme is in collaboration with **Poornatha & Co**, a firm that designs Entrepreneurial Development Programmes in vernacular using online web-based interactive sessions and case studies.
- On successful completion, all participants would get a certificate, issued jointly by Indian Bank, Poornatha & Co and **MADE (Michigan Academy for Developing Entrepreneurs), US**.

### HDFC Bank partners with Apollo Hospitals for holistic healthcare solution

- **HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals** have joined hands to launch **The HealthyLife Programme**, a holistic healthcare solution which makes healthy living accessible and affordable on Apollo's digital platform, Apollo 24|7.
- Through which its customers can avail **unsecured loans of up to Rs 40 lakh** to pay for medical expenses incurred at the healthcare chain.

### Chqbook launches India's first 'Financial Control Center' on mobile to empower 60 million small business owners

- **Chqbook, India's first Neobank** for small business owners like kiranas, merchants, chemists, and others running proprietorships, announced the launch of its new mobile platform. With this launch, Chqbook brings world-class financial services to a massive underserved segment.
- Positioned as the '**Financial Control Center**' for India's 60 million small business owners, **Chqbook's mobile app** will place the power of managing day-to-day financial requirements as well as access to other financial products in their hands and on-demand, helping to save valuable time, effort, and money as they grow their business.

### LIC Housing launches 'Project RED' to improve efficiencies

- **LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL)** launched "**Project RED**" (Reimagining Excellence through Digital transformation) to improve efficiencies at every level of the organisation.
- Project RED aims to create value across the entire spectrum of stakeholders that includes employees, shareholders, business associates, existing and potential customers of LICHFL, as per the housing finance company's statement.

### Axis Bank and Vistara strengthen partnership to launch a co-branded forex card

- **Axis Bank** strengthens its partnership with **Vistara**, India's finest full-service carrier, as they launch a **co-branded forex card** – '**Axis Bank Club Vistara Forex Card**'. This is also the first-ever collaboration by a bank and an Indian airline for a co-branded forex card.
- Safety of emergency assistance services - Emergency cash, loss of passport assistance through TripAssist and insurance cover of up to Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

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- Additional features - Tap&Pay, easy tracking of balance, reload on the go, temporary block and unblock facility.

### Axis Bank collaborates with Google Pay, Visa to launch a new ACE Credit card

- **Axis Bank** announced the launch of its **ACE Credit Card** in India in collaboration with **Google Pay and Visa**.
- The card meant to help with digital payments. From application to issuance, with the **entire user journey** for the credit card application **will be done digitally**.
- For essential use cases, including mobile recharges and bill payments made via Google Pay, users can earn a **cashback of 5 per cent**.
- A joining fee of Rs.499 which is applicable from the second year of use will be waived for all users who apply for the card in 2020. In 2021, joining fee will be reversed if spends exceed Rs.10,000 within 45 days of issuance.
- The annual fee of Rs.499 will also be waived off if for users who reach Rs.2 lakh spends in the year.

### Exim Bank extends \$400 mn soft loan to Maldives for connectivity project

- The **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** on behalf of the **Government of India** has extended a **Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 400 million** for undertaking Greater Male's connectivity project in **Maldives**.
- The soft loans to Maldives have funded connectivity, water, sewerage projects, Addu Development Project, an international cricket stadium, Gulhifalhu port, Hanimaadhoo airport and road construction work.

### Paytm Payment Gateway launches same-day bank settlement

- **Paytm**, announced the launch of **same-day settlement facility** for fund transfers on its payment gateway service.
- The feature can be accessed from Paytm Merchant Dashboard or Paytm for Business app. The minimum amount that can be transferred is Rs.50, and the maximum amount is **Rs.2 lakh** in a single transfer request.

### Exim Bank's Government of India supported Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 310 million to the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe

- **Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)** supported **Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 310 million** for the purpose of financing repowering of **Hwange Thermal Power Station** in the **Republic of Zimbabwe**.
- Out of the total credit by Exim Bank under the agreement, goods, works and services of the value of at least 75 per cent of the contract price shall be supplied by the seller from India, and the remaining 25 per cent of goods and services may be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from outside India.

### Vivifi India Finance launches UPI-based credit option FlexPay

- **Vivifi India Finance**, a Hyderabad-based non-bank lender, has launched **FlexPay**, a payment option that offers credit using the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- The product facilitates offline purchases by scanning any UPI QR code or a UPI ID to salaried and self-employed individuals.

### IKEA partners Mastercard, Citi to launch Family Credit Card

- **IKEA**, the Swedish home furnishings major, has joined hands with the **Citibank India** and **Mastercard** to launch 'IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi' seeking to make acquisition of home furnishings more affordable for its diverse customers.

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- This card provides instant in-store card bookings, direct payments via **Bharat QR**, accelerated reward points and attractive EMIs.

### EarlySalary launches zero-touch digital card

- **Fintech lenders** are rolling out innovative credit options for consumers amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and upcoming festival season.
- Consumer lending platform **EarlySalary** launched a **zero-touch digital card** that provides instant access for salaried professionals to make instant purchases across thousands of merchants across India.
- **Called Salary Card**, it is powered by **RuPay** and allows consumers to set up a dynamic credit limit for their various spending requirements.

### Flipkart-owned PhonePe launches car, bike insurance in association with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

- Flipkart-owned **PhonePe** launched **car and bike insurance products** on its platform in association with **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance**.
- PhonePe users can also customise their car insurance plan based on their needs with a range of value-added offerings such as zero depreciation, 24X7 roadside assistance, and engine protection among others.

### IRDAI asks life insurers to launch 'Saral Jeevan Bima' scheme by Jan 1

- Regulator **IRDAI** asked life insurance companies to launch a standard term insurance policy '**Saral Jeevan Bima**' by **January 1, 2021** to help customers take informed decisions.
- The **Saral Jeevan Bima** will be a **pure term life insurance product** that can be purchased by people in the age group of **18 to 65 years** and will have a **policy term of 4 to 40 years**, guidelines issued by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- The sum assured for the term life insurance policy will range **from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh** (in multiples of Rs 50,000).

### Axis Mutual Fund launches banking ETF

- **Axis Mutual Fund** has launched a **new fund offer – Axis Banking ETF (Exchange Traded Fund)**
- The ETF offers investors an opportunity to invest in the biggest banks. **Passive funds** are designed to track the performance of an index. They achieve this by replicating the portfolio of the underlying index.

### Jana Bank to be sponsor bank for Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank

- **Jana Small Finance Bank** has **partnered** with **Ashoknagar Co-operative Bank Limited** under the bank **sponsorship programme**.
- With this, Jana Bank has become the **first SFB** to go live under the sponsorship programme.
- Recently, the **RBI permitted co-operative banks** that are **Core Banking Solution (CBS)-enabled**, to issue ATM cards/ATM-cum-debit cards in a tie-up with a sponsor bank.

### IDBI Bank launches banking services on WhatsApp

- **IDBI Bank** announced the launch of **banking services** on **WhatsApp**. The WhatsApp Banking service is being offered through a dedicated WhatsApp verified number ensuring end-to-end encryption.

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- The facility will enable IDBI Bank customers to avail various essential services such as account balance information, last five transactions, request for a cheque book and an email statement, interest rates, as well as details of IDBI Bank branches/ATMs in the vicinity, to begin with.

### Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance launches Invest 4G plan with multiple saving options, protection cover

- **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** has launched a new **Unit Linked insurance plan (Ulip)** titled 'Invest 4G'.
- It is an individual life insurance savings plan which can be customized as per the goals and changing requirements of the individual.
- New "Invest4G" offers three options to the individuals: **Life Option, Care Option and Century Option**.

### Fino Payments Bank to add 300 more points at BPCL outlets in TN

- **Fino Payments Bank** is planning to add another 300 points at **BPCL outlets** to its existing 1,075 in **Tamil Nadu**, to help **truck drivers to get fleet cards** recharged by paying equivalent cash, without any hassles.
- Recharging the **Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) SmartFleet cards** that are used to pay for fuel has been a challenge to truck drivers for quite some time and in order to ease this discomfort.
- **Smartfleet program** is a first of its kind initiative in the country that **helps transporters manage their funds effectively**. The exclusive centre, opened in association with **Fino Payments Bank**, facilitates hassle free and instant recharge for Smartfleet customers.

### SEBI constitutes committee for market data sharing

- **SEBI** has constituted a **Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) – a Standing Committee** - to recommend appropriate policy for access to securities market data, identify segment wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommend data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data.
- The committee is headed by **Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member, SEBI** and has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.

### Paytm to introduce co-branded credit cards in India

- **Paytm** announced that it will be partnering with various card issuers to introduce **co-branded credit cards** for consumers. The company is aiming to issue two million cards in the **next 12–18 months**.
- Paytm announced that it is building '**Next Generation Credit Cards**' with various instant one-touch services.

### Indian Bank launches credit scheme for start-ups in pact with IITMIC

- **Indian Bank** has introduced an initiative for funding start-ups, '**IND Spring Board**', in collaboration with the **IIT-Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)**.
- Under the deal, IITMIC will refer start-ups with proven technology and established cash flows to the bank and also extend advisory to the bank on the business model. The bank will extend loans of up to **Rs.50 crore** to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery, equipment.

### Bank of Baroda ties up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor



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- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has entered into a tie-up with **Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM)**, whereby the bank will be one of the **preferred financiers** for the entire range of vehicles sold by the latter.

### IRDAI sets up panel to examine need for standard cyber liability insurance product

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai)** has **set up a panel** to explore possibility of a basic standard product structure to provide insurance cover for individuals and establishments **to manage their cyber risks**.
- The panel, **headed by P Umesh**, Consultant-Liability Insurance, has been asked to study various statutory provisions on information and cybersecurity, and to evaluate critical issues involving legal aspects of transactions in cyber space.

### CSB Bank partners with IIFL Finance for gold loan origination

- Private-sector lender **CSB Bank**, formerly Catholic Syrian Bank, has entered into a partnership with non-banking finance company, **IIFL Finance (IIFL)** for **sourcing and managing retail gold loan assets**.
- **IIFL**, acting as **Business Correspondent (BC)** of the bank, will source new business from markets where the Thrissur-based CSB Bank does not have an adequate branch network.
- IIFL would help CSB Bank penetrate the lower strata of customers and rural areas resulting in scaling up of the customer base.

### SVC Bank launches rewards programme

- **SVC Bank (SVC Co-operative Bank)** stated it has tied up with **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** for a **rewards programme**.
- The SVC Rewards programme is designed to make banking experience more rewarding for its customers in the form of points earned upon use of SVC Bank Cards and digital solutions, the bank stated.

### BharatPe launches digital gold on its platform

- **BharatPe**, a leading merchant payment network, has announced the **launch of digital gold** on its platform.
- Through this latest offering, BharatPe's merchants will be able to buy and sell **99.5 per cent pure 24-carat gold**.
- To facilitate this, BharatPe has also partnered with **SafeGold**, a digital platform that allows customers to buy, sell and receive vaulted gold. SafeGold has appointed **IDBI Trusteeship Services** to protect the interest of merchants with regard to their gold purchases.

### IndusInd Bank first bank to go live on RBI's 'Account Aggregator Framework'

- **IndusInd Bank** has gone live as a '**Financial Information Provider (FIP)**' under the new '**Account Aggregator Framework**' of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, making it the first bank in the country to do so.

#### Static Points

Name of the Organization	Headquarters	Head of the Organization
Reserve Bank of India	Mumbai	Shaktikanta Das





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Securities and Exchange Board of India	Mumbai	Ajay Tyagi
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	Mumbai	Govinda Rajulu Chintala
Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India	Hyderabad	Subash Chandra Khuntia
Jana Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Ajay Kanwal
Federal Bank	Aluva	Shyam Srinivasan
DBS Bank	Singapore	Piyush Gupta
EXIM Bank of India	Mumbai	David Rasquinha
Citi Bank	New York	Michael Corbat
DCB Bank	Mumbai	Murali M Natrajan
Jio Payments Bank	Mumbai	Vivek Bhandari
HDFC Bank	Mumbai	Sashidhar Jagdishan
Indian Bank	Chennai	Padmaja Chunduru
Axis Bank	Mumbai	Rakesh Makhija
SVC Bank	Mumbai	Ajit E. Venugopalan
CSB Bank	Thrissur	C.VR. Rajendran
BharatPe	New Delhi	Ashneer Grover
State Bank of India	Mumbai	Dinesh Khara
India Post Payments Bank	New Delhi	J Venkatramu
ICICI Bank	Mumbai	Sandeep Bakshi
South Indian Bank	Thrissur	Murali Ramakrishnan
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai	Partha Pratim Sengupta
SBM Bank	Port Louis	Parvataneni Venkateswara Rao
AU Small Finance Bank	Jaipur	Sanjay Agarwal
Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance	Mumbai	Sumit Rai
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	Mumbai	Dilip Asbe
PhonePe	Bengaluru	Sameer Nigam
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	S.S Mallikarjuna Rao
Bank of Baroda	Vadodara	Hasmukh Adhia
YES Bank	Mumbai	Prashant Kumar



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Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company	Mumbai	Nilesh Shah
Tata AIG General Insurance	Mumbai	Neelesh Garg
Visa	San Fransisco	Alfred F Kelly Jr
Equitas Small Finance Bank	Chennai	Vasudevan PN
Freepaycard	Gurgaon	Richard Andrew
Paytm	Noida	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
HDFC ERGO General Insurance	Mumbai	Ritesh Kumar
Muthoot Finance	Kochi	George Muthoot
Manappuram Finance	Thrissur	VP Nandakumar
Small Industries Development Bank of India	Lucknow	Mohammad Mustafa
RBL Bank	Mumbai	Vishwavir Ahuja
HDFC LIFE	Mumbai	Vibha Padalkar
ICICI Lombard	Mumbai	Bhargav Dasgupta
Mastercard	New York	Ajaypal Singh Banga
Canara Bank	Bengaluru	LV Prabhakar
City Union Bank	Kumbakonam	N. Kamakodi
Rupifi	Bengaluru	Anubhav Jain
Central Bank of India	Mumbai	Pallav Mohapatra
ICICI Prudential Life Insurance	Mumbai	N. S. Kannan
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Mumbai	Uday Kotak
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Bengaluru	Nitin Chugh
Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce	Gurgaon	Anuj Mathur
Airtel Payments Bank	New Delhi	Anubrata Biswas
NSDL Payments Bank	Mumbai	G.V.Nageswara Rao
IndusInd Bank	Pune	Sumant Kathpalia
PayPal	San Jose	Daniel Schulman
Razorpay	Bengaluru	Harshil Mathur
International Financial Services Centre Authority	Gandhinagar	Injeti Srinivas
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	Navi Mumbai	Baskar Babu



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PayU	Hoofddorp	Laurent le Moal
Snapdeal	New Delhi	Kunal Bahl
ICICI Securities	Mumbai	Vijay Chandok
IIFL Home Finance	Gurgoan	Nirmal Jain
Karnataka Bank	Mangalore	Mahabaleshwara MS
BOB Financial Solutions Ltd	Mumbai	Pooja Karnani
Chqbook	Gurgaon	Vipul Sharma
Google Pay	California	Sundar Pichai
Visa	San Fransisco	Alfred F Kelly Jr
LIC Housing Finance Ltd	Mumbai	Siddhartha Mohanty
Bank of India	Mumbai	Atanu kumar Das
Reliance General Insurance	Mumbai	Rakesh Jain
Vistara	Gurugram	Leslie Thng
Vivifi India Finance	Hyderabad	Anil Pinapala
IDBI Bank	Mumbai	Rakesh Sharma
National Housing Bank	New Delhi	Dakshita Das
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	Pune	Tapan Singhel
DCB Bank	Mumbai	Murali M Natrajan

### Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Organization	GDP Rate (2020 – 21(FY21))
CRISIL	-7.7%
ADB	-8%
Moody's	-11.5%
UN Report	-5.9% (CY 2020)
SBI's Ecowrap	-7.4%
National Statistical Office	-23.9%
Finance ministry	-19% (nominal GDP)
World Bank	-9.6%

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Reserve Bank	-9.5%
Pronab Sen	-12.5%
India Ratings	-7.8%
India Ratings	7.6% ( Fiscal Deficit FY 21)
ICRA	-7.3%
Reserve Bank of India	-1.5%
International Monetary Fund	4.5%
S & P	7.7%
Fitch Ratings	-9.4%
DBS Bank	-1%
Nomura	-6.1%
OECD	-9.9%
NCAER	-7.3%
International Monetary Fund	-10.3% (CY 2020), - 8.8% (CY 2021)
Care Ratings	-6.4%
Citigroup Inc	-6%
Bank of America Securities	-4%
FICCI Survey	-4.5%

### GDP decline for full FY21 seen at around 10.9%, up from earlier estimate of 6.8%: SBI's Ecowrap

- With first quarter (Q1) gross domestic product (GDP) contraction of **23.9 per cent** revealing a deeper economic malaise, State Bank of India's Economic Research Department has now estimated that the decline in FY21 growth will likely be in double-digits, around **10.9 per cent**, against the previous estimate of **6.8 per cent**.
- As per Ecowrap, Q2 real GDP decline will be in the range of **-12 per cent to -15 per cent**, Q3: -5 per cent to -10 per cent and Q4: -2 per cent to -5 per cent.

### APEC economy to reduce by 2.7 pc in 2020

- The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region** is expected to post a **2.7 per cent economic decline** in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Last year, the 21-member region recorded economic growth of 3.6 per cent.

### India's GDP contracts by 23.9% in April-June quarter

- As per the data released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, India's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for the April-June quarter (Q1) slipped by a sharp **23.9 per cent**.

### European Investment Bank to invest 650 million euros into Kanpur city metro rail

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- The European Investment Bank (EIB) has decided to invest **650 million euros** into the construction of **Kanpur's first city metro line**.
- With the Kanpur investment, the total amount of the EIB's approved support for metro rail systems in India has reached **€2.65 billion**, more than half of the entire EIB investment portfolio in India.

### L&T bags significant contract from Defence Ministry

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) stated its defence arm secured a significant contract from the Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) for supplying four regiments of Pinaka Weapon Systems.
- L&T has already executed similar orders from Ministry of Defence and supplied two regiments of Pinaka systems earlier.
- As per the L&T's classification, the valuation of the 'significant' order stands between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore.

### Indian economy to grow at 9.5 pct in next fiscal, says Fitch Ratings

- After a contraction in the current financial year, India's economy is forecast to bounce back with a sharp growth rate of **9.5 percent** next fiscal, Fitch Ratings has stated. It has forecast a **5 percent contraction** in the GDP in the ongoing financial year.
- The government has announced stimulus measures amounting to **10 percent of GDP**.

### India's nominal GDP to grow 19 per cent in 2022, finance ministry

- Finance ministry has estimated that **India's nominal GDP** will grow by **19 per cent** in nominal terms in financial year **2021-22**. Nominal GDP is an assessment which includes the current prices of goods and services in its calculation.

### SEBI to set up 'backstop entity' to buy MFs' illiquid corporate bonds

- **SEBI** plans to set up a '**backstop entity**' to buy **illiquid investment-grade corporate bonds** from mutual funds in a bid to reduce the stress in **debt schemes**. A backstop will ensure that a part of the offering is purchased if it goes unsold.

### NSE, SGX ink formal pact on NSE IFSC-SGX Connect

- **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and **Singapore Exchange (SGX)** stated they have entered into a formal agreement to cement the key terms for operationalising the **NSE IFSC-SGX Connect**. The two exchanges will also withdraw arbitration proceedings.
- The **NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC)-SGX Connect** aims to bring together the trading of Nifty products to **Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT)** and create a larger pool of liquidity, comprising international and home market participants.

### NSE, IIM-Bangalore join hands to offer platform for investor education

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) announced the launch of a digital learning platform for investor education.
- The platform, an online investor education resource centre, has been developed jointly by NSE Investor Protection Fund Trust and IIM Bangalore.

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- The platform has four learning modules.

### RIL picks majority stake in Netmeds for Rs 620 crore

- Reliance Industries announced acquisition of a majority equity stake in Chennai-based online pharmacy delivery startup Netmeds (Vitalic Health Pvt. Ltd) for a cash consideration of approximately Rs 620 crore.
- This investment represents 60 per cent holding in the equity share capital of Vitalic and 100 per cent direct equity ownership of its subsidiaries - Tresara Health Private Limited, Netmeds Market Place Limited and Dadha Pharma Distribution Pvt. Limited, a late evening statement by RIL stated.

### World Bank sees higher GDP fall in India than 3.2% it projected for FY21

- The World Bank stated it was likely to project a steeper contraction in India's economy than the 3.2 per cent it had forecast for the current financial year, given the rising number of Covid-19 cases and the resultant regional lockdowns.
- Various agencies and economists have provided varying figures for India's GDP contraction for FY21. While former chief statistician **Pronab Sen has pegged it at 12.5 per cent, ICRA had forecast 9.5 per cent and India Ratings 5.3 per cent.**

### Apple becomes first U.S. Company to reach a \$2 trillion market cap

- Apple hit a market cap of \$2 trillion, doubling in valuation in just over two years to become the first publicly traded U.S. Company to reach the milestone.
- Apple first reached a \$1 trillion market cap on Aug. 2, 2018.

### Digital payments market in India likely to grow 3-fold to Rs 7,092 lakh cr by 2025

- The current 160 million unique mobile payment users will multiply by five times to reach nearly 800 million by 2025.
- Mobile payments will drive around 3.5 per cent of total digital payments of Rs 7,092 trillion by financial year 2025, up from the current 1 per cent.

### NSE to launch 'silver options' in commodity derivatives segment from September 1

- NSE will launch 'silver options' in the commodity derivatives segment from September 1.
- The exchange has received markets regulator SEBI's nod for 'options' in goods contracts on the underlying silver spot price for trading in the commodity derivatives segment, the NSE stated.

### India growth forecast cut again at Citi as coronavirus cases surge

- The nation's gross domestic product will contract **6% in** the fiscal year to March 2021, steeper than Citigroup Inc's previous estimate for a **3.5% decline**, its analysts led by Samiran Chakraborty, chief India economist in Mumbai. The revision is largely due to a cut to the fiscal first-quarter forecast -- with the economy seen slumping **21%** during the period against **16%** estimated earlier.

### Global economy to contract by 5.2 pc in 2020: Report

- The global economy is likely to contract by **5.2 per cent in 2020** with the coronavirus still spreading and the economic prospects of countries across the world looking muted, says a report.
- According to Dun and Bradstreet's Country Risk and Global Outlook Report, that covered 132 countries, the wider global context remains sombre and the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before **2022**.



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### Indian GDP to contract 7.5 per cent if COVID vaccine is delayed, 4 per cent in base case: Report

- A longer wait for a vaccine against COVID-19 virus may lead to a contraction of up to **7.5 per cent** in the Indian GDP in FY21, a foreign brokerage stated.
- Economists at Bank of America Securities also revised down their base case estimates on the real GDP within a week, and now expect it to contract by **4 per cent** because of a drop in economic activity.

### Google to invest \$10 billion in India over 5-7 years

- Internet giant Google launched the Google for India Digitization Fund with a commitment to invest **Rs.75,000 crore** (approximately \$10 billion) over the next 5-7 years towards digitizing the Indian economy.
- The fund will be deployed to accelerate Google's efforts through a mix of equity investments, partnerships, operations, infrastructure, and ecosystem investments..

### RIL first company in India to surpass Rs 12 lakh crore market cap

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross the **Rs12 lakh crore** in market capitalisation as the stock soared to a record high. Shares of the company, controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, have doubled in value since mid-March.

### SEBI extends deadline to implement power of attorney norms till August 1

- **Sebi** has extended to **August 1, 2020** the date for implementing norms pertaining to power of attorney given by clients to trading members or clearing members.
- In a bid to curb the misuse of **power of attorney (POA)** given by the clients to the trading member (TM) or clearing member (CM), Sebi had prescribed that margin obligations to be given in the form of securities by client will be by way of pledge or re-pledge in the depository system. Besides, title transfer of securities to the client collateral demat account of the TM/ CM for margin purposes will not be permitted.

### Moody's downgrades India's sovereign rating to 'Baa3', maintains negative outlook

- **Moody's** has also revised its **FY21 GDP** estimate for India to **4% contraction** against **0% growth** projected earlier.
- Both Moody's and Fitch Ratings had in April warned that deterioration in India's fiscal outlook as a result of lower growth could put pressure on its sovereign rating
- The country's credit rating was downgraded to **Baa3** from **Baa2**, according to a statement. The outlook remained unchanged.
- India's fiscal deficit in FY20 widened to 4.6% of GDP against the budgeted 3.8%. Mint on 31 May reported that the country's fiscal deficit in FY21 may breach the level of 6.4% of GDP, last seen in the aftermath of the global financial crisis in FY10.

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- India's economic growth in the March quarter slowed to a 11-year low at 3.1%, partially reflecting the ongoing nationwide lockdown with fresh data suggesting a sharp contraction in GDP in the June quarter of FY21.

### India's economy to shrink 10.3% in 2020, will register 8.8% growth in 2021: IMF

- The Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 per cent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 per cent, the IMF said in its latest 'World Economic Outlook' report.
- Global growth would contract by 4.4 per cent this year and bounce back to 5.2 per cent in 2021.
- Last week, the World bank said India's GDP this fiscal is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent.

### Global trade likely to fall by 7 to 9% in 2020: UNCTAD

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has stated that the value of global trade is set to fall by seven to nine per cent in 2020 from the previous year.
- Meanwhile, China's exports rebounded strongly in the third quarter after falling in the early months of the pandemic and have posted year-on-year growth rates of nearly 10 per cent.

### FDI in India rises to over 358 billion during 2014-20: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

- The government has stated that total Foreign Direct Investment- FDI inflow grew by 55 per cent from 231.37 billion dollar in 2008 to 2014 to over 358 billion dollar in 2014 to 2020.
- FDI equity inflow also increased by 57 per cent from around 160 billion dollar during 2008-14 to over 252 billion dollar in 2014-2020. The Ministry stated, during April to August this year, total FDI inflow of 35.73 billion is received.
- It is the highest ever for first 5 months of a financial year and 13 per cent higher as compared to first five months of 2019-20.

### Remittances to India to fall by 9% to \$76 billion in 2020 due to COVID-19: World Bank

- The World Bank said remittances to India would fall this year by nine per cent to \$76 billion due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and global economic recession.
- India followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt continue to be the top five countries in 2020 to receive foreign remittances.
- Remittance flows to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to fall by 7 per cent to \$508 billion in 2020, followed by a further decline of 7.5 per cent to \$470 billion in 2021.
- Remittances to South Asia are projected to decline by around four per cent in 2020 to \$1 35 billion.

### FDI surges to 30 billion dollars in Apr-Oct this year

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar stated Foreign Direct Investment into India surged by a healthy 15 percent to 30 billion dollars in April - October this year.

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- Total Foreign Direct Investments inflows into India during the second quarter of financial year 2020-21 is 28,102 million dollars, out of which FDI equity inflows is 23,441 million dollars.

### Q2 GDP to shrink 8.6%; India to enter recession for 1st time: RBI official

- The GDP is likely to contract by **8.6 per cent** for the **July-September** period, which means India will enter into a **recession for the first time** in history in the first half of this fiscal with two successive quarters of negative growth due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as per an RBI official.
- The pandemic-induced lockdowns had led to a steep contraction of **23.9 per cent** in the GDP for the April-June quarter as compared to the same period a year ago.
- The RBI has estimated that the economy **will contract** by **9.5 per cent** for the full fiscal year.

### NSE to launch first agricultural commodity futures contract in December

- NSE stated it will launch its **first agricultural commodity futures contract** for **crude degummed soybean oil**.
- The contract will facilitate the soybean oils processing and allied industries in India and overseas, a perfect hedging tool for managing their price, the National Stock Exchange stated. The contract is a monthly expiry cash settled futures contract with a trading lot size of 10 metric ton (MT) and price basis as Kandla.

### GST Collection In November

- **Goods and services tax collections** hovered around **Rs 1.05 lakh crore** for the second month with the mop-up in November, 2020, estimated to be **1.4% higher than** the corresponding period last year.
- On a cumulative basis, collections during April-November were **17% lower**, sharply down from the lows of 56% seen in April when the lockdown was in full force.

### Nomura Expects India would be fastest growing Asian economy in 2021

- **Nomura** has turned positive on India's cyclical outlook for 2021, and believes the country is on the cusp of a cyclical recovery.
- The foreign research and brokerage house expects the Indian economy as measured by gross domestic product GDP growth to average **9.9% in 2021** versus **-7.1% in 2020**.

### IFSCA notifies IFSC Authority (Bullion Exchange) Regulations, 2020

- IFSCA has notified **International Financial Services Centres Authority Regulations 2020**.
- In the Union Budget 2020, Union Minister of Finance Corporate Affairs Smt.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** had made an announcement for setting up an International Bullion Exchange at the International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City, **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

### UNDP and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to co-create India's first Social Impact Bond

- **Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)** recently signed an MoU with UNDP India to co-create India's first **Social Impact Bond (SIB)**.

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- As part of this unique investment tool, the PCMC administration will only have to bear the costs of a public welfare project associated with the bond.

### Singapore & USA Become the Biggest FDI Sources for India : DPIIT's FDI Statistics

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade revealed the Foreign Direct Investment data and listed out the top investing countries FDI equity inflows in India during April-September 2020.
- Singapore became biggest source of FDI by investing Rs 62,084 crore into India, USA becomes the second biggest source of FDI into India by investing Rs 53,266 cr.
- Among states, the highest recipient of FDI inflows so far in the 2nd Quarter (April-September) of FY21 has been Gujarat with Rs 1.19 lakh crore worth inflows.

### India's Retail inflation Declined to 6.93% in November 2020: CPI Data

- As per the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the Government of India, India's retail inflation based on the CPI declined to 6.93% in November 2020 from 7.61% in October 2020.
- The inflation rate for rural area was 7.20% and urban area 6.73% in November 2020 against 7.75% and 7.33% in October 2020.

### BSE Launches 'BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltdn (BEAM)', an Electronic Spot Platform for Agricultural Commodities

- BSE (formerly known as Bombay Stock Exchange), through its subsidiary BSE Investments Ltd., launched 'BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)', an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities.
- BEAM is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The CEO of BEAM is Rajesh Sinha.

### BSE Ebix Launches Beta Version of Term Insurance for ICICI Prudential

- BSE Ebix Insurance Broking Private Limited partnered with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd. for the beta launch of term Insurance of ICICI Prudential on its on-demand advanced hi-tech platform.
- With this launch, 12 Insurance Companies have been integrated with BSE Ebix platform.

## Important Business News

### ICICI Pru MF launches ETF on Nifty Alpha Low Volatility index

- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched 'Alpha Low Vol 30 ETF' an open-ended index exchange traded fund.
- The offering aims to provide returns that closely correspond to the returns of Nifty Alpha Low-Volatility 30 Index. The units of this ETF will be listed on NSE and BSE.
- The new ETF of ICICI MF intends to counter the cyclical theory of single factor index structure strategy. The index provides exposure to a portfolio of stocks from various sectors, based on top combination of alpha and low volatility.

### Amazon's Project Kuiper gets FCC approval for over 3,200 internet satellites

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- Amazon has received approval from the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to launch and operate a planned constellation of 3,236 internet satellites.
- Amazon's Project Kuiper, an initiative to create a satellite-based broadband internet service designed to provide high-speed, low-latency connections to U.S.-based households that currently don't have great access to a high-speed connection. Amazon also announced that it would be committing over \$10 billion in Kuiper.

### Tech Mahindra launches 'Mhealthy' to screen employees for COVID-19 risk factors at workplaces

- Tech Mahindra announced the launch of Mhealthy, a solution to enable workforce and community safety against COVID-19.
- Tech Mahindra has rolled-out phase-wise screening starting with third-party vendors across its India offices and plans to extend the benefits to its employees, customers, and partner ecosystem.
- Mhealthy enables screening of the individuals at the workplace on a regular interval to check for risk factors of COVID-19, such as comorbid conditions, immunity status, and biomarkers of infection.

### Airtel, Amazon Web Services to help MSMEs, others adopt cloud solutions

- Airtel announced a multi-year strategic collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer cloud solutions to small and medium enterprises (SME) as well as large businesses in India.
- Airtel Cloud will set-up an AWS Cloud Practice to offer its customers multiple AWS services such as Windows on AWS, SAP on AWS, VMware Cloud on AWS, database migration, and security and risk governance solutions.

### IFC to invest \$10 mn in Endiya Partners Fund II for product start-ups

- Endiya Partners Fund II, a city-based venture capital fund has received a commitment of Rs 75 crore (\$10M approx.) from the International Financial Corporation (IFC).
- IFC has also committed an additional \$10 million for direct co-investments alongside Endiya Fund II, it stated in a press release.
- Endiya Fund II has a corpus target of Rs 500 crore (\$65 million) and has already completed its first close at Rs 280 crore (\$40 million) in May 2019.
- Endiya Fund II will seek to invest in 16 - 20 start-ups, with an initial cheque size of \$ 500,000 to \$ one million in Seed/Pre-series A rounds and a planned investment of up to \$5 million per company.

### Paytm launches first pocket Android POS device for contactless payments in India

- Paytm has launched the first pocket Android POS device for contactless ordering and payments in India, a move that will make this technology more affordable for SMEs. The company has introduced 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' at an introductory price of Rs 499 per month rental.
- It also comes bundled with Paytm's 'Scan to Order' service that is being adopted by thousands of restaurants and takeaway joints in the country.

### Reliance Foundation to partner W-GDP, USTATED to bridge gender digital divide

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- Reliance Foundation has forged a new partnership with US Agency for International Development and W-GDP to bridge the gender digital divide in India.
- The W-GDP Women's Connect Challenge (WCC) supports private sector-led approaches that close the gender digital divide, expands business opportunities, and empowers women.
- W-GDP seeks to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025 by focusing on three pillars women prospering in the workforce, women succeeding as entrepreneurs, and women enabled in the economy.

### Dell, NITI Aayog launch 2nd student entrepreneurship programme

- Dell Technologies in association with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) announced the second Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0) that would mentor eight teams to foray into the world of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- In addition to the learning from SEP 1.0, the virtual SEP 2.0 will help students receive support and guidance to manufacture fully-functional, market-ready products along with patenting their ideas/processes.

### Xiaomi launches Mi For India initiative to distribute 2,500 phones to COVID-19 affected children

- Xiaomi India has launched an Independence Day initiative called Mi For India.
- The company has partnered with Teach For India to distribute 2500 new smartphones to children affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

### Tech Mahindra launches Upskilling-as-a-service platform

- Tech Mahindra was launching a new 'Upskilling-as-a-Service' (UaaS) platform to accelerate new-age skill development for over 60,000 employees globally to create a 'fit for future' workforce.
- Powered by New Age Delivery (NAD), UaaS will enhance employee competencies across emerging technologies like 5G, cloud, big data and robotic process automation.

### Tata Capital launches 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' on WhatsApp

- Tata Capital announced the launch of its new service called 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' (SIPL) on WhatsApp.
- The chatbot was recently launched on WhatsApp as a service platform to facilitate customer requests including queries on EMI details or updating customer records.
- They can then select 'Swift Insta Personal Loans' from the Menu and verify themselves through a One-time Password (OTP).

### NPCI launches international unit to expand reach of UPI

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched its international arm-- NPCI International Payments Ltd -- to expand real-time payment system Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and card payment network RuPay in other countries.
- The primary focus of NIPL would be internationalization of RuPay and UPI, along with a few more offerings of NPCI. NIPL will be headed by Ritesh Shukla as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).



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### NRDC, NAL to establish incubation centre for start-ups in aerospace technologies

- The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) will establish an innovation-cum-incubation centre with external private funding to promote startups in the emerging area of aerospace technologies, a statement stated.
- Under this programme startups in the area of aerospace engineering would be incubated, mentored and supported for product and prototype development and their validation.

### Flipkart partners with Sastodeal in Nepal to enable cross-border trade

- Flipkart has entered into a strategic partnership with Nepal's Sastodeal, a move that will help lakhs of Flipkart sellers get access to the neighbouring country's e-commerce market.
- Sastodeal will host over 5,000 products from Flipkart marketplace sellers, in turn opening access to Nepalese customers.
- Flipkart Private Brands - MarQ and SmartBuy - will also be listed on the Sastodeal platform with a focus on categories such as electronics, home appliances/home decor and furnishings.

### IBM India, NSDC tie-up for offering free digital skills training

- IBM announced its collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to offer free digital skills training to learners in India.
- As part of its collaboration with NSDC, IBM will curate online courses from its Open P-TECH platform.
- It will then offer these course to users for free through NSDC's eSkill India portal.

### Tech Mahindra and NITI Aayog collaborate to support women entrepreneurs in India

- Tech Mahindra announced a collaboration with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) to support women entrepreneurs across the country.
- The partnership is to recognise women leaders in entrepreneurship across various sectors like Healthcare and Lifesciences, Agritech, Education amongst others.

### Simplilearn and NSDC Announce Collaboration to Upskill Professionals in Digital Skills

- In order to support the continuity of digital skilling of the Indian workforce, Simplilearn, a global provider of digital skills training joined hands with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

### Mahindra ties up with Israel's REE Automotive to develop commercial EVs

- Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has inked a pact with Tel Aviv-based REE Automotive to explore production of electric commercial vehicles.
- The Mumbai-based firm has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the start-up to explore development and manufacturing of electric commercial vehicles for global markets.

### TVS Automobile Solutions and Google tie up to digitise auto aftermarket

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- TVS Automobile Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (TVS ASL) stated that it has joined hands with Google Cloud to build a digital ecosystem that can connect several stakeholders in the unorganised and fragmented auto aftermarket industry.
- On the back of its new digital platform, it aims to grow its current market share of 4% to 10% by 2023. Raghavan estimates that the unorganised players would comprise upto 80% in the aftermarket.

### Greenko and NTPC to partner for supplying on-demand green energy

- Hyderabad-based Greenko Energies Pvt Ltd plans to partner with state run NTPC Ltd to develop 'round-the-clock' power supply.
- Greenko is among India's largest green energy developers with a 6.4 gigawatt (GW) portfolio and is building power storage projects with total capacity of 7.2 GW across six states in India.

### Edelweiss Mutual Fund to launch second tranche of Bharat Bond ETF

- **Edelweiss Asset Management** announced the launch of the **second tranche** of **Bharat Bond ETF** in July with two new series after initial series in December last year.
- The Bharat Bond ETF programme is an initiative of the government's Department of Investment and Public Asset Management which has given the mandate to Edelweiss AMC to design and manage the product.
- The two new Bharat Bond ETF series will have maturities of **April 2025** and **April 2031**.

### Fever Network launches 'Happiness Partner' initiative to help SMEs amid pandemic

- **Fever Network**, house to the country's most popular radio stations, **Fever FM, Radio Nasha and Radio One** has recently gone live with its latest campaign – '**Your Happiness Partner**'.
- With the '**Happiness Partner**' initiative, Fever Network hopes to fast-track their road to recovery using the brand's expertise of reaching out to the relevant set of listeners with a targeted marketing plan.
- The campaign is live on **Fever FM, Radio Nasha and Radio One channels**.

### SERB launches 'Accelerate Vigyan' scheme to strengthen scientific research mechanism

- The Science and Engineering Research Board has launched a new scheme called '**Accelerate Vigyan**' to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the country.
- The primary objective of this inter-ministerial scheme is to encourage high-end scientific research and prepare scientific manpower, which can lead towards research careers and knowledge-based economy.
- **Accelerate Vigyan** will initiate and strengthen mechanisms for identifying research potential, mentoring, training and hands-on workshop on a national scale.

### CBSE partners with Facebook for curriculum on digital safety, augmented reality

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Facebook have partnered to launch curriculum on "**digital safety and online well-being**" and "**Augmented Reality**" for students and educators.
- Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has appreciated the initiative launched by **CBSE and Facebook**.

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### Ola in pact with PhonePe for digital payments on ride-hailing app

- India-based mobility platform **Ola** announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with digital payments platform **PhonePe**.
- The partnership will help the mobility platform enable better digital payments experience on its **Ola app**, the company stated.
- Ola customers across the country can now pay for their ride using **PhonePe**. It will also benefit the digital payments platform in order to help it expand its user base.
- Ola had recently launched its **Ride Safe India** encouraging customers to opt for digital payment channels amid Covid-19 to minimise the risk of exposure and avoid physical contact.

### Deutsche Bank, Google in multi-year partnership for cloud services

- **Deutsche Bank** stated it has agreed a strategic, multi-year partnership with **Google** to give the German lender access to cloud services and drive innovation in technology-based financial products for clients.

### Maruti Suzuki Partners With Axis Bank For Easy Car Loan Schemes

- India's largest car maker **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.** has collaborated with private lender **Axis Bank Ltd.** to offer easy vehicle financing for car buyers.
- Under the partnership, **Axis Bank** will offer a variety of options to customers, including **100 per cent** on-road funding for salaried customers for **eight years**, step-up EMI scheme starting at **Rs 1,250 per lakh** and **balloon EMI scheme** with final EMI being **25 per cent of loan amount**.
- Customers can also choose low equated monthly installment (EMI) scheme for first three months starting with **Rs 899**.

### NSDC and Microsoft collaborate to train over 1 lakh youths

- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **Microsoft** have announced a strategic partnership that aims to impart digital skills to more than one lakh youths in India by next year.
- Microsoft will collaborate with **NSDC's eSkill India portal** to provide free access to learning resources.
- As part of the partnership, Microsoft's learning resource center, **Microsoft Learn**, will be integrated with the **eSkill India digital platform** to provide access to personalised learning paths and resources that are in-demand in today's economy.

### Google Rebrands Social Network Google Plus As Google Currents

- Tech giant **Google's social media network Google Plus** has officially gone almost a year after the company had shut down its personal accounts.
- Google recently announced that it is replacing the social network meant for enterprise users with a new tool called the **Google Currents**.

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### Mastercard to invest Rs.250 cr to help Indian SMEs amid COVID-19 crisis

- Global leader in payment technology **Mastercard** announced an additional **Rs.250-crore** investment to help small businesses in the country, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The investment, which is over and above **the USD 1 billion** committed for the Indian market till 2025, will be focussed on helping small businesses go digital, making access to credit easier and also supporting women entrepreneurs.

### Signature Global to invest Rs 225 cr in affordable housing project in Gurugram

- Realty firm Signature Global will invest **Rs 225 crore** over the next four years to develop a new affordable housing project in Gurugram, Haryana.
- The project, **comprising 852 units**, will be developed under the **Haryana government's affordable housing policy**.
- In the last five years, the company has launched around **20 affordable housing projects** in **Gurugram, Sohna and Karnal** (Haryana).

### BSE, IIT Alumni Council ink pact for listing of start-ups

- The **BSE** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **IIT Alumni Council** to encourage listing of start-ups and develop 'high investor depth' in its start-ups platform.
- The alliance will ensure entity transparency, improvement in governance, market discovery of share price, provide liquidity for private equity investors and enable retail participation.
- **IIT Alumni Council** is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all the **23 IITs** with over 100 city chapters globally.

### Motilal Oswal AMC launches Multi Asset Fund

- **Motilal Oswal Asset Management** Company has launched a **Multi Asset Fund** that will invest in equity, international equity index funds/ equity Exchange Traded Funds Debt and Money Market Instruments and Gold ETF.
- The fund will open for subscription from July 15. Investors can invest through lumpsum or minimum SIP of **Rs.500** during NFO and ongoing period.

### BuyUcoin Becomes The First Indian Cryptocurrency Exchange To List XinFin Utility Token

- Singapore based Hybrid **Blockchain** firm **XinFin** has partnered with **BuyUcoin**, one of India's leading cryptocurrency exchanges, to introduce its **Native Token XDC** to the Indian market.
- **XinFin chose BuyUcoin** as their partner because of their vision and reliability, to expand its user-base in India. XinFin has committed itself to play a major role in the mass adoption of blockchain technology in the Indian economy.

### PayU Introduces QR Enabled EFT Solution For Real Time Monitoring Of Bank Transactions

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- **PayU**, India's leading online payment solutions provider, introduced the **QR enabled EFT payment option** that allows businesses and customers to track the status of **high value EFT payment** transactions (Rs 5 lakh and above) in real time.

### NSRCEL Partners With Capgemini To Support Social Startups

- **NSRCEL**, the startup hub at **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B)**, has partnered with **Capgemini** in India to support social impact startups in the country's growing startup ecosystem.
- The selected startups are **Blink Research and Services, Econut Coconut Producer Company, Learning Matters and Prosoc Innovators**.

### ICRA Sees India Real GDP Contract By Almost Double Digits In FY21

- Rating agency **ICRA** sharply revised its forecast for the contraction in the Indian economy to **9.5% in the 2020-'21** financial year from its earlier estimate of 5%. The rating agency cited rising coronavirus cases and the localised lockdown to rein in the pandemic for the downward revision.

### KVIC opens footwear training centre for leather artisans in Delhi

- A first-of-its-kind footwear training centre for the marginalised community was inaugurated in Delhi by the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** with **Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI), Agra**.
- It will provide a comprehensive two-month training programme to leather artisans for making high-quality footwear.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is also setting up a similar footwear training centre in **Varanasi**.

### Ola rolls out enterprise solution 'Ola Corporate' to global customers

- India-based mobility platform **Ola** is rolling out its enterprise mobility solution '**Ola Corporate**' across global markets.
- It will be rolling out the enterprise offering to customers across **Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom**.
- Ola Corporate will also offer a range of safety features under its **Ride Safe initiative** and will follow in-class hygiene and sanitisation protocols for safer mobility amid the pandemic.

### FCC, NPCI to host world's largest virtual fintech event

- The **Fintech Convergence Council (FCC)**, the fintech committee of Internet and Mobile Association of India, in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and **Payments Council of India**, will be hosting a virtual fintech event
- Called **Global Fintech Fest**, the event will bring together fintech and BFSI ecosystems from across the globe on a single platform.

### Shikhar Dhawan signs marketing and management agreement with IMG Reliance

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- Ace cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** has signed an exclusive worldwide marketing and management agreement with **IMG Reliance**, which specialises in talent management, sports sponsorship and marketing.
- Since the launch of the Talent Management division in **2016**, IMG Reliance has been associated with cricketers Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya and Shreyas Iyer.

### FamPay launches India's First Numberless Card

- **FamPay**, India's first Neobank for teenagers, launched country's first numberless card – **FamCard**.
- With **FamPay and its numberless card**, minors can make online (UPI & P2P) and offline payments without the need to open up a bank account. Every transaction made through the card is protected with device locks such as **fingerprint, Face ID, pattern lock or PIN**.

### GoAir launches GoMore scheme to book adjacent seat for social distancing

- GoAir launched **GoMore scheme**, which will allow passengers to book adjacent seat on the same PNR in order to maintain social distancing amid the pandemic.
- The airline also announced the launch '**Online Doctor Consultation**' facility in association with MFine, an on-demand healthcare platform.

### NTPC floats tender to acquire 1 GW solar projects

- **NTPC** has floated a tender to acquire **1 GW** operational solar projects, which entails an investment of around **Rs.5,000 crore**.

By 2032, the company plans to have a minimum of **32 GW capacity** through RE sources constituting nearly 25 per cent of its overall power generation capacity.

- NTPC, formerly known as **National Thermal Power Corporation**, plans to be a **130 GW**-company by **2032** with diversified fuel mix.

### Wibmo launches video-based customer identification process for banks

- **Wibmo Inc** announced the launch of **Wibmo Video-KYC**, its video-based KYC solution to enable banks to digitally onboard their customers.
- Wibmo Video-KYC serves as a one-on-one digital interaction platform between banks and their customers.

### India's e-commerce penetration may double, become \$99 bn market by 2024: Goldman Sachs

- India's e-commerce penetration is expected to more than double to nearly **11% by 2024** from **4.7% in 2019**, and the industry is likely to reach \$99 billion in size.
- India would overtake that of developed economies like the **US, UK, China, Europe and Brazil**. While the e-commerce growth rate for the current year is expected to be 18%, estimates suggest growth rates of over **33% and 28% respectively in 2021 and 2022** respectively.



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### Flipkart launches hyperlocal delivery service in Bengaluru

- **Flipkart** has launched a hyperlocal **90-minute delivery service** called **Flipkart Quick** in **Bengaluru** across categories including grocery, mobiles, electronics and home accessories.
- With this launch, the company has also forayed into fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as meats and milk on its platform. The company has partnered with **Ninjacart**.

### Sembcorp completes 800MW of SECI wind power projects

- **Sembcorp Energy India Limited (SEIL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore-based Sembcorp Industries, announced the completion of its **800MW wind power projects** awarded by the **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)**. With this, the private sector power generator's renewable energy capacity in India touched 1730MW.

### Tata Power Signs a PPA With Tata Motors To Commission India's Largest Carport At Pune

- **Tata Power**, India's largest integrated power utility has achieved a new milestone by signing a **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** with **Tata Motors** to commission **India's largest Carport**. With 6.2 MWp capacity, the project is expected to reduce 1.6 lakhs ton of carbon emission for Tata Motors in its life time.

### Vodafone Idea re-brands itself 'Vi'

- **Vodafone Idea** announced its **new unified brand identity** by renaming **all its products** under a **new name and logo** "Vi".
- The announcement was made by the telco's **MD and CEO Ravinder Takkar**.
- The rebranding comes at a time the company looks to raise up to ₹25,000 crore to meet government dues, pay interest, and invest in operations.

### Razorpay Introduces Cash Advance To Provide Instant SMB Loans

- India-based financial solutions company **Razorpay** is rolling out a **new solution for companies** in need of **business loans**, helping them to instantly access capital.
- With its new **Cash Advance solution**, the company will let **small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs)** borrow **working capital** with a credit limit of **50000 to 1 lakh in 10 seconds** by using the **Razorpay dashboard**.

### Silver Lake to invest Rs. 7,500 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures

- Reliance Industries announced that **Silver Lake** will invest **Rs. 7,500 crore** in **Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL)**, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries.
- This investment values RRVL at a **pre-money equity value** of **Rs. 4.21 lakh crore**.
- Silver Lake's investment will translate into a **1.75% equity stake** in RRVL on a fully diluted basis.

### Mahindra Insurance Brokers launches digital insurance portal PayBima

- **Mahindra Insurance Brokers (MIBL)** has launched a **digital insurance portal** called **PayBima** that will help customers directly buy insurance policies online.

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- Customers will be able to buy car, two-wheeler, health and life insurance products on PayBima. The portal will enable customers to search for policies, compare features, buy and renew policies online.

### TPT South Africa Partners with TCS for Pioneering Logistics Supply Chain Transformation

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, a leading global IT services, consulting and business solutions organization, has partnered with **Transnet Port Terminals (TPT)** in **South Africa**, part of **Transnet SOC Ltd.**
- It partnered with TCS to create the new platform named **Cargo Connect**, which will function as an online logistics marketplace where customers can submit logistics related requests and allow service providers to bid online.

### Microsoft, Nasscom's FutureSkills to launch AI-skilling initiative in India

- **Microsoft** in collaboration with **Nasscom's FutureSkills** will launch a nation-wide initiative in India to skill students in **Artificial Intelligence**. The initiative aims to skill **1 million students** by **2021**.

### Mukesh Ambani's RIL becomes first Indian firm to cross \$200 billion M-cap

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has become **India's first company** to cross **\$210 billion market cap**, entering the **top 40 of worlds most valuable firms**.
- At this market valuation, Reliance Industries is now worlds **40th most valuable firm** ahead of the likes of **Exxon Mobil, PepsiCo, SAP, Oracle, Pfizer and Novartis**. Also, Reliance Industries is now among **Asia's top 10 most valuable companies**.

### Japan' ORIX Corp. set to invest \$980 million in Greenko Energy Holdings for 17% stake

- **ORIX Corp.** is set to invest **\$980 million** in **Greenko Energy Holdings**; the Japan' financial services firm stated.
- The deal will also add **873 MW** of Orix' operating wind assets to **Hyderabad-based Greenko's portfolio**, and will contribute \$100 million to Greenko's EBITDA in the first year.

### HCL Technologies partners with NVIDIA Partner Network

- **HCL Technologies** has joined **NVIDIA Partner Network (NPN)**, the US-based technology company's partner program, with plans to pursue expanded opportunities in the **Artificial Intelligence (AI) space**.
- HCL also announced the launch of **NEXT.ai, HCL's AI Lab**, focused on upskilling engineers and architects utilizing AI solutions across hardware and software technology stacks.

### TPCI announces sectoral committees to tap new markets & investment

- Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), has constituted **three Committees** focusing on **Food & Beverages, Food Processing Technology and Chemical and Allied Products**.
- **Laxman Singh Rathore**, President – International Business of Ramdev Food Products Pvt. Ltd. was elected the **Chairman of the sectoral committee on food and beverages**. **Vivek Agrawal**, Managing Director of Capital Venture Pvt. Ltd. was selected as the Vice Chair of the Committee.
- The Second Committee on **Food Processing Technology** will be chaired by **R. Senguttuvan, CEO of ITC Limited (Printing & Packaging Division)** and **Sanjay Grover**, Vice President – International Business of Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Limited was elected as the **Vice Chairman of the Committee**.

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- The third Committee on **Chemicals** will be chaired by **Manish Shah**, Managing Director of Tanya Exports. **Kapil Malhotra**, Sr. Vice President – Marketing of Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd. was elected as the Vice **Chair of the Committee**, TPCI announced.

### Tata Projects wins bid to construct new parliament building

- The **Tata Projects Limited** won the bid to construct a **new Parliament building** at a cost of **Rs.861.90 crore**, officials stated. The L&T Ltd had submitted a bid of **Rs.865 crore**, they stated.
- According to the **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)**, the new building will come up at plot number 118 of the Parliament House Estate.

### UBS Securities sees GDP contracting 8.6 per cent this fiscal

- **UBS Securities** sees India's real GDP contracting **8.6 per cent** this fiscal, down from the previously estimated contraction level of **5.8 per cent**, its Chief India Economist Tanvee Gupta Jain stated.

### HCL and Google Cloud expand partnership to deliver accelerated business intelligence platform

- **HCL Technologies** and **Google Cloud** announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to bring **HCL's Actian portfolio**, starting with **Actian Avalanche**, to **Google Cloud**.
- Actian Avalanche is a high-performance hybrid cloud data warehouse designed to power an enterprise's most demanding operational analytics workloads.

### Google Pay partners with Visa bringing tap-to-pay for Indian users

- **Google Pay** announced the **rollout of tokenisation** across its platform that will enable users to safely transact with their debit or credit cards.
- The feature will also facilitate use of tap-to-pay feature on **near-field communications (NFC)-enabled point of sale (PoS) terminals** and online merchants.
- Working in close **partnership with Visa** and banking partners, this feature is now available to all users of **Axis and SBI Card**, with **Kotak and more banks** expected to follow suit very soon.

### Microsoft buys gaming company ZeniMax for \$7.5bn

- **Microsoft** has acquired private gaming company **ZeniMax** for **\$7.5bn**, in a deal that underscores how the tech giant sees gaming moving beyond console wars and into a battle for original content and subscription plans. ZeniMax is the parent of **Bethesda Softworks**.

### KKR to invest Rs 5,550 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures for 1.28% equity

- **KKR** will invest **Rs 5,500 crore** in **Reliance Retail** for **1.28 per cent equity share**, Reliance Industries Limited stated in a BSE filing.
- KKR's investment values Reliance Retail at a pre-money equity value of **Rs 4.21 trillion**.

### Amazon.in to host 'Handicrafts Mela' from 26 Sep to 10 Oct to support artisans

- **Amazon.in** will host a virtual '**Handicrafts Mela**' from **September 26-October 10**, showcasing more than 270 art and craft forms from various parts of the country.

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- Amazon's Handicrafts Mela - which will showcasing over **55,000 unique products** - will help customers discover and purchase products from artisans and weavers.

### Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders unveils IPO

- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd.**, a defence PSU, has introduced opening of its **preliminary public** providing for subscription on September 29, with a value band of Rs.135 – Rs.145 per fairness share. Minimum bid lot is **103 fairness shares** and in multiples thereof.

### CBDT extends deadline for filing belated, revised ITRs for AY 2019-20 to November 30

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** extended the **deadline for filing belated and revised ITRs** for Assessment Year 2019-20 from **September 30, 2020 to November 30, 2020** due to difficulties faced by people in the wake of coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is to be noted that this is the **fourth extension** given by the Centre to taxpayers to file both original and revised tax returns for 2018-19 fiscal.
- **Revised return** can be filed online under **Section 139(5) of the Income Tax Act.**

### Google India launches campaign to drive demand for small businesses

- **Google India** announced the launch of its **nationwide campaign** to help support **small businesses and drive** demand through customer support.
- The tech giant's "**Make Small Strong**" campaign is meant to "rally support from the citizens for small businesses by buying locally, leaving reviews and ratings and promoting their favourite retailers on social media to help generate demand for these businesses, stated Shalini Girish, Customer Solutions Director at Google India.
- The new initiative is based on feedback from SMBs as part of a research by Google in collaboration with **Kantar.**

### Reliance Industries' Retail Arm To Get Rs. 7,350 Crore Investment From GIC, TPG Capital

- Mukesh Ambani-led oil-to-telecoms conglomerate Reliance Industries stated that **Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC** and global private equity firm **TPG Capital** invested a combined **Rs. 7,350 crore (about \$1 billion)** in its retail unit.
- GIC will invest **Rs. 5,512 crore** for a **1.22 per cent** stake, while TPG Capital Management will invest **Rs. 1,838 crore** to own a **0.41 per cent** equity stake in the retail arm, the company stated.

### Puducherry airport turns into AAI's first 100% solar-powered airport

- **Puducherry airport** has develop into the **Airports Authority of India's (AAI) first fully solar-powered airport** within the nation with the commissioning of **500KWp ground-mounted solar energy plant** at a value of **Rs 2.8 crore.**
- The AAI had already begun the transition to renewable vitality in southern regional airports with the set up of its **first solar energy plant of 750-KWp** capability at **Kozhikode airport** in 2016.

### TCS Becomes Second Indian Firm To Cross Rs 10 Lakh Crore Market Cap

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- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** became the second Indian IT firm after **Reliance Industries** to scale a market cap of more than **Rs 10 lakh crore**. Market cap of TCS at the time of close stood at **Rs 10.15 lakh crore**.
- **Reliance Industries Limited** was the **first Indian** firm to have crossed the Rs 10 lakh crore market valuation mark.

### IBM to set up centre of excellence for AI with government e-marketplace

- **IBM Corp.** will be setting up an **artificial intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in partnership with the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**, CEO Arvind Krishna stated at an AI Summit titled Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE 2020).
- In India, IBM is collaborating with the local government in the state of **Karnataka** and **NITI Aayog** to deploy its precision agriculture solutions, which combine AI and weather data to help farmers make better decisions.

### India's first B2B Crypto trading exchange DigitX launched

- **DigitX**, country's **first Business-to-Business (B2B) Crypto trading exchange** has commenced its trading operations. In a highly potential yet challenging market, DigitX aims to deliver **transparency and security** with its Platform armed with features to bring about a much-needed trust and confidence for the investors and traders of Crypto.

### Abu Dhabi Investment Authority invests Rs 5,512.5 crore in Reliance Retail for 1.2 % stake

- **Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd**, run by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, raised **Rs 5,512.50 crore** from **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**, taking the total fundraise to Rs 37,710 crore.
- ADIA's investment will translate into a **1.20 per cent equity stake**.

### BharatPe Launches Brand Campaign With Record 11 Cricket Stars As Brand Ambassadors

- **BharatPe** has announced the launch of its high impact TV campaign starring '**Team BharatPe**' with **11 Cricket stars**. The TVC series has been directed by ace Bollywood director, Puneet Malhotra, and communicates the message '**Hum Hai Team BharatPe – Jo Desh Ke Har Dukandaar Ke Saath Hai Khade**'.

### Amazon Pay, Uber collaborate to push digital payments in India

- **Amazon Pay**, an online payment processing service, and **Uber**, a technology company that offers vehicles for hire, announced a partnership that will integrate Amazon Pay as a payment option on the **Uber app**.
- To facilitate their Uber trip, customers will need to link their Amazon Pay account to Uber by clicking on the 'Payments' icon and choosing Amazon Pay.

### Microsoft collaborates with AICTE to upskill students, educators in next-gen tech

- **Microsoft** announced that it has partnered with the Government of India's **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** to provide online course modules to students across the country.
- The tech giant will offer courses to help "learners and educators with future-ready skills." It will offer over 1,500 course modules to students and educators free of cost through AICTE's e-learning portal, ELIS.

### BBNL Taps Hughes India to Connect 5,000 Panchayats with Satellite Broadband



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- **Hughes Communications India Private Limited ('Hughes India')**, the global enabler in broadband satellite networks and services, has announced its selection by **Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL)** and **Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.(TCIL)** to provide **high-speed satellite connectivity to 5,000 remote gram panchayats**.
- The awards are part of the government's flagship **BharatNet Programme** to provide broadband connectivity to all 250,000 gram panchayats throughout India.

### TCS surpasses Accenture to become most-valuable IT services firm globally

- **Tata Consultancy Services** became the **world's most valuable IT services company**, overtaking **Accenture** in market capitalisation, with **IBM** at third place.
- **TCS** is the second most valued company across sectors in India, just behind Reliance Industries. Earlier this week, TCS also became the second Indian to cross a market capitalisation of **Rs 10 lakh crore**.

### Mastercard partners Indian start-up Signzy for global rollout of Video KYC

- **Mastercard** has partnered with **Signzy, a RegTech startup** based in India, for global rollout of Signzy's **video-based KYC** (Know Your Customer) solution for its banking customers.
- It maybe recalled that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had in January this year amended its KYC norms allowing banks and other lending institutions regulated by it to use Video based **Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)**.
- **Signzy's Video KYC solution** will enable end-users to complete and submit their KYC application from the safety and security of their homes.

### PepsiCo to set up greenfield potato chips production unit in UP with investment of Rs. 814 crore

- The multi-national food and beverage major **PepsiCo** is setting up a **greenfield potato chips production unit in Uttar Pradesh** with an investment of Rs. 814 crore.
- The unit is being set up in Kosi - Mathura on 35 acres of land provided by UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA).

### Tech Mahindra signs agreement to form joint venture with Sumitomo Corp

- **Tech Mahindra** has signed an agreement with **Japan-based Sumitomo Corporation** for setting up a joint venture to provide engineering service to the automotive sector.
- "Japan is a strategic market for Tech Mahindra and we are delighted to partner with a globally diversified group like **Sumitomo Corporation**.

### Nokia picked by NASA to build first cellular network on the Moon

- **Nokia Oyj** has been chosen by **NASA** to build the **first ever cellular network** on the moon.
- The partnership will create a path toward sustainable human presence on the lunar surface, and will result in the **first LTE/4G communications system in space**.
- Nokia's Bell Labs unit is planning to build what it describes as an ultra-compact, low-power, space-hardened, end-to-end LTE solution that will be available on the moon by **late 2022**.

### Microsoft, Elon Musk's SpaceX tie up to woo space customers



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- **Microsoft Corp** is partnering with billionaire entrepreneur **Elon Musk-led SpaceX** and others as it expands its **cloud-computing platform** into **space**, the software giant stated.
- The partnership would allow Microsoft to connect its **Azure cloud computing platform** to SpaceX's network of low-Earth orbiting satellites, offering the software company an edge in its battle with the rival cloud platform from **Jeff Bezos' Amazon.com Inc.**

### UNDP and EIF partner to develop initiatives for implementation of SDGs and sustainable finance

- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **European Investment Fund (EIF)** are joining forces to develop joint initiatives for sustainable finance and the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- EIF and UNDP have also agreed to explore cooperation opportunities in fields of common interest: Sustainable Development Goals, risk management, socio-economic and environmental impact assessments, as well as design and delivery of financial instruments and asset management services to support inclusive, private sector-led, growth.

### India and US to hold two plus two Ministerial Dialogue on Oct 27

- External Affairs Ministry stated the **third India-US 22 Ministerial Dialogue** held entail a comprehensive discussion on cross-cutting bilateral issues of mutual interest. India will be hosting the Dialogue in **New Delhi**.
- The first two 22 Ministerial dialogues were held in New Delhi in September 2018 and in Washington DC in December 2019.

### Nippon Life Invests in World Bank Sustainable Development Bonds and Highlights Support for Nutrition

- The **World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IBRD, Aaa/AAA)** issued a **15-year AU\$150 million Sustainable Development Bond**, while for the first time, highlighting the importance of good nutrition to build human capital. **Nippon Life Insurance Company** was the sole investor in this transaction.
- This includes US\$4.9 billion in projects, of which US\$1 billion are in IBRD countries, helping to improve nutrition.

### ACKO Partners With Finserv MARKETS To Offer Car And Bike Insurance

- **ACKO** has partnered with **Finserv MARKETS**, a leading fintech aggregator, for offering **two and four-wheeler insurance policies**.
- Customers can now buy ACKO Insurance for their car or bike on the Finserv MARKETS platform by providing basic details.
- ACKO has made the insurance buying experience transparent, intuitive and effortless. ACKO offers value added services like hassle-free claims, zero paperwork, one-hour pick-up, 3-day assured claim servicing and 1-year repair warranty - in select cities.

### BPCL ties up with Fino Payments Bank for recharging truck drivers' fleet cards

- The association between **BPCL** and Fino Payments Bank, the drivers would now be able to get the fleet cards recharged by paying equivalent cash at the bank's point.

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- The digitised cash in the form of prepaid fleet cards would allow truck drivers to make payment for fuel at BPCL outlets.

### In India's biggest property deal, RMZ to sell \$2bn of offices to Brookfield

- **Brookfield Asset Management** will buy an Indian developer's commercial properties for **\$2 billion**, the biggest real estate deal in the **South Asian nation**.
- The firm plans to expand its real asset portfolio to **85 million square feet** over the **next six years** from 67 million square feet.

### Mastercard Partners with Atlantis to Expand Digital First Program in India

- **Mastercard** is partnering with **Atlantis** to provide users with a technology solution that will enable them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience. Mastercard in partnership with Atlantis announced the expansion of the **Digital First Program** in India.
- Users will be able to use their cards/accounts for digital transactions within minutes of application, enabled by a fully digital online application and issuance process, including **video KYC (in collaboration with Signzy)**.

### HAL, Tech Mahindra sign Rs 400 cr contract for 'Project Parivartan'

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** stated the company signed a contract worth **Rs 400 crore** with **Tech Mahindra** for implementation of **enterprise resource planning (ERP)** to support its **project Parivartan**.
- Project Parivartan is a comprehensive business transformation exercise initiated by HAL through technology enhancement and centralised ERP. As a system integrator, Tech Mahindra will implement project Parivartan over a period of nine years at a cost of Rs 400 crore.

### Microsoft launches programme for health-tech start-ups, collaborates with Social Alpha

- The '**Microsoft for Healthtech Startups**' programme has been launched to provide necessary resources to **health-tech start-ups** along with go-to-market support.
- The tech giant is also collaborating with start-up incubator **Social Alpha** "to accelerate the growth of participating start-ups."
- It will provide various Azure benefits including free credits along with support for Azure Marketplace onboarding to qualified seed-to-Series C start-ups.

### Poonawalla Finance, ICSI tie up to offer collateral-free loan for company secretaries

- **Poonawalla Finance Pvt Ltd** has entered into a tie-up with the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** to offer collateral-free special term loan product to over 65,000 Company Secretaries.
- The agreement will help ICSI members fulfil the financial requirements for their professional practice and personal emergencies, the company stated.

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- The special term loan scheme carries zero processing fees for loans up to **36 months**, attractive interest rate, zero prepayment charges, zero collateral and **100 per cent digital processing** with minimum documentation.

### Tech giant IBM, Indian Oil Corporation collaborate for digital services

- **Tech giant IBM** stated it has collaborated with **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** to transform the latter's customer experience using **digital tools**.
- The **IndianOil One mobile app** and portal are part of Indian Oil's Project **ePIC**, an integrated platform for Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Distribution Management System (DMS).

### Walmart Vriddhi starts digitally enhanced learning process to train MSMEs

- With **Walmart Vriddhi** Supplier Development Program, India's **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** now have an opportunity to embark on interactive online training experiences and personalised mentoring, with access to resources and experts to support growth, a company statement stated.
- The Walmart Vriddhi Program was launched by **Walmart Inc.** in December 2019 with the aim to empower 50,000 Indian MSMEs to "**Make in India**" for domestic and global supply chains.

### Software Technology Parks of India to launch a VC fund to support start-ups

- **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)**, an Autonomous Society set up by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), will float a **venture capital fund** to support **startups & entrepreneurs** from the tier II and III cities to launch **new technology products**.
- STPI has taken various initiatives including launching of six centers of excellence (CoEs) in emerging technologies and 10-15 more CoEs are in pipeline.
- This scheme will support around 300 start-ups for the next three years by offering Rs 25 lakh risk capital and **Rs 10,000 internship per startup**.

### L&T bags construction order of bullet train project

- **L&T** has bagged another construction package of the **bullet train project** for an estimated value of **Rs.7,000 crore**.
- According to industry sources, L&T has emerged as the lowest bidder for the C6 package for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (MAHSR)**, popularly referred to as the Bullet Train project from the **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL)**.

### AAI hands over Lucknow airport to Adani group on lease for 50 years

- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** handed over the **Lucknow airport to the Adani group on lease** for a period of **50 years**.
- The AAI had handed over the **Mangaluru airport** to the group on October 30.
- The central government in February 2019 **privatised six major airports** of the country -- **Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Guwahati**.

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### Twitter launches ArtHouse to support brands to create engaging Twitter-first content

- **Twitter India** has introduced **ArtHouse**, a creative suite of services to assist brands in creating and optimising **Twitter-first content**.
- ArtHouse is a fully integrated service that connects brands with the creative capital of influencers, artists and editors.

### Amazon India launches first all-women virtual customer service in Bengaluru

- **Amazon India** announced the launch of its **first all-women Virtual Customer Service (VCS)** site in **Bengaluru** with **60 women**.
- VCS was introduced in 2017 to address customer requests remotely long before working from home was the new normal, and is an extension of **Amazon's Customer Service (CS) network**.

### PIF invests Rs.9,555 crore in RIL's retail arm

- **Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF)** will invest **Rs.9,555 crore** for **2.04%** in **Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) retail unit**, taking **total investments** into India's largest retailer to about **Rs.47,265 crore**.
- This will be the **second such investment** by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund in an RIL unit this year. **PIF** had earlier acquired a **2.32% stake** in Jio Platforms Ltd.

### NPCI imposes 30% cap on transaction volumes of UPI payment apps

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** announced a cap of **30 percent** of total volume of transactions processed in **UPI** by a **Third Party App Provider (TPAP)**.
- The cap will be calculated on the basis of total volume of UPI transactions during the preceding **three months (on a rolling basis)**.
- This will help **address the risks and protect** the **UPI ecosystem** as it further scales up.
- The existing TPAPs exceeding the specified cap will have a period of **two years from January 2021** to comply with the same in a phased manner.

### MobiKwik partners Amex for 'MobiKwik Blue American Express Card'

- **MobiKwik** has entered into a strategic partnership with **American Express** to launch "**MobiKwik Blue American Express Card**".
- This launch makes **MobiKwik** the first non-bank issuer of **Amex Cards** in India. For **Amex**, which is an investor in **MobiKwik**, this marks its entry into the pre-paid Cards space through its network business. As a non-bank, **MobiKwik** cannot issue Credit Cards.

### TCS to buy Postbank Systems from Deutsche Bank

- **Tata Consultancy Services** will acquire **100 per cent stake** in **Postbank Systems AG (PBS)** from **Deutsche Bank AG**.
- **PBS** is the full-range captive IT service provider that provides project management, application management and infrastructure support services to **Postbank** and other subsidiaries of **Deutsche Bank**. **PBS** and its around **1,500 employees** will become part of **TCS**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### Tata Steel, Hindustan Zinc ink pact

- **Tata Steel** has decided to procure **zinc** required for its plant from the domestic market rather than importing it. The company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to secure zinc from Anil Agarwal-owned Hindustan Zinc.
- As per the tie-up, **Hindustan Zinc** would supply about **45,000 tonnes of zinc** and other value-added metals to Tata Steel.

### NGI-TBI inks pact with KPIT Technologies for 'KPIT Sparkle 2021'

- The **Nehru Group of Institutions Technology Business Incubator (NGI-TBI)** has joined hands with **KPIT, Pune**, to motivate young innovators to design and develop indigenous solutions for **KPIT Sparkle 2021** in the **mobility and energy space**. (KPIT Sparkle is KPIT's innovation platform)
- KPIT Sparkle organises innovation contest, "**I Innovate**", for connecting budding entrepreneurs to the incubation ecosystem.

### Marg ERP and Paytm partners to resolve MSMEs payment issue digitally

- **Marg ERP**, with over 50% market share in Pharma and FMCG sector nationally, has come together with **Paytm** to facilitate **seamless transactions for MSMEs**.
- Under this joint venture, the duo empowers MSME using this new integrated payments solution called **MargPay** developed by MARG ERP Limited.
- **MARGPAY** is an easy to use platform with **user friendly interface**.
- It will also be very easy for merchants to connect it with their billing and accounting system with minimum effort.

### Abu Dhabi's SWF is first notified fund to get 100% income-tax exemption

- Finance Ministry announced **Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF)** - **MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited** - has become the **first foreign SWF** that has been notified and granted **100% income-tax exemption** for the **long-term investments** to be made in the specified priority sectors in India.

### Retail inflation jumps to 7.61% in October, highest in six years

- According to **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** data released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation**, inflation stood at **7.61% in October** — the **highest** since May 2014.
- Retail inflation recorded at **7.27% in September**. The **Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)** jumped to **11.07%** in October, up **from 10.68%** in September.

### Larsen & Toubro is lowest bidder for road bridge over river Brahmaputra

- **Larsen & Toubro** has emerged as the **lowest bidder** for a **Rs 3,200 crore** project to build a **road bridge** over the **Brahmaputra river**.
- It will be one of the **longest road bridges** over a river in the country and on completion will connect two eastern states - **Assam and Meghalaya**.
- The project is being financed by **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### CBDT will validate UDIN generated from ICAI portal at the time of upload of Tax Audit Reports: Finance Ministry

- Finance Ministry has stated, **CBDT** will validate **Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN)** generated from **ICAI portal** at the time of upload of **Tax Audit Reports**.
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, in its gazette notification dated 2nd August, 2019, had made generation of UDIN from ICAI website [www.icaai.org](http://www.icaai.org) mandatory for every kind of certificate/tax audit report and other attests made by their members as required by various regulators.

### Indian Oil successfully tests 'zero-emission e-mobility'

- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd** has successfully conducted a '**Proof of Concept**' feasibility study on '**zero-emission electric mobility**' at one of its fuel stations in Bengaluru.
- A company stated that **Zero-Emission Electric Mobility** is a concept that allows the **electric vehicle (EV)** to charge using solar power and ensuring zero emissions.
- The EV charging system has been designed by **Hygge Energy**.

### SpiceJet launches dedicated freighter services to Leh in Ladakh

- Airline major **SpiceJet** launched **dedicated freighter services** connecting **Leh** with the rest of the country.
- Accordingly, the airline operated its first freighter flight from Delhi to Leh carrying **13 tonnes of cargo** supplies. The flight was operated by SpiceXpress, the dedicated cargo arm of SpiceJet.

### Honey FPOs will help in achieving the goal of increasing income of small farmers: Narendra Singh Tomar

- The **Honey FPO Programme** of **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd** was inaugurated by **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar**.
- He assured that **NAFED** will address these issues by acting as an intermediary and filling up the gaps between the elements of the beekeeping supply chain and also ensure price remuneration to the beekeeping farmers.

### Flipkart, GiveIndia Foundation provide 50,000 PPE kits to UP

- **Flipkart** in collaboration with **GiveIndia Foundation** provided **50,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** kits to the state government.
- As many as **50,000 PPE kits** have been provided to the **UP government** in collaboration with GiveIndia Foundation which will help in protecting the health workers, patients, and other frontline warriors from coronavirus infection.

### Amazon pulls into lead to acquire podcaster Wondery

- **Amazon.com Inc.** is in exclusive talks to acquire podcasting company **Wondery Inc.** for more than \$300 million, the **Wall Street Journal** reported, following a bidding process that also drew interest from the likes of **Apple Inc.** and **Sony Music Entertainment**.

### Amul enters milk procurement business in AP



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the first phase of Andhra Pradesh-Amul project from his chamber in state secretariat at Amaravati, in the presence of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation managing director Dr R S Sodhi and other executives of Amul.

### USFDA nod for Aurobindo Pharma's generic sedative

- **Aurobindo Pharma** has received final approval from the US health regulator for the generic of Precedex injection, used for sedation of patients.
- The company has received final approval from the **US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)** to manufacture and market Dexmedetomidine Hydrochloride in **0.9% sodium chloride injection**, 200 µg/50 mL and 400 µg/100 mL single dose flexible containers.

### Ola to invest Rs 2,400 crore for world's largest e-scooter factory in Tamil Nadu

- The SoftBank-backed firm **Ola Electric** has announced a **Rs 2,400-crore** (\$320 million) investment plan to set up, what it calls, **the 'world's largest' electric scooter** (e-scooter) manufacturing plant in **Hosur, Tamil Nadu (TN)**.
- It aims to make India a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles (EVs). Ola has signed a memorandum of understanding with the TN government for this facility.
- It will initially have an annual capacity of 2 million units.

### Indigenously-built Coast Guard Interceptor Boat Commissioned

- An **indigenously-built interceptor boat** joined the **Indian Coast Guard** on December 15 at a function in **Hazira in Surat** district in Gujarat.
- The interceptor boat C-454, built by Larsen and Toubro at its Hazira plant, will operate from Gujarat under the control of the Commander Coast Guard Region of the ICG.
- It was commissioned by Surat Police Commissioner Ajay Tomar.

### National Infrastructure Pipeline: Projects Worth ₹ 44 Lakh Crore Under Implementation

- **Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari** stated the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), infrastructure projects worth **₹ 44 lakh crore** are under implementation.
- It involves **39 %** investment by the **central government**, **40 %** investment by the **states**, and **21 %** by the **private sector**.

### PayU ties up with Google Pay to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants

- **PayU has collaborated with Google Pay** to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants in India.
- Google Pay users will now get an option to pay a PayU merchant with their debit cards, credit cards, or Google Pay UPI. And also, Google Pay users do not need to share their card details if they are making repeated payments.

### Sequoia India launched 'Sequoia Spark' in association with WEP to Promote Women Entrepreneurs

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- 2020 Equity financing firm Sequoia India partnered with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), to promote women entrepreneurship in India. In line with this partnership, Sequoia India, launched a yearlong Programme, 'Sequoia Spark', in association with WEP for women entrepreneurs in India and Southeast Asia.

### RIL, BP commence Gas production from Asia's Deepest Gas Field 'R-cluster'

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), BP (formerly known as The British Petroleum Company plc) have commenced Gas production from Asia's Deepest Gas Field 'R-cluster' situated in the KG-D6 block, Krishna-Godavari basin of the Bay of Bengal (eastern coast of India).
- 'R-cluster' is the 1<sup>st</sup> operational project of the 3 deep-water gas projects. Plateau Gas Production (i.e Constant Production Rate) at the 'R-Cluster' is expected to reach ~ 12 Million standard cubic meters per day in 2021.

## Important State Wise National News

### List of Festivals

Festivals	Place	Inaugurated by /Others
Pang Lhabsol	Sikkim	15 <sup>th</sup> day of the 7 <sup>th</sup> month of the Tibetan calendar (late August or early September)
11-day Nanda Devi Lokajat yatra	Uttarakhand	
Nuakhai Festival (Harvest Festival)	Odisha	Celebrated in western Odisha and some parts of Chhattisgarh
Dragonfly Festival	Kerala	
Ashadhi Ekadashi	Maharashtra	-
'Jashn-E-Dal (3- day water sports festival)	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir Police
Kati Bihu	Assam	-
India International Cherry Blossom Festival	Shillong	Cancelled
Hornbill Festival	Nagaland	-
International Bird Festival	Gorakhpur	-
Migratory Birds Festival	Bhagalpur, Bihar	-
Losar	Ladakh	-

### Andaman and Nicobar Islands

CIDC initiates skill Development Programme in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)** established by the **NITI Aayog** has initiated a skill Development Programme in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** to provide 'Employment oriented training and Skill development for the marginalized section.

### A&N Islands: NABARD launches development projects worth Rs 44 lakhs

- In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, **NABARD** has launched development projects worth rupees **44 lakhs** in order to strengthen the concept of **Atmanirbhar Bharat** through rural entrepreneurship.
- In addition to this, a yearly **Micro-Entrepreneurship Development Programme** will be carried out for **150 members of various SHGs in Mayabunder in Middle Andaman**. NABARD has also tied up with Centre of Agriculture Research Institute, CARI for conducting agricultural programmes with an amount of **20 lakh rupees**.

### Andhra Pradesh

#### AP Govt to launch two schemes for pregnant women on September 1

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** will launch two new schemes for pregnant women.
- The schemes, **YSR Sampoorna Poshana** and **YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus**, to be launched on September 1, 2020 aim at providing nutritious food for pregnant women and lactating mothers along with children.
- The State government will be spending **Rs.1,900 crore** every year to supply nutritious food under this scheme.

#### AP to set up crop insurance firm

- Andhra Pradesh, which is among the few States that have chosen to have their **own crop insurance schemes**, is in the process of establishing **AP General Insurance Company (APGIC)** to run the scheme.
- "The farmers have been asked to enroll for the scheme by September 5 by paying a nominal premium fee of Rs.1. The authorised share capital of the company is pegged at **Rs.101 crore** divided into 10.10 crore equity shares of Rs.10 each.
- The government made it mandatory for farmers to register themselves on **e-Karshak app**.

#### Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with CSIR for a bulk drug pharma park in the state

- **Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC)** signed an MoU with **CSIR-IICT**, a premier R & D institute in the country to set up a **bulk drug pharma park** in the state of with the Centre's support.

#### Andhra Pradesh government signs MoUs with Netherlands, 7 firms on food processing, marketing

- The State government signed **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** with the **Netherlands government** and **seven companies** in **food processing, marketing and technologies**, to benefit the horticulture and aquaculture farmers across the State.
- An agreement was reached with **Pune-based Futuretech Foods Private Limited** for processing of bananas and other foods along with different vegetables.

#### Andhra Pradesh to float India' largest solar tender for 10 GW capacity

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Andhra Pradesh** government is expediting efforts to float **India's largest solar tender** for setting up **10 gigawatt (GW)** capacity, stated three people aware of the development.
- The mega tender accounting for **14% of India's green energy capacity** to supply electricity to the farmers is in the works, even as **5.2 GW of solar** and wind energy projects.
- **Andhra Pradesh Green Energy Corporation Ltd (APGECL)** is the nodal agency for the same.

### UiPath partners with AP skill development corporation

- **UiPath**, an enterprise **Robotic Process Automation (RPA)** software company, has partnered with **Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC)**, as part of its Academic Alliance Programme.

### CM Jagan Mohan Reddy to launch YSR Jala Kala scheme

- Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** will launch **YSR Jala Kala**.
- Under the scheme, borewells will be dug free of cost to the needy farmers. The scheme is estimated to bring in five lakh acres under cultivation through groundwater irrigation.

### Andhra Pradesh's three-capital bills get Governor's assent

- Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan gave his assent to the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020, and the AP Capital Region Development Authority (Repeal) Bill, 2020.
- The Jagan Mohan Reddy government brought in the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020, to give shape to its plan of having three capitals for the state, with the executive capital in Visakhapatnam, Legislative capital in Amaravati and judicial capital in Kurnool.
- The CRDA Act was enacted on December 22, 2014 for the development of the state capital post-bifurcation with a specific area demarcated as the capital region.
- The government now intends to constitute a new Amaravati Metropolitan Region Development Area under the provisions of AP Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities Act, 2016.

### Andhra CM launches e-rakshabandhan program for women safety

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched an e-rakshabandhan program, to protect women and children from cyber and other crimes.
- He further stated, Women welfare has been high priority and immediately after taking over, we have provided 50 per cent reservations to women in nominated posts.

### Andhra Pradesh govt ties up with ISB to set up public policy lab

- The government of Andhra Pradesh, through the AP Economic Development Board, has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian School of Business (ISB) for policy guidance to spur growth in post pandemic with special focus on economic development and job creation.
- The MOU will nurture a think tank by setting up a Policy lab called the GoAP-ISB Policy Lab, a public policy laboratory to drive evidence-based policy decisions.

### AP CM YS Jagan Launches YSR Cheyutha For Women

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Cheyutha scheme from his camp office in Tadepalli. Through this scheme, the government will offer financial assistance to all the SC, ST, BC, Minorities women who are aged between 45-60.

### Andhra Pradesh teams up with NPCI for digital payments in hinterlands

- Andhra Pradesh government has announced teaming up with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and Canara Bank to empower over 15,000 village and ward secretariats with digital payments in the rural areas.
- NPCI's flagship product UPI allows users to transfer money on a real-time basis, across multiple bank accounts without revealing details of one's bank account to the other party.

### Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurates cancer care centre at GGH in Guntur

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy remotely inaugurated a comprehensive cancer care centre jointly set up by the State government and the **NATCO Trust** at the **Government General Hospital (GGH) in Guntur**, from his camp office.

### Andhra Pradesh celebrates Farmers' Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy

- To commemorate the birth anniversary of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the **14th chief minister of Andhra Pradesh** who served from 2004 to 2009, the state of Andhra Pradesh, July 8, is celebrating **Rythu Dinotsavam** (Farmers' Day).

### Andhra Pradesh Government brings Covid-19 treatment under Dr YSR Aarogyasri, State's free healthcare scheme

- In a significant move, the Andhra Pradesh Government has brought Covid-19 treatment under the purview of Dr YSR Aarogyasri, the flagship **free healthcare scheme** of the State.
- The private hospitals have been categorised into **three types**. While the first category of hospitals caters entirely to Covid-19 treatment, the second type will be treating **both coronavirus and non-Covid-19 patients**. The hospitals which will treat non-Covid-19 cases have been placed in the third category.

### Andhra Pradesh to reorganise its 13 districts into 25 for optimal use of resources

- The Andhra Pradesh cabinet decided to reorganise its **13 districts into 25 districts** by March 31 in such a way that each of the **25 parliamentary constituencies** will represent a new district.
- Chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's cabinet which met at Amaravati, approved the decision to form a committee to look into reorganisation of existing **13 districts into 25**.
- The committee headed by the chief secretary comprises chief commissioner of land administration (CCLA), secretary (services) of general administration department, secretary of planning department and an official from the chief minister's office as members.
- The cabinet also decided to extend monthly pensions to the extent of **Rs 3,000 per month** to **physically challenged women** as well under YSR Cheyutha programme.
- The cabinet also approved the decision to set up a **mega 10,000 MW solar power plant**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The cabinet further approved the creation of a special purpose vehicle in the name of Andhra Pradesh Rayalaseema Drought Mitigation Projects Development Corporation (APRSDMPCL) with an **outlay of Rs 40,000 crore**.

### Andhra Pradesh announces Renewable Energy Export Policy

- The Andhra Pradesh government has notified a renewable export policy that permits sale of power to other States.
- In a Government Order, the **Andhra Pradesh Renewable Energy Export Policy** states it is applicable to solar/wind/wind-solar hybrid projects.
- The Green Energy Development Charges will be levied at **Rs.1 lakh/MW of installed capacity/ year** – for entire life of the project starting from the date of commissioning of first phase of the project.
- The **NREDCAP (New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of A.P. Ltd)** shall act as a Nodal Agency under this new policy.

### AP, AMUL sign up to help self-help groups, boost milk cooperatives

- Andhra Pradesh Government has signed an MoU with the milk cooperative giant **AMUL (Anand Milk Union Limited)** to provide fillip to the empowerment of women self-help groups and by encouraging the milk cooperatives in government sector.
- Under **YSR Cheyutha** and **YSR Aasara**, the State is providing 90 lakh women SHGs **Rs.11,000 crore per year**.

### AP govt launches Rs.650 crore scheme to distribute kits to school students

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a new scheme, **Jagananna Vidya Kanuka**, providing free kits to students studying in government schools from Class 1 to 10 ahead of the academic.
- The Vidya Kaunaka kits comprise three pairs of uniform cloth, one pair of shoes, two pairs of socks, a belt, textbooks and notebooks and a school bag. The distribution of the kits will continue for the next three days all over the state. The total cost of the scheme is Rs.650 crore.

### Alstom partners with APSSDC for skill development

- **Alstom** has started training of the first batch of young diploma engineers, in collaboration with **Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC)** in Sri City.
- Under the SKILL AP initiative by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, this programme will upskill 30 diploma engineers from across the State and make them industry ready.
- The **45-day training programme** will include classroom training on technical skills, employee health and Safety (EHS), Quality fundamentals, railway safety and an introduction to Alstom's operations.

### AP govt launches YSR Bima scheme

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched **YSR Bima scheme** .
- The State government would be paying **Rs.510 crore every year as a premium** for the scheme.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Under this scheme, insurance amount for **accidental death** and total permanent disability for people **aged between 18-50 years** is **Rs.5 lakh** and for those between **51-70 years** **Rs.3 lakh**.
- Similarly, for **natural death** cases (**18-50 years**) **Rs.2 lakh** and for **partial permanent disability** in an accident case (**18-70 years**) **Rs.1.5 lakh** assistance will be provided.
- In addition to this, an immediate assistance of **Rs.10,000** will be provided to the families.

### AP Govt to resume State formation day fete from Nov 1

- **Andhra Pradesh Government** will officially resume celebrations of Andhra Pradesh **State Formation Day**.
- The Government has issued an order asking the official machinery in the State capital as well as district headquarters to observe the state formation day from 2020.

### AP plans to set up 400 EV charging stations

- **Andhra Pradesh Government** plans to set up **electric vehicle infrastructure** by setting up **400 charging stations** across the State in the first phase.
- The **New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd (NREDCAP)** has been coordinating with **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar, Haryana**, and obtained **LoI** for setting up testing facility for auto components and vehicles and intelligence testing tracks for vehicles with an investment of **Rs.250 crore**.
- Webinar on **'Go Electric'** campaign, organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and AP State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM).

### Andhra Pradesh House passes Bill that bans online gaming, betting

- The **Andhra Pradesh Gaming Act-1974**, Home Minister M. Sucharitha stated that development of technology and mass communication network and the Internet had opened many opportunities for online activities.
- Andhra Pradesh has **banned online gaming**, online betting and gambling, and has urged the Centre to direct all internet service providers to block access to 132 websites and apps, including **Paytm First Game**, Mobile Premier League and Adda52, that are providing such services in the state.

### AP rolls out free crop insurance scheme

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched **YSR Free Crop Insurance** scheme.
- In this Scheme **₹1,252 crore** credited into the bank accounts of 9.48 lakh farmers in insurance claims for the agricultural season 2019.
- The previous government spent an average **Rs 393 crore** per annum for three years towards payment of insurance premium.
- The number of beneficiaries now has gone up to **49.80 lakhs**
- The compensation for the crop losses during 2020 will be paid in April next.

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### MPEDA launches India's first aquafarmers call centre

- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**, headquartered in Kochi, has launched a **multilingual call centre for aquafarmers** at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.
- The call centre primarily caters to aqua farmers of Andhra Pradesh, the state that contributes more than **60 percent** of the country's marine products export basket.

### Andhra Pradesh CM Launches Navaratnalu-Pedalandariki Illu Housing Scheme

- Andhra Pradesh chief minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launch of his government's much-publicised programme, **Navaratnalu-Pedalandariki Illu (Nine jewels - housing for all the poor)**, of providing house sites to **30.90 lakh poor people** at Komarigiri village of U-Kothapalli block of **East Godavari district**.
- The first phase of the programme will be completed by June, 2022. The second phase will be started in December, 2021 and proposed to be completed by June 2023.

### AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launches 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme

- Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister (CM) Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually launched the 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme worth INR 1, 869 Crores for distribution of 2, 49, 151 sheeps, goats for improving the living standards of women.
- AP Government has signed into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Allana Group for the procurement of sheep and goats and as a platform for marketing the meat products.

## Arunachal Pradesh

### Khadi's first silk training-cum-production centre to come up in Arunachal

- The far-flung tribal village of Chullyu in Arunachal Pradesh will soon be bustling with spinning and weaving activities with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) set to open the first-of-its kind training-cum-production centre of silk in the state.
- The KVIC has refurbished and converted a dilapidated school building into the training cum production centre.

### Vijaynagar, one of the remotest corners in Arunachal Pradesh, gets mobile connectivity

- • Vijaynagar in Arunachal Pradesh, one of the remotest and eastern most part of the country, has been connected with mobile connectivity.
- • Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has installed a network tower which has become functional now.

### Arunachal Pradesh assembly passes resolution to bring state under Sixth Schedule

- • The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly has passed a resolution to bring the state under the ambit of Sixth Schedule of the Constitution besides amending Article 371(H) by inserting provisions to safeguard tribes of the state.
- • The resolution which was moved by Legislative Affairs Minister Bamang Felix on behalf of the State Government was passed by voice vote following a marathon discussion in the house.

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### AAI to develop greenfield airport at Hollongi by November 2022

- **Airports Authority of India** stated that it will develop a **greenfield airport** at **Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi**, near **Itanagar**, which is expected to be completed by **November 2022**.
- This airport, when operational, will service Arunachal Pradesh's capital Itanagar. The closest airport to the state capital is currently **Lilabari** airport in Assam, situated 80 kilometres away.

### India's first solar-based water supply project launched in Arunachal Pradesh

- **India's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP)** was dedicated to the people of **Arunachal Pradesh** by Union Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**.
- The solar-based lift water supply project for 39 villages in Lower Dibang Valley district in northeastern Arunachal Pradesh was commissioned at a cost of **Rs 28.50 crore**.

### Green Soldiers to get insurance cover on Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh

- **Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in **Arunachal Pradesh** has become the first in the Northeast to provide **insurance cover** against **COVID-19** for its '**Green Soldiers**'.
- The '**Wildlife Trust of India**' (WTI), an NGO, paid the insurance amount with support from '**Foundation Serge**'.
- The insurance coverage is of **Rs 1 lakh each**, but a few who would be **retiring soon** have been insured for **Rs 50,000**.

## Assam

### First newspaper for kids 'The Young Minds' launched in Assam

- Two Guwahati-based women entrepreneurs have launched a newspaper specifically designed for kids, to promote creative thinking among children and inculcate in them the habit to read and write.
- The newspaper named '**The Young Minds**' is the brainchild of **Neelam Sethia** and **Neha Bajaj**, Assam news portal Gplus reported.
- The Young Minds, reportedly, will cater to kids of **4-14 years of age**.

### Assam govt re-launches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths

- The **Assam government** re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of the state. Known as **Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM)**.
- Finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government is launching the redesigned SVAYEM with a budget of **Rs. 1000 crore** which will be spent in the **next three months** without any banking linkage.

### Assam promotes nutritious food through Kitchen Garden as part of Poshan MaahS

- As a part of the **Poshan Maah**, the **Social Welfare Department** in **Assam** has taken steps to promote nutritious food through Kitchen Garden. **Kitchen Garden** or **nutri garden** will be set up at **Anganwadi Centres** and Government Primary Schools across the state.

### Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launches Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the **Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni** and distributed vehicles under the scheme. The scheme aims to improve rural connectivity and generate employment in the villages.
- **Light Motor Vehicle Service** would be launched in the villages of the state and ten thousand villages would be covered in the first phase by the scheme with **financial outlay of Rs 100 crore** whereby one vehicle would be provided to one beneficiary per village.

### Assam govt to provide loan to entrepreneurs to revive tourism sector

- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** announced a new scheme under which loan up to ₹20 lakh with interest subsidy would be provided to entrepreneurs to revive the tourism industry.
- Under the 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme', loan between ₹1 lakh and ₹20 lakh will be extended to interested local youths.
- 'Paryatan Sarathi' will provide information about Assam tourism, facilities for bookings, tour packages, hotels along with online payment gateway options.

### Assam council of ministers approves "Assam Non-Government Education Institutions (Regulation of Fees) Rules 2020"

- In Assam, the council of ministers approved the Assam Non-Government Education Institutions (Regulation of Fees) Rules 2020.
- This would regulate the fees structure of the private educational institutes. The council of ministers meeting also approved the Assam Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) scheme 2020.

### Assam to launch mega scheme for women's financial empowerment

- Assam government would provide Rs 830 per month each to 17 lakh poor families under the ambitious "Orunodoi" scheme, Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced.
- "Rs 830 per month aid would mean an additional annual income of Rs 10,000 to the poor households.

### Assam: Handicraft production centre inaugurated in Guwahati

- In Assam, the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Mission, a handicraft production centre is inaugurated in Guwahati by Assam Apex Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Limited- ARTFED.

### Assam Cabinet setting up of skill university in Darrang

- The Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Skill Development University Bill for setting up a state-of-the-art skill university at Mangaldoi in Darrang district.
- The university will be set up on a 100-bigha plot with an expense of Rs 900 crore.
- The university, which will be a Centre of Excellence, would be set up with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

### TERI launches Early Warning System for Guwahati, Assam

- Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) , fully automated web-based tool was launched by The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) in association with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in Guwahati, Assam.

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### Assam's Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to get national park status

- The state government has decided to upgrade the **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary** into a national park.
- The national park status will guarantee better management and protection of the flora and fauna of Dehing Patkai which forms the largest stretch of lowland rainforest in the country.
- Dehing Patkai will be **the 6th national park in Assam**. The other five are Kaziranga, Nameri, Manas, Orang and Dibru-Saikhowa.

### Poba Reserve Forest in Assam's Dhemaji to be upgraded to wildlife sanctuary

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced that Poba Reserve Forest in **Dhemaji district would be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary**.

### Centre to release over 300 crore rupees as first installment under Flood Management Programme to Assam

- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat assured to release an amount of **346 crore rupees** immediately from his Ministry to Assam as the **first installment under Flood Management Programme (FMP)**.
- The Chief Minister had appealed to the Union Minister to allocate funds to the State Government to strengthen **5,000 kms of embankments built since 1951 in the state**, which would now be turned into road cum embankments.

### Assam government deploys drone and anti-depredation quick response vehicle to guard forest areas

- Assam deployed a **Surveillance Quadcopter (Drone)** and an anti-depredation quick response vehicle.
- Under this new initiative, the Forest Department introduces three numbers of **Special Surveillance Quadcopter** and an **Antidepredation Quick Response Vehicle** in the state.

### 'BANDICOOT': Guwahati gets Northeast's first manhole cleaning robot

- Northeast got its first-ever manhole cleaning robot to end manual scavenging.
- Manholes in Guwahati will now be cleaned by robots. Named '**BANDICOOT**', the robot has been procured by Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC).
- **BANDICOOT** was developed by a Start-up India company called **Genrobotics**.
- The robot was developed under the **Make in India initiative**. It was funded by CSR of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

### Assam CM launches "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" scheme

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the '**Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom**' scheme in a bid to empower the economically disadvantaged women of the State at a programme organised by **Panchayat & Rural Development Department** at Chandrapur in Kamrup (Metro).



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- He also announced awards to first three best performing panchayats to the tune of Rs 3 lakh, Rs 2 lakh and Rs 1 lakh each.

### Kati Bihu Celebrated In Assam

- Locals in Bongaigaon celebrated the **Kati Bihu festival in Assam**.
- Kati Bihu marks an important day for the Assamese people as they celebrate it by lighting up their **homes and agricultural fields**. People perform cultural dances and organise feasts.

### Assam CM lays foundation stone of Agar International Trade Centre at Dabidubi

- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** laid the foundation stone of **Assam Agar International Trade Centre at Dabidubi, Golaghat**.
- The ambitious project is expected to provide an environment of investment in agarwood which aims at boosting Assam's economy.
- Reiterating the government's commitment to double the farmer's income in the State by 2022.

### Assam CM lays foundation stone of Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation near Guwahati

- In **Assam**, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of **Indo-Israeli Centre of Excellence** for Vegetables Protected Cultivation near Guwahati in presence of Israeli Ambassador Dr. Ron Malka.
- The **Rs. 10.33-crore project** is expected to bolster the agricultural activities in the state by **providing exposure to latest Israeli technologies**.

### Assam Education Dept launches toll free tele-education helpline number for govt school students

- In **Assam**, the **Education department** has launched a **toll free tele education helpline number** for government school students.
- Assam: **Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar** all set to start commercial operation by January 2021
- In Assam, **Rupsi Airport at Kokrajhar district** is all set to start commercial operation under **Regional Connectivity Scheme** by January next year. Sources stated that the airport has been re-developed at an estimated cost of **69 crore rupees** and has also received its license by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

### Assam's Tezpur Litchi gets GI tag

- **Tezpur Litchi of Assam** has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- Now Tezpur Litchi has been protected from the production of the fruit in other places.
- The news has been confirmed by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, an apex body under the **Union ministry of commerce and industry**, which is responsible for the export promotion of agricultural products.

Kaji Nemu and Chokuwa Rice of Assam got GI tags recently.



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### Bongaigaon District Administration initiates Mission Sampurna to improve health of malnourished children

- In Assam, Bongaigaon District Administration has initiated **Mission Sampurna** in a bid to improve the health condition of the malnourished children.
- The Mission Sampurna initiative is not only to improve the health of the malnourished child but also to relish the dream of **women empowerment**. She informed that there are 2,500 malnourished children in the district and within a month of launching this project, the health condition of 10 per cent of these children has already improved.

### First cow hospital of Northeast inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh

- A cow shelter in Assam's Dibrugarh inaugurated **Northeast's first-ever cow hospital**, on the occasion of Gopashtami.
- The hospital, **Surbhi Aarogyashala**, is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of **Rs 17 lakh**. The hospital will provide services in 30 km radius. There are 368 cows in the shelter.

### Assam proposes 6th national park in militancy ravaged forest

- The Assam government has proposed setting up a **national park** in a militancy **ravaged reserve forest**, which, if approved, would make it the **state's sixth national park**.
- Forest minister Parimal Suklabaidya informed that the process for approving **Raimona National Park** has been initiated. He unveiled the map of the new park at **Manas National Park**.
- According to the forest department, the proposal has been submitted to the governor of Assam for upgrading an area of 422 sq km of notified Ripu reserve forest under Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve as the proposed **Raimona National Park**.

### Assam CM Launches New Scheme To Provide Rs 830 Per Month

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched Orunodoi, a direct benefit transfer scheme to provide financial assistance to poor families in the state by providing money to a female member.
- The scheme, announced in the state budget with an annual outlay of Rs 2,400 crore, was rolled out with 17.86 lakh families in 29 districts as beneficiaries.

### SIDBI inks MoU with Assam government to develop MSME ecosystem

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Assam government** to develop the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** ecosystem in the State..

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Announces Multi-Modal Logistics Park In Assam's Silchar

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has announced that a multi-modal logistics park will be constructed in **Silchar in Assam**.
- The Balacherra-Harengajao section of the Silchar-Saurashtra Highway will be completed in **March 2022**.

## Bihar

### In first-ever digital initiative, Bihar police set up voice recording system to transcribe case diaries

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- The police in **Bihar's Arwal district** have started **writing case diaries** through an **automated transcription system** in stations in the district.
- In **9 out of 11 police stations** of **Arwal district**, which was once infested by extremists, case diaries are written by investigation officers (IOs) under the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS)**.

### PM Modi inaugurates highway projects, fibre scheme in Bihar

- Days after launching the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** and other projects related to **agriculture and animal husbandry** worth **Rs 294.53 crore**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **nine highway projects** and the **'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme** via video-conferencing..
- **'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme** will connect all **45,945 villages** of Bihar through **optical fibre internet service**, according to a PMO release issued.

### 'Mukti Caravan', an anti-child trafficking drive launched in Bihar by Kailash Satyarthi's Foundation

- Kailash Satyarthi Foundation launched a campaign against child trafficking in Bihar over a webinar hosted by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF).
- It was launched digitally in Bihar. The campaign intends to create awareness among people regarding COVID-19 safety, child trafficking, and child labor in Bihar.

### Bihar govt to provide food grains under mid day meal scheme

- Bihar government has taken the decision to provide food grains under mid day meal scheme and cash to over two crore children of primary and middle schools across the state during lockdown and summer vacation period.
- **Eight kg foodgrains and rupees 358** will be given to each student of upto class five for the month of May, June and July. Similarly students upto class eight will get 12 kg food grains and rupees 536.

### Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve designated as New Ramsar Sites

- **Kabartal**, a freshwater marsh of **North Bihar** and **Asan Barrage** in Doon Valley of **Uttarakhand** were designated as **Ramsar Sites**.
- With these two sites, the network of **Indian Ramsar Sites** becomes the **largest in South Asia**.
- With 2 more inclusions, the **total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39**, the highest in South Asia.

### NTPC shuts four units in Bihar plant after ash-mixed water reaches farmland

- State-run power **NTPC shut down four of the seven units of its plant** in **Bihar's Kahalgaon** as a preventive measure, after some problem in the system caused **water mixed with ash** to spread in nearby farmland.

### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates three lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar

- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the three lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar through Video Conferencing on 10 Dec 2020.
- A sum of 266 crore rupees has been spent on the bridge. The existing two lane bridge for both rail and road traffic is 138 years old.

### Bihar wins Digital India award for transferring money to beneficiaries' accounts during COVID-19

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- The Chief Minister Secretariat, the Disaster Management Department besides the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the state have jointly been chosen as winners in the "pandemic category" Digital India Awards 2020.
- More than 21 lakh stranded workers outside Bihar were provided financial assistance through the "Bihar Sahayata Mobile App".

- **Chhattisgarh**

### Chhattisgarh govt launches scheme for tendu leaves collectors

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched a social security scheme for tendu leaves collectors in the state.
- Under the scheme, financial aid of Rs 2 lakh will be provided to the nominee or the heir in case of normal death of the head of the family of the registered tendu leaves collectors.
- In case of death due to accident, additional financial aid Rs 2 lakh will be provided, whereas in case of permanent disability caused due to the accident, assistance of Rs 2 lakh will be given and Rs 1 lakh in case of partial disability in the mishap.

### Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur Becomes Country's First Municipal Corporation To Provide Forestland Right Certificates To People Of Urban Area

- Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur has become the first municipal corporation in the country where people of an urban area have been provided forest land right certificates.

### Chhattisgarh CM Launches Indira Van Mitan Yojana

- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the launch of Indira Van Mitan Yojana on the occasion of World Tribal Day.
- He stated that under this scheme, groups of youth will be formed in 10,000 villages of tribal area of the state and all forest-based economic activities will be conducted through these groups.

### Chhattisgarh CM announces 'Padhai Tuhar Para' scheme for school students

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced to launch a special scheme under which school students will be able to learn in their respective localities in view of the suspension of classes due to the coronavirus outbreak.
- The online education platform 'Padhai Tunhar Duar' scheme launched by the state government earlier during the lockdown yielded better results and around 22 lakh children are getting its benefit.

### Chhattisgarh declared as cleanest state of country

- Chhattisgarh has been declared as the cleanest state of the country as per the Cleanliness Survey 2020 organized by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry. Chhattisgarh has bagged 14 national awards in various categories. The state had taken many initiatives to achieve this success.
- In Chhattisgarh, 100% door to door garbage collection was ensured. Plastic has been banned in all municipal bodies. 3R Principle- Residue, Reuse and Recycle was implemented in all the urban bodies.

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### Chhattisgarh government to buy cow-dung at Rs 1.5 per kg, scheme begins from July 20

- The Chhattisgarh government will procure cow-dung at **Rs 1.5 per kilogram** from July 20 under the scheme 'Gaudhan Nyay Yojana' launched on June 25.
- The committee decided to procure cow-dung at **Rs 1.5 kg**. The cow dung will be collected **door-to-door** by **Gaudhan Samiti**.
- The government tried to strengthen the rural economy of the state through the '**Narva, Garuva, Ghuruwa, Badi**' **scheme** in which we have developed cowsheds in 2,200 villages of the state.
- Chhattisgarh government also launched the '**Roka-Chheka Abhiyan**' in all the villages in the state, which seeks to revive traditional agricultural methods and to save kharif crops from open grazing by stray cattle.

### Chhattisgarh organises India's first e-Lok Adalat

- **e-Lok Adalat** is being held in Chhattisgarh to ensure the administration of justice continues where the virtual hearings are to be conducted through video conferencing.
- **The e-Lok Adalat** intended to swiftly settle pendent cases is cited as the first such attempt in the country.

### Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana' to combat malnutrition in state

- Chhattisgarh was tagged among those states which have high levels of malnutrition and anaemia among children and women in the **National Health Family Survey (NHFS) - 4 (2015-16)**.
- The children from **6 to 54 months** were considered as '**earmarked**' as per the WHO recommendation so that the child growth standards could be effectively measured under the age of 5 years.

### Godhan Nyay Yojana' begins in Chhattisgarh

- In **Chhattisgarh**, first of its kind scheme of the country- **Godhan Nyay Yojana** has been commenced.
- Under the **Godhan Nyay scheme**, the Chhattisgarh government will procure cowdung at **Rs 2 per kilogram** from livestock owners and use it to prepare organic fertilizers.
- Women self-help groups will prepare Vermi-compost using the cowdung procured under the scheme. This **Vermi-compost** will be sold at the rate of **Rs 8 per kg**.

### NTPC's 1,600 MW Lara Power Project in Chhattisgarh fully operational

- NTPC 's **1,600 MW** Lara super thermal power station in Chhattisgarh has been fully operational after 800 MW Unit-2 of the project was made fully functional.
- 800 MW, Unit-2 of Lara Super Thermal Power Project, has been added to Installed Capacity of the NTPC on successful completion of trial operation. With this, the total installed capacity of NTPC and NTPC group has become **51,155 MW** and **62,910 MW** respectively.

### Chhattisgarh celebrates its foundation day

- **Chhattisgarh** is celebrating its foundation day on **1<sup>st</sup> November**. On this occasion a '**Rajyotsav programme**' was organized at the Chief Minister's official Residence.

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- This was the **21st foundation day** of Chhattisgarh. The State came into existence on November 1, 2000 after being carved out of **Madhya Pradesh**.

### Chhattisgarh CM launches scheme for distribution of fortified rice

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel** launched a **scheme for distribution of fortified rice** through **Public distribution System (PDS)** and other welfare initiatives for the people of **Kondagaon district** of the state on a pilot basis.
- The fortified rice is a mixture of iron, vitamin B-12 and folic acid enriched fortified rice kernel (FRK), which meet the nutritional requirements in the diet and thereby help in controlling malnutrition and anemia. It will be distributed through fair price shops.

### Chhattisgarh govt constitutes State Task Force Committee for COVID-19 vaccination

- In **Chhattisgarh**, primary preparations for COVID-19 vaccination have started. The **State Task Force Committee** has been constituted for better interdepartmental coordination for **COVID-19 vaccination**.

A database of health workers working in all government and private health institutions of Chhattisgarh is being prepared as per the guidelines of the Government of India.

## Delhi

### Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launches e-filing consumer complaint system

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the **Delhi government's e-filing consumer complaint system**, which aims to help Delhiites during the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Delhi is **the first State** to have this system.
- Accessible via **delhistatecommission.nic.in**, the software has been developed by **National Informatic Centre (NIC)** in coordination with **State Bank of India**.

### India's first Coronavirus airport testing facility launched in Delhi

- **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** launched country's **first airport Covid-19 testing facility** at **Indira Gandhi International Airport** in **New Delhi** for arriving international passengers.

### India's first Coronavirus airport testing facility launched in Delhi

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### Delhi government launches electric vehicle policy, announces incentives of up to ₹1.5 lakh

- • The Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi launched the Electric Vehicle Policy for the national capital under which the AAP government will waive registration fee, road tax, and provide an incentive of up to ₹1.5 lakh for new cars.
- • This policy also aims to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024. They will give incentive of up to ₹30,000 for two-wheelers while for cars incentive of up to ₹1.5 lakh.

### "Dhanwantari Rath" to bring ayurveda at doorsteps of Delhi Police families



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- A MoU was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and the Delhi Police for extending ayurvedic mode of preventive and promotive health services in the residential colonies of the force.
- These services will be provided by AIIA through a mobile unit named "Dhanwantari Rath" and Police Wellness Centres.

### Delhi govt launches Niraman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan for construction workers

- The Delhi government launched Niraman Mazdoor Registration Abhiyan, under which a mega registration campaign was held for construction workers.

### Delhi government launches fitness channel on YouTube for students stuck at home

- The Delhi government launched 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' campaign for students confined to their homes as schools remain closed in view of Coronavirus pandemic.
- An online Entrepreneurial Mindset (EMC) Bootcamp organised by the AAP government to inculcate entrepreneurial abilities among the students, concluded.

### Delhi government launches Paudhe lagao, Paryavaran Bachao

- The campaign **Paudhe lagao, Paryavaran Bachao** is launched with an aim to reduce air pollution by increasing green cover in the national capital Delhi.
- The campaign will be launched near **ITO on National Highway 20 (NH 20)**.

### Delhi LG Anil Bajjal inaugurates world's largest COVID Care Centre at Radha Soami Satsang Beas

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police, ITBP started the operations at **Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre, Radha Soami Satsang Beas in Chhatarpur**. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal inaugurated this Centre, which is the largest of its kind in the world with over **ten thousand beds**.
- Adequate arrangements have been made by the ITBP at the centre including security, reception, call centre, nursing stations, command control stores and maintenance staff.

### Delhi government to set up a COVID-19 war room to monitor the situation in the national capital

- The Delhi government will set up a '**COVID-19 War Room**', which will 24x7 monitor the city's fight against the novel coronavirus, and suggest measures to effectively deal with the prevailing situation.
- The '**COVID-19 War Room**', which is being set up at the **Delhi Secretariat**, will be manned by around 25 experts. It is expected to become operational in the next few days.

### Delhi Government launches LEAD portal to make online learning easy

- Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has recently an education portal, **Learning through E-resources** made accessible for Delhi (LEAD), as a product of Delhi Government.



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- **LEAD** would be including **digital QR code textbook**, login outcome, explanatory videos, practice papers, rating, etc as one of the components.

### Delhi govt decides to provide free ration to PDS cardholders till November 2020

- Delhi Government has decided to provide free ration to **Public Distribution System (PDS) cardholders till November 2020**.
- Delhi government stated that distribution of food grains for July is scheduled to start in a phased manner. It stated, the government will continue to provide foodgrains free of cost to the **National Food Security (NFS)** beneficiaries in Delhi to mitigate the economic hardship caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

### Manish Sisodia inaugurates first electric vehicle charging station in East Delhi

- Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated the **first public e-vehicle charging station in East Delhi**.
- The e-vehicle charging-station is set-up under a partnership between power discom **BYPL** and **EV Motors India Private Limited**.
- The charging station, branded '**PlugNgo**', is enabled with the state-of-the-art central management system.

### Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal approves 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana'; doorstep delivery of ration

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that his government has **approved 'Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana'**.
- The scheme will help the beneficiaries avail **doorstep delivery of ration**.
- The people who take ration from the government-owned ration shops can get the food items delivered to their residences.

### Delhi government launches website for job seekers, employers

- Delhi government started portal for employers and the job seekers.
- CM Kejriwal launched the website <http://jobs.delhi.gov.in>, named as '**Rozgar Bazar**', a sort of marketplace for job seekers and the people recruiters.

### Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launches anti-pollution campaign

- **Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal** announced a "**Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh**" (war against pollution) campaign, with a seven-point action plan ranging from measures to control dust and mitigate hot spots, to a mobile application for complaints to a "war room" for monitoring.
- The government is also preparing a "**Green Delhi**" mobile application.

### Delhi govt launches 'first-of-its kind' tree transplantation policy

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- The Delhi government has launched a "first-of-its kind" tree transplantation policy under which trees won't be cut for development projects but will be uprooted and placed elsewhere.
- At least 80% of the trees uprooted during a project need to be transplanted and agencies must ensure that 80% of the transplanted trees survive.

### DPCC bans diesel generators in Delhi from October 15 to curb air pollution

- **Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)** issued directions **banning the use of diesel generators** in the national capital under the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**.
- **GRAP** is a set of **anti-pollution measures** that come into force in Delhi and its vicinity towns according to the severity of the situation.

### Delhi govt launches 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' initiative

- In a bid to tackle air pollution in the national capital, Delhi government launched '**Red Light On, Gaadi Off**' initiative.
- The initiative part of '**Yuddh, Pradushan Ke Viruddh**' campaign promotes switching off the engine of the vehicles while waiting at the red signals.
- "One car spends around **15 to 20 minutes** at the red signal on an average and utilizes around **200 mL of fuel**. But if you switch off the engine at the red signals, you can save **Rs. 7000 per month**,".

### Delhi Govt Launches Jeevan Seva App For Safe And Timely Transportation Of Corona Patients

- Aiming at **safe and timely transportation** of the **COVID-19 patients** to **hospitals and healthcare facilities**, **Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain** launched **Jeevan Seva app**.
- The app was launched in collaboration with **EVERA cab services**. Electric Vehicles will be used as ambulances to transfer non-critical patients to healthcare facilities within Delhi.

### Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS to get \$500 million from New Development Bank

- A loan agreement for **\$500 million** (approximately Rs.3,700 crore) was signed between the **Centre and New Development Bank** for funding the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS** (regional rapid transit system) corridor.
- The **82 km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS** corridor with a project cost of **Rs.30,274 crore** will be co-financed under an parallel financing arrangement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.

## Gujarat

### Gujarat forms Task Force to study & implement NEP-2020 for school education

- In **Gujarat**, the State Government has formed the **Task Force** to study and implement the **National Education Policy-2020** for school education.
- According to the State Education Department, the State-level Task Force comprises **15 members**.

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### Gujarat declares its first heritage tourism policy

- Unveiling the first “**heritage tourism policy**”, **Gujarat government** allowed opening up of heritage hotels, museums, banquet halls and restaurants inside historic palaces, forts and buildings.
- Under this policy, a new heritage hotel or an existing one will get financial assistance of **Rs 5-10 crore** for renovation or expansion. The government will give a 20 per cent subsidy (maximum of Rs 5 crore) if the investment is up to Rs 25 crore. If the investments are over Rs 25 crore, then the maximum subsidy would be Rs 10 crore.

### Gujarat signs MoU with SIDBI to help MSMEs amid outbreak downturn

- The **Gujarat government** signed an MoU with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to increase **self-reliance and provide capacity building** and market support to the state’s **35 lakh micro-small-medium enterprises (MSMEs)**.

### Gujarat CM Rupani announces subsidy schemes for e-scooters, rickshaws

- **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** announced **subsidy schemes** for **electric two-wheelers and e-rickshaws**.
- The CM announced the subsidy as a “**Panchsheel gift**” of five development schemes in Gujarat. The CM declared that **students will get a subsidy of Rs 12,000 each to buy e-scooters**.
- The state government will also provide **assistance of Rs 48,000 for the purchase of 5,000 battery-powered e-rickshaws** for individual and institutional beneficiaries.

### Gujarat Launches New Scheme To Compensate Farmers For Crop Loss

- The Gujarat government launched a new scheme under which farmers facing crop losses due to drought, excess rain or unseasonal rain will get compensation without collection of any premium from them.
- The new scheme - Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana - will replace the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for this year only.

### Gujarat: Two over bridges of Ahmedabad named after late Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj

- According to Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation sources, the newly built flyover at Income Tax circle will be known as Arun Jaitley flyover, while another flyover at Anjali cross road will be known as Sushma Swaraj Bridge.

### Gujarat Announced New Industrial Policy 2020

- Gujarat Government announced the New Industrial Policy 2020 for the State, with an expected average annual outlay of up to Rs 8,000 crore.
- It aims to provide an estimated Rs 40,000 crore as subsidies to industries in the next 5 years. The new policy is in line with the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. It replaces the Gujarat Industrial Policy 2015.

### Gujarat extends Solar Power Policy period till December 2020

- The Gujarat government has announced a nine-month extension for its **Gujarat Solar Power Policy -2015, till December 2020**.

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- Under the extended window, State will be able to achieve **8000 Mw of solar capacities target**
- It will help it achieve the target of setting up **8,000 MW of solar power generation capacities by 2022.**

### Gujarat govt constitutes a five-member commission to protect rights of tribal

- Gujarat Government has constituted a **five-member commission** to decide rightful beneficiaries of Rabari, Bharwad and Charan castes residing in the Ness areas of Gir, Barda, and Aalech forests.

### Gujarat: India's first honey testing laboratory set up at NDDDB in Anand district

- In Gujarat, India's first honey testing laboratory has been set up **at the National Dairy Development Board in Anand district.**

### Ahmedabad Railway Division successfully introduces unique concept of Baggage Sanitization

- In Gujarat, **Ahmedabad Railway Division** has successfully introduced a unique concept of Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping at **Ahmedabad Railway Station.**
- The baggage sanitization and wrapping machine ensure **360 degree sanitization** of the luggage by using ultra violet radiation. The machine has been installed by a private enterprise.
- Ahmedabad Divisional Railway Manager **Deepak Kumar Jha** stated there are no harmful effects of UV rays on tiffins, food, vegetables or water kept in the baggage.

### Gujarat to get country's first two Organic Spices Seed parks

- A first-of-its-kind **organic spices seed park** will come up at **two places in Gujarat** with an aim to encourage capacity building and adoption of best practices in the production cumin and fennel seeds, the main crops in the region.
- NABARD-supported Organic Spices Seed Park for **saunf (fennel seed)** in the **Banaskantha district** and **jeera (cumin seed)** in **Patan** for promotion of organic seed value chain of the spices.

### Gujarat govt announces Digital Seva Setu Programme for rural areas

- **Gujarat Government** has announced **Digital Seva Setu Programme** for the rural areas.
- The Digital Seva Setu has been initiated under the **Bharat Net Project-** an initiative to connect the Village Panchayats through fibre network.
- The villages of Gujarat will be connected with a 100 MBPS optical fibre network under the Digital Seva Setu programme.
- Another eight thousand Village Panchayats will be covered by December 2020. Citizens in rural areas will be able to get the benefits of this programme by paying a nominal fee of Rs. 20.

### CM Vijay Rupani e-dedicates online e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme across Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** e-dedicated online **e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme** across Gujarat through videoconferencing. The main objective of this scheme is to provide medical facilities online to the patients for common diseases at their homes.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- e-Sanjeevani OPDs scheme is the central scheme and now the people of Gujarat will get its benefits.

### Gujarat govt announces setting up of world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district

- **Gujarat government** has announced the setting up of the **world's biggest Zinc Smelter project** in **Dosawada** in Tapi district. The Memorandum of Understanding for this project was signed with **Vedanta Group**.
- The project with the investment of **Rs.10 thousand crore** will also have a State-of-the-art Research and Development Centre. The project will satisfy the domestic as well as global needs through exports.

### Surat now has India' longest BRTS network

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** e-launched projects worth **more than Rs 200 crore** in **Surat**.
- The BRTS corridor **from Kumbharia to Kadodora** was opened.
- With the opening of this BRTS corridor , Surat has become the only city in the country to have the longest BRTS network of **108 km**.

### PM to flag off Ro-Pax ferry service between Hazira-Ghogha in Gujarat

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will virtually inaugurate the **Ghogha-Hazira Ro-Pax ferry service** in **Gujarat**. This will be the second such ferry service to be launched by the PM after the Ghogha-Dahej route three years ago, which is now dysfunctional.
- Both the services were launched to bridge the Gulf of Khambhat by providing a sea route to large number of passengers travelling to and fro between Bhavnagar located on the western side of the Gulf and South Gujarat on the east.

### Gujarat: State to host India's first Lithium refinery

- **India's first Lithium** refinery which will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material will be set up in **Gujarat**.
- Manikaran Power Limited, one of the country's largest power trading and renewable energy companies will be investing over **Rs 1,000 crore** to set up this refinery.
- The company will be importing Lithium ore from Australia and will be processing in Gujarat.

### Gujarat govt announces its new Solar Power Policy-2021

- The **Gujarat government** announced a new solar power policy comprising provisions to encourage small and medium scale solar projects.
- Under the new policy, the state government has scrapped the condition that the installed capacity of a solar project needs to be **50 per cent** of the sanction load or contract demand.
- This policy will bring down power cost to industry from **Rs. 8 per unit to around Rs. 4.50**.
- Security deposit given to power companies has been cut from **Rs. 25 lakh per MW to Rs. 5 lakh per MW**. New solar power policy will remain effective for the next five years.

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### PM Modi lay foundation stone of AIIMS at Rajkot, Gujarat

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the **foundation stone** of **AIIMS at Rajkot, Gujarat** through video conferencing on Dec 31.
- It will be built at an estimated cost **Rs. 1195 crores**, and is expected to be completed by **mid of 2022**.

### Gujarat Becomes 1st Indian state to have Modernise Fire Safety Certification Process

- Gujarat became the first state in the country that has approved a system to modernize fire safety certification process.

## Goa

### 51st IFFI to be held from 16th to 24th January next year in Goa

- The **51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI** will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in **Goa**.

### Goa govt allots land to 49 MSME units to set up India's first maritime cluster

- The **Goa government** has allotted land to a consortium of 49 Goan MSME units for setting up a maritime cluster aimed at creating world class facilities for ship building.
- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant handed over **14,380 square metres of land** for the project to set up its Common Facility Centre.
- The project, which is first maritime cluster of India, has been supported by the **Union shipping ministry**.

### Goa launches 'DISHTAVO' YouTube channel for e-learning in higher education

- **Goa state government** has launched a YouTube channel '**DISHTAVO**', wherein the students will be able to view recorded lectures.
- The digital platform was launched by the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) to provide e-learning content 24 hours a day for college students.
- Goa is the 1st state in the Country to have the entire syllabus online. Students can take maximum benefit from this channel.
- **DISHTAVO** is a comprehensive and holistic programme to create online e-content in the form of video lectures of syllabus pertaining to the colleges affiliated to the Goa University.

### Goa becomes first Har Ghar Jal State in country by providing tap water connection to every rural household

- Goa has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household.
- The state has provided tap water connection to two lakh 30 thousand rural households.

### Goa Govt Ties Up With India Post To Get Farmers Enrolled In PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme

- **Goa Government** has tied up with **India Post** to get **11,000 farmers enrolled** in the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** scheme.



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- This is the **first such exercise** in India to enrol farmers in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, whereby the **postman will be utilised to benefit farmers**

### India's First Sand Dune Park To Come Up In Goa With The Support Of World Bank

- **Goa**, the beach state is all set to have **India's first sand dune park**. The **World Bank** accepted the proposal of the Biodiversity Board of the state and has sanctioned a sum of **Rs 3 crore** for the project.
- As part of the efforts, **bridges will be constructed using eco-friendly materials** to reduce the chances of the sand dune vegetation being walked over.

### Goa CM Pramod Sawant launches WhatsApp helpline for women in distress

- Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** launched a **Whatsapp helpline for women in distress** in the state here at Police Headquarters, Panaji.
- As an additional measure of safety for women in distress, an exclusive **Whatsapp helpline number 7875756177** is launched.

### Trifed of m/o tribal affairs and state of Goa to implement 'Goatribal plan'

- **TRIFED** under Ministry of Tribal Affairs held a virtual meeting with Goa Administration to finalize the **Goa Tribal Development Plan**. The main agenda of the meeting was to finalise the **Tribal Development Plan** for the state of Goa for the establishment of **25 Van DhanVikas Kendras**, 1 Tribal food park, 2 showrooms in North and South Goa.
- The proposed activities included in the development plan includes the setting up of 25 VDVks in Goa; setting up of 25 procurement centres-cum-godowns; of 2 tertiary processing units (mega food parks/ tribal enterprises) and two flagship retail outlets across the state.

## Haryana

### Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launches online admission platform for UG courses

- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched an **online registration portal** for admissions in **undergraduate (UG) programmes** in government, **aided and self-financed colleges** for the new academic session **2020-21**.
- Khattar has also launched an educational **WhatsApp chatbot "Apka Mitra"** to resolve any admission-related queries.

### Haryana CM Khattar launches "Parivar Pehchan Patra"

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched "Parivar Pehchan Patras" to enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes.
- At present, four schemes -- Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana (MMPSY), Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme, Divyang Jan Pension Scheme, and Widow and Destitute Women Pension scheme -- have been integrated with "Parivar Pehchan Patra" (PPP).

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### Haryana CM Khattar launches welfare schemes for women, kids

- Khattar launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana' and 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'. He urged the DCs to include 'Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana' in their flagship programmes.
- This is to make targeted efforts towards addressing the problems of anaemia and malnutrition among women and children in their respective districts.

### Khattar launches anti-bullying campaign of Faridabad police

- Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the anti-bullying campaign of Faridabad police by unveiling its Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages to flag the problem of bullying at home, in neighbourhood, schools, colleges and workplace.
- Under the campaign, people will be encouraged to follow Instagram, Facebook and Twitter page with username @FBDpolice.

### Chandigarh administration launches new website

- Environment Information System (ENVIS) of the Department of Environment of Chandigarh Administration has launched a new website. The URL of the website is <http://chandigarhenvvis.gov.in>.
- The website has the latest information about Environmental Notifications, Publications, Newsletters, Laws & Rules, Environment Education & Awareness and Activities Conducted by the Department.

### Haryana govt inks deal with M3M foundation to provide online classes to students

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Department of Employment, Haryana and the M3M Foundation in order to facilitate the online preparation, training and mentoring for the government jobs for the students.
- The MoU has been signed with an aim for the Haryana state government to link one approximately 1 lakh candidates to government jobs within and outside the state in the next two years.

### Haryana's Forest department used drone for aerial seeding to increase green cover in Aravallis

- In order to improve green cover in the inaccessible Aravalli area of Haryana's Faridabad district, the Haryana forest department has used drone technology to shower 50,000 seeds pallets covered with a mixture of clay and compost.
- This 'seeding drone' is designed by an Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur backed startup.

### Haryana To Get Rs 1,500 Cr Central Aid For Crop Diversification, Ponds Rejuvenation

- Haryana is to get a financial aid of Rs 1,500 crore from the Centre to expand its crop diversification scheme and rejuvenate ponds in the state.
- The state will get Rs 500 crore from the Centre in recognition of the Manohar Lal Khattar-led government's bid for water conservation through 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme and another sum of Rs 1,000 crore for rejuvenation of ponds and treating water.

### Haryana launches e-Sachivalaya portal for online appointments

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched **e-Sachivalaya portal**, a digital platform to help people to take online appointments for virtual meetings with the chief minister, deputy CM, ministers and heads of various departments.
- **Haryana Udhyaam Memorandum portal** was launched to facilitate MSMEs.
- **Plasma banks** have been opened in **Gurgaon, Faridabad, Rohtak and Panchkula**.

### Haryana gets a water testing lab on wheels

- **Haryana chief minister (CM) Manohar Lal Khattar** launched a **Rs 99-lakh mobile water testing laboratory** that is fully equipped with the latest multi-parameter systems to determine the quality of potable water.
- The van will be stationed at the state water testing laboratory in **Karnal** but its area of operation will stretch throughout the state.
- The CM also launched the '**Swachhta Pakhwada**', a two-week cleanliness drive, from Panchkula. The focus of the drive this time would be on cleaning sewerage systems and ponds.

### Haryana CM launches Project Air Care in Gurugram to fight pollution

- **Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar** has **unveiled Project Air Care** in Gurugram due to rising levels of air pollution.
- Under the project, **65 Wind Augmentation Purifying Units (WAYU)** will be installed at around 8-10 locations with high **AQI levels** through public-private partnership.
- **WAYU** can reduce **PM10** by 60-70% and **PM2.5** by 30-40% at **traffic junctions**.

### Haryana Government Signs MoU with India Accelerator to build Startup Ecosystem

- **Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication and Government of Haryana** has signed a **MoU** with **India Accelerator (IA)** to build a strong startup ecosystem in Haryana.

## Himachal Pradesh

### Foundation stone laid for Indian Institute of Management in Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh

- Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal laid the foundation stone of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur in Himachal Pradesh
- The IIM Sirmaur was operationalised by IIM Lucknow. The Centre has sanctioned an amount of Rs 531.75 crore.

### HP govt launches Nutritional Immunity Boosting 'Him Haldi Dudh' AIR

- Himachal Pradesh state government launched Nutritional Immunity Boosting 'Him Haldi Dudh (Turmeric Latte)' manufactured by MILKFED.
- Him Haldi Dudh has been developed by the Bio Technology Department of Punjabi University Patiala and has been patented. This drink is a Detox drink which has anti-hangover, anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory and immunity booster contents in it.

### Himachal Pradesh gets approval from Centre for projects worth Rs 7922.69 Crores

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- Himachal Pradesh (HP) has received Investment Clearance from the Union Government for six multipurpose and flood control projects involving expenditure of Rs 7,922.69 crore.

### Himachal Pradesh, Micro Tek New Technologies Private Ltd Sign MoU to set up Electronics Manufacturing Unit at Baddi

- The Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth Rs110 Crore with Micro Tek New Technologies Private Ltd for setting up an Electronics Manufacturing Unit at Baddi, Solan District, Himachal Pradesh.

### Himachal Pradesh to provide tap connections to all rural households by 2022

- Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat discussed the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Himachal Pradesh with Chief Minister Jairam Thakur through video conferencing.
- Drinking water supply is a service delivery, wherein the quantity, quality of water supplied and periodicity of water supply has to be ensured for which **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** is under implementation.
- Himachal Pradesh is planning **100% coverage by August 2022**, ahead of national goal by 2024.

### Himachal first state with LPG gas connections in 100 percent households

- **Himachal Pradesh** has become the first state in the country where **100 percent households** have LPG connections.
- Under the central government's '**Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana**', gas connections were provided free of cost to women of rural areas, he said, adding that 1.36 lakh families of the state were benefited under the scheme.
- The state government had launched '**Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana**' to cover the left out families in the state, who were not covered under the Centre's scheme.

### Himachal Pradesh: Nadaun Police Station ranked as one of best Police Stations of India

- **Nadaun Police Station of Hamirpur district** in Himachal Pradesh has been ranked as one of the best Police Stations of the country.
- The ranking of police stations is carried out by **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

### Himachal Pradesh CM flags off Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara

- In order to provide complete range of health care services for people living in remote and inaccessible areas of **Himachal Pradesh**, the state government flagged off **Medical Mobile Unit Jeevan Dhara**, from the Ridge in Shimla.
- The van would function as a **Mobile Primary Health Centre**.

### HP govt launches 'Him Suraksha Abhiyan' to sensitize people about Covid-19 pandemic

- In **Himachal Pradesh**, the state government launched 'i' to sensitize the people regarding **Covid-19 pandemic** and also to collect information regarding symptoms of diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure by door to door campaign throughout the State. This campaign is being launched and will continue till coming 27th December, across the State.

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### Himachal Pradesh government to frame integrated Drug Prevention Policy

- The Himachal Pradesh government has decided to frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy including Drug Prevention, Treatment, Management and Rehabilitation Programme.

### Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

### J-K LG Launches SPARROW System For J-K Administrative Service Officers

- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system for Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers, at Raj Bhavan.

### LG launches SPARROW portal for JKAS officers

- Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha launched the Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system for J&K Administrative Service officers, at the Raj Bhavan.
- The Performance Appraisal Reports of AIS officers are submitted on the SPARROW portal.

### First-ever cannabis medicine project coming up in Jammu

- Union minister Jitendra Singh announced that the first ever cannabis medicine project will soon be set up at Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu with Canadian collaboration.
- Singh also reviewed the progress of the construction of north India's first biotech industrial park in Kathua near Jammu.

### Fruits & vegetables in J&K covered under 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme

- Almost all fruits and vegetables in J&K are covered under the 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme.
- It is aimed at to support farmers of Fruits and Vegetables under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan under Central Sector Scheme- "Operation Greens" which has been extended from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all notified fruits and vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis.

### Jammu and Kashmir announces Rs 5 lakh annual health insurance for residents

- Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha has announced Jammu and Kashmir health scheme intended to provide universal health insurance cover to all residents of the Union Territory at the likely annual cost of Rs 123 crore.
- It will have the same benefits as available under AB-PMJAY with an annual health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family on floater basis.

### J&K Horticulture Dept launches "Backyard Horticulture" programme under CAPEX scheme in Jammu district

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the Horticulture Department has launched the Flagship programme "Backyard Horticulture" under CAPEX scheme at Panchyat Jaswan in Marh block of Jammu district.
- Under the programme, at least three fruit plants costing Rs. 200 will be distributed among the farmers at 90% subsidy covering 600 households in Zone Marh.

### J-K LG Launches NGDRS For Online Registration In Sale Or Purchase Of Land

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha** launched the **National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS)**, marking a major shift from the existing manual registration system to online registration for transactions in sale or purchase of land.

### J&K govt orders fast tracking of Environment Clearance Process in minor minerals mining operations

- The **Jammu and Kashmir** government has ordered the **fast tracking of Environment** Clearance Process in **minor minerals mining operations** across the Union Territory.
- The order has been issued by the **Industries and Commerce Department**.

### Ladakh celebrates first anniversary of becoming UT

- Ladakh is celebrating the first anniversary of realisation of its seven decades-old dream. It was on this day last year, Ladakh was granted the status of Union Territory. Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur has greeted the people on the occasion.

### J&K Lt Guv approves creation of Block Development Fund on pattern of Constituency Development Fund

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has approved the creation of Block Development Fund on the pattern of Constituency Development Fund.
- 25 lakh rupees each will be placed at the disposal of Block Development Council (BDC) Chairpersons to be used for local block developmental works.

### J&K govt publishes its work done under 'Back to Village (B2V)' programme

- In a first of its kind, government of Jammu and Kashmir published its work done under 'Back to Village (B2V)' programme.

### 'Iraada' Campaign Launched to Cover Eligible Left-Out Beneficiaries under Social Welfare Schemes: J&K

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Sagar D. Doifode, Doda District Deputy Commissioner(DCC) launched 'Iraada' campaign to include eligible left-out beneficiaries, who have not yet been enrolled to receive the financial assistance benefits under various social welfare schemes, which includes old age pension, widow and handicap scheme. In other words, the campaign is for 100% coverage under social welfare schemes.

### UT Ladakh Admn launches Ladakh Food Security Scheme

- The Administration of UT of Ladakh launched the **Ladakh Food Security Scheme (LFSS)**, with effect from July 1, 2020 in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- The introduction of this revamped scheme will benefit **6101 AAY families** of Ladakh in addition to 43,916 PHH and NPHH families, which were already covered under the MMSFES.

### Raksha Mantri inaugurates six new bridges in Jammu and Kashmir

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **six bridges in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir**, and asserted that development of remote areas in the region will continue to be a key priority for the NDA government.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Four bridges** were constructed on the **Akhnoor-Pallanwala road in Akhnoor**, while two bridges were built on the **Tarnah Nallah in Kathua district**, the Defence Ministry stated. The total cost of construction of the bridges was **Rs.43 crore**.

### J&K UT: Advisor to LG Baseer Ahmad Khan e-launches NeFMS at Civil Secretariat in Srinagar

- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, **Baseer Ahmad Khan** e-launched **National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS)** at Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

### J-K Announces Launch Of 'Macadamisation Program' For Improvement Of Roads

- Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu announced the launch of a '**Macadamisation Program**' for the improvement of **roads across Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Murmu has approved a program for **100 percent macadamisation** of all roads in the Union Territory including **11,000 km of fair-weather roads**.

### Green J&K Drive-2020 begins in Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary of Jammu

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the **Wildlife Protection Wing of Forest Department** kick-started **Green J&K Drive-2020** at Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary in order to mark 72nd Van-Mahotsav and setting the ball rolling for monsoon plantation in Jammu Region.

### NDDB, Ladakh in pact to conduct survey for promotion of dairying

- The **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** and the **Union Territory Administration of Ladakh** inked an agreement to conduct a benchmark survey in the newly formed UT.
- The survey is aimed at gathering required details to prepare a roadmap for **development and promotion of dairying** in the UT.

### J-K Police organises 'Jashn-E-Dal' festival to boost water sports activities, tourism in Valley

- Jammu and Kashmir Police have organised a **three-day water sports festival -- 'Jashn-E-Dal'** -- with an aim to boost water sports activities and promote tourism in the valley. The festival was organized by Jammu and Kashmir Police under civic action programme in collaboration with water sports association after three years.

### J&K: "SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for women in Ramban district inaugurated

- In **Jammu and Kashmir**, Senior Consultant in the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, Dr. Jupaka Madhavi and Additional Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Rajni Sharma inaugurated a **"SAKHI" One-Stop Service Centre for women** in Ramban district.
- The Ministry is implementing a scheme for setting up One Stop Centres since April 2015 to support women affected by violence.

"My Town My Pride" campaign will be for urban areas on the lines of "Back to Village" in J-K

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Jammu and Kashmir** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced that the government is coming up with a movement called **"My Town My Pride"** from October 19 to provide governance at the **doorsteps in urban areas** on the pattern of the **"Back to Village"** programme.

### Ladakh LG launches 100-day campaign to provide potable water supply in schools, anganwadi centres

- In Kargil, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur launched a **100 day campaign** to provide assured **potable water supply to schools** and **anganwadi centres**. He also inaugurated drinking water quality testing labs for the general public under the **Jal Jeevan Mission's (JJM) Har Ghar Jal** project.

### J&K: LG R K Mathur flags off Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge

- In Leh, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R. K. Mathur flagged off **Ultimate Ladakh Cycling Challenge**. At an altitude of over **17 thousand feet** this is one of the toughest cycling challenges in the world.
- On various routes, the cyclists peddle a total of **263 kilometres** in the **four-day event**. On 3rd and 4th Day the cyclists have to climb the **world's 3rd highest Taglang La** and the highest motorable road **Khardung La** that test the stamina, endurance and the will power of a cyclist. Top national and local cyclists are taking part in the challenge.

### Ladakh gets largest solar project at Leh IAF station

- The Union Territory of **Ladakh** has got the **largest solar power project setup** under the Centre's **'Make In India'** initiative at Leh IAF station to provide sustainable energy alternative to fossil fuel and traditional methods of energy generation.
- The project namely **'Provision of Solar Photo Voltaic Powerplant 1.5 MW'** has been completed within 12 months well before the completion deadline of March 31, 2021.

### LG Manoj Sinha releases Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan" first ever publication in five official languages of J&K

- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, the Lieutenant Governor, **Manoj Sinha** has released **Panchayat Newsletter "Parivartan"**- a first ever publication in five official languages of J&K at Raj Bhavan, Jammu.
- The LG appreciated the initiative of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj for coming out with a publication in all the five official languages of J&K, viz **Dogri, Urdu, Kashmiri, Hindi and English**, highlighting the progress being made under **Back to Village-3** and **21 day long Jan Abhiyan** programmes.

### Ladakh LG virtually inaugurates second edition of Ladakh Literature Festival 2020

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor **R K Mathur** virtually inaugurated the second edition of Ladakh Literature Festival, 2020, in Leh.
- It is a 3 day festival that will host a series of talks, importance of the region, ancient knowledge of Ladakh, Folk music, cultural Dance, geology and wildlife of Himalayas

### India adds Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site

- India has added **Tso Kar Wetland Complex** in Ladakh as its **42nd Ramsar site**, which is a second one in the Union Territory of **Ladakh**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Tso Kar Basin** : High-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake of about 438 hectares to the south, situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh.

### Ladakh UT to get its own Meteorological Centre

- Union Earth Sciences Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** virtually inaugurated the newly established **Indian Meteorological Department for Ladakh**.
- The IMD will have four **Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)** operating in Leh, Kargil, Drass and Stakna.

### J&K conducts Intra State Level programme

- Jammu and Kashmir Govt conducts Intra State Level programme begins at **Teacher's Bhawan Gandhi Nagar, Jammu**
- The programme was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K in collaboration with **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, J&K**.
- The **theme of this mega carnival** is **"Standing together for truth, we the power of youth"**.

### Cycle rally 'Fit India campaign': Udhampur in J&K

- In the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, to generate awareness among the common masses about the **Fit India campaign**, Municipal Council Udhampur organized a cycle rally at Udhampur.

## Jharkhand

### Jharkhand government launches new state emblem

- Jharkhand government launched a new state emblem, twenty years after the state was carved out of Bihar.
- The new logo is primarily in green and has the national emblem at the centre with "Satyameva Jayate" etched below.

### Jharkhand launches immunization drive for 44K kids of migrant workers

- The Jharkhand Health Department identified the children during an intensive **door-to-door survey**.
- The children between age group of **zero to five** who stayed with their parents at their workplace in different states were deprived of immunization due to ignorance or time crunch due to work pressure.

### Jharkhand to launch job guarantee scheme for urban poor

- **Jharkhand** is set to launch a **100-day employment scheme** for urban unskilled workers similar to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) amid the coronavirus pandemic and increasing unemployment.
- The scheme will be known as **Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar) Yojna**.
- Jharkhand will be **the second state** in the country **after Kerala** to launch an employment guarantee scheme for the urban poor. Kerala runs **Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS)**.

## Karnataka

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### Karnataka CM flags off RO-RO train service between Bengaluru and Solapur

- Karnataka Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa** flagged off **Roll-On/Roll-Off (RO-RO) train between Bengaluru (Nelamangala) to Solapur (Maharashtra)** through video conferencing. CM Yediyurappa flagged off the RO-RO train from Nelamangala station on the outskirts of Bengaluru at 9.15 am.

### Karnataka clears Rs 600 crore watershed project

- The **Karnataka** Cabinet approved a **Rs 600 cr** project - **Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agriculture Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD)** - for the benefit of 20 taluks with low groundwater levels in Karnataka.
- While the World Bank will fund 70% of the project (Rs 420 crore), 30% of the expenses (Rs 180 crore) will be borne by the state government.

### Karnataka CM launches first integrated air ambulance service

- **Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa** unveiled the **country's first integrated air ambulance service** jointly launched by the **International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT)** and the **Kyathi** in the city.
- The fixed wing air ambulance will be stationed at the **HAL airport in Bengaluru**.
- The ambulance is equipped with state-of-the-art **German Isolation Pod**.

### Hubballi Railway Station renamed after spiritualist

- **Hubballi Railway Station** will now be known as "**Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Railway Station Hubballi.**" .

### Karnataka CM launches 'Arthika Spandana' loan disbursal scheme

- **Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa** launched the "**Arthika Spandana**" programme of **disbursing loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crore** through various **cooperative institutions**.
- Under this scheme, **Rs.15,300 crore** would be disbursed to the **agriculture sector** while a sum of **Rs.24,000 crore** would be earmarked for the **non-agricultural sector**.

### NABARD embarking on Sanitation Literacy Campaign in Karnataka

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD** is embarking on a **Sanitation Literacy Campaign** in **Karnataka** to create awareness on good hygiene and sanitation practices among rural masses. The campaign will commence on Gandhi Jayanti on **October 2nd** and continue until January 26th next year.

### K'taka Medical Education Minister inaugurates nation's first ICMR approved mobile RTPCR Covid lab

- Nation's first ICMR approved mobile RTPCR Covid lab developed by Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru was inaugurated by Karnataka Medical Education Minister Dr.K Sudhakar.
- Packed with all the safety features, this unique lab is capable of producing accurate results within four hours. In a month the mobile lab can conduct 9000 tests. The lab can be utilised for testing H1N1,HCV,TB,HPV,HIV virus also.

### Piyush Goyal, Pralhad Joshi dedicate Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka through video conferencing

- Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi dedicated a Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka through video conferencing.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- This Rail Museum is first of its kind in North Karnataka and second in South Western Railway after the historic Rail Museum at Mysuru.

### Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa vows to build a 'Kalyana Rajya'

- Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has vowed to build a 'Kalyana Rajya', a Welfare state with the avowed principle of 'development' as the only mantra.

### Price Monitoring and Resource Unit set up in Karnataka under the aegis of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

- A Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) has been set up in Karnataka under the aegis of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).
- PMRU will function at the State level under the direct supervision of the State Drug Controller for increasing outreach of NPPA. The Board of Governors of PMRU includes the representatives from Central Government and State Government concerned and other stakeholders.

### Karnataka plans to implement new National Education Policy by 2030

- Karnataka has planned to implement all the provisions of the new National Education Policy by 2030. As part of this, the state has decided to launch six research oriented Universities, 10 teaching oriented Universities and 34 autonomous educational institutions in the next three years.

### Karnataka govt launches portal to connect job seekers and employers

- Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa launched 'Skill Connect Forum', a portal that connects job seekers with employers on a common platform.
- An unemployed person will be imparted a skill and then enabled to get a job," **the Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood department** stated in a statement.

### Karnataka CM Yediyurappa launches Weavers Sammaan Yojana

- Karnataka Chief Minister **B.S.Yediyurappa** launched **Weavers Sammaan Yojana**. Under this scheme, **19,744 handloom weavers** in the state will get annual financial assistance of **two thousand rupees** through **Direct Benefit Transfer**.
- The State Government has allocated **10.96 crore rupees** under the programme.

### Karnataka: NABARD extends grant assistance of Rs 221.89 cr to support 298 watershed projects

- In Karnataka, **NABARD** has extended a grant assistance of **221.89 crore rupees** to support 298 watershed projects in over three lakh hectares benefitting 66,500 families. The State has about **75 percent of rainfed area**.
- NABARD has released **2200 crore rupees** in the state to the Co-operative and Regional Rural Banks under a special line of credit over and above the normal limits. **NABARD in Karnataka** observed its 39th Foundation Day.



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### Karnataka government tweaks three laws, approves labour ordinance

- The Karnataka state cabinet deemed the amendments to the Factories Act, Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act a necessity to ensure 'ease of doing business'.
- The Karnataka cabinet approved an ordinance allowing factories or industries with less than 300 employees to shut down without the government's approval with an amendment to **Section 25K of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**.

### Karnataka introduces Covid-19 tracking platform built by Nasscom

- **Karnataka** government has efficiently handled Covid-19 with the use of technology and now with **new data analysis tool** developed by **Nasscom**
- The product can provide all the relevant Covid related information including source of infection, its classification, infection rate, statistical information, detecting the infection as well as treatment along with real-time information on available infrastructure and human resources.

### Karnataka govt gives nod to switch implementing agency for Bhagyalakshmi scheme

- The **Karnataka cabinet** granted approval to implement the **Bhagyalakshmi scheme**, which provides **financial security to girl child of BPL families**, through **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana** of the postal department **instead of LIC**.
- Under this scheme, a girl child belonging to below poverty line (BPL) families is eligible to receive **Rs one lakh after completing 18 years of age**.

### Karnataka to sign MoUs with global innovation alliance countries

- **Karnataka** has created a dedicated track for **global innovation alliance (GIA)** sessions for its flagship tech event, **Bengaluru Tech Summit**.
- **Australia, France, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Switzerland and UK** are among the 25 countries expected to participate.

### Mysuru Palace may soon have India's first sandalwood museum

- The **country's very first, sandalwood museum** is likely to come up later this month in **Mysuru in Karnataka**.
- The museum has been established by the **Mysuru Forest Division**, within its premises.

### Vijayanagara to become Karnataka's 31st district

- The **Karnataka cabinet** gave in principle approval for the creation of **Vijayanagara** as the **state's 31st district, carving it out** from the mine-rich **Ballari**.
- It is named after the **Vijayanagara empire** that ruled from this region.

### Karnataka aims to become a \$50-bn bio-economy by 2025

- **Karnataka** aims to become a **\$50-billion bio-economy** by doubling the **\$22.6-billion** sector in five years, stated the state government at the Bengaluru Tech Summit.



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- Bio-economy, which uses renewable biological resources sustainably to produce food, energy and industrial goods, has grown by at least 14 per cent in two years in Karnataka. It contributes 10.3 per cent to the Gross State Domestic Product of \$221.82 billion.
- Karnataka expects bio-economy to touch **\$42 billion** by **2025**.

### Bengaluru's Bowring Medical College Named After Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- The **Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute** in **Bengaluru** has been named after former **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- The institute was set up in 2018-19 on the campus of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar in the heart of Bengaluru.

### Haveri railway station renamed Mahadevappa Mailara Railway station

- The **Karnataka government** has issued a notification, renaming **Haveri Railway station** as **Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station**. It has been a long-standing demand of the public and representatives from Haveri District to name the Haveri station after Mahadevappa Mailara, a freedom fighter from the district, South Western Railway stated.

### Foundation stone for a 11.5 megawatt power plant run on municipal waste

- Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa laid the foundation stone for a 11.5 megawatt power plant run on municipal waste. The first of its kind power plant in the state will be capable of converting 600 tonnes of municipal waste into 11.5 megawatt energy.
- The Chief Minister said that the power plant being constructed at a cost of 260 crore rupees, is likely to be ready by 2022.

### Karnataka Assembly adopts Bill against cow slaughter

- The **Karnataka Legislative Assembly** passed the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and **Preservation of Cattle Bill-2020**.
- Slaughter of cattle as per the new Bill will be a cognisable offence and will attract **three to seven years** imprisonment and a fine that shall not be less than **₹50,000** extendable to **₹5 lakh**.

### Government of Karnataka Inaugurated 1st Fruits Portal

- **FRUITS (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) Portal**, a project of e-Governance, Government of Karnataka was inaugurated with BHOOMI Package of **Karnataka** state to fetch and validate land details.
- Canara Bank also will take the project on a pilot basis.

### Karnataka govt setup new building of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute in PPP mode

- Karnataka Chief Minister **B S Yediyurappa** inaugurated the new building of **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre** in Bengaluru.
- The **13 storey tall building** will house **13 departments** of medicine and a research centre for the medical college students.

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- The Central Government has a **vision** to set up **22 AIIMS** across the country.

### New Government Tool Room & Training Centers set by-Karnataka govt

- **Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C N Aswatha Narayana** has said that new Government Tool Room and Training Centers will be established in different parts of the state to impart training in different skills.
- **Vijayapura and Bengaluru Rural districts** are chosen for building new skill training Centers apart from **24 Centers** functioning now.

### Kerala

#### Thykooodam-Petta stretch of Kochi metro inaugurated in Kerala

- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the final stretch of the **Phase-I construction** of the **Kochi metro's Thykooodam-Petta** stretch via video conferencing. The inauguration was presided by **Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- Phase-1 of the Kochi Metro is now complete at a cost of **Rs 6218 crores**.

#### Kerala CM launches model project for SC,ST students

- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the **first phase of a model project** that aims to improve and facilitate the **education of students** belonging to **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe**.
- The government provides **financial assistance of Rs 2 lakhs** to the **members of SC community** to set up a **study room adjacent to their house**.

#### Govt To Set Up First Medical Device Park MedSpark In Kerala

- **Kerala** will soon house one of the **first medical device parks in the country**, focusing on the high-risk medical device sector to provide a full range of services for the medical devices industry like R&D support, testing, and evaluation.
- **MedSpark**, the medical devices park envisaged as a joint initiative of **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST)**, an autonomous institute of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC)**,.

#### Kerala's first-ever Dragonfly Festival

- **WWF-India Kerala State Office** is joining hands with the **Society for Odonate Studies (SOS)** and **Thumbipuranam** for the first-ever state **Dragonfly Festival** in Kerala, christened 'Thumbi Maholsavam 2020'.
- This is part of the **National Dragonfly Festival** organised by **WWF India**, **Bombay Natural History Society** and **Indian Dragonfly Society** in association with **National Biodiversity Board**, **UN Environmental Programme**, **UN Development Programme** and **IUCN-CEC**.
- **Dragonfly Festival**, a series of events will be rolled out in the coming months to reach out to various sections of the society.

#### First marine ambulance in Kerala to be launched

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- 'Pratheeksha', the first marine ambulance will be commissioned in Kerala.
- The marine ambulance built by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) will be deployed at Vizhinjam. The marine ambulance project involves the construction of three vessels.
- The float-out ceremony of two other boats - 'Prathyasha' and 'Karunya' will be held.

### Kerala to set up India's first International Women's Trade Centre

- Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (IWTC), in consonance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Angamaly.
- REACH (Resource Enhancement Academy for Career Heights) is also aimed at empowering women with the required skills to ensure success in life.

### "Dream Kerala project" announced for rehabilitation of Keralites returning from abroad

- Kerala has announced "Dream Kerala project" for rehabilitation of the Keralites returning from abroad and for the overall development of the State.
- The project aims, not only, the rehabilitation of returnees but also, using their skill and knowledge for reviving the State.

### Kerala announces new Entrepreneurship Development Programme

- The Kerala government announced a new Entrepreneurship Development Programme to address the issues of shortage of working capital and availability of credit faced by startups and small entrepreneurs in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The "Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Development Programme" aims to identify 2,000 entrepreneurs per year and plans to launch 1,000 new small and medium ventures every year for the next five years, creating 5,000 new ventures.
- The programme will be implemented through the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), which will provide loans up to 90 per cent of the project cost subject to a maximum of rs 50 lakh at 10 per cent interest.

### Kerala plans to provide tap connections to all rural households by 2023

- Kerala govt has planned to provide tap connections to every rural household by 2023.
- The flagship programme aims to provide household tap connections in rural areas of the country with focus on improving the lives of people.

### Kerala's first and nation's twentieth mega food park Inaugurated

- Kerala's first and nation's twentieth mega food park in Palakkad district of Kerala was virtually inaugurated Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Kinfra) Mega Food Park has been set up in 79.42 acres of land at a project cost of Rs. 102.13 crore.

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### Kerala govt sets up welfare board for farmers

- In a first in the country, the Kerala government has decided to form a **Welfare Fund Board** for the uplift of farmers in the state.
- They decided to set up the board to be known as ‘**Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board**’.
- The cabinet also decided that **Dr P Rajendran** would be appointed as the **chairman of the Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board**.
- As per the Act, a farmer is an owner, licensee, sole proprietor, oral tenant, government land leaseholder who owns **not less than 5 cents and not more than 15 acres**, with an annual income of **less than Rs five lakh**.

### Kerala introduces high-tech digital classrooms in all its public schools

- Kerala, the highly literate state, is pioneering **digital classroom technology**. And it is introducing high-tech classrooms in all its public schools.
- **Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE)** has implemented the project which comes under the general education department.

### Water taxi service to be launched in Alappuzha

- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** will launch a **water taxi service** of the State Water Transport Department (SWTD) in Alappuzha.
- A **catamaran diesel-powered craft** will be used for the water taxi service. The tariff fixed had been **₹750 for 30 minutes**.
- The vessel has been constructed by Kochi-based **Navgathi Marine Design and Constructions Private Limited**, which built the country’s **first solar ferry, Aditya**.

### IAV’s first phase becomes operational at Thonnakkal

- The **Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV)** in the district will evolve into a **global centre** for high-end virology research and help Kerala scale greater heights in its efforts to improve public health and contain virus outbreaks.
- The first phase of IAV, situated at the **Bio 360 Life Science Park at Thonnakkal**, became functional with two divisions.

### Kerala becomes first state in the country to fix floor price for vegetables, rates to be effective from Nov 1

- Kerala has become the **first state in the country** to set floor prices of **16 varieties of vegetables**, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan informed. He said that the scheme would come into effect from November 01, 2020.
- This is the first time the floor price is being fixed for vegetables produced in the state and this is the first for a state in the country also.

### India’s first solar-powered miniature train launched at Veli Tourist Village in Kerala

- A **solar energy-driven miniature train**, billed as the **country’s first of its kind**, was inaugurated at the **Veli Tourist Village** by Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan**.
- Vijayan also dedicated an **“Urban Park” and a swimming pool** at the eco-friendly tourist village, located on the outskirts of the state capital where the Veli Lake meets the Arabian Sea.

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### Kerala launches “Parivarthanam” scheme for better livelihood of fisherfolk

- A pioneering eco-sustainable programme **Parivarthanam**, to help the fishing community was launched, aiming to improve the **livelihood skills of youngsters along the coastline** and also enable socio-economic uplift of the fishermen community.
- **Parivarthanam**, which means change, will be spearheaded by **Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC)**.

### Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre Set To Become Largest Care Centre In The World

- The **Elephant Rehabilitation Centre** at Kottoor in Thiruvananthapuram is set to become the **largest care and cure centre for elephants** in the world.
- The first phase of the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre will be commissioned in February 2021. The project is being implemented at a cost of **Rs 108 crore** with funding from **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**.

### UN Women signs pact with Kerala govt's Gender Park

- **UN Women**, the United Nations entity working for the empowerment of women, entered into an agreement with the Kerala government's **Gender Park** that has been **initiating gender equality activities**.
- Gender Park will be developed into a **South Asia hub** for gender-related activities.
- A Gender Data Centre at Kozhikode campus is one of the highlights of the tie-up with UN Women.

### Kerala's 21-yr-old Arya Rajendran elected as Thiruvananthapuram Mayor

- **Arya Rajendran**, the 21-year-old college student, has been elected as the **new mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation**, of Kerala.
- The **Communist Party of India (CPI) Marxist** leader, Arya is the youngest person in India to occupy the post of mayor anywhere in the country.

## Madhya Pradesh

### Madhya Pradesh govt launches campaign ‘Gandagi Bharat Chhodo’

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, a massive ‘**Gandagi Bharat Chhodo**’ campaign was launched by the State Government.
- The campaign was divided into five themes- **Cleanliness Oath, Continuous reduction in urban waste emissions, Cleanliness in COVID conditions, Separation of waste from sources of houses** and **Launching a special cleanliness campaign for public places**.

### Madhya Pradesh reintroduces Deendayal Rasoi Scheme for meals at Rs 10

- **Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Scheme** to provide meals at a subsidised rate to underprivileged people was **re-introduced** in **Madhya Pradesh**. Now the rate per thali has been increased to **Rs 10 from Rs 5**.
- The scheme, which was launched in **2017 in 49 districts** of the state in the name of BJP ideologue Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya..



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### Madhya Pradesh: Central discom first to adopt e-office in India

- **Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company** (central discom) has become the **first power distribution company** in the country to adopt **e-office system**. The company has been e-filing and doing correspondence through **NIC e-office system** from 27 July.

### Madhya Pradesh to celebrate 'Anna utsav' on eve of PM Modi's birthday

- **Madhya Pradesh** will celebrate an '**Anna Utsav**' (food grains festival) on **September 16**, the eve of **PM Narendra Modi's birthday**, during which 37 lakh new **below poverty line (BPL) beneficiaries** will be covered under the government's scheme to **provide food grains to them on highly subsidised rates**.

### Madhya Pradesh targets household tap connections in all rural areas under Jal Jeevan Mission by 2023

- Rural families of **Madhya Pradesh** will be provided with **clean drinking water** through tap connection. Approximately **Rs. 197 crores** have been approved in State government's rural tap water scheme.
- A target has been set to complete the scheme in the rural areas of the entire state by year **2023** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

### MP celebrates 4th day of 'Gharib Kalyan Week' as 'Vanadhikar Diwas'

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, **Gharib Kalyan Week** is being organized from **16th to 23rd September** to mark the **Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- On the **fourth day of the week**, '**Vanadhikar Diwas**' was celebrated in the State.
- On the '**Vanadhikar Diwas**', **more than 23,000 forest rights pattas** were **distributed** in **47 districts of the State**.

### Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' to be start in Madhya Pradesh

- **Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana** is being started in **Madhya Pradesh** on the lines of **Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi**.
- Under this scheme, additional financial assistance of **Rs. 4,000** will be given to the eligible beneficiaries of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi.

### Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches scheme on lines of PM-Kisan

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated '**Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojna**' on the lines of Centre's **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Scheme**.
- The Chief Minister announced that **Rs.4,000 will be transferred** to accounts of **1,75,000 farmers** in the state **every year in two instalments under the scheme**.
- Chouhan also performed the **Bhoomi Pujan of the Rs.2,400 crore-Narmada Irrigation Project** at a function in **Sanwar, Indore district**.

### Madhya Pradesh to begin 'Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi' public awareness campaign

- A public awareness campaign called '**Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi**' means one mask-many lives will be conducted till August 15 in many districts of **Madhya Pradesh**.



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- The **Mask Bank** will also be established under the **Ek Mask-Anek Zindgi Campaign**. In this mask bank, masks will be collected from donors and distributed free of cost to the poor people.

### MP: 'Ek Sankalp - Bujurgo ke naam' campaign proves to be boon for senior citizens amid corona pandemic

- In Madhya Pradesh, a unique campaign 'Ek Sankalp - Bujurgo ke naam' i.e. 'a commitment for elders' is being run by the Chhatarpur Police in the midst of corona infection in the state.
- This unique campaign is proving to be a boon for the elderly people living alone in homes during the global pandemic COVID-19.

### MP govt to provide poor people Rs. one per kg wheat, rice, salt from Sept 1

- In Madhya Pradesh, all poor people of the state, who have not received ration from the Public Distribution System so far, will now get one rupee per kg wheat, rice and salt from September 1.
- 37 lakh beneficiaries of the state will be benefited by this decision of the government. Apart from this, 5 kg per person free ration will also be provided to poor families by November.

### Madhya Pradesh becomes first state to provide govt jobs on basis of NRA marks

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to provide government jobs on the basis of marks obtained in exams conducted by the newly-formed National Recruitment Agency (NRA).
- Madhya Pradesh is the first state to take such a decision. After this decision, there will be no need for the youth of the state to give any separate examination for government jobs in the state.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to lay foundation stone & inaugurate 35 highway projects in MP

- Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay foundation Stone and inaugurate 35 highway projects in Madhya Pradesh.
- The total length of road will be 1,139 kilometers, involving construction value of over Rs. 9,400 crore. These roads will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in the State.

### MP: 'Intzaar Aap Ka' campaign started in order to attract tourists

- In Madhya Pradesh, in order to attract tourists to the tourist places of the state; '**Intzaar Aap Ka**' means waiting for you campaign has started on social media platforms.
- The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has been inviting tourists by describing the characteristics of **each tourist destination** in an attractive way with that tagline on social media platforms.

### PM Modi to unveil Asia's largest solar plant in MP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation Asia's largest **750 MW Rewa Ultra-Mega Solar plants in Madhya Pradesh** via video conferencing on 10th of July.
- The **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar** is established in the **Rewa district of Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh**, with a total solar installed capacity of **750 MW**. It is one of the largest single-site solar power plants in Asia.

### MP govt begins 'Mera Ghar Mera Vidyalaya' scheme to facilitate students

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- The Madhya Pradesh government has started **Mera Ghar Mera Vidyalaya Scheme**.
- Under the Mera Ghar-Mera Vidyalaya Scheme, children can now sit for classes in their homes.

The scheme aims to provide students with a school-like atmosphere at home.

### MP govt to run 'Roko -Toko' campaign for those who do not wear masks

- In Madhya Pradesh, the government will now run a **Roko -Toko** means stop and campaign for those who do not wear masks. As the Use of masks is mandatory in all public places in the state. Now selected voluntary organizations will provide masks to the people who do not wear masks in public places and will charge an amount of **Rs 20 per mask** from the concerned.

### MP govt. approves proposal to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to acid attack victims

- In Madhya Pradesh, the government approved a proposal to provide monthly financial assistance of **Rs 5,000** to the acid attack victims in the state.
- The Minister informed that he has given approval to a proposal to give **Rs 5,000 per month financial assistance** to the victims of acid attack in the State so that they can lead their lives with dignity.

### Road In Lucknow Named After Former MP Governor Lalji Tandon

- The **Lucknow Municipal Corporation** named a road and a crossing in the city after former Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon.
- The **Chauk Chauraha** will now be known as **Lalji Tandon Chauraha** and the Lucknow-Hardoi Road will be known as Tandon Marg.

### Madhya Pradesh launches “Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya” scheme

- Principal Secretary Rashmi Arun Shami of Madhya Pradesh (MP) launched “Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya” scheme over a virtual platform to maintain academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### Indian Railways installs automatic lighting systems at three railways stations in Madhya Pradesh

- In a unique step towards energy conservation, the **Indian Railways** has recently installed **automatic lighting systems** at **three railways stations** in **Madhya Pradesh**. Officials informed that the Railways plan to scale up the project to cover more stations on its network.
- Railways have installed these automatic lighting systems at **Jabalpur, Narsinghpur and Bhopal railways stations** of Madhya Pradesh, which fall under the West Central Railway zone.

### PPL tournament to be played in Indore to free city from single use plastic

- A unique **Plastic Premier League (PPL)** tournament is being played in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** to free the city from **single use plastic**.

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- Indore is known for its innovative efforts regarding cleanliness. Indore has been awarded as the cleanest city in the country four times. The 19 zones of Indore Municipal Corporation are divided into these four teams.

### CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan to release roadmap-2023 of Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will release a roadmap-2023 of Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal. Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant will also participate in the programme.
- **Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country**, which has prepared a roadmap for Atmanirbhar State in consultation with various subject experts in accordance with the strategy of Atmanirbhar Bharat as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Madhya Pradesh launches unique initiative- local4Diwali hashtag

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the **Handicrafts Development Corporation** has launched a unique initiative- **local4Diwali** hashtag under the '**Vocal for Local**' campaign in the festive season. The objective of this campaign is to encourage the products of local artisans to make them self-reliant.

### Survey of vulture habitats starts in Madhya Pradesh

- **Vultures** have always been considered an important part of the Ecosystem. However, their number has decreased considerably in the last few years. At present, survey of vulture habitats has started in **Madhya Pradesh** for how many vultures are left and what measures should be taken for their protection.
- Survey of vulture habitats, considered an important part of Ecosystem, has started in **Madhya Pradesh**.

### Tribal Welfare Dept to be changed to Tribal Affairs Dept: Madhya Pradesh CM

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, the name of the **Tribal Welfare Department** will be changed to **Tribal Affairs Department**. This was announced by the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan at a program organized on the birth anniversary of martyr **Birsa Munda** at the **Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum** in the capital **Bhopal**.

### MP govt forms 'cow cabinet' for protection and promotion of cattle

- **Madhya Pradesh** government has announced the **first of its kind cow cabinet** for the protection of cows.
- The amended law brought changes to the previous **cow slaughter Act 2004** passed by the BJP government.

### RPF starts awareness drive 'Meri Saheli' to provide better safety & security to women passengers in Madhya Pradesh

- **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has started an intensive awareness drive called '**Meri Saheli**' aiming to provide better safety and security to women passengers in **Madhya Pradesh** also. '**Meri Saheli**' initiative was launched in order to boost the security of female passengers during their journey.
- To provide proactive security to female passengers, a team of Lady Constables led by an Inspector has been formed in most of the stations including Bhopal, Jabalpur and Itarsi.

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- The passengers are also being informed about **RPF Helpline No-182** for emergency and for instant help from RPF. The Mobile number of the Security Control of Bhopal division is too shared with the female passengers.
- Moreover, all the ladies including the other traveling passengers have been requested to wear masks properly to avoid spreading of COVID-19. The drive is part of an ongoing initiative to facilitate female passengers in an environment in which they feel safe, secure and comfortable during their journey.

### Martyr Birsa Munda's birth anniversary will be celebrated as "Tribal Pride Day"

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has taken the decision to celebrate the **birth anniversary of Martyr Birsa Munda** as "Tribal Pride Day" in the state.
- "Tribal Pride Day" will be celebrated on **November 15th** at all district headquarters including Bhopal.

### Madhya Pradesh: Digital museum opens at Maharaj Bada in Gwalior

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, a **digital museum** has been opened at **Maharaj Bada in Gwalior** for the public. The museum is developed by Gwalior Smart City and entry for the public is being made free for a few days.
- It is the first center of its kind in Gwalior and Bundelkhand area and will play a role in educating school students.

### Madhya Pradesh conducts 'Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh' campaign in all districts

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, a community-based nutrition management programme of very severely malnourished children is being conducted in all districts under the nurtured families - well nurtured Madhya Pradesh i.e. '**Poshit Parivar-Suposhit Madhya Pradesh**' campaign.
- Under this campaign, very serious malnourished children are identified and after **12 weeks or 3 months** of continuous effort after their registration, they are brought to normal nutrition level.

### "Tigress on the Trail": Madhya Pradesh CM to flag off team of women bikers from Bhopal

- In **Madhya Pradesh**, with the objective of promoting adventure and safe tourism for women, the first and unique adventurous motorcycle trip is starting in the state.
- 15 eminent women bikers from all over the country will visit various tourist spots of the state under this journey named "**Tigress on the trail**".

### Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020

- The **Madhya Pradesh** cabinet approved the **Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020**.
- Under the provisions of the bill, forced conversion of a woman will be punishable for a term up to 10 years and minimum fine of **Rs 50,000**.

## Maharashtra

### SIDBI, Maharashtra Govt ink pact to develop MSME ecosystem

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Maharashtra Government** to develop the **micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME)** ecosystem in the state.

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- Under the agreement, a **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be deployed by SIDBI with the Government of Maharashtra, SIDBI stated.

### Mumbai International airport put in place QR code-enabled check-in mechanism

- Mumbai International airport** has put in place a **QR code-enabled contactless** check-in mechanism for the passengers.

### Maharashtra CM announces 'My Family-My Responsibility' campaign to fight Covid-19

- Maharashtra government** has launched **My family-My Responsibility** campaign.
- This involved a massive effort to reach out to every home in the state to assess the health condition of its residents, and provided medical help and guidance if needed.

### Maharashtra govt accords ambulance status to vehicles carrying medical oxygen for one year

- In **Maharashtra**, the State Government has accorded **ambulance status** to the **vehicles carrying medical oxygen** for **one year**. A notification was issued in this regard.
- The notification in this regard says that such vehicles will be considered as vehicles on **emergency and disaster management duties**.

### Govt launches road accident insurance scheme named after Balasaheb Thackeray

- Maharashtra state government** launched a **new road accident insurance scheme** named after late Shiv Sena chief **Balasaheb Thackeray**, to provide timely treatment to victims that could help to reduce the fatality rate.
- Treatment up to **Rs 30,000 will be provided free of charge**. An accident victim of any state or the country can avail the **benefits of the scheme** if he or she meets with a **road accident within Maharashtra**.

### Maharashtra governor launches cancer institute's chemo recovery kits

- Maharashtra Governor** Bhagat Singh launched the ayurvedic '**chemo recovery kits**' developed by a Pune-based **cancer research institute** and called for joint research by scientists in **Ayurveda** and modern medicine for cancer treatment.
- The **chemo recovery kits**, containing an ayurvedic formulation and developed by the Integrated Cancer Treatment and Research Centre of the **Bharatiya Sanskriti Darshan Trust, Pune** with financial assistance from the Tata Trusts, were launched by Koshiyari at the Raj Bhavan.

### Maharashtra bans sale of loose cigarettes, beedis; becomes first state to do so

- Maharashtra** government has banned the sale of unpackaged "**loose**" **cigarettes and beedis**, making it the first Indian state to do so. The move is aimed at ensuring that customers see the graphic, public health warnings mandated on cigarette packaging.
- Maharashtra has the lowest smoking rate in the country, data from the Global Tobacco Youth Survey 2016 showed.

### Maharashtra govt announces partnership with Google for introducing digital education tools in schools across state

- The Maharashtra government has announced a partnership with Google for introducing digital education tools in schools across the state.



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- As part of the tie-up, which has come at a time when online classes have become a norm due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Google will deploy free tools like G Suite for Education, Google Classroom and Google Meet to facilitate remote learning.

### Mumbai's Dadar becomes the first city to have female icons on traffic signals

- Mumbai has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has installed traffic signals that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.

### Maharashtra Govt. Approved MagNet project worth Around Rs 1,000 crore to Help Farmers

- The Maharashtra government approved the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project worth about Rs 1,000 crore(USD 142.9 million).
- 70% of the project cost (i.e.700 crores) will be funded by Asian Development Bank(ADB) while the rest of 30% cost (300 crores) is funded by the state government.

### Maharashtra Became the First State to Partner with Google India to Provide Learning Tools for Schools

- Uddhav Thackeray announced the partnership with Google which will blend google's learning programmes that integrate the classroom approach with online learning.
- Maharashtra became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.

### Capgemini partners with Maharashtra govt, BMC to support their fight against Covid-19

- **Capgemini** announced that as part of its global Social Response Unit activities, it would extend its support to the Government of Maharashtra and the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) efforts**.
- The collaboration aims to overcome the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic and provide critical care to those affected.

### Maharashtra gives banking mandate to IDBI Bank, district co-op banks

- The Maharashtra State Cabinet decided to give its banking mandate to IDBI Bank, regional rural bank and **15 district central cooperative banks** in the state. The mandate is only for the partial handling of certain funds.

### Maharashtra govt, SBI to set up stress fund for stuck slum rehabilitation projects

- The government of Maharashtra along with the **State Bank of India** is setting up a stress fund to restart stuck slum rehabilitation projects in the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)** and other urban areas of the state.
- The government will infuse **Rs 700 crore to Rs 1,000 crore** in this fund aimed at providing financial support to revive such projects.

### Asia's Largest Data Centre With 210MW Overall Capacity Inaugurated Near Mumbai



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- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray e-inaugurated **Asia's largest certified tier IV data centre near Mumbai**. Located in Panvel, the Yotta NM1 data centre building, is the largest of its kind in India, as well as the second largest in the world.

- The private facility is owned by the **Hiranandani Group**, via its fully owned subsidiary, the Yotta Infrastructure Group. The **Yotta data centre** is aimed at catering for engineering and real estate businesses. Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also present for the virtual inauguration.

### MCGM, Google collaborate to mark Containment Zones in Mumbai on Google Maps

- The **Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM)** and **Google** have collaborated to mark **Containment Zones** in the city on the **Google Maps**.
- The BMC has now provided on Google Maps, information about civic-run hospitals and COVID Care Centres besides marking Containment Zones.

### GOI, ADB inks 177 million dollar loan pact to upgrade 450 kms of state highways & major district roads in Maharashtra

- **Asian Development Bank, ADB** and **Government of India** signed a **177-million dollar** loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in **Maharashtra**.

### Maharashtra's Women & Child welfare dept launches initiative to fulfill nutritional requirements of lactating mothers & children

- **Maharashtra's** Women and Child welfare department has launched a new initiative to fulfill the nutritional requirements of lactating mothers and children in the state. Women and Child welfare minister Yashomati Thakur inaugurated the platform '**TARANG SUPOSHIT MAHARASHTRACHA**'.

### Maharashtra Schools to celebrate November 8 to 14 as Children's week

- Ahead of **Children's Day on November 14**, the **Maharashtra state education department** has asked schools in the state to celebrate **Children's week between November 8 and 14**.
- As part of the initiative, schools have to conduct activities and upload photographs of celebrations conducted online.

### CJI inaugurates e-resource centre, virtual court in Nagpur

- **Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde**, along with **Justice D.Y. Chandrachud** of the Supreme Court, inaugurated the **first ever e-resource centre and virtual court for traffic and transport** to enable speedy justice for litigants, called '**Nyay Kaushal**', at Nagpur.
- The centre will provide the easiest way of filing court matters by utilising technology. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and a saving in costs.

### Maha govt inks Rs 35,000-crore MoUs with 15 companies

- The **Maharashtra government** inked MoUs worth around **Rs 35,000 crore** with **15 companies** even as Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray called for attracting over Rs 1 lakh crore investments this year to the state.

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### Maharashtra to observe National Unity Week from Nov 19 to 25

- **Maharashtra** will observe the **National Unity Week** from **19th to 25th of November**. Minister for Skill Development and Minority Development Nawab Malik appealed that in order to increase social harmony in the state, everyone should participate in this programme.

### Lonar Lake in Maharashtra's Buldhana district chosen as 'Ramsar site'

- The **Lonar Lake** in **Maharashtra's Buldhana district** has been chosen as a **wetland site** of international importance under the **Ramsar conservation treaty**.
- Lonar Lake was formed by the impact of a meteorite on basalt bedrock several thousand years ago.
- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (held for the first time in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971), which aims to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands.
- In January, **Maharashtra** got its **first Ramsar site** at **Nandur Madhmeshwar, in Nashik**.
- The lake was first proposed as a Ramsar site in 2017 by the state forest department.

### Maharashtra: First solar power-enabled Textile Mill in Asia to come up in Parbhani district

- In **Maharashtra**, the first solar power-enabled **Textile Mill** in **Asia** is coming up in **Parbhani district**. The project, once functional, will provide jobs to many women in the district.
- The **Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill** will be the first in Asia that will operate on solar power. Spread across thirty acres of land the mill will process cotton to cloth.
- Ginning, pressing, weaving and spinning of cotton will be done in the mill. Dr. Patil stated, the cost of the project is 100 crore rupees and with the operationalization of the mill it will certainly give momentum to the industrial sector in the district.

### Maharashtra Government To Pay Stipend To ST Candidates Preparing For UPSC Exams

- **Maharashtra government** has decided to **pay stipend to scheduled tribe (ST) candidates** who are preparing for **UPSC exams**.
- Under this scheme, **each candidate** will be provided **Rs. 12,000 per month**. Additionally, **Rs. 26,000** will also be provided to the candidate **for purchasing books**.

### Maharashtra Government introduces Unified Development Control Rules

- The government of Maharashtra's Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR) are expected to bolster real estate development.
- This Uniform set of Regulations will specify height of buildings to the width of roads and the size of amenity spaces.

### Maharashtra Approves 10 New Conservation Reserves & 1 New Wildlife Sanctuary

- Maharashtra approved the declaration of 10 new Conservation Reserves (CR) & 1 New Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Maharashtra. Kanhargaon in Chandrapur district was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary making it Maharashtra's 50th Wildlife Sanctua

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- The 10 CRs are Mahendri, Amboli- Dodamarg (Sindhudurg), Jor-Jambhli (Satara), Munia (Nagpur) and Chandgad, Panhalgad, Vishalgad, Gaganbawda, Mayni and Ajra-Bhudargad.

### Maharashtra Government Launches “Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme” and passes “Sakthi Act”

- Maharashtra govt launched scheme “Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme” named after Sharad Pawar.
- To strengthen the law on prevention of atrocities against women, children, Maharashtra Cabinet has passed “Shakti Act” which Envisages death sentence for rape, acid attack and child abuse.

## Manipur

### Manipur college receives two National Service Scheme Award 2018-19

- The **National Service Scheme Award 2018-19** were conferred by the President of India to the awardees of different categories. In Manipur, a college located in a remote hill area has received two awards including Best Program Officer Award.

### Manipur celebrates Patriots' day, remembers fallen heroes of Anglo-Manipuri war

- In Manipur, the Patriots' Day is being observed commemorating the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war during which many Manipuris sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence of the State. The day is observed every year on the 13th August to pay homage to the great martyres.

### Manipur CM N Biren Singh launches web portal to share COVID-19 related stories, activities

- Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh launched a website ([www.manipurcovidstories.org](http://www.manipurcovidstories.org)) to share COVID-19 related stories and information in the state.
- The web portal will also work as a tool to **monitor volunteering activities in the state** by different stakeholders and acknowledge the people's involvement in the fight against the pandemic.

### Manipur introduces award for civil servants to promote good governance

- Manipur introduced “**Scheme for Chief Minister's Award for Good Governance**” to recognise and reward innovative and extraordinary work done by government officials that promotes **good governance**.
- Under the scheme, **government servants** will be rewarded for outstanding and exemplary performance and projects whose qualitative and quantitative outcomes are of a very high order and which have benefitted a large number of citizens and stakeholders.

## Meghalaya

### India's Largest Piggery Mission Launched In Meghalaya

- **India's largest piggery mission worth Rs 209 crores**, was launched in **Meghalaya** by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Kailash Choudhary**.

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- The State govt has set up **Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society (M-LEADS)** consisting of Principal Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary as Chairman and Commissioner & Secretary, Finance & Cooperation Departments as Chief Executive Officer.

### HIKAI Online academic classes inaugurated at Ramakrishna Mission Sec School in East Khasi Hills district

- The **Ramkrishna Mission Centres** of Sohra and Shillong in a joint venture successfully demonstrated the technological capability of conducting online classes in a no-internet zone by using intra-net. Online academic classes of **HIKAI (Hybrid Interactive Knowledge Assimilation Initiative)** from classes 1 to 12 were inaugurated at Ramakrishna Mission Secondary School, Sohbar of East Khasi Hills district.
- The Ramakrishna Mission launched the online classes for any student studying under the **Meghalaya Board of Secondary Education (MBOSE)**.

### Meghalaya Cabinet approves 50 percent reservation for women in Village Employment Councils

- The Meghalaya cabinet has approved the "Policy on Reservation of seats for Women in Village Employment Councils (VECs)".
- Meghalaya Government has brought the policy of reserving at least 50 percent of seats for women in the grassroots village-level community institutions (VECs).

### Meghalaya govt. plans to launch 'Restart Meghalaya Mission', says CM Conrad K Sangma

- A 'Restart Meghalaya Mission' was launched by chief minister Conrad K Sangma. This mission comprises a series of programs to support our farmers, and entrepreneurs and to build growth promoting basic infrastructure and services.

### Meghalaya plans to provide tap connection to all rural households by December, 2022

- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** launched by Central Government last year aims to provide "Functional Household Tap Connection" (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.
- **Meghalaya** proposed **100% tap connections** to all the households by **December, 2022**. Government of India approved **Rs.175 crore** for implementation of JJM in 2020-21.

### North East's first-ever Ginger Processing Plant in Meghalaya

- **North East's first-ever specialised "Ginger" Processing Plant** at district **Ri-Bhoui in Meghalaya** is being revived and is likely to become functional in the beginning of 2021.
- The **NERAMAC** has now undertaken the responsibility of reviving it and initiated steps to operationalize the closed Plant through PPP mode.
- It will also have a wider demand and this will also be in keeping with **Prime Minister Modi's calls for "Vocal for Local"**.

### India International Cherry Blossom Festival in Shillong cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

- **India International Cherry Blossom Festival**, the calendar event of **Meghalaya** which attracts record number of tourists annually in **Shillong**, has been cancelled this year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
- These beautiful flowers can be spotted across Meghalaya during this time of the year.

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### Meghalaya partners with Israel to set up centre of excellence on high-value vegetables

- **Meghalaya government** has decided to partner with **Israel** for establishing a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** on **high value vegetables** in the state.
- The CoE is vital to tap the diverse bio-diversity and resources available in the State in terms of its soil and agro-climatic conditions.

### Meghalaya CM launches 'micro ATM' service in rural areas

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma launched the 'micro ATM' service in rural areas of the state.
- He distributed the handheld devices, through which money could be withdrawn, to banking correspondent agents (BCA).

### Mizoram

#### Harsimrat Kaur Badal Inaugurates Mega Food Park In Mizoram

- Food Processing Minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated a mega food park in Mizoram that has been set up at a cost of **Rs 75 crore** and will benefit **25,000 farmers** as well as generate **5,000 job opportunities**.
- The **55-acre food park, located at village-Khamrang in Kolasib District**, Mizoram, is promoted by **Zoram Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd**. This is the first mega food park operationalized in the state.

#### Mizoram CM Launches Employment Generation Project to assist Migrant Workers

- The Chief Minister of Mizoram Zoramathanga launched an employment generation project, "Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers project", in the state to assist migrant workers who lost their job in the Covid-19 pandemic. The total outlay of the project is Rs 3.3 crores under Mizoram Youth Commission (MYC). The project will be funded by North East Council.

### Nagaland

#### Nagaland launches Naga Telehealth platform

- The **Nagaland** health and family welfare department launched the **Naga Telehealth platform** in **Kohima**.
- Launched in partnership with **USTATED NISHTHA-Jhpiego**, the platform is aimed at ensuring that even the people living in the most remote places have access to qualified medical practitioners and specialists.

#### Nagaland Cm Launches E-Commerce Platform 'Yellowchain'

- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched an e-commerce platform 'Yellowchain' during the State level celebration of India's Independence Day at Secretariat Plaza, Kohima.
- Yellowchain is a single window e-commerce platform developed by Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) to promote local business and entrepreneurship, a DIPR report informed.

#### Nagaland launches livelihood generation programme for returnees



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- The Nagaland Government launched a **livelihood generation programme** for those returning to the state due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- As per the portal, the eligibility criteria for the programme are:
  1. The returnee should be an Indigenous Migrant Worker from Nagaland.
  2. The returnee should have registered with the State COVID-19 returnees' portal.
  3. The Migrant worker Returnee should have reached Nagaland via Special Train, Airway, or Roadway between May 22 - August 6, 2020.
  4. The Migrant Worker Returnee should have release documents or certificate from the assigned Quarantine Centres.

### Nagaland Minister for Health & Family Welfare launches handbook on “TB Harega, Desh Jeetega”

- **Nagaland Minister for Health and Family Welfare** , Mr. S. Pangnyu Phom launched a handbook on “**TB Harega, Desh Jeetega**” .
- The government's commitment to **end Tuberculosis by 2025** in the country.

### Nagaland's Hornbill Festival to be celebrated virtually amid pandemic

- The **Nagaland government** has decided to celebrate the popular **Hornbill festival** virtually this year, amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the country.
- The department of tourism stated the annual festival would be observed over audiovisual media channels and social media platforms this time, and people can enjoy the tribal dance performances sitting at home.

### North Police Station in Kohima receives an ISO certification

- **North Police Station Kohima** in **Nagaland** has been awarded an **ISO certification**. The Police station is located in the heart of Kohima Town which was the **first established police station** under Naga Hills district by the British Regime in the year 1933. Presently, the North Police station is headed by an Inspector rank officer-in-charge and 88 other ranks.

### Centre announces Nagaland 'disturbed area' for six months

- The entire state of Nagaland has been declared a disturbed area for **six more months**.
- It said, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by **Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958**, the Central government declares that whole of the State of Nagaland to be disturbed area for a period of six months.

## Odisha

### Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Launches First Of Its Kind Garima Scheme For Sanitation Workers

- **Odisha government** launched a **statewide initiative for the safety and dignity** of the **core sanitation workers** in the state.
- '**Garima**' scheme aims at providing **social security and financial benefits to the workers** and **their families**. An initial corpus fund of **Rs 50 crore** will be created for which the state government has proposed to set up a state commission for sanitation workers.



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### Odisha Govt to launch Radio Pathshala program for students upto class 8

- **Odisha Government** is launching **Radio Pathshala program** for students upto class 8. The program will be broadcast from All India Radio stations in the state for 15 minutes daily.
- The audio of the program will also be made available on the **online DIKSHA platform** for the students for whom schools have been kept out of bounds.

### Odisha to be slum-free in three years: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

- The **slum upgradation and de-listing initiative** aims at improving the living conditions of 18 lakh slum dwellers by providing them with piped water supply, paved roads, storm water drains, street lights, sanitation, household electricity, community spaces and recreational areas.

### Odisha CM Launches Online Portal To Issue Fire Safety Certificates

- **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** launched the **Odisha Agni-Shama Seva online** portal for issuance of fire safety certificates to different categories of buildings through online mode. **Eight services** would be available to the public through online mode.

### Odisha to Promulgate Ordinance to Enhance Punishment for Non-Compliance of Covid-19 regulations

- State Cabinet of Odisha approved the various amendments to the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 which will enhance the penalty for violators of the COVID-19 regulations. In Accordance with the Ordinance, non-compliance of regulations will attract Imprisonment for a term, which may be extended to two years or with fine which can be extended upto Rupees One Lakh or with both.

### Odisha Introduces Scheme to Promote Bio-Floc Fish Farming Technology

- Fisheries and Animal Resources Department of the Odisha Government has rolled out a new scheme to promote intensive Aquaculture through bio-floc technology in fisheries.
- . Introducing the scheme, the State Government provides a subsidy of 40 per cent subsidy while 60 per cent subsidy is provided to SC and ST beneficiaries.

### Odisha Cabinet Approved 20 Proposals including 4 Mega Drinking Water Projects

- Odisha cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved four mega drinking water projects in its Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Gajapati and Cuttack districts worth Rs 800.27 crore.
- These projects will provide drinking water to 6.07 lakh additional population in 911 villages in these districts.

### Odisha Launches 'Balaram' Yojana To Provide Crop Loan To Landless Farmers

- Odisha government launched '**Balaram Yojana**' to provide crop loans to landless farmers. Under the new scheme the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs).
- Under the '**Balaram**' scheme, the government has set a target to provide farm loans to **7 lakh landless farmers in next two years**. It has set aside **Rs 1,040 crore** for the purpose.

### Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches eight web solutions for public services under 5T initiatives

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- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched **eight technology driven solutions** under 5T initiatives for Home and General Administration departments and extended the deadline for online delivery of public services to October 2 from August 15 in view of the pandemic.
- The **5T model of governance** along with Mo Sarkar has improved the quality of governance and eased delivery of public services.

### Odisha partners with Coursera to upskill 50,000 unemployed youth

- The **Odisha Skills Development Authority** has partnered with online learning platform Coursera to train **50,000 unemployed youth** during the Covid-19 crisis.
- The partnership is part of the global rollout of Coursera's **Workforce Recovery Initiative**, where any state and country can provide unemployed workers with free access to online learning, the company mentioned in its official release.

### Transgender Community In Odisha To Receive Pension Under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana

- The **Odisha Government** included transgender community under **Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)** which provides financial assistance to poor elderly, differently-abled persons and widows in the state.
- Under MBPY scheme, nearly **5,000 transgenders** will receive **Rs 500, Rs 700 and 900 per month** as pension under various categories depending on their age.
- The beneficiaries are required to have a certificate issued under **Section 6 of the Transgender Persons Act 2019**.

### Odisha Government to Implement an Initiative 'Sabuja Odisha' to Increase Green Cover through Extensive Plantation

- Odisha government in a high-level meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy decided to implement a new initiative 'Sabuja Odisha'. The initiative will increase green cover through extensive plantations over 1,30,264 Hectares of land.

### Odisha launches career portal for students in collaboration with UNICEF

- The **Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha** in collaboration with **UNICEF** has launched a career portal for Secondary and Higher Secondary students to help them with expert advice on their future careers.
- **Samir Ranjan Dash**, Odisha's School and Mass Education Launched the **Odisha Career Portal**.
- The portal can be accessed through the website **www.odishacareerportal.com** with the student login ID and password.

### Odisha Govt school students to get quota for admission into medical & engineering colleges

- Students who studied in government schools in **Odisha** will now get the quota in admission into **MBBS and BTECH** in colleges of the state.
- A decision to this effect was taken by the **state cabinet**.
- According to the decision, a high level committee under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the **Odisha High Court** will be constituted to establish the modalities to implement the policy.

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### Odisha got Union Cabinet approval for project to enhance facilities at Paradip port

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the project 'Deepening and Optimization of Inner Harbour Facilities including Development of Western Dock on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode to handle cape size vessels at Paradip Port'.
- The estimated cost of the project is **Rs.3,004.63 Crore**.

### Odisha hosts 9th International Sand Art festival and 31st Konark Dance festival

- Odisha government's tourism department has organised the 9th edition of International Sand Art festival at Chandrabhaga Beach in Odisha's Puri district and parallelly the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of Konark dance festival following the COVID-19 protocols. Theme of 2020 event- "environment" and "COVID-19".

### Odisha Government launches 2nd Edition of Eco-Retreat programme at 5 locations

- Tourism Department of Odisha launched the 2nd Edition of its flagship "Eco-Retreat" programme – Eco-Retreat 2020 at five locations in Odisha – Konark, Bhitarkanika, Daringibadi, Hirakud and Satokosia.
- They will be open to Tourists till February 28, 2021.

### Odisha government adds fish nutrition to anganwadi diet chart

- **Odisha government** introduced **fish and fish-based products** in **Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)** on a pilot basis in order to **reduce malnutrition** among the vulnerable people in the hard to reach areas of the State.
- The **Department of Women and Child Development** and **Mission Shakti (WCD&MS)** inked a pact with **WorldFish** for a **five-year technical collaboration** to pilot and scale it up as part of the SNP. The **US Agency for International Development (USAID)** is supporting the pilot project.

### Odisha Assembly passes 'Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020'

- **Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill-2020** was passed by the state assembly. The bill seeks to amend the existing Act of **1988** to prohibit strikes by employees of essential services in the state.
- According to the provisions of the amended bill, persons resorting to or found instigating or funding illegal strikes may face imprisonment upto **one year or a fine upto Rs. five thousand** or both.

### Odisha CM Naveen Virtually Launches 'Sujal'- Drink From Tap Mission Initiative

- **Chief minister Naveen Patnaik** virtually launched the "Drink from the tap Mission-Sujal", an initiative under the 5T model of governance, that aimed to ensure **24x7 safe and quality drinking water to the people** in urban areas.
- **Bhubaneswar is the first city in the country** (over 10 lakh population) to have **100 percent piped water facility**. By **March 2022**, households in all urban areas will have piped water connection.

### Govt partners with FICCI for Make-in-Odisha 2020

- **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** has been selected as the national industry partner for the **third edition** of 'Make in Odisha' conclave, the flagship industrial summit of Odisha Government that showcases the State as an industrial power house and a preferred investment destination in the country.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### Odisha CM Patnaik launches web portals for student scholarships, inter-caste marriage incentives

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched two web portals - **Integrated Odisha State Scholarship Portal** to help eligible **students of the state avail scholarship** avail benefits in a seamless and transparent manner, and **Sumangal Portal**, to help people avail **inter-caste marriage incentives**.
- Rs 2.5 lakh can be availed for beneficiaries within 60 days of applying at the portal.

### Punjab

#### Punjab Cricket Association's new international stadium to be named after Patiala's last ruler

- The Punjab Cricket Association has decided to name its new stadium in Mullanpur.
- Mullanpur International Cricket Stadium officially Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium is an under construction cricket stadium in New Chandigarh, Mohali district, Punjab.

#### Punjab govt distributes free smartphones to class 12 students

- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched a state-wide Rs 92 crore 'Punjab Smart Connect Scheme' that aims at providing more than 1.74 lakh class XII students with smartphones by November 2020.
- The scheme will benefit a total of 1,74,015 Class XII students of government schools in the first phase.

#### Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches 'Pride of Punjab' partnership of State Govt, YuWaah for youth development

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh launched the 'Pride of Punjab' programme through video conferencing. The programme is a partnership programme between the Department of Youth Services and Sports and YuWaah – a joint initiative of UNICEF, other UN agencies, civil society organisations and the private sector.

#### Punjab Police to hire civilian domain experts to deal with complex probes

- Punjab will be **India's first state to recruit civilians** as domain experts in its police force.
- **At least 798 specialists** will be hired directly as plainclothes support staff in the department's Bureau of Investigation (BoI) which will get a qualitative edge with the induction of a total of 4,251 personnel across different ranks as part of a restructuring of the police department.

#### Punjab govt signs MoU with IIT Ropar for skill development

- The **Punjab government** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar**, in the area of skill development.
- The institute will also help the state in developing a model **ITI and a model polytechnic**.

#### Punjab CM digitally launches construction of 750 rural stadiums

- Punjab Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** digitally launched the construction of **750 rural stadiums** and playgrounds in the state.

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- The 750 stadiums are being built at a cost of **Rs105 crore** in rural areas under the state government's rural transformation strategy and "**Tandarust Punjab Mission**, an official statement stated.
- The government has set a target of minimum five stadiums per block to be completed in 2020-21, it added.

### Punjab to launch its own SC post-matric scholarship scheme

- **The Punjab Cabinet** to launch its own **Scheduled Caste Post Matric Scholarship Scheme** in place of the Centre's scheme, in order to facilitate **students to pursue higher education in government and private institutions**.
- With this, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced an increase in income criteria from **earlier Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 4 lakh** to accommodate more Scheduled Caste (SC) students.
- The Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, approved the **Dr BR Ambedkar SC Post Matric Scholarship Scheme**, to be effective from **2021-22**.
- The total financial implication of the proposal is estimated to be about **Rs 600 crore**.

### Punjab to launch special scheme for physically challenged

- The Punjab state cabinet cleared a new scheme, the **Punjab Divyangjan Shaktikaran Yojana (PDSY)**, to be implemented in a phased manner with the first phase of the scheme aimed at strengthening the existing programmes to ensure their benefits reach people with disabilities.
- This was decided at a virtual cabinet meeting chaired by **chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh in Chandigarh**.

## Rajasthan

### MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Technology Centre at Bhiwadi in Rajasthan

- **Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **Technology Centre at Bhiwadi in Alwar District of Rajasthan** through video conferencing.
- Mr Gadkari stated, the manufacturing sector contributes around 22 to 24 per cent in the GDP of the country. The Government is establishing **15 new Technology Centres** and upgrading existing 18 Centres to create skilled human resources.

### SVP Group inks MoU with Rajasthan govt to invest Rs 4,000 cr in aviation, textile sectors

- The Rajasthan government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ShriVallabh Pittie (SVP) International Group** for development of facilities related to aviation, defence and textile sectors.

### Rajasthan government signs pact with SIDBI to develop MSME ecosystem

- **Rajasthan's Department of Industries** and **SIDBI** will work together to provide **financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs** in the state.
- Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) provide maximum employment opportunities and also have an effective share in exports.

### Gehlot approves "Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020"



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- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation's scheme to allow free bus travel to two members of a family to immerse ashes of their loved ones in the Ganga in Haridwar.
- The state road transport corporation would be the nodal agency to run the scheme, named "Moksha Kalash Yojana-2020".

### Rajasthan solar shines bright amidst gloom, adds max capacity in FY20 in India

- According to a recent survey of states by JMK Research and Analytics, Rajasthan has added maximum capacity of 1,745 megawatt solar plants in the country in 2019-20, followed by Karnataka (1,443 MW) and Tamil Nadu (1,342 MW).

### Government of Rajasthan Approves 5% Reservation in Judicial Service for MBC

- The Government of Rajasthan approved the 5% reservations to the More Backward Classes(MBC) in the state judicial service.
- The Rajasthan government amended the Rajasthan Judicial Service Rules 2010 through the cabinet of Rajasthan on the initiative of Ashok Gehlot, chief Minister of Rajasthan to provide 5% reservation in the state judicial service for the More Backward Classes(MBC) instead of 1%.

### Jaipur to get world's 3rd largest cricket stadium, With capacity of 75,000

- Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) secretary Mahendra Sharma stated the stadium will be spread over 100 acres. He stated the land has been finalised in Chonp village, 25 km from Jaipur on the Jaipur-Delhi highway. He stated construction is expected to begin in the next four months.
- This will be the third largest stadium after the Motera stadium in Ahmedabad.

### Rajasthan launches campaign to ensure purity of milk, dairy products

- A week-long campaign has been launched in Rajasthan to ensure purity of milk and its products.
- Samples of milk and dairy products will be collected under the campaign "Pure for Sure".
- Information related to samples will be provided by the food safety officers on the FSSAI app.

### One-stop' scheme to fast-track investments

- A "one-stop shop" scheme approved in Rajasthan is set to fast-track investments and help revive industries in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic by giving as many as 98 types of clearances under one roof to the potential investors through the Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP).
- The new scheme will expedite all the processes for investment proposals above Rs.10 crore.

### Rajasthan govt launches month long mass awareness campaign on COVID-19

- The Government of Rajasthan has launched a month long mass awareness campaign on COVID 19.
- The state government has decided to distribute one crore masks to protect the public from COVID infection. He informed that the corona testing facility is available at 38 places in the state.



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### 8000MW renewable park to light up India-Pak border areas in Rajasthan

- India's border areas with Pakistan in **Rajasthan** would soon be illuminated with renewable energy as the state government will soon ink an MoU with **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** and **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** to establish **Ultra Mega Renewal Energy Power Park**, government officials stated.
- The **Rajasthan government** had also approved a proposal for setting up solar power parks to generate 10,000 MW green energy with an investment of **Rs 50,000 crore**.

### Rajasthan govt to give Rs 6,000 to women becoming mothers for second time

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot stated **Rs 6,000** will be given to women becoming mothers for the second time under a new government scheme. He stated the beneficiary women will get the amount directly in their bank accounts in **five phases**.
- There will be an annual expenditure of **Rs 43 crore** for the scheme, according to the statement.

## Sikkim

### ITBP launches cycling expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim

- The **Eleventh Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** launched a **cycling expedition** from its **Pegong base** in **Sikkim** to border villages of the state.
- The **18 member team of ITBP** will cover difficult terrain in the expedition. Most of the members are highly trained mountaineers and rescuers.

### SIFCO begins construction of integrated food processing units in Sikkim

- In a boost to **organic farming** and food production in **Sikkim**, IFFCO's organic joint venture, **Sikkim IFFCO Organics Ltd. or SIFCO**, has initiated construction of two integrated food processing units at **Rangpo, East Sikkim**. The project would be completed by October 2021 at a cost of around 50 crore rupees.
- All products will be 100 per cent organic certified. This is expected to promote sustainable agriculture and promote **Green Himalayan Economy** through Sikkim, which is already recognized as a 100 per cent organic state.

## Tamil Nadu

### Tamil Nadu Govt constitutes 7- member panel to look into NEP-2020

- The **Tamil Nadu Government** has constituted a **seven member panel** to look into the **National Education Policy-2020**.

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- The committee will be headed by the state education department principal secretary **Dheeraj Kumar** with **six former vice chancellors** as the members.

### Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu selected as fully Digital Economy district

- **Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu**, which houses a large number of small and medium enterprises, especially in the fire crackers and allied sectors, has been selected by the Central Government as the state's **first Fully Digital Economy district**.
- All industrial units and commercial establishments in the district are at present implementing various forms of **cashless transactions**.

### Tamil Nadu govt releases policy for electronics & hardware manufacturing

- **Tamil Nadu government** announced a **new electronics & hardware manufacturing policy** to increase the State's electronics industry output to **\$100 billion by 2025**.
- The policy also undertakes skill training for more than 1,00,000 people (semi-skilled and skilled) by 2024 to meet the incremental human resource requirement projected by NSDC for Tamil Nadu in Electronics and Hardware Manufacturing sector.

### Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi Palaniswami launched portal for Eye Donation

- Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami launched the website [www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor](http://www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor) designed by the **National Health Mission Tamil Nadu** to help donors.
- He has pledged to donate his eyes during National Eye Donation Fortnight in Tamil Nadu.

### 111th Birth Anniversary of 1st CM of Tamil Nadu C. N. Annadurai being celebrated

- **On Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2020** is the **111th Birth Anniversary** of the **first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu C. N. Annadurai**, popularly known as **Arignar Anna**.
- He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1963 to 1967.
- The Tamil University in Thanjavoor has announced a 50 per cent discount sale of its prestigious publications in connection with Anna Birth Anniversary.

### TN to launch SkillTech varsity for varied courses

- **Tamil Nadu** is taking the lead in imparting students with training on future skills, with plans to launch a **SkillTech University** to offer courses in different sectors, including automotive and power. **SkillTech University** will be an online platform and will be beneficial to all stakeholders, including government, industries and students.
- A blueprint of SkillTech University was launched at CII Connect 2020. SkillTech will have courses on automotive, power, manufacturing, health care and construction.

### One Nation One Ration card system to be rolled out in Tamil Nadu on Oct 1

- **One Nation One Ration card system** will be rolled out in **Tamil Nadu** on **October 1st** of this year.
- The national rollout of a 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system in **all states and Union Territories** by **March 2021**.

### Tamil Nadu becomes first state to unveil ethical AI, blockchain, cybersecurity policies in country

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- **Tamil Nadu** becomes the first state to come out with **Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies** in the country.
- The project will be implemented by establishing and leveraging the **State Family Data Base (SFDB) and Block-Chain Backbone infrastructure**.
- The platform '**Nambikkai Inaiyam**' (**Blockchain Backbone**) would help establish a single trusted source that would be used to create an efficient and manipulation resilient system for government services.

### TN govt forms 12-member panel to study new EIA draft

- Tamil Nadu government has constituted a 12-member State-level committee to look into all aspects of merits and demerits of the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020, issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The EIA is a process to evaluate the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development taking into account socio-economic; cultural and human-health impacts.

### TN CM orders Rs 3,000 stipend for junior lawyers

- Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami announced a monthly stipend of Rs 3,000 to newly enrolled junior lawyers for two years to help them overcome financial difficulties in pursuit of their profession.

### Tamil Nadu tops market borrowings among States so far, in 2020-21

- Tamil Nadu has raised Rs.30,500 crore in the fiscal 2020-21 and has topped market borrowings among States in the country. Tamil Nadu has accounted for 17% of the borrowings done through the issue of bonds, known as state development loans, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- With borrowings of Rs.25,500 crore, Maharashtra accounted for 14%, followed by Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh at 17% each, as per the data.

### Tamil Nadu launches television-based learning programme for 10th standard students

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy has launched a television-based learning programme for the Tenth standard students.
- The move is aimed at helping students to continue their studies through the alternative method until the schools reopen.

### TN govt inks 8 MoUs, attracts over Rs 10,000 cr investments

- Tamil Nadu government inked MoUs with eight companies involving an investment of more than Rs 10,000 crore and creating more than 13,000 jobs.
- The new projects to come up in Kanchipuram, Coimbatore, Ranipet, Villupuram, Chengalpet and Erode districts involved a total investment of Rs 10,399 crores and would create 13,507 new jobs.

### Tamil Nadu govt launches web portal for unorganised sector workers

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- Tamil Nadu Government has announced that the unorganized sector workers can now join the state-run welfare boards through a dedicated web portal.

### Tamil Nadu CM launches free mask plan for ration card holders

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Palaniswami launched a free mask distribution scheme to benefit over 69 lakh families in the first phase, as part of measures to help fight COVID-19.

### Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami lays foundation for Rs 2,368 worth projects

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami has laid the foundation stone for the construction work on eight new industrial projects that would come up in the state for an investment of Rs 2,368 crore,. Besides, he inaugurated 11 completed projects which fetched Rs 3,185 crore investment.
- The projects for which the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone included International Tech Park Chennai (ITPC) promoted by the CapitaLand group-a Rs 1,500 crore project and TATA Chemicals' silica manufacturing unit in Cuddalore SIPCOT Industrial Park with an investment of Rs 350 crore.

### TN & WEF to set up advanced manufacturing hub

- **Guidance**, has partnered with **World Economic Forum** to establish **India's first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB)** in the State.
- The **Advanced Manufacturing HUB or AMHUB** is one of the 19 platforms **designed by the WEF**.

### Tamil Nadu govt implements Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 govt schools

- **Tamil Nadu government** is implementing the **Smart Black Board scheme** in **80,000 government schools** to ensure better teaching environment.
- The **Smart Black Board scheme** envisages usage of **audio visual teaching material** that can be fed into the computer screens in classes using widely available pen drives.
- The central government has also launched a similar scheme called as **Operation Digital Board Scheme**.

### Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi Palaniswami lays foundation for nine industrial projects worth Rs 10,000 cr

- **Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami** laid the foundation for **nine new industrial projects** with an investment of **Rs 10,062 crore** and to provide employment opportunities for around 8,666 people.
- He also commissioned commercial production in seven industrial units with an investment of Rs 1,298 crore which provides employment opportunities for 7,879 persons.

### Foundation laid for the following nine industrial units

- Adani Gas (Rs.2,000 crore investment and job opportunities for 1000)
- Philips Carbon Black Limited (Rs.600 crore investment - jobs for 300)
- Dindigul Energy Private Limited Phase-II (Kalpathi AGS Group) (Rs.300 crore investment - jobs for 500)
- Aquasub Engineering (Rs 300 crore investment - jobs for 400)
- Vikram Solar (Rs 5,512 crore investment - jobs for 4,738)

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- Integrated Chennai Business Park (DP World) (Rs 1,000 crore investment - jobs for 1,100)
- Shreevari Energy Systems Private Limited (Rs 250 crore investment - jobs for 228)
- Chennai SSSS Equipments (Rs 50 crore investment - jobs for 400)
- Hyundai (Rs 150 crore investment)

### Young Advocates Welfare Fund launched in Tamil Nadu

- In Tamil Nadu, the **Young Advocates Welfare Fund** has been launched. It provides a monthly financial assistance of **three thousand rupees** each for **two years** to the lawyers who just come out of law colleges.
- The Young Advocates Welfare Scheme is aimed at helping such fresh candidates to withstand the initial challenges.

### Tamil Nadu fisherman starts India's first radio channel exclusively for fisherfolk

- A fisherman from the Ramanathapuram district's Pamban town has started '**Kadal Osai FM 90.4**', India's first and only radio channel for fisherfolk.
- It offers infotainment to listeners - from information on marine and COVID-19 to folk songs sung by fishermen/women and film songs.
- Armstrong Fernando, a fisherman from Pamban used to listen to the radio since his childhood.

### Tamil Nadu, HCL to set up disaster management analytics centre

- Tamil Nadu government and HCL will set up a **Disaster Management – Data Analytics Centre** to strengthen the **State's disaster management efforts** in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, stated Industry Minister MC Sampath.

### Puducherry govt rolls out free breakfast scheme for school students named after Karunanidhi

- The Congress-ruled Puducherry rolled out a **free breakfast scheme for school students named after the late DMK President M Karunanidhi**.

Senior DMK leader and Rajya Sabha member from Tamil Nadu, RS Bharathi, formally inaugurated the **"Dr Kalaignar Mu Karunanidhi Kaalai Sitrundi Thittam"** (Dr Kalaignar M Karunanidhi breakfast scheme) that will benefit about 80,000 students in 419 government and aided institutions.

### 5 kg of 'chana' free as COVID-19 relief

- The beneficiaries of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**, as covered under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** and the priority household (PHH) cards, totalling around one crore cards, will be given 5 kg of 'chana'. Those who are part of the 97.9 lakh non-priority household (NPHH) cards will receive 1 kg of 'tur dal'.
- The measure will cost the State government around Rs.30 crore, according to an official of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.

### Madras High Court gets 10 additional judges

- The President of India, in exercise of the power conferred by clause (l) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, appointed Justices S/Shri Govindarajulu Chandrasekharan, A.A. Nakkiran, Veerasamy Sivagnanam, Ganesan Ilangovan, Sathi Kumar Sukumara Kurup, Murali Shankar Kuppuraju, Miss Manjula Ramaraju Nalliah and Smt. Tamilselvi T. Valayapalayam, would be for a period of two years.

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### Telangana

#### Telangana Assembly passes TS-bPASS Bill

- The **Telangana State Building Permission Approval and Self Certification System (TS-bPASS) Bill**, was passed in the Assembly enabling a self-certification system to make citizens responsible for compliance with building and layout permission rules
- Like **TS-iPASS**, under **TS-bPASS**, individual residential building permissions are given instantly online based on **self certification**.

#### Telangana Minister Launches Farm Cooperative Society Website

- Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao (KTR) launched the **Primary Agricultural Co-Operative Society (PACS), Pothgal web portal**. The minister launched the web portal: [www.pacspothgal.com](http://www.pacspothgal.com)
- This society is located in Pothgal village of Mustabad Mandal in Rajanna Siricilla District.

#### Telangana launches iMASQ mobile covid-19 testing centers

- The Telangana government has rolled out mobile covid-19 testing centers in containment zones and low income group residential areas across the state.
- In the first set, 20 mobile testing facilities were pressed into service in the GHMC area. Equipped with advanced technology, each bus has 10 sample collection counters and antigen test results will be notified to the individuals within a few minutes.

#### Telangana launches Artificial Intelligence to help in farming

- Telangana government launched its Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Innovation (AI4AI) programme.
- The programme will be held in collaboration with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), World Economic Forum, India.

#### Telangana Police Launch 'CybHER' Campaign To Tackle Cybercrime Against Women, Children

- Telangana Police launched a month-long virtual awareness campaign 'CybHER' in the wake of cybercrime against the women and children in the state.
- Women Safety Wing, Telangana Police has launched 'CybHER' campaign, to make cyberspace safe for women and children.

#### Telangana govt undertakes door-to-door survey to update non-agricultural property details through NAP app

- The state government has deployed teams of municipal staff to visit every single household to gather the property details through an app to update them on the **Dharani portal**. The government has decided to issue **non-agricultural property record (NAGPR)** to the owners as a comprehensive ownership document.
- The program has been taken up to update all current property details to simplify future registrations, according to officials. The properties are identified on the basis of **property tax identification number (PTIN)**.

#### Telangana CM launches revamped Dharani portal to end corruption during land registration



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- **Telangana government** launched the **Dharani portal**, a first of its kind in the country, for storing digitised land records and registration of properties.
- The portal, which can be accessed from anywhere in the world, will allow people to access property information, book slots for registration of land.
- It will take 15-20 days for the registration of non-agricultural properties to commence.

### Details of the Project:

- **Dharani project**, the Telangana government's **online facility for enlistment of non-agricultural properties**, has been conceptualised as a comprehensive system for safeguarding ownership and streamlining transactions related to immovable properties in the state.
- A digital database of **agricultural properties** has already been created and **Pattadar passbooks** (green) have been issued. Now, a similar database is proposed to be created for **non-agricultural properties** for which maroon colour Non-Agriculture Immovable Property Passbooks (NPBs) will be issued.
- The **maroon passbooks** will be printed with state-of-the-art security features.
- Property owners can access the portal and update details on their own using the URL **www.npb.telangana.gov.in** and also register at **MeeSeva centres**.
- This facility of enlisting properties at MeeSeva will be available free.

### COVID-19 testing laboratory inaugurated at Rajiv Gandhi Intl Airport in Hyderabad

- In **Telangana**, a **COVID-19 testing laboratory** has been set up at the **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport** in **Hyderabad**. State Health Minister E. Rajender inaugurated the lab.
- The airport has partnered with an **ICMR-certified laboratory** called, **Mapmygenome**, for setting up the laboratory, which will operate 24/7 for passengers and airport personnel.

### KTR launches TS-bPASS, simplifies building clearance

- **Telangana Municipal Administration** Minister KT Rama Rao has launched the **TS-bPASS initiative**.
- **TS-bPASS** provides an instant approval for buildings in plots of **above 75 sq yards** and upto 600 sq yards, based on self certification.

### India's first IoT enabled Smart Trolleys at GMR Hyderabad International Airport

- **GMR Hyderabad International Airport** has gone **digital** by envisioning an airport platform using the **Internet of Things (IoT)**. Walking on the steps of the Government of India's flagship **Digital India Programme**, it has modified its services and operations making Hyderabad a harbinger of Smart Airport City.
- The GMR Hyderabad has deployed '**IoT enabled smart baggage trolleys**', for the comfort of passengers. It will make it easier for the passengers to track and maintain the baggage trolleys in real-time across the airport.

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### TRS emerges as single largest party in GHMC polls

- In Telangana, the ruling **Telangana Rastra Samithi (TRS)** has emerged as the **largest party** in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation election.

The -TRS won 55 of the 150 division-GHMC elections while the BJP got 48 wards and the AIMIM led by Asaduddin Owaisi secured 44

### Tripura

#### Tripura receives first ever inland shipping cargo from Bangladesh

- The Daukandi (Bangladesh) - Sonamura (Tripura) Inland Waterway Protocol route was operationalised marking a milestone in India-Bangladesh relations.
- The inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of the Gumti river (93 km) as a new route in the Protocol will improve the connectivity of Tripura and the adjoining States with Indian and Bangladesh's economic centers and will help the hinterland of both the countries.

#### Tripura: Wildlife researchers rediscover 'Ypthima watsoni' butterfly after 61 years

- In Tripura, a team of wildlife researchers has rediscovered 'Ypthima watsoni' butterfly commonly known as 'Looped three-ring' after 61 years near a village called Phuldungsei in Jampui Hills under the North Tripura district.
  - These researchers constantly survey the butterflies in North-East India to document current populations, distributions, and status of butterflies for the past five years.

### Uttarakhand

#### India's first snow leopard conservation centre to come up in Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand state forest department will open India's first conversation centre for snow leopards in Uttarakashi district.
- The centre will come up at Lanka in Bhairoghhati area of Uttarkashi forest division. It will be built by the Uttarakhand forest department along with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems SECURE Himalayas.

#### Char Dham Yatra 2020 begins in Uttarakhand

- Char Dham Yatra 2020 began in Uttarakhand. The four sacred Char Dham sites - Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri - shall open for the devotees.
- Only residents of Uttarakhand will get the E-passes that will be valid only for the darshan at the temple during the visit to the shrine.

#### Pawan Hans Launches First UDAN-RCS Service In Uttarakhand

- Flagging off the first helicopter service by **Pawan Hans** in **Uttarakhand under the UDAN-RCS scheme** stated that launch of the heli service and opening of these new routes will bring people of the state closer and support tourism in the region.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- This service will enable connectivity between Dehradun, New Tehri, Srinagar and Gauchar.

### Gairsain declared summer capital of Uttarakhand

- **Gairsain in Chamoli district** was declared as the **summer capital of Uttarakhand**.
- The governor has granted her assent to declaring Gairsain the summer capital of Uttarakhand. It fulfills Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat's announcement about Gairsain in the Vidhan Sabha and a major promise made by the party in its manifesto for the 2017 Assembly polls.

### Union Minister Launches Five-star village postal scheme in Uttarakhand

- The Union Minister of State for Communication Sanjay Dhotre launched a five star village postal scheme to ensure the universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in Dehradun for rural areas of Uttarakhand.
- He also distributed Sukanya Samridhi Yojana passbooks, checkbooks, ATM Cards and saving bank passbooks to the beneficiaries of senior citizens welfare fund schemes.

### Uttarakhand gets its first eco-bridge for small animals

- The **Ramnagar Forest Division in Nainital District, of Uttarakhand** has constructed the state's **first eco-bridge** across Kaladhungi Nainital Highway.
- This is 90-feet-long and 5-feet-wide bridge is Uttarakhand's first eco-bridge.

### Dehradun Municipal Corporation launcheds Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO initiative

- In **Dehradun**, the Municipal Corporation has launched an initiative named **Plastic Lao MASK LE JAO** to fight against the menace of plastic waste and contain the spread of Covid-19. It has distributed **Five thousand face masks** in exchange for plastic waste.

### U'khand CM Inaugurates Dobra-Chanthi Suspension Bridge In Tehri-Garhwal

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated the **725-metre** long **Dobra-Chanthi suspension bridge** in **Tehri-Garhwal district**.
- This project is the **longest motorable single lane suspension bridge in India**.
- The bridge, opened for the public, has been built in 14 years over the Tehri lake with a cost of ₹2.95 crore.

### International bird festival to be organized in Gorakhpur

- **Gorakhpur** is all set to host the **International Bird Festival** in the month of **February**. The main focus of the government is eco-tourism, as there is a lot of potential for **eco-tourism in Gorakhpur** and the surrounding Terai region. It will be attracting many international tourists at Ramagarhtal Lake for bird watching.

### Keetham lake in Uttar Pradesh added to list of recognised sites under Ramsar Convention

- **India has 41 wetlands**, the **highest in South Asia**, with **two more added** to the list of recognised sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.
- The **Lonar lake in Maharashtra** and **Sur Sarovar**, also known as **Keetham lake**, in Agra, have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### Country's first moss garden comes up in Uttarakhand's Nainital district

- The **Uttarakhand forest department** dedicated the newly-built **Moss Garden** to the people, claiming that it is the country's **first such garden**, spread over 10 hectares in Kumaon's Nainital district.
- The moss garden, which took nearly a year to build, was inaugurated by **Water Man of India Rajendra Singh**.

### Uttarakhand wildlife board clears proposal to de-notify elephant reserve

- The **Uttarakhand State Wildlife Advisory Board** approved the de-notification of **Shivalik Elephant Reserve** as an **elephant reserve** to pave way for the expansion of the **Dehradun airport project**, stated forest officials.
- In September, the state government wrote to the union environment ministry for obtaining prior approval under **Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** for non-forestry use of 87.0815 hectares of forest land for "expansion of the Jolly Grant Airport." This land is within the Shivalik Elephant Reserve. Officials estimate that about 10,000 trees will be cut for the expansion.

### Uttarakhand CM inaugurates first Pirul power project

- Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** recently inaugurated a **25-kilowatt capacity project** worth Rs. 25 lakhs for generating electricity using **Pirul (dry pine needles)** at **Chakon Dhanari** village in Dunda block of Uttarkashi district.
- The Chief Minister underlined that Uttarakhand, which currently purchases electricity worth Rs 1,000 crores stated such projects will also help the state financially.

### Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat launches Saur Swarojgar Yojana to generate self-employment for youth, migrants

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched the **Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana** for self-employment by solar energy farming at the **Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali auditorium** in **Dehradun**.
- The Yojana aims at **creating self-employment** for nearly **10,000 youths** in the state.
- The beneficiaries will be allocated solar plants of 25 kilowatts each. 10,000 people will get self-employment under this scheme.

### Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site

- **Asan Conservation Reserve** has become **Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site**, making it a '**Wetland of International Importance**', announced the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state.
- "Ramsar declares Asan Conservation Reserve as a site of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 38, the highest in South Asia and Uttarakhand gets its first Ramsar site," tweeted the environment ministry. It cleared the category on species and ecological communities, one on water-birds and another on fish.

### Uttarakhand CM Rawat Launches Integrated Model Agricultural Village Scheme

- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated **Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana)** in the state in **partnership with NABARD**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme is a concept which will prove to be a milestone in **strengthening the economy of farmers and doubling their income**.
- The limit for interest free loan given to farmers is being hiked to Rs 3 lakh from Rs 2 lakh.

### Uttar Pradesh

#### UP govt decides to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district

- **Uttar Pradesh** government has decided to set up **exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations** in every district of state to address the problem of frequent cases of power theft.

#### Uttar Pradesh to create Udyog Bandhu-like body for farmers

- **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** is all set to create a dedicated body, on the lines of **Udyog Bandhu**, to assist enterprising **farmer producer organisations (FPOs)** in investing in projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farming assets with the help of the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** that the Centre had announced in August, sources revealed.
- The Central government plans to make **Rs 1 lakh crore AIF** available to banks that will finance these projects.

#### UP govt to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women SHGs

- In a major step towards self-reliance of the women in the state, **Uttar Pradesh** Government has decided to allocate outlets under **Public Distribution System** to **women self-help groups**. These are the outlets which are lying unattended in state.

#### UP government signs pact with UN for take-home-ration scheme— move to benefit nearly 200 women self help groups

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **United Nation World Food Programme** for manufacturing and distribution of **take-home ration** with the help of **Self Help Groups**.
- Funds will be distributed to small scale industries after getting profit of about **160 crore rupees**. Along with this, one big unit will also be set up in this MoU of UP World Food Program in Fatehpur and Unnao districts.

#### UP govt to constitute special force

- **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to constitute a **special force**. It will provide security to the high court, district courts, administrative offices and buildings, Metro rail, airports, banks, financial institutions, educational institutions and industrial units.

#### UP govt decides to give cows to families with malnourished children

- **Uttar Pradesh government** has decided to give **cows** to the families with **malnourished children**, which will ensure availability of milk for them. The step taken under the **'Poshan Abhiyan'** campaign will help in bringing down the level of malnourishment among children and women in the state.
- The State Government has decided to give cattle from its cow shelters in the state under the Chief Minister **Destitute Cow Participation Scheme** to the families.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### UP govt launches unified portal 'U-Rise' to guide students in learning, career counselling, employment

- The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a unified portal called '**U-Rise**' to guide students in learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the portal in **Lucknow** . He termed it historic and stated it is the biggest reform programme in the education sector after the **National Education Policy (NEP)-2020**.

### UP's First Conservation Centre For Vultures To Come Up In Gorakhpur Forest Division

- **Uttar Pradesh's first vulture conservation** and breeding centre is set to be established at **Bhari Baisi village** in Farendra range of **Gorakhpur forest division**.

### UP to set up MSME industrial parks

- Uttar Pradesh government will set up industrial parks for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in six of its most industrialised districts, including Varanasi and Kanpur, and has invited proposals from consultants for it.
- UP has decided to set up MSME parks in Varanasi, Agra, Kanpur, Moradabad, Gorakhpur and Azamgarh. The state has the largest number of MSM units in the country at 14%.

### New Electronics Manufacturing Policy announced in UP

- Uttar Pradesh government has announced it's Electronics Manufacturing Policy 2020. The policy aims at inviting investment of 40 thousand Crore rupees in next five years and generate four lakh direct employment.

### UP Govt Launches 'Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana' To Build Roads To 19 Int'l Players Houses

- Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya launched the Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana under which 19 international players from the state will get road connectivity to their houses.
- Late Cabinet Minister and former cricketer Chetan Chauhan will also have a road named after him. The initial list includes 19 players but later on, more players will be added to the scheme.

### UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches piped water project "Har Ghar Jal" for Bundelkhand region

- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath launched the ambitious piped water project "Har Ghar Jal" that means water to every house for Bundelkhand region.
- The 12 projects for which the foundation stone was laid by the Chief Minister in Jhansi are part of the "Jal Jeevan Mission" Har Ghar Jal, started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Yogi launches employment scheme for SCs

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched "Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana" for an all round development of the Scheduled Castes.
- He transferred a financial assistance of 17.42 crore online to 3,484 people under the "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana".

### UP govt decides to set up women help desk in every police station of state

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered to establish **women help desks** in **each and every police station of state**.



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The women police personnel deputed on helpdesk will not only listen to the complaints of women but will always be ready to help them anytime.
- Women Cops are also deployed at major Crossings in various big cities including state capital Lucknow. It has also made arrangements to drop working women to their homes at odd hours.

### UP govt to launch 6-month long women empowerment programme 'Mission Shakti' to raise awareness

- **Uttar Pradesh government** will launch **6-month long women** empowerment programme '**Mission Shakti**' to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state.
- Governor Anandiben Patel will launch the campaign in Lucknow while chief minister Yogi Adityanath will kick-start it in **Balrampur**.
- Six month campaign has two phases, **Mission Shakti**' and '**Operation Shakti**. Mission Shakti will feature awareness campaigns related to women's safety.

### UP Govt to establish anti-human trafficking Police Stations in each and every district

- **Uttar Pradesh Government** has decided to establish **anti-human trafficking Police Stations** in each and every district in a major step towards the security of women and children.
- These Police Stations will be given enough powers to register the case and investigate the matter independently.
- The state government is going to establish **40 new anti-trafficking units** which will work like police stations in districts and will conduct investigation after registering the cases.

### UP govt passes ordinance to ban unlawful religious conversions for marriage

- **Uttar Pradesh government** has passed an ordinance to ban **unlawful religious conversions** for marriage. Unlawful conversion for the sake of getting married through force, deceit, undue pressure or by way of alluring into marriage will come into category of non-bailable offence and can lead to imprisonment of a maximum of 10 years and penalty of 50 thousand rupees.

### Ayodhya Airport to be renamed as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport, Yogi Adityanath govt decides

- **Uttar Pradesh** Cabinet led by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has cleared the proposal to rename the **Ayodhya airport** as **Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport, Ayodhya**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** stated that the state cabinet had cleared the proposal to name the airport in Ayodhya as **Maryada Purushottam Shriram Airport, Ayodhya**.

### UP Government Okays Ambitious Ganga Expressway Project Worth Rs. 36,402 Crore

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has approved **an ambitious 594-km Ganga Expressway** project worth **Rs. 36,402 crore** running along the river from **Haridwar** to **Allahabad**.
- The Cabinet also approved a district-wise alignment of the Expressway. The government also decided to monetise the **Agra-Lucknow Expressway** for funding the ambitious Ganga Expressway project and decided to set up a high-power committee to take procedural and operational decisions to monetise the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

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### PM Modi launches 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna', 3,000 villages in Uttar Pradesh to benefit

- Prime minister **Narendra Modi** launched 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna' (tap water to every household), for **Sonbhadra** and **Mirzapur** in Vindhya region of **Uttar Pradesh** via video conference, while chief minister Yogi Adityanath was present in Sonbhadra.
- The scheme worth **Rs 5,555.38 crore** is aimed at providing water to over **41 lakh villagers** in two districts.
- Under 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna', Yogi Adityanath government will ensure water supply through pipelines to 2,995 villages in two districts in the region.

### West Bengal

#### Kolkata's first library on tram unveiled, with free Wi-Fi and book events as add-ons

- In a first, the **West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC)** introduced a **tram library** in the city's iconic College street area. It will run on the **Shyambazar-Esplanade route**.
- The library will have books, magazines and special editions of various competitive examination books to attract readers from various educational institutions along its route.

#### BHEL begins civil works at 660-MW Sagardighi power plant in West Bengal

- State-owned engineering firm BHEL has commenced civil works at 660-MW Sagardighi supercritical thermal power project in West Bengal.
- The Sagardighi thermal power station is already equipped with two sets of 500 MW installed by BHEL in 2016. BHEL has so far contributed over 80 per cent of the total coal-based generating capacity of WBPDC.

#### West Bengal government launches scheme to provide soft loans, subsidies to youth

- West Bengal government launched 'Karma Sathi Prakalpa' scheme under which one lakh unemployed youth would be provided soft loans and subsidies to make them self-reliant.

#### West Bengal Launches Pathashree Abhijan Scheme

- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** launched the **Pathashree Abhijan**, a road repair scheme.
- The government of West Bengal has collated a list of the roads that will be repaired under the new scheme after the people of the state reached out to her through the '**Didi Ke Bolo**' initiative of the government.

#### West Bengal Government Launches Campaign To Curb Elephant Deaths Due To Electrocution

- **West Bengal government** launched a **campaign** in areas adjoining **elephant habitats** in the northern part of the state.
- This campaign has been launched to **prevent electrocution deaths of elephants**.
- The campaign will focus on areas adjoining **Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara and Gorumara national parks**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### From Waste to Art: In Kolkata, a park decked up with used tyres

- **Kolkata** is set to get a **unique art installation** – a park decked up with used tyres at Esplanade area of the city. The “Tyre Park” has been conceived and developed by the West Bengal Transport Corporation.

### World's First Tramcar For Young Readers in Kolkata

- The **world's first library for children** on a **tram** would be launched in **Kolkata** on Children's Day, which is celebrated to commemorate first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary.
- The **Kolkata Young Reader's Tramcar** has been jointly developed by the **West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC)** and **Apeejay Anand Children's Library** and will have around 1,000 books.
- The tram would run on **Shyambazar-Esplanade** and **Esplanade-Gariahat routes**, spanning across North and South Kolkata.

### West Bengal govt accepts expert panel's recommendation to reduce syllabus for classes 10th and 12th for 2020-21

- The **West Bengal government** has accepted the recommendations of an **expert panel** to reduce the curriculum at **secondary and higher secondary levels** due to the pandemic.
- The syllabus reforms committee, the secondary board and higher secondary councils have suggested changes in the **Madhyamik (class 10)** and **Uchha Madhyamik (class 12)** curriculum for the 2020-21 academic year due to the COVID-19 situation.

### Kolkata's Majerhat Bridge Named "Jai Hind"

- Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** named the **newly-built Majerhat bridge** in Kolkata as "**Jai Hind**" bridge to commemorate the **125th birth anniversary** of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The new bridge, which has been built in the place of an old one that collapsed in September 2018, will be inaugurated by Ms Banerjee.

### West Bengal Cabinet approves construction of State's 1st Deep Sea port at Tajpur

- West Bengal Cabinet approved the Construction of the State's 1st Deep Sea Port at Tajpur, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.
- The Tajpur Deep Sea Port under West Bengal Maritime Board & West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) will boost the seafood exports industry in East Midnapore and also benefits lakhs of fishermen.

- **Revision Points**

State	Capital	Chief Minister	Governor
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	BiswaBhusanHarichandan
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Brigadier BD Mishra
Assam	Dispur	SarabanandaSonow	Jagdish Mukhi

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		al	
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Phagu Chauhan
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	AnusuiyaUikey
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	Bhagat Singh Koshyari (Additional Charge)
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Vijaybhai R. Rupani	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Jai Ram Thakur	Bandaru Dattatraya
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	Droupadi Murmu
Karnataka	Bengaluru	B S Yediyurappa	Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Anandiben Patel
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Uddhav Thackrey	Bhagat Singh Koshyari
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Najma Heptulla
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Sangma	Satya Pal Malik
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	P S Sreedharan Pillai
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	RN Ravi
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	V P Singh Badnore
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	Prem Singh Tamang(PS Golay)	Ganga Prasad
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	Banwarilal Purohit
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	TamilisaiSoundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Biplab Kumar Deb	Ramesh Bais
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	Baby Rani Maurya
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	Jagdeep Dhankhar

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### Important National News

#### PM Modi extends Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana till November

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** for a further five months till November-end for distributing free foodgrains to the poor.
- The government will keep providing free foodgrains to the poor section of the society due to the increased need during the festivals. And it will incur an additional expenditure of Rs 90,000 crore to provide 5 kg rice or wheat and 1 kg gram every month to the poor.

#### Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launches Nasha Mukh Bharat

- “**Nasha Mukh Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21) for 272 Most Affected Districts**” was e-launched by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.
- The Action Plan has the following components: Awareness generation programmes; Focus on Higher Educational institutions, University Campuses and Schools; Community outreach and identification of dependent population; Focus on Treatment facilities in Hospital settings; and Capacity Building Programmes for Service Provider.

#### HRD Minister launches World’s first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming & Data Science

- Human Resources and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched World’s **first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming** and Data Science.
- The programme has been prepared and offered by the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras.
- Data Science is one of the fastest growing sectors that is predicted to create 11.5 million jobs by 2026.

#### Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production Facility in Punjab

- Union Minister of Steel Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated **Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production Facility** at Mandi Gobindgarh in Punjab.
- The Continuous Galvanized Rebar production facility will support the much awaited need of supplying galvanized rebar to the construction industry.

#### 46 million girls went missing in India, says UNFPA report

- One in three girls missing globally due to sex selection, both pre- and post-natal, is from India — 46 million out of the total 142 million, according to the UNFPA’s State of the World Population 2020 report released.
- The report examines the issue of missing women by studying sex ratio imbalances at birth as a result of gender-biased sex selection as well as excess female mortality due to deliberate neglect of girls.

#### Union Minister, Shri Giriraj Singh launches the first edition of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter “Matsya Sampada”

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh launched the first edition of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter “**MATSYA SAMPADA**” published by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India and the Operational Guidelines of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

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### MoRTH prepares blueprint for scheme of cashless treatment of motor accident victims

- The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has prepared a blueprint for implementing the scheme of cashless treatment of motor accident victims. The scheme also includes creation of a **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**.

### Private Train Operations Likely To Begin By April 2023

- Private train operations in the country will **begin by April 2023**, and the ticket fares in these trains will be competitive with airfares on similar routes.
- Private participation in passenger train operations will only be five per cent of the existing 2800 Mail/Express trains over IR.
- The private entity has to ensure 95 per cent punctuality and record not more than one failure per lakh kilometre of travel.

### Govt clears Defence acquisition worth Rs 38,900 Cr

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in its meeting accorded approval for Capital acquisitions of various platforms and equipment required by the Indian Armed Forces. Proposals for an approximate cost of 38900 Crore rupees were approved.
- The equipments are to be manufactured in India involving Indian Defence Industry with participation of several MSMEs as prime tier vendors. The Indigenous content in some of these projects is up to 80 per cent of the project cost.

### Drug Discovery Hackathon jointly launched by Union Ministers Dr Harsh Vardhan and Ramesh Pokhriyal

- Human Resources and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan jointly launched the Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020. It is an online competition and anybody from anywhere in the country or world can participate.
- Drug Discovery Hackathon is first of its kind national initiative for supporting drug discovery process.

### Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announces a new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021

- Puri announced a new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' as part of Swachh Survekshan 2021.
- The Prerak Dauur Samman has a total of five additional sub- categories -Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze), Aarohi (Aspiring).

The category will categorize cities on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria which are as follows:

Segregation of waste into Wet, Dry and Hazard categories

- Processing capacity against wet waste generated
- Processing and recycling of wet and dry waste
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Percentage of waste going to landfills
- Sanitation status of cities

### Govt sanctions Rs 4,000 cr under Atma nirbhar programme to improve infrastructure for Food Parks in K'taka

- Karnataka Agriculture Minister B C Patil informed that Central Government has sanctioned 4,000 crore rupees under Atma nirbhar programme to improve infrastructure for the Food Parks in the state.
- Infrastructure will be improved in four Food Parks developed in the state and plans will be afoot to set up more. Food Parks will help the economic stability of farmers.

### AIR to broadcast its first-ever 'News Magazine' programme in Sanskrit

- The All India Radio (AIR) will broadcast its first- ever 'News Magazine' programme in Sanskrit which will have news from the world of Sanskrit and prominent developments of the week, a statement stated.
- The programme titled, 'Sanskrit Saptahiki', will air from Saturday onwards and will be of 20 minutes duration. It can be heard on All India Radio FM News Channel (100.1 MHz frequency) every Saturday with a repeat broadcast on Sundays.

### India to add 60 GW renewable energy capacity in 5 yrs

- India is expected to add only 60GW of renewable energy capacity in the next 5 years, according to Bridge To India's India Renewable Energy CEO survey report 2020.
- This is very low, at 12GW per annum. The government wants to achieve 175GW by 2022 and 450GW by 2030.
- India's utility scale solar capacity was 32.2GW and wind capacity was 37.6GW as on 31 March 2020.

### Housing and Urban Affairs Minister launches toolkit for Swachh Survekshan 2021

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the toolkit for Swachh Survekshan-2021, the sixth edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Mr Puri announced a new category of awards titled Prerak Daur Samman as part of Swachh Survekshan-2021. The Prerak Daur Samman has a total of five additional sub- categories -Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze), Aarohi (Aspiring) - with top three cities being recognized in each.

### Centre Approves Rs 574 Crore Annual Plan For National Highway In Jammu And Kashmir

- The central government has approved an annual plan worth Rs 574.16 crore for national highway works in Jammu and Kashmir for 2020-21.
- The major works incorporated in the approved annual plan included construction of 3.23 km three fly-overs in Srinagar on NH-44 (Jammu-Srinagar highway) at Bemina, Sanatnagar and Nowgam with Rs 220.68 crore.

### Indian Railways to transform itself as 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Indian Railways is taking decisive steps to transform itself as a 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030. It is endeavouring to be self reliant for its energy needs by utilising its vacant land for renewable energy projects.
- Railways is committed to utilize solar energy for meeting its traction power requirements and become a complete 'Green mode of transformation. The Railways Ministry has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused lands on mega scale.

### Kolkata Port Starts new Shipping service from Kolkata to Bangladesh's Chattogram port

- A new shipping service to augment Indo-Bangla trade was inaugurated between SMP (Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port) Kolkata and Chattogram Port at Kolkata Dock
- new regular service connection between Kolkata Dock system and Chattogram has been started from Kolkata Dock System (KDS) of SMP Kolkata by Zim Integrated Services in Association with Bengal Tiger Lines.

### NHRC sets up panel to assess Covid-19 impact on human rights

- The National Human Rights Commission has constituted an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights and future response of the government.
- The expert panel would be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India. The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on human rights of people, especially marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant labourers.

### USTATED, MNRE Announce New Partnership To Expand Clean Energy Development

- In a step toward increasing US-India collaboration for clean energy development, the US Agency for International Development (USTATED) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) have announced the launch of a partnership between the USTATED-supported South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE) and MNRE's national technical institutions.
- SAGE is a US government consortium that will provide advanced technical knowledge on clean energy development embedded in the US Department of Energy's National Laboratories to MNRE's National Technical Institutions and other public institutes under this new partnership.

### Cabinet Approves Rs 1 Lakh Crore Fund For Agriculture Infrastructure

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore, a new pan-India central government scheme, to provide a medium to long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

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- Loans will be disbursed in four years starting with the sanction of Rs 10,000 crore in the current year and Rs 30,000 crore each in the next three financial years.
- All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum up to a limit of Rs 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs 2 crore. The fee for this coverage will be paid by the government.
- The duration of the scheme will be for 10 years from the financial year 2020 to FY 2029.

### Centre to release postal stamp of former PM PV Narasimha Rao to mark centenary

- A commemorative stamp would be released soon by the Centre in honour of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao on his 100th birth anniversary.
- The Telangana state cabinet and Legislature would pass resolutions requesting a Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, for the former Prime Minister.

### PM Modi to inaugurate 3-day India Global Week 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the inaugural address on the first day of India Global Week-2020 .The theme of the three-day virtual conference is **Be The Revival: India and a Better New World**.

### Union Cabinet extends Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana till November; 80 crore people to be benefitted

- The Union Cabinet has given approval for extending **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana for five more months**. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar stated that under the scheme, five kilogram of Wheat or Rice will be given to every member of the beneficiary family and one kilogram of Chana will be given to each family for five more months. Mr. Javadekar stated, the scheme will benefit more than 80 crore people in the country.
- The Cabinet also gave its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

### Cabinet approves 12 thousand 450 crore rupees investment in three public sector general insurance companies

- The Union Cabinet has also approved capital infusion in three Public Sector General Insurance Companies.
- Mr. Javadekar informed that under it, 12 thousand 450 crore rupees will be invested in Oriental Insurance Company Limited, National Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited.

### Ministry of Culture to reprint 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under NMM

- The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting of 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur under the National Mission for Manus, NMM.

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- The first set of five volumes of Mongolian Kanjur published under the NMM was presented to the President Ram Nath Kovind on the occasion of Guru Purnima, also known as Dharma Chakra Day, on 4th July.

### 18th meeting of high-level Group of Ministers on COVID-19 held in New Delhi

- The 18th meeting of the high-level Group of Ministers, GoM on COVID-19 was held in New Delhi through video conferencing under the chairpersonship of Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan stated that as we move forward, the focus shall be on the management of COVID-19 through strict containment measures and surveillance; utilizing full testing capacity and focus on monitoring of co-morbid and elderly population.

### PM Modi inaugurates Asia's largest solar energy project in MP's Rewa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that solar energy is going to be a major source of energy needs not only today but in the 21st century as well, because solar energy is Sure, Pure and Secure.
- While inaugurating through video conference Asia's largest solar energy project in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, the Prime Minister stated that Rewa has really created history. Rewa has been identified as Ma Narmada and a white tiger. Now the name of Asia's largest solar power project has also been added.

### MSDE launches ASEEM portal to help skilled people find livelihood opportunities

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched 'Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping' (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The initiative aims to accelerate India's journey towards recovery by mapping skilled workforce and connecting them with relevant livelihood opportunities in their local communities, especially in the post Covid era.

### Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Facebook host webinar for sensitization of MPs on GOAL project

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs hosted a Webinar along with Facebook India in New Delhi for sensitization of Members of Parliament from Scheduled Tribe (ST) Constituencies on Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) Project.

### Shipping Ministry issues draft 'Aids to Navigation Bill 2020' for public consultation

- The Shipping Ministry has issued a draft of 'Aids to Navigation Bill, 2020' for suggestions from the stakeholders and public. Suggestions and opinions can be sent by 24th of July.
- The draft bill is proposed to replace the Lighthouse Act, 1927 to incorporate the best global practices, technological developments and India's International obligations in the field of Aids to Marine Navigation.

### NITI Aayog Atal Innovation Mission Launches App Development Module For School Students

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- The Atal Innovation Mission of Centre's think-tank, NITI Aayog, has launched a free online app development course for school students across the country.
- Named, 'ATL App Development Module', the online course intends to make mobile application-developers of school students under Atal Tinkering Lab initiative of AIM.
- The online course will comprise six project-based learning modules and online mentoring sessions.
- The course has been jointly developed by NITI Aayog's AIM and Indian startup, Plezmo.

### NTPC's Singrauli Unit 1 emerges top-performing plant in Q1

- National Thermal Power Corporation, NTPC's Singrauli Unit 1 has emerged as the top-performing unit in the country in the first quarter of the financial year, as per the data released by Central Electricity Authority.
- NTPC, Singrauli has an installed capacity of 2,000 Mega Watt with five units of 200 Mega Watt each and two units of 500 Mega Watt each.

### NITI Aayog presents India's second Voluntary National Review at UN, titled 'Decade of Action: Taking SDGs From Global to Local'

- NITI Aayog presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020.
- The India VNR 2020 report titled Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local was released by Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Dr V.K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, and Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDGs), NITI Aayog.

### Govt aims to increase public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025

- The Union Health Ministry has pushed for an increased expenditure on public health. It highlighted that the government aims at gradually increasing the public health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of the nation's GDP by the year 2025. Reiterating the government's target of the National Health Policy 2017, Dr. Vardhan emphasized on the importance of increasing the state's health sector spending to nearly 8 per cent of their total budget.

### Govt approves Rs 107 cr for fire-fighting facilities at Haldia Dock

- The government has approved Rs 107 crore for modern fire-fighting facilities at Haldia Dock Complex of Kolkata Port to ensure safe cargo operations, especially petro-chemical goods.
- Kolkata Port is one of the top 12 major ports in the country.
- It was approved by Union Minister of State (I/C) for Shipping Shri Mansukh Mandaviya.

### Indian Railways on mission mode of becoming 'Green Railway' by 2030

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- The Ministry of Railways is on a mission mode with the goal of transforming Indian Railways into Green Railways by 2030.
- All routes on Broad Gauge (BG) network have been planned to be electrified by December 2023.
- Indian Railways is working to harness the potential of 500 Mega Watt (MW) energy through rooftop Solar panels (Developer model). Already awarded for 245 MW and target for completion of these plants is December 2022.

### Indian Railways creates Post Covid Coach for passenger safety

- Indian Railways has created Post Covid Coach to ensure safer journey of passengers.
- This Post Covid Coach has design improvements in the coach like handsfree amenities, copper-coated handrails & latches, plasma air purification and titanium di-oxide coating for Covid free passenger journey.

### On United Nations' 75th Anniversary, PM Modi to virtually address ECOSOC on July 17AIR

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the valedictory of high-level segment of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states of the United Nations. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Council since its formation in 1945.

### Ministry of Tourism presents 41st webinar titled 'NadiVigyan: A complete solution for spinal disorders' under Dekho Apna Desh series

- To enlighten about the ancient form of health science- NadiVigyan and its fruitful benefits in curing various spinal disorders, Ministry of Tourism presented a webinar on 'NadiVigyan: A complete solution for spinal disorders' under Dekho Apna Desh webinar series.
- This unusual topic is a part of our culture and heritage and tourism plays a major role in showcasing these traits of a country.

### HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal releases PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education

- Union HRD Ministry released the guidelines for Digital Education.
- As per the guidelines, online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes. It further mentions that two online sessions of up to 30-45 minutes each should be conducted for classes 1 to 8 and four sessions for classes 9 to 12.
- The PRAGYATA guidelines include eight steps of online education that is, Plan, Review, Arrange, Guide, Yak(talk), Assign, Track, and Appreciate.

### Indian Railways' 1st cable-stayed rail bridge, Anji Khad bridge



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- The country's "first cable-stayed" Indian Railways bridge – the magnificent Anji Khad Bridge will soon connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The country's first cable-stayed railway bridge is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, which is a Government of India undertaking. The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- The USBRL project also involves the Chenab river bridge. The Chenab bridge, once completed, will become the world's highest rail bridge.

### Coal Ministry plans to link mining plan portal with PARIVESH website

- The coal ministry plans to link the mining plan portal with Parivesh website.
- PARIVESH is a single-window hub for online submission, monitoring, and management of proposals submitted to the Environment Ministry by project proponents to seek various types of clearances.
- Auction of coal mines for commercial mining organised by Ficci.

### Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister e-inaugurates NSTI, Extension Centre in Imphal

- Union Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, e-inaugurated a National Skill Training Institute (NSTI), Extension Centre located at the campus of Government ITI in Imphal through a Video conference.
- The inaugural was held during the Digital Conclave held on the occasion of the World Youth Skills Day and the fifth anniversary of 'Skill India' mission, organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

### Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad observes Swachhata Pakhwada

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad is a globally recognized autonomous institution under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India.
- The Centre provides free dedicated ocean information services to the Nation, using state-of-the-art technology and research, for increasing Safety and Profit.

### HRD Minister Launches First Online NISHTHA Programme For 1,200 Key Resources Persons Of Andhra

- Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched virtually the first online National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme for 1,200 key resources persons of Andhra Pradesh, in New Delhi.
- NISHTHA is organised at the elementary stage under Samagra Shiksha, a Centrally sponsored flagship programme of MHRD to improve learning outcomes.

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- Andhra Pradesh is the first state for which the government is launching the online NISHTHA programme for 1,200 key resources persons through the NISHTHA portal.

### Govt announces 'Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund' of Rs 15,000 crore

- The government announced an 'Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund' worth Rs 15,000 crore to support private investment in dairy processing, value addition and cattle feed infrastructure.
- It aims to incentivise investment by individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSMEs, Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs) and Section 8 companies to establish dairy and meat processing and value addition infrastructure as well as animal feed plants.

### Ministry of Finance releases Rs 15,187 crore as grants-in-aid to 2.63 lakh Rural Local Bodies

- Ministry of Finance has released an amount of over 15 thousand and 187 crore rupees as grants-in-aid to 2.63 lakh Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) spread in 28 States of the country.
- The amount was released upon the recommendation of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Jal Shakti Ministry.
- It will be used by RLBs to facilitate taking up of various developmental work concerning supply of drinking water, rain water harvesting, water recycling, sanitation and maintenance of Open Defecation Free status which are national priorities.

### India lifted 271 mn people out of poverty between FY06-16, says UN report

- About 273 million Indians moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-6 and 2015-16, according to a UN report, which noted that India has recorded the largest reduction in the number of people living in this category.
- The data, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), shows that 65 out of 75 countries studied significantly reduced their multidimensional poverty levels between 2000 and 2019.

### Shripad Naik inaugurates Conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies

- Union Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik has stated that Indian Defence and Aerospace industry is on the threshold of transformation, under the several initiatives of Government to promote 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' Abhiyaan.
- Mr Naik was delivering his inaugural address at the Fifth Edition of the Conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was 'Empowering India with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission'.

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### Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches the revamped Scheme for PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2020

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the revamped PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration and the web portal [www.pmawards.gov.in](http://www.pmawards.gov.in)
- The Scheme has been revamped in tune with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's governance model of citizen participation.

### Income Tax Department rolls out new Form 26AS

- Income Tax Department has rolled out new Form 26AS with an aim to assist Tax payers in filing quick and correct Income Tax Return (ITR). The new form will carry some additional details on taxpayers financial transactions as specified in the Statement of Financial Transactions (SFTs) in various categories.
- The additional details will facilitate voluntary compliance, tax accountability and ease of e-filing of returns.

### India establishes bilateral air bubbles with US, France and Germany

- India has established bilateral Air bubbles with the United States of America, France and Germany. The Civil Aviation Ministry stated talks with the United Kingdom are in an advanced stage and similar arrangement in place with UAE till 26th July of this month.

### Civil Aviation Ministry set up Investment Clearance Cell for assistance, clearance of proposals

- Civil Aviation Ministry has set up an Investment Clearance Cell, ICC for prompt assistance and clearance of proposals. The ten-member cell will be headed by a Joint Secretary in the Ministry. It will serve as a single-window system for attracting investments.
- The ICC will bring projects that require special incentive, policy interventions, expeditious clearances, and systemic reforms to the Empowered Group of Secretaries.

### Govt to start e-campaign on Voluntary Income Tax Compliance

- The Income Tax Department is all set to start an e-Campaign on voluntary compliance of Income Tax for the convenience of the taxpayers. The 11-day campaign will focus on the assesseees or taxpayers who are either non-filers or have discrepancies in their returns for the financial year 2018-19.
- The objective of the e-campaign is to facilitate taxpayers to online validate their tax and financial transaction information available with the I-T Department and promote voluntary compliance, especially for the assesseees for 2018-19 so that they do not need to get into notice and scrutiny process.

### Centre issues norms for Rs.1-lakh crore Agri Infra Fund scheme

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- UP gets the highest allocation of Rs.12,831 crore, followed by Rajasthan at Rs.9,015 crore
- The Centre has issued guidelines for financing under the recently announced Rs.1-lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme, that seeks to facilitate creation and strengthening of post-harvest management and marketing infrastructure across the country.
- The scheme will be operational from the current financial year till 2029-30. Disbursements will be made in the first four years — Rs.10,000 crore in the current fiscal, and Rs.30,000 crore each over the next three years. The moratorium for repayment under this scheme may vary from six months to two years.
- All loans under this financing facility will have an interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum up to a limit of Rs.2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years. For loans above Rs.2 crore, the subvention will be limited to Rs.2 crore, the Ministry stated.
- The Agri Infra Fund will be managed and monitored through an online MIS platform, and 24 per cent of the total grant-in-aid under the scheme should be utilised for SC/ST entrepreneurs, it stated.

### One Nation One Ration Card scheme now enabled in 20 States/UTs

- The One Nation One Ration Card facility was started as inter-State portability of ration cards in 4 States w.e.f. August 2019. Since then, a total of 20 States/UT have been integrated together into a seamless national portability cluster w.e.f. June 2020. Thus, this facility is currently enabled for NFSA card holders in 20 States/UTs.
- These States/UTs are Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Mizoram, Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, Tripura, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

### HRD Minister to launch Manodarpan initiative to provide psychosocial support to students

- Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal will launch the Manodarpan initiative of the HRD Ministry. The initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, aims to provide psychosocial support to students for their mental health and well-being.
- He further informed that the Ministry has, therefore, taken up an initiative, named, 'MANODARPAN' covering a wide range of activities to provide Psychosocial Support to students for their Mental Health & Well-being during the COVID outbreak and beyond.
- The HRD Ministry also stated that the 'Manodarpan' initiative has been included in the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, as a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity.

### Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into force

- The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into force. Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan stated that this new Act will empower consumers and help them in protecting their rights through its various notified Rules and provisions.

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### Ministry of Tourism holds webinar titled 'The Mystical Triangle- Maheshwar, Mandu & Omkareshwar' under Dekho Apna Desh Series

- The Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series titled, "The Mystical Triangle- Maheshwar, Mandu & Omkareshwar" was organized on 18th of July.
- The webinar showcased the richness of the destinations covered under the mystical triangle in Madhya Pradesh namely Maheshwar, Mandu and Omkareshwar. Dekho Apna Desh Webinar series is an effort to showcase India's rich diversity under 'Ek Bharat- Shreshtha Bharat' and it is continuously spreading the spirit of 'Ek Bharat- Shreshtha Bharat' through virtual platforms.

### Power Minister launches programme to improve indoor air quality

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings, has launched a national programme to improve indoor air quality.
- The initiative is called the Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE) national programme.

### Employees' Welfare Scheme Launched In Arun Jaitley's Name In Rajya Sabha

- The Rajya Sabha secretariat has launched an Employees' Welfare Scheme in the name of former Union finance minister Arun Jaitley, who was also the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.
- The scheme has been formulated and approved based on the decision of Sangeeta Jaitley, wife of the senior leader who passed away in August last year.

### Home Minister Amit Shah to launch Vriksharopan Abhiyan in New Delhi

- Home Minister Amit Shah will launch Vriksharopan Abhiyan in New Delhi in the presence of Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi. During the launch event, Mr Shah will inaugurate and lay the Foundation stone of 6 Ecoparks and Tourism sites.
- Vriksharopan Abhiyan will be organized by the Ministry of Coal involving all Coal and Lignite PSUs during which large scale plantations would be carried out in mines, colonies, offices and other suitable areas of Coal and Lignite PSUs.

### 22 million children in South Asia missed out on early education due to Covid-19, says UNICEF

- As many as 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, reveals new research by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
- It zeroed in on the predicament of childcare and early childhood education globally. It analysed the impact of widespread Covid-19 closure of vital family services.

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- In the South Asia region, UNICEF covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka for the research.

### Prime Minister lays foundation stone for Rs.3,054-crore Manipur water supply project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs.3,054-crore “Manipur Water Supply Project” in Imphal.
- The project is an important component of the efforts of the state government to achieve the goal of ‘Har Ghar Jal’ by 2024. The project outlay is about Rs 3054.58 crore with a loan component funded by the New Development Bank.

### Prakash Javadekar virtually launches piloting of National Transit Pass System

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar virtually launched piloting of the National Transit Pass System at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan in Delhi.
- Mr Javadekar stated the National Pass System enhances seamless movement of forest produce. The Minister stated Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid a lot of stress on the Ease of Movement.

### First ever container cargo from Kolkata via Chittagong port reaches Agartala

- The first ever container cargo from Kolkata via Chittagong port has reached Agartala.
- Under the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade, in addition to the six existing Ports of Call, five more in each country have been added recently, the Ministry of Shipping stated in a statement.

### Government sanctions Rs.8,700 cr to help complete construction of 60,000 houses

- The Finance Ministry announced that over Rs.8,700 crore has been approved under a special scheme, ‘SWAMIH’, to ensure completion of about 60,000 houses.
- ‘SWAMIH’ (Special Window for Affordable and Mid Income Housing) scheme aims to complete construction of stalled, brownfield, RERA-registered residential developments that are in the affordable housing/mid-income category. There is a fund to assist this scheme which started with target corpus of Rs.12,500 crore with a green shoe option of Rs.12,500 crore.

### India Conducts The First Test Under ‘Study In India’ Programme Online

- The Indian Scholastic Assessment Test, or Ind-SAT, in its first, has been under the ‘Study in India’ Programme.



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- Ind-SAT 2020 was held in remote-proctored mode and was administered by the National Testing Agency, or NTA. Around five thousand students from Nepal, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sri-Lanka, Kenya, Zambia, Indonesia and Mauritius took Ind-SAT 2020..
- The Ministry of HRD [Human Resource Development] conducted the first ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its 'Study in India' programme.

### Indian Railways to cover all wagons under RFID for tracking by 2022

- The Indian Railways will use radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) for tracking of all wagons by 2022.
- A total of 23,000 wagons have been covered under the RFID project so far and the target is to cover all wagons by December 2022.
- Using RFID devices, it would be easier for the railways to know the exact position of wagons, locomotives and coaches.

### India will be looking at a demand drop in electricity between 7-17 percent by 2025: TERI

- Demand for electricity in India will be lower by 7 to 17% due to covid-19 by 2025, a new report by TERI has found. All 10 of India's largest power-consuming states will see a demand drop between 5 to 15%.
- The report, titled 'Bending the Curve: 2025 Forecasts for Electricity Demand by Sector and State in the Light of the COVID Epidemic', also suggests policy-makers, developers, distribution companies, and investors need to be better prepared for the future, if the decline in demand growth persists.

### Indian Railways constructing world's first electrified tunnel to run double-stack containers

- Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) has recently conducted a tunnel-breaking ceremony was held on the completion of caving work for the one-kilometre long tunnel of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) through Aravalli mountain range, near Sohna in Haryana.
- The tunnel connects Mewat & Gurugram district of Haryana and negotiates a steep gradient on the uphill and downhill slope of the Aravalli range.

### 29 animal reported dead at Kaziranga National Park, Tiger Reserve

- A total of 129 animal casualties have been reported at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Bokakhat here due to drowning and other reasons.
- The animals which have been rescued include 14 rhinos, five wild buffaloes, eight wild boars, two swamp deer, 95 hog deer, a sambar, three porcupines, and a Python.

### Deadline For Mandatory Hallmarking Of Gold Jewellery Extended Till June 1 Next Year

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- The government has extended deadline for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts by over four months till June 1, 2021, in the wake of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
- Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and is voluntary in nature at present. The Centre, in November last year, had announced that hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts would be made mandatory across the country from Jan. 15, 2021.

### Government launched four schemes for setting up of Bulk Drugs & Medical Devices Parks

- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Sadananda Gowda launched four schemes of Department of Pharmaceuticals for promotion of domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices parks in the country.
- The government has approved four schemes, two each for Bulk Drugs and Medical Devices parks.

### Centre to convert ravines of Chambal region into arable land with World Bank help

- The Centre, in collaboration with the World Bank, has decided to convert monumental dwelling of ravines in Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into arable land.
- The decision was made through a virtual meeting with Adarsh Kumar, representative of the World Bank and Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

### Govt notifies changes in FDI norms on civil aviation; permits NRIs to own 100% stake of Air India

- The government has notified changes in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms on civil aviation. It will permit non-resident Indian nationals to own 100 per cent stake of Air India.
- Last month, the government for the third time extended the deadline to bid for Air India. The deadline was extended by two months till August 31st. The divestment process for the national carrier was initiated on January 27th

### HRD Minister launches India Report on Digital Education, 2020

- Human Resources and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched India Report on Digital Education, 2020. The report elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by Ministry of HRD, Education Departments of States and Union Territories for ensuring accessible and inclusive education to children at home and reducing learning gaps.

### The Centre would develop Leh and Kargil as smart cities in newly-formed UT of Ladakh

- The ministry of housing and urban affairs has formed a five-member central team under Smart Cities director Rahul Kapoor to handhold the union territory in formulating detailed projects reports for both the cities.
- This initiative is a part of the Centre's initiative to develop Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh – the newly formed union territories after the state was bifurcated in October 2019.

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### Namami Gange project included in 'Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration'

- This year, the Namami Gange project has been included in the prestigious 'Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration'.
- Mr Mishra stated, objective of National Mission for Clean Ganga is not limited only to the nirmalta and aviralta of the Ganga, but to develop a sustainable socioeconomic zone around the holy river and its tributaries, which will give a boost to the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Campaign.

### Cabinet approves MoU signed between India & Zimbabwe on Traditional Systems of Medicine

- The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Zimbabwe on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.
- It will provide a frame work for the cooperation between the two countries for the promotion of traditional systems of medicine and homeopathy and will mutually benefit the two countries in the field of Traditional Medicine.

### Govt Unveils Amended Draft Acquisition Procedure for Defence Products

- The government issued an amended draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), wherein it elaborated on how to use "leasing" method to get various defence products and on procedure to procure information and communication technology (ICT) systems for the armed forces.
- The first draft of the DAP, which was then called Defence Procurement Procedure, was issued on March 20 this year.

### Govt Releases Guidelines For Schemes To Boost Domestic Manufacturing Of Bulk Drugs, Med Devices

- Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Sadananda Gowda outlined plans to boost local manufacturing in bulk drugs and medical device industries to reduce the country's reliance on imports, particularly from China.
- India has a robust \$40 billion pharmaceutical sector that is seen as a reliable supplier of generic drugs.

### HRD Ministry renamed as Ministry of Education

- Ministry of **Human Resource Development** has been **renamed** as **Ministry of Education**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the change in the name of the ministry. The HRD Ministry is currently headed by Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the draft **New Education Policy (NEP 2020)**, which aims to revamp of all aspects of Indian education structure.
- The education policy was released in the year 1986, as for 34 years there were no changes in the education policy.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reviewed the NEP- 2020, for which draft was prepared by a panel of experts led by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) **chief K Kasturirangan**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- Under the new system, **flexibility will be given** to students both in choosing the subjects for education as well as in the **entry and exit in college degree** programmes.
- Any student can exit a degree programme from the first year onwards if he/she wants only a certificate. Once two years are completed, a diploma will be awarded and post the completion of the three-year or four-year curriculum, the degree will be awarded.
- The National Education Policy will put a thrust on use of **mother tongue as medium of instruction till the fifth grade**. Further, subjects wouldn't be restricted to students purely based on their educational background.
- Further, **M.Phil programme will be discontinued**. Students can also do a four-year degree programme, one-year Masters and then directly go to the doctoral programme.
- School students will also get an opportunity to do **vocational education programmes** under the new policy from the sixth grade.
- Instead of having different regulatory bodies like All India Council for Technical Education, University Grants Commission and other local niche entities, there will be **one single higher education regulator**.
- Use of schools/ school complexes beyond school hours and public library spaces for adult education courses which will be ICT-equipped when possible and for other community engagement and enrichment activities.
- NIOS will develop **high-quality modules** to teach **Indian Sign Language**, and to teach other basic subjects using Indian Sign Language.
- **Pre-school sections** covering at least one year of early childhood care and education will be added to Kendriya Vidyalayas and other primary schools around the nation, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
- **NCCwings** in secondary and higher secondary schools **under Ministry of Defence**
- **Free boarding facilities will be built** - matching the standard of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas particularly for students who from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- National Scholarship portal for SC, ST, OBC, SEDGs students to be expanded.
- By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.
- Education sector to get **6% of GDP**, earlier it was 1.7%
- **Bagless days will be encouraged** throughout the year for various types of enrichment activities involving arts, quizzes, sports, and vocational crafts.
- The **three-language learned by children** will be the choices of States, regions, and of the students, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India.
- Nutrition and health cards, regular health check-ups for school students.
- National Mission on Foundation Literacy and Numeracy to be set up by MHRD.
- Tech- based option for adult learning through apps, TV channels etc.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** will offer a **high-quality common aptitude test**, as well as specialized common subject exams in the sciences, humanities, languages, arts, and vocational subjects, at least twice every year for university entrance exams.
- Students will get **360 degree holistic report card**, which will not only inform about the marks obtained by them in subjects, but also their skills and other important points.
- Coding to be taught from class 6 onwards.
- National Curricular and pedagogical framework to be developed by NCERT.
- Financial Autonomy to be given to 45K affiliated colleges
- An **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)** shall be established which would digitally store the academic credits earned.
- NEP aims at setting up at least one large multidisciplinary institution in or near every district by the year 2030.
- IITs to become multidisciplinary institution, opening doors for humanities students.
- International Students Office at each institution hosting foreign students
- National Research Foundation (NRF) to be established.
- The new academic session will begin in **September-October** – the delay is due to the unprecedented coronavirus disease (Covid-19) outbreak – and the government aims to introduce the policy before the new session begins.
- This includes legal education and medical education as well. There will be an independent board of governors and a graded autonomy system will be launched.

### Ayush Minister launches dedicated Web-Portal for National AYUSH Mission

- **Ayush Minister Shripad Yesso Naik** reviewed the centrally- sponsored scheme of **National Ayush Mission** and operationalization of AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers during a webinar of Health and Ayush Ministers of all states.

### MoD with MyGov conducts quiz competition on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat – Swatantra Bharat'

- An online quiz competition on '**Atmanirbhar Bharat - Swatantra Bharat**' is being conducted by **Ministry of Defence** in coordination with **MyGov** in order to create patriotic feeling among youth and masses.

### Piyush Goyal inaugurates CII National Digital conference on Ease of Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat

- Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** stated the government is aiming to cover the nation's length and breadth in optic fibres within the next two years. Mr Goyal stated digital is the way forward.
- Inaugurating **CII National Digital conference on Ease of Doing Business** for Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Minister emphasized that slowly but surely a single window concept will be achieved.

### ITBP to get Khadi commission products

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** signed an agreement with **The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** to get supplies from the Commission.
- The ITBP has become the first force among the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** to sign such an agreement to promote Swadeshi products.

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### IT industry, Cyberabad cops to launch Sanghamitras

- The Society for **Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC)** and **Cyberabad Police** will launch **Sanghamitra**.
- “Sangamitra as the name suggests is a trusted friend and guide to ensure a safer community,” VC Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police of Cyberabad, has stated in a statement.

### Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AIM-iCREST', in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation

- NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, has launched **AIM iCREST** – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Startups. This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation at scale in India.
- AIM has joined hands with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation** - organizations that can lend credible support and expertise in the entrepreneurship and innovation space.

### Housing minister Hardeep Puri launches digital platforms to market residential properties

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched digital platforms of real estate bodies CREDAI and NAREDCO to market residential properties.
- The minister launched 'CREDAI Awaas App' and NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingforAll.com' through a video conference.
- Puri released the knowledge pack of the government's 'Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' (ARHCs) programme, which has been recently launched to provide rental accommodations to migrant and urban poor.

### Narendra Singh Tomar releases booklet on Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme

- Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar released a booklet on “Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)” of Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development based on the presentations made by the States during Regional and National workshops since inception of the programme.
- This publication lists various 'good practices' followed in land records modernisation across national policy framework and in nine study states namely **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan**.

### For the 1st time in India Railways uses NTC machine for track construction

- In a boost to the railways' efforts to use technology to ease infrastructure work, for the first time in India, Railway is using New Track Construction (NTC) machine for the entire track laying of the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The projects will be implemented by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL). The project is expected to be completed by 2022.



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### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge over river Ganga in Bihar

- Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the upstream carriageway of Mahatma Gandhi bridge over river Ganga in Bihar through video conference.
- Over 5.5 kilometres long, the four lane bridge lies on NH-19 between Patna and Hajipur. It is being constructed at a cost of one thousand 742 crore rupees.
- A new 5 km long, 4-lane Bridge over river Ganga in parallel to MG Setu, was also announced by Nitin Gadkari to facilitate movement of ships under it. It will cost about three thousand crore rupees.

### Government launches programme for artisans involved in manufacturing of agarbatti

- The government (MSME Ministry) has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of agarbatti and to develop village industry under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana'.
- Initially four pilot projects will be started as part of the programme, including one in the North East.
- Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 automatic agarbatti making machines and 10 mixing machines. Accordingly, a total of 200 automatic agarbatti making machines and 40 mixing machines will be provided to the artisans.

### 4th edition of Smart India Hackathon 2020, Largest ever Online Hackathon in the World

#### Launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Virtually

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Grand Finale of 4th edition of Smart India Hackathon-SIH (Software) 2020, largest ever online Hackathon in the world and interacted with the participants through Virtual Conference. Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the event virtually in New Delhi. The Hackathon has been organized by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India; All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Persistent Systems and i4C.

### Amit Shah inaugurates international webinar on 'Lokmanya Tilak - Swaraj to Self-reliant India' organized by ICCR

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a two-day international webinar on the theme of 'Lokmanya Tilak - Swaraj to Self-reliant India' organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on the 100th death anniversary of the great freedom fighter Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

### Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) moves towards 2nd phase, ODF-Plus

- In the run up to 74th Independence day. The Swachh Bharat mission has focused on rural and urban areas separately and played a crucial role in ensuring sanitation in the country.
- To ensure that the open defecation free behaviours are sustained, no one is left behind, and that solid and liquid waste management facilities are accessible, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) has moved towards its second phase which is also called ODF-Plus. This phase will continue till 2024-25.

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### PM Launched Financing Facility of Rs.1Lakh crore Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund & Rs 17000 Cr As 6th Installment of PM-KISAN

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore via video conferencing. In this regard, the first sanction of over Rs. 1000 Crore was made to over 2,280 farmer societies. The duration of the scheme is 10 years i.e. from FY2020 to FY2029.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan launches 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan 2020-21

- Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21. This initiative is a national programme for popularizing science among school students of Class 6th to 11th.
- While launching the Vidhyarthi Vigyan Manthan, 2020-21, the Minister stated, this is a platform to identify the talent in the field of science and to promote the scientific acumen among the students.

### Northern Railway runs first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train

- Northern Railway ran first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train. General Manager of Northern and North Central Railway Rajiv Chaudhry stated, this train destined for Jirania in Tripura has 46 wagons.
- The train departed from Delhi Kishanganj for Jirania and it will cover a distance of two thousand 673 Kilometres from Punjab to Tripura.

### Central Government to fund 112 startups to promote Agri Firms

- The Central Government will spend nearly twelve crore rupees for funding 112 startups to promote agri firms in the current financial year.
- Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar stated the funds will be given to the start-ups selected by different knowledge partners and agribusiness incubators in the area of agro-processing, food technology and value addition.

### Shri Sanjay Dhotre inaugurates BHARAT AIRFIBER , a last mile telecom connectivity solution based on Radio Network

- Shri. Sanjay Dhotre, Union Minister of State for HRD, Electronics, Communication, and IT, Govt Of India, inaugurated "Bharat Air Fibre Services" at Akola in Maharashtra. With inauguration of Bharat Air Fibre services, residents of Akola & Washim district will get Wireless Internet Connections on demand.
- The Bharat Air Fibre services are introduced by BSNL as part of digital India initiatives by the Government of India and it aims of providing Wireless Connectivity in the range of 20 KMs from the BSNL Locations and thus customers at remote places also will be benefitted as BSNL comes with cheapest services with support of Telecom Infrastructure Partners (TIPs).
- BSNL is providing the "Bharat Air Fibre Services" through local business partners of BSNL from Akola & Washim District and these services will give fastest internet connectivity in quick time.

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### Govt formulates draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020

- Defence Ministry has formulated a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP-2020).
- The policy aims to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme**.
- The DPEPP-2020 is envisaged as overarching guiding document of Defence Ministry to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.
- Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 has marked out clear goals and objectives to be undertaken by the Defence Ministry.
- First and foremost amongst all is to achieve a turnover of Rs. 1 lakh 75 thousand Crore including an export of Rs. 35 thousand Crore in the Aerospace and Defence goods and services by the year 2025.

### 24 states in the country get linked to 'One Nation One Ration Card'

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan, reviewed the progress of 'One Nation One Ration Card' plan implementation throughout the country.
- As four new states complete technical requirements, they have also been linked to the scheme. These four states are UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.
- With the addition of these four states, now 24 states across the country are connected with the One Nation One Ration Card Scheme.
- The plan aims to ensure the delivery of food security entitlements to all beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), irrespective of their physical location anywhere in the country.

### India's tourism ministry inaugurates Thenzawl Golf Resort project in Mizoram

- Ministry of Tourism, Government of India virtually inaugurated the state-of-the-art Thenzawl Golf Resort project in Mizoram.
- The project is developed under Swadesh Darshan scheme's 'Integrated Development of New Eco-Tourism' with a sanctioned amount of Rs.92.25 crore out of which Rs.64.48 crore has been allocated for various components including the golf course at Thenzawl in Mizoram.
- The golf course is designed by Canada based-Graham Cooke and Associates.

### Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the National Cooperative Development Corporation's YouTube channel, 'Sahakar Cooptube NCDC India', to encourage farmers and the youth to take benefit of cooperatives.
- Shri Tomar also launched guidance videos produced by NCDC on 'Formation and Registration of a Cooperative' for eighteen different states in Hindi and regional languages.

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- The initiatives are steps towards One Nation One Market with the objective for India to become food factory of the world.

### HRD minister releases 8-week alternative academic calendar for classes 6 to 8

- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank released an eight-week alternative academic calendar, developed by NCERT, for classes 6 to 8.
- The Education minister while tweeting about alternative academic calendar wrote, 'Alternative Academic Calendar for upper primary stage (Classes VI to VIII) for four weeks was released earlier.'

### FAO claims new platform to help fight food loss, wastage

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has unveiled a new platform to help accelerate global reduction in food loss and waste.
- The platform will be officially launched on the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste on 29 September, 2020.
- At least 14 per cent of food is lost (food wastage and food loss together), valued at \$400 billion annually.
- Major losses are seen in roots tubers and oil-bearing crops (25 per cent), fruits and vegetables (22 per cent), and meat and animal products (12 per cent).

### India contributes over \$15 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund

- India has contributed \$15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, underscoring the country's commitment to supporting developing nations in their developmental priorities across all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The tranche of \$15.46 million includes \$6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and \$9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.
- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is managed by the UNOSSC and implemented under the leadership of partner developing countries leveraging the strengths of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

### NIDM in collaboration with IMD organises webinar series on "Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction"

- National Institute of Disaster Management in collaboration with India Meteorological Department organised a webinar series on "Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk Reduction".
- The webinar series exhorted on enhancing human capacity in terms of better understanding of Hydro-Meteorological Hazards Risk and effective collaborative actions.
- Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai inaugurated the first webinar on "Thunderstorms and Lightning".

### Indian Railways to run first Kisan Rail special service between Maharashtra-Bihar

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- Indian Railways is all set to run its first timetabled “Kisan Rail” special parcel service.
- Piyush Goyal chaired Railway Ministry is introducing the first Kisan Rail service from Devlali in the state of Maharashtra to Danapur in the state of Bihar.
- The Kisan Rail, which comprises 10 parcel vans and one luggage cum brake van, will run on a weekly basis.

### Govt to launch National Clinical Registry for COVID-19

- The Government is set to launch a National Clinical Registry for COVID-19. The main objective of this registry is to collect real time clinical data which will help in evidence based clinical practice, research, formulation of guidelines and policy making.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences have proposed to establish a COVID-19 clinical registry for data collection from 100 hospitals across the country.

### Ministry of Jal Shakti launches new version of India Water Resources Information System

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) with new functionalities and features.
- The web portal [www.indiawris.gov.in](http://www.indiawris.gov.in), this portal contains information related to Water Resources through dashboards for rainfall, water levels & discharge of rivers, water bodies, ground water levels, reservoir storages, evapotranspiration and soil moisture, as well as modules on water resources projects, water bodies, hydro-met data availability and tools for GIS layer editing.

### PM Modi launches week long campaign ‘Gandagi, Bharat Chorho’

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a week long cleanliness campaign ‘Gandagi, Bharat Chorho’ till August 15.
- Every day till August 15 there will be a special swachhata initiatives in urban and rural India to re-enforce the jan andolan for swachhata.
- The Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra will be open to the public from 9th August from 8 AM to 5 PM, in accordance with the prescribed guidelines for social distancing and hygiene.

### PM Modi Launches Rs 1 Lakh Crore Finance Facility For Agri-Infrastructure

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a debt financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund with a budget of Rs 1 lakh crore.
- Under this, Farmer Producer Organisation Schemes, self-help groups and agri-entrepreneurs can take loans to build infrastructure for post-harvest management and community farming assets, like cold storage, collection centres and processing units.
- The government has also released the next instalment of Rs 2,000 each to 8.5 crore farmers under the PM-Kisan scheme.

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### Indian Railways committed to integrate with GeM portal

- Indian Railways is committed to integrate with the government e-marketplace (GeM) portal to move all its procurement to the platform.
- Railways buys more than 98 percent of its goods and services in India and moving this purchase to the GeM platform in the next "probably 8-12 months" will help in making the procurement process more transparent, seamless, efficient, and faster.
- The railways' direct procurement of goods for its operations or its public sector undertakings or production units stood at about Rs 70,000 crore-Rs 75,000 crore.

### Panel set up to fix ceiling rates under duty reimbursement scheme for exporters

- The government has constituted a three-member committee for determination of ceiling rates under a scheme for reimbursement of taxes and duties to exporters.
- The reimbursement of taxes under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) such as duty on power charges, VAT on fuel in transportation, farm sector, captive power generation, mandi tax, stamp duty and central excise duty on fuel used in transportation would make Indian products competitive in global markets.
- According to an order of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the committee would be chaired by Secretary (retd) G K Pillai. The other two members are Y G Parande (retd CBIC member) and Gautam Ray (retd chief commissioner of custom and central excise).

### India will be self-sufficient in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients production in next 2 years

- Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has said that in the next couple of years, India will be self-sufficient in the production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and Key Starting materials to reduce import dependency and attain drug security.
- The Minister also informed that 50 new Janaushadhi outlets were opened recently taking the total such outlets to 6500 across 732 districts in the country.

### Indian Traders Launch 'China Quit India' Campaign To Boycott Chinese Goods

- The Confederation of all India Traders launched the 'China Quit India' campaign to boycott Chinese goods, while its members held protests across 600 places across the country.
- This is a new dimension to its nationwide campaign "Bhartiya Saamaan-Hamara Abhimaan" .

### Defence minister Rajnath Singh to launch Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah



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- Defence minister Rajnath Singh will launch the Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah. The move is aimed at promoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a self-reliant India with increased local manufacturing.
- Mr Singh announced that India will stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, conventional submarines, cruise missiles among others on a staggered basis till 2024.

### PM Modi inaugurates submarine Optical Fibre Cable connecting Chennai, Port Blair

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 2300 kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mr Modi stated this project is Union government's commitment for Ease of living. Saying this project will boost tourism in the Islands, Prime Minister expressed happiness for completion of the project before deadline.
- Mr Modi stated this is Independence Day gift for Andaman and Nicobar islands people . He stated not only Andaman people will get a big boost but also sea trade will rise exponentially. Mr Modi stated, high speed net in Andaman and Nicobar islands is a big day as the people will get all the benefits of digital India.
- Prime minister emphasised the tourists who will travel to the Islands will also be benefitted by the digital initiative. Information and Technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad was also present on the occasion.

### Union Minister Prakash Javadekar launches portal on Human Elephant Conflict on World Elephant Day

- The Minister for Environment and Forest Prakash Javadekar released document on Best Practices and launched a portal on Human Elephant Conflict on the eve of World Elephant Day, 2020.
- Mr Javadekar stated, efforts are in full swing to provide food and water to the animals in the forests itself to deal with the growing human-animal conflict cases.
- He stated, India is committed to the cause of saving elephants and other animals and is working towards robust, practical and cost effective solutions to end the human animal conflict.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates NIP Online Dashboard

- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the National Infrastructure Pipeline, NIP, Online Dashboard in New Delhi through video conferencing.
- The online dashboard is envisaged as a one stop solution for all stakeholders looking for information on infrastructure projects in New India.
- The dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid, IIG [www.indiainvestmentgrid.gov.in](http://www.indiainvestmentgrid.gov.in). IIG is an interactive and dynamic online platform that showcases d and real-time investment opportunities in the country.

### Govt aims to develop 10 Craft and Handloom Villages in India: Smriti Irani

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- Union Minister Smriti Irani stated the government is aiming to develop ten Craft and Handloom Villages in the country so that tourists from across the globe can visit them and learn the rich legacy of Indian weavers and lend support to the Make in India initiative.
- Almost 95% of the handwoven fabrics used globally are produced in India.
- These centres are located in Delhi, Srinagar, Jaipur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Guwahati, Kanchipuram and Bhubaneswar.

### Narendra Singh Tomar launches ICAR's data recovery centre 'Krishi Megh'

- Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched ICAR's data recovery centre - Krishi Megh. The move is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad.
- Currently, the main data centre of the ICAR is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in the national capital. Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.

### Education Minister launches Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020

- Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched the Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020 in New Delhi.
- Mr Pokhriyal highlighted about unique architectural beauty of India, its monuments and temples.

### Tribal Affairs Ministry develops nine 'Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums

- Tribal Affairs Ministry is developing "Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums dedicated to the contributions of the tribal people in India to the freedom struggle.
- Out of nine sanctioned museums, two museums are near completion and remaining seven are at different stages of progress. The Ministry stated that by the end of 2022 all the museums will come into existence.
- All the museums will have strong usage of technologies like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and 3D/7D holographic projections.

### Jal Shakti Minister launches Swachh Bharat Mission Academy as part of campaign Gandagi Mukh Bharat

- Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched Swachh Bharat Mission, SBM Academy in New Delhi, as part of the ongoing week-long behaviour change campaign Gandagi Mukh Bharat.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- He launched SBM Academy by dialling the designated IVR toll-free number. Mr Shekhawat stated, the IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase - 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

### Centre Forms Committee For Procurement, Administration Of COVID-19 Vaccine

- The Centre constituted a committee to consider the logistics, ethical aspects of procurement, and administration of COVID-19 vaccine.
- The committee titled National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr VK Paul, who is member (health) at the NITI Aayog.

### PM Modi launches 'Transparent Taxation - Honoring the Honest' platform

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Transparent Taxation - Honoring the Honest' platform. He stated it will strengthen the efforts of reforming and simplifying India's tax system. The Prime Minister also unveiled the next phase of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers in a bid to rebuild Indian economy.

### MoRTH allows sale and registration of electric vehicles without batteries

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has allowed registration of electric vehicles without pre-fitted batteries. In a letter to Transport Secretaries of all the States and UTs, the ministry has clarified that vehicles without batteries can be sold and registered based on the type approval certificate issued by the test agency.
- However, the prototype of the electrical vehicle, and the battery (regular battery or the swappable battery) is required to be type approved by the test agencies specified under Rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

### India's Katra-Delhi Express Road to be completed by 2023

- The work has started on the first-of-its-kind Katra-Delhi express road corridor, which will be ready by 2023 and when it becomes functional, the travel time from Katra to Delhi will get reduced to around six and half hours, and from Jammu to Delhi to just about six hours.
- The project is estimated to cost over Rs350bn (\$4.6bn). This corridor will pass through Jammu and Kathua in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Jalandhar, Amritsar, Kapurthala and Ludhiana in Punjab.
- The project will also involve simultaneous widening of the National Highway between Pathankot and Jammu. This highway will be upgraded from four lanes to six lanes.

### Rajnath Singh launches Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation

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- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) through an online webinar. The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.
- The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 (DAP 20) rolled out by the Defence Ministry last month envisaged establishment of Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation by the Service Headquarters.

### Govt forms 5 members panel to probe into Kozhikode plane crash

- Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has ordered probe into the Air India Express aircraft crash at Kozhikode airport.
- The Investigation of the aircraft crash will be done by a five member team headed by Captain S S Chahar.
- It will also make recommendations to avoid such recurrences in the future. Investigator in-charge Captain S S Chahar will submit his report within 5 months.

### National Health Authority board gives nod to integrate central health schemes with Ayushman Bharat

- The governing board of National Health Authority (NHA) approved a proposal to integrate existing health schemes of Central Ministries and public sector undertakings with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- The move is expected to benefit government employees, including contractual employees, Central Armed Police Force personnel and other beneficiary groups such as building and construction workers, manual scavengers, and road accident victims, a statement stated.

### PM launches Project Lion, Project Dolphin

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of Project Lion and Project Dolphin for the conservation of the two endangered species in the country using modern technology.
- Project Lion would involve conservation of the Asiatic Lion, and its landscape.
- The project will entail habitat development by engaging modern technologies in management and addressing the issue of diseases in lion and its associated species through advanced world-class research and veterinary care.
- The project would also address the Human-Wildlife conflict.

### NITI Aayog launches 'ATL AI Step Up Module' for students on Independence Day eve

- After a successful launch of a unique initiative to take Artificial Intelligence (AI) to schools through 'ATL AI Modules', Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog in collaboration with NASSCOM have launched the 'ATL AI Step Up Module' for students on the eve of India's Independence Day in order to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in schools across the country.

### PM Modi launches National Digital Health Mission; Every Indian to have Health IDsPTI

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM). Every Indian will have an Aadhar like ID card containing all relevant information about his/her medical conditions and treatments and tests.
- Mr Modi stated that the initiative which is completely technology based will revolutionise the health sector in India.
- The vision of National Digital Health Mission is to create a national digital health ecosystem which provides timely and efficient access to inclusive, affordable, and safe healthcare to all citizens.

### **NTPC develops infrastructure at Rihand project for increased use of fly ash**

- To transport fly ash to cement plants located at distance, NTPC Limited has developed infrastructure at Rihand project in Uttar Pradesh, informed the central public sector unit (PSU).
- The development is in line with NTPC's commitment towards 100 per cent utilisation of fly ash from power plants, stated NTPC.

### **AYUSH Ministry launches campaign “Ayush for Immunity” for awareness on affordable immunity boosting practices**

- The Ministry of AYUSH launched a three-month campaign aimed at increasing awareness about affordable and easy practices that can be adopted for enhancing immunity and preventing any disease.
- The campaign, called “Ayush for Immunity”, was launched through a webinar which saw the participation of more than 50,000 people.

### **India Post Issued Stamps on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India**

- India Post has released a set of five commemorative postage stamps and a miniature sheet on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India on 15th August 2020 on the occasion of 74th Independence Day. This is the third part of the series .
- The stamps depicts following five cultural sites of India-
- Historic City of Ahmedabad
- Churches and Convents of Goa
- Group of Monuments at Pattadakal
- Khajuraho Group of Monuments
- Qutub Minar

### **Nitin Gadkari lays foundation for 13 highway projects in Manipur**

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones of Rs.3,000-crore highway projects in Manipur and stated the government will soon take up additional projects worth Rs.16,023 crore in the state.
- Laying the foundation stone of the 13 highway projects and inaugurating a road safety project in a virtual ceremony, the road transport, highways and MSME minister promised to also expedite the ongoing Rs.2,250-crore highway works in the state and termed it as his "priority".

### **Google partners CWC for flood forecasting initiative**

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- Google in association with the Central Water Commission (CWC) has taken flood forecasting initiative over the past several months, and sent numerous public alerts to people in impacted regions across the country.
- These alerts provide timely, updated, and critical information that can help users make informed decisions on their safety, and that of their families and friends, Google stated.

### Government modifies Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0

- The Finance Ministry, announced plans to extend and modify the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) 2.0.
- It has been decided to extend the scheme for three more months to build up the portfolio. At the end of six months (by November 19), the portfolio will be crystallised based on the actual amount disbursed for the guarantee to come into effect. At the portfolio level, 'AA' and 'AA (-)' rated investment sub-portfolio under the scheme should not exceed 50 per cent against 25 per cent earlier of the total portfolio of bonds/ CPs (commercial paper) purchased by Public Sector Banks under the scheme.
- In May, Aatma Nirbhar Package revamped and extended the existing PCGS to cover the borrowings of lower-rated NBFCs, (non-banking finance companies) HFCs (housing finance companies) and other MFIs (micro finance institutions). Under the Rs.45,000-crore PCGS 2.0, the government will provide 20 per cent first loss sovereign guarantee to PSBs for the purchase of bonds or commercial papers with a rating of AA and below (including unrated paper) issued by NBFCs/HFCs or MFIs.
- In addition, the government had separately announced the Special Liquidity Scheme for purchase of Commercial Papers (CPs) and non-convertible debentures (NCDs) issued by NBFCs/HFCs with a residual maturity of up to three months, which could be extended for a further period of up to three months, of a total value not exceeding Rs.30,000 crore, to be extended by the amount required as per need.
- Under PCGS 2.0, PSBs have approved purchase of bonds/ CPs rated 'AA/AA-' issued by 28 entities, and bonds/CPs rated below AA- issued by 62 entities, amounting to Rs.. 21,262 crore. The average ticket size of bonds/CPs rated below 'AA-' is significantly lower than the average ticket size of bonds/CPs rated 'AA/AA-'. Under SLS, proposals of Rs. 7,464 crore have been approved so far for purchase.

### Govt launches 'Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge'

- The Union Ministry of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology has launched the "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat" to provide further impetus to the strong startup ecosystem, and drive innovation and research in the country.
- IIT Madras and Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32-bit) and VEGA (64-bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT.

### Home Ministry approves renaming of Manduadih railway station in UP as Banaras

- The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh as 'Banaras'.



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- The Uttar Pradesh government had sent a request for renaming the railway station in Varanasi district.
- It gives its approval to any proposal for change of name of any place after taking no-objections from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts and Survey of India.

### Indian Railways introduces drone-based surveillance system to protect railway assets

- The Mumbai Division of Central Railway zone has recently procured two Ninja UAVs.
- For drone flying, surveillance as well as for its maintenance, a team of four Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff, Mumbai has been trained.
- These drones are capable of Real Time Tracking, Video Streaming, as well as they can be operated on Automatic Fail Safe Mode. The extensive use of drones has been planned by the RPF for the purpose of Railway security.

### Union Cabinet gives a go ahead to setting up of National Recruitment Agency, to benefit job seeking youth of the country

- The Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to conduct Common Eligibility Test. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar termed it as a historic decision which will benefit job seeking youth of the country. He stated, this fulfills the long standing demand of the youth of the country.
- The National Recruitment Agency will conduct a Common Eligibility Test to screen and shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts.

### Other approvals:

- The Cabinet which met under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister also approved a proposal for leasing out three airports of the Airports Authority of India through Public Private Partnership. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar stated, the three airports are Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane payable by sugar mills for the sugar season 2020-21 at 285 rupees per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 10 per cent.
- CCEA also approved one-time relaxation to Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation for extending loans to DISCOMs above limits of working capital cap of 25 percent of last year's revenues under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana.

### Government has launched schemes for development of three Bulk Drug Parks and four Medical Device Parks across the country

- Department of Pharmaceuticals has taken several measures to create suitable environment for development of domestic capacity in the pharma sector.
- CII's 12th MedTech Global Summit Charting the MedTech route to AtmaNirbhar Bharat inaugurated by Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda.
- Government has launched schemes for development of three Bulk Drug Parks and four Medical Device Parks across the country. Apart from increasing Central assistance for development of common infrastructure facilities in the parks.

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- Union Government will also extend Production Linked Incentive (PLI) to manufacturers of bulk drugs and medical devices in these parks.

### Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh virtually releasing a book on Cancer edited by noted Oncologist Dr Ashok Vaid

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is himself a known Diabetologist and medical professional, released a book on Cancer edited by noted Oncologist and Padma Shree recipient, Dr Ashok K. Vaid.
- The prevalence of Cancer has rapidly increased across the country and has begun to affect different organs. For example, while in Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in the Valley, Gastrointestinal and Lung Cancers are more prevalent, in the North Eastern Region Cancers of head and neck take the highest toll.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan launches interactive first-of-its-kind video game 'Corona Fighters' to spread awareness

- Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched an interactive first-of-its-kind game on COVID-19, the Corona Fighters. The Minister also launched two new videos urging adherence to key COVID Appropriate Behaviours.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan stated that the game presents a new and extremely creative way to teach people the right tools and behaviours to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Minister also recollected his experience with the Polio Abhiyaan which was transformed into a social movement through people's participation and support and contribution of many film industry professionals.

### Arjun Munda virtually launches 'TRIFOOD' Project in Raigad, Jagdalpur

- Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda virtually launched the tertiary processing centres under the 'TRIFOOD' project at Raigad in Maharashtra and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh. The TRIFOOD Project aims at enhancing the income of tribals through better utilization and value addition to the Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) collected by the tribal forest gatherers. 'TRIFOOD' project is being implemented by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

### Niti Aayog suggests linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates

- Niti Aayog task force has recommended linking sugarcane prices to sugar rates.
- The report of the panel on "Sugarcane and Sugar Industry", headed by Niti Aayog Member (Agriculture) Ramesh Chand, was finalised in March 2020.
- The task force feels that linking sugarcane prices to sugar prices will prevent the problem of cane arrears and keep the sugar industry in sound financial health.

### Shri Ram Vilas Paswan launches online system of Registration and Renewal for Jewellers and online system of recognition and renewal of Assaying and Hallmarking (A&H) Centers

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- The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan virtually launched the online system of Registration and Renewal of Jewellers and online system of recognition and renewal of the Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.
- This online system can be accessed through Bureau of Indian Standards web portal [www.manakonline.in](http://www.manakonline.in).
- Hallmarking of precious metals will be mandatory from 1st June 2021.

### India's longest river ropeway connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati over Brahmaputra river inaugurated

- In Assam, the longest river ropeway of the country is inaugurated connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati. Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Guwahati Development Department Minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya inaugurated the 1.8- kilometre long ropeway service. The ropeway has been operated from Kachari Ghat in Guwahati to Dol Govinda temple in North Guwahati.
- The ropeway has been built as per state-of -the-art technology following relevant norms. The opening of ropeway service would reduce the travel time between Guwahati and North Guwahati as well as boost the tourism sector.

### Govt activates Aadhaar authentication for new GST registration

- Government has activated Aadhaar authentication for new goods and services tax (GST) registration to enhance ease of doing business. For those opting for Aadhaar authentication, new GST registration will be issued within three working days and will not need to wait for physical verification.
- The facility of quick approval of GST registration through Aadhaar authentication can be availed by all Indian citizens.

### eVIN to Strengthen Immunisation Supply Chain, reached 32 States & UTs

- The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), which is used for efficient vaccine logistics management has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining State and Union Territories (UTs).
- The eVIN provides real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country amid COVID-19. National Health Mission (NHM) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is the implementing agency of eVIN.

### Centre Forms National Council for Transgenders to Formulate Policies Aimed at Equality & Participation

- The Centre has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons to formulate policies, programmes, legislation and projects regarding members of the community for achieving equality and full participation by them.
- The council was established by the Centre in exercise of the powers conferred by the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, according to a gazette notification issued.
- The council have representatives from community members, five states and 10 central departments. Its chairperson will be the Union Minister of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment while the vice-chairperson will be the junior minister in the ministry.

### Validity of motor vehicle documents extended till Dec 31 amid Covid-19 pandemic

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- Central government extended the validity of expiring driving licenses and motor vehicle documents till December 31 in the wake of coronavirus crisis.
- This is the third such extension after the earlier advisories on March 30 and June 9.

### CMIA partners with UNDP to set up help desk for MSMEs

- Chamber of Marathwada Industries and Agriculture (CMIA) has partnered with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish Covid-19 help desk to facilitate Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The help desk will provide various information on government safety guidelines, regulatory norms and government Covid-19 response schemes and support measures.
- The help desk will be active till January 2021.

### Businesses with annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakh are GST exempt: Finance Ministry

- The Ministry of Finance said that businesses with an annual turnover of up to Rs 40 lakhs are exempt from GST and those with a turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore can opt for the Composition Scheme and pay only one per cent tax.
- Earlier, the GST exemption limit was Rs 20 lakh.
- The Ministry also informed that significant relief has been extended to the construction sector, particularly the housing sector. It has now been placed at the 5% rate. GST on affordable housing has been reduced to 1%.
- Out of a total of about 230 items in the 28% slab, about 200 items have been shifted to lower slabs.

### NITI Aayog releases Export Preparedness Index 2020

- NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020. EPI intends to identify challenges and opportunities; enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.
- The structure of the EPI includes four pillars which are Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.
- This edition of EPI has shown that most Indian states performed well on average across the sub-pillars of Exports Diversification, Transport Connectivity and Infrastructure.
- It also says, overall, most of the Coastal States are the best performers. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupy the top three ranks.

### Ministry of Culture announces 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India

- The Ministry of Culture has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India, ASI.
- New circles have been created in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat. Mr Patel stated, Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Jhansi and Meerut have been announced as new circles.
- The Minister stated, in a large state like Tamil Nadu which has thousands of temples and glorious memories of the Chola kings, Trichy has been made a new circle along with the circle of Chennai. He stated, Hampi city in Karnataka is a

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place of international importance from the point of view of archaeological heritage therefore the Hampi Sub-Circle now has been made a new full fledged circle.

- In West Bengal, Raiganj has been made as a new circle along with Kolkata, which will eliminate geographical inconvenience. In Gujarat, Rajkot has been announced as a new circle along with Vadodara. Mr Patel stated, Jabalpur has been announced as a new circle along with Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

### NHA releases Draft Health Data Management Policy of National Digital Health Mission

- The National Health Authority has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission in the public domain.
- The draft of the policy has been released on the official website of National Digital Health Mission and will be available for public comments and feedback till 3rd of next month.
- The policy is in the draft stage and will be finalized after receiving suggestions from members of the general public.

### DoPPW to integrate e- Pension Payment Order with Digi Locker

- The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, DoPPW has decided to integrate the electronic Pension Payment Order, e-PPO generated through PFMS application of Controller General of Accounts, with Digi Locker, to enhance Ease of Living of Central Government Civil Pensioners.
- This system will enable any Pensioner to obtain an instant print-out of the latest copy of their PPO, from their Digi Locker account.
- This initiative will create a permanent record of their PPO in their Digi Locker and at the same time eliminate delays in reaching the PPO to new Pensioners, as well as the necessity of handing over a physical copy.
- This was a target set to be accomplished for Civil Ministries by 2021-22, which the Department completed ahead of time in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Mission COVID Suraksha': Govt mulls mission with Rs 3,000-crore corpus for development, manufacture of Covid-19 vaccine

- The government has proposed setting up a 'Mission COVID Suraksha' with a corpus of Rs 3,000 crore to accelerate the development and manufacture of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in the country.
- The mission will aim to quicken the development of at least six Coronavirus vaccine candidates and ensure that they are licensed and introduced in the market for emergency use at the earliest.
- Also, as per the approval of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), the mission will focus on efficient ways to introduce the vaccine in public health systems of the Ministry of Health post to combat further spread of COVID-19 infection.

### Social Justice Ministry to launch mental health rehabilitation helpline "Kiran"

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- The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has launched a toll-free helpline to enable access to mental health resources.
- The “Kiran” mental health rehabilitation helpline number, 1800-599-0019, will provide callers “support for early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being, preventing deviant behaviours, psychological crisis management etc.,
- The helpline will offer services in 13 languages.

### **IIT-Hyderabad start-up launches world's most affordable respirator mask**

- With a vision to provide high-quality protection, especially in the healthcare industry and its frontline workers, USafe's US9 Respirator Mask has 98.03% PM0.3 filtration rate and 99.7% bacterial filtration rate (better than N95 standards).
- The home-grown innovation in tune with the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' aspirations, US9 Respirator Mask, has been designed, developed and produced in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad under the mentorship of Prof Surya Kumar and Prof Renu John.

### **Govt approves 78 new routes under Udan scheme; focus on North East, islands**

- Centre has approved 78 new additional routes to be awarded under the fourth round of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN) focusing on boosting connectivity in the North East, hilly states and islands.
- The Udan is a regional airport development scheme aimed at enhancing connectivity to remote and regional areas of the country and making air travel affordable.
- The scheme is a key component of Centre's National Civil Aviation Policy led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and launched in June 2016.

### **Piyush Goyal launches GIS-enabled national land bank portal for details on industrial belts**

- Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal virtually launched a first-of-its kind GIS-enabled national land bank portal, which will help investors zero in on land located in various states for potential projects.
- Investors will also get access to details of logistics, land, rail & air connectivity, tax incentives, drainage system, power supply and raw material availability from the portal on various industrial belts.
- Extensive information about industrial belts in six states is available on the portal.

### **Government launches contest “Chunauti” to promote startups in small towns**

- Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of the country. The government has earmarked a budget of over 95 crore rupees over a period of three years for this programme. It aims at



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identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and providing them seed funds of upto 25 lakh rupees and other facilities.

### Indian Railways set to meet all its energy needs of over 33 billion units by 2030

- Indian Railways is set to meet all its energy needs of more than 33 billion units by 2030.
- The current annual requirement is about 21 billion units. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal stated, Railways have developed a mega plan for installing solar plants of 20 Gigawatt capacity by utilizing its vacant land by 2030.
- He stated, the use of solar power will accelerate the mission to achieve conversion of Indian Railways to Net Zero Carbon Emission Railway.
- Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh has stated that three Bamboo Clusters will be developed in Jammu, Katra and Samba areas for making of Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcoal.

### UTIITSL ties up with NHA to provide print services for PMJAY e-cards

- UTI Infrastructure Technology and Services Ltd (UTIITSL) stated it has signed a pact with the National Health Authority (NHA) to provide the printing services of e-cards for the beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). UTIITSL will provide printing services and support the beneficiary identification and verification process in the issuance of e-cards to beneficiaries of the AB-PMJAY scheme, the company stated in a statement.

### Central Government Extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to Large Firms & Self Employed

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the Central Government have extended its Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), credit guarantee scheme for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), to cover the loans given to the large firms, self-employed professionals and people who have taken a loan for business purpose.

### PM Modi inaugurates college, administration buildings of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University in Jhansi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated college and administration buildings of the Rani Lakshmi Bai (RLB) Central Agricultural University in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi through video conferencing.
- The RLB Central Agriculture University is located in Jhansi and is a prominent institute in the Bundelkhand region.
- This would improve the education infrastructure and contribute to cutting edge research in agriculture as well as further farmer welfare.

### Rs 601.12 crore annual action plan approved for PMKSY in J&K

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- An amount of Rs 601,12 crore annual plan has been approved for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the year 2020-21, an official spokesman stated .
- The Committee approved Rs. **601.12 crore** annual action plan of PMKSY for the year 2020-21. The annual plan lays emphasis on various components under the schemes **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC)**, **Har Khet Ko Paani (HKKP)**, **Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP)** and **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)**.

### DEA holds Sustainable Finance Collaborative consultation with UNDP

- **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme India** launched the Sustainable Finance Collaborative on 26th August 2020. The consultation was held on 26th, 27th and 28th August over virtual platform which brought forth thematic discussions around some key aspects of Sustainable Finance.
- The Collaborative saw a host of thematic discussions centred around the broad scope of Sustainable Finance architecture in India.

### Coal India to invest over Rs 1.22 lakh crore on 500 projects by 2023-24

- **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** will invest over **1.22 lakh crore rupees** on development of nearly **500 projects** related to coal evacuation, infrastructure, project development, exploration and clean coal technologies in the country. The investment aims at making India self-reliant in terms of coal and achieve the production target of **1 billion tonnes by 2023-2024**.
- Coal India has also identified **15 greenfield projects** which will be operated under the **Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) model**. The experience criteria has been brought down from 65 per cent to 50 per cent for mining tenders, while work experience criteria are relaxed by 50 per cent in turnkey contracts.

### Indian power market goes green with launch of pan-India GTAM in electricity

- Indian power market has gone green with the launch of **pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM)** in electricity.
- New and Renewable Energy Minister **R K Singh** stated the introduction of **GTAM platform** would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy-rich States. He added that the GTAM platform will lead to an increase in the number of participants in the renewable energy sector.
- Government's target of **175 Gigawatt renewable energy capacity by 2022** is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India.

### Dept. of Fertilizers to observe Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September

- The **Department of Fertilizers** is observing **Swachhta Pakhwada** from **1st to 15th September**. All Public Sector Undertakings and other Organisations under the Department are participating in the **Swachhta Abhiyan**.

### MoD sets up a committee to review the AFHQ CS cadre

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- To enhance the **military's combat potential** and **rebalancing the defence expenditure**, a **three member committee** has been set up by the **Ministry of Defence**.
- This is in line with the recommendation of the **Lt Gen DB Shekatkar (retd)** committee and its main task is to review the **utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre**.
- The other two members include **R Chandrashekar**, a retired AFHQ cadre officer and **AN Das** from the MoD finance wing.

### Cabinet Approves Mission Karmayogi - National Programme For Civil Services Capacity Building

- The Union Cabinet approved Centre's **Mission Karmayogi** for Civil Servants aimed at **bringing post-recruitment reforms in government**.
- The mission seeks to reincarnate the civil servants as an ideal servant to the nation.
- Mission Karmayogi which is the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building will lay the foundation for **capacity building for Civil Servants** so they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world.

### The key highlights of the programme are:

- Prescribe annual capacity building plan for all departments and services
- Monitor the implementation of the capacity building plan
- Massive capacity building initiative to ensure efficient service delivery
- Promotes technology driven learning pedagogy
- Strengthen common foundations and remove departmental silos
- Set benchmark for learning in public servants
- Democratization of learning to cover all categories

### Ladakh, Lakshadweep join Centre's ration card portability scheme

- **Ladakh and Lakshadweep** have the joined the Centre's ration card portability scheme '**One Nation-One Ration Card**', taking the **total number of states and Union territories** linked with the scheme to **26**.
- Under the scheme, eligible beneficiaries under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** will be able to avail their entitled foodgrains from any Fair Price Shop (FPS), also called ration shops, in the country using the same ration card.
- The integration of Ladakh and Lakshadweep with the national portability network was approved recently in a review meeting chaired by **Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan**.
- Remaining states are targeted to be integrated in the scheme by **March 2021**.

### Qutub Minar illuminated in red and white to mark Poland's Solidarity movement

- **Embassy of Poland** and **Polish Institute in Delhi** illuminated **Qutub Minar** in Poland's national colours, **white and red**, to commemorate the **40th anniversary of the creation of Poland's Solidarity movement**.

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- This year, 2020, marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of Solidarity..
- The **Chief Guest** at the Qutub Minar function is **Dinesh K Patnaik** who is the **Director General of the Indian Council of International Relations**.

### Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Japan for improving quality of Indian textiles for Japanese market

- **Cabinet** has approved the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between **India** and **Japan** for improving quality and testing of **Indian textiles** and clothing for the Japanese market.
- Government has also approved an MoU between **India** and **Finland** for **cooperation** in the field of **Geology** and **Mineral Resources**.

### Govt. gives nod to 27 integrated cold chain development projects under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana

- **Government** gave its nod to **27 projects** under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana** for development of integrated cold chains and value addition infrastructure in the country.
- The new **integrated cold chain projects** will generate direct and indirect employment for over 16,000 people and benefit nearly 2,57,000 farmers. .
- These 27 new projects will leverage a total investment of **Rs 743 crore** for the creation of modern, innovative infrastructure and effective cold chain facilities for the food processing sector across various states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

### In 2019, a person died by suicide every four minutes: NCRB data

- Last year, **139,123 people** died by suicide and **421,104** were killed in accidents in India, according to the Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India report for 2019 released by the **National Crime Records Bureau**. Between 2018 and 2019, the number of people dying in accidents increased by 2.3% while for suicides, this number was 3.4%.
- Traffic accidents were the single-biggest contributor to accidental deaths in India, amounting to 43% of all such fatalities. These together led to **24%** of accidental deaths. Forces of nature, such as natural disasters, killed 8,000 people, or 2% of all accidental deaths.
- The report is prepared with the data and information on deaths due to accidents and suicides which were collected by the **State Crime Records Bureaux (SCRbX)** from the **District Crime Records Bureaux (DCRBx)** and sent to the NCRB.

### India received 4th highest rainfall in 120 yrs in August 2020: IMD

- India recorded **27% more rainfall** than normal in **August 2020**, the **fourth-highest amount** in the **last 120 years**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** stated.
- In its forecast for August last month, the IMD had predicted rainfall of 97 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) with an error margin of plus or minus 9 per cent. Monsoon in the range of 96-104 per cent of the LPA is considered normal.

### Shri Arjun Munda inaugurates '2 Days' National Tribal Research Conclave' being held virtually

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- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has stated that the Ministry of Tribal affairs is funding 26 Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for research under Grant to TRIs. National Institute for Tribal research is being set up in partnership with IIPA at the IIPA premises in Delhi.
- These partner organizations are designated as Centres of Excellence. Addressing at the inaugural session of “National Tribal Research Conclave” organized by Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Tribal Affairs, (M/o Tribal Affairs), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi, he stated that his Ministry along with such partner organisations design workable models which provide end to end solution, like problem identification, finding solution and execution of the project as part of Action research which can be implemented by policy initiatives.

### Cabinet Approves Bill To Include Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi As Official Languages In J&K

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a bill under which **Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi**, apart from the **existing Urdu and English**, will be the **official languages** in the **union territory of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The Bill received the Cabinet nod at a meeting presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Union Minister and Udhampur MP Jitendra Singh stated the government has accepted the long-pending demand of the region for the inclusion of Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages in J-K.

### Thaawarchand Gehlot to launch 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline 'KIRAN'

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Thaawarchand Gehlot** will launch the **24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline "KIRAN"**. The helpline number is 1800-500-0019. This Helpline has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to provide relief and support to persons with Mental Illness.
- This helpline will offer mental health rehabilitation services with the objective of early screening, first-aid, psychological support, mental well-being and psychological crisis management. It will function as a lifeline to provide 1st stage advice, counseling and reference to individuals, families, NGOs, Parent Associations, Professional Associations, Rehabilitation Institutes, Hospitals or anyone in need of support across the country.

### 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah being celebrated this month to address malnutrition among young children and women

- The **3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah** is being celebrated this month to address malnutrition among young children and women. The objective of the Poshan Maah is to encourage **Jan Bhagidaari** to ensure health and nutrition for everyone. Women and Child Development Ministry stated the Poshan Maah is celebrated every year under POSHAN Abhiyaan, which was launched in **2018**.

### Prakash Javadekar to chair a webinar on first ever International Day of Clean Air For Blue Skies

- **Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar** will chair a **webinar** on the first-ever **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**. Mr Javadekar will also review the progress of activities under the **National Clean Air programme (NCAP)** during the course of the webinar.
- The webinar will be joined by Principal Secretaries of the Urban Development Departments and Environment Departments of 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

### NITI Aayog constitutes Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC)



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- NITI Aayog has constituted a **Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC)**.
- The MPICC, chaired by **Ms Sanyukta Samaddar**, Adviser (SDG) has members from relevant Line Ministries and Departments, namely Ministry/ Department of Power, WCD, Telecommunication, MoSPI, Rural Development, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Food & Public Distribution, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Education, Housing & Urban Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, and Financial Services.
- According to Global MPI 2020, **India is 62<sup>nd</sup>** among **107 countries** with an MPI score of 0.123 and 27.91% headcount ratio, based on the NFHS 4 (2015/16) data.
- Neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka (25<sup>th</sup>), Bhutan (68<sup>th</sup>), Nepal (65<sup>th</sup>), Bangladesh (58<sup>th</sup>), China (30<sup>th</sup>), Myanmar (69<sup>th</sup>) and Pakistan (73<sup>rd</sup>) are also ranked in this index

### PM Modi inaugurates Patrika Gate in Jaipur

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur** through video conference.
- The Iconic Gate is built by the Patrika Group of Newspapers on the **Jawaharlal Nehru Marg** in the Pink City.
- The gate engraves the architecture, culture, and lifestyle of every corner of Rajasthan
- Prime Minister will also launch two books - **Samvad Upanishad and Akshar Yatra** - authored by Editor-in-Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group **Gulab Kothari**.

### Shri Dharmendra Pradhan announces that Five Petroleum and Gas sector PSUs will join International Solar Alliance

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated **First World Solar Technology Summit** organized by **ISA**.
- Five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry will be joining International Solar Alliance (ISA)'s Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as Corporate Partners.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and GAIL (India) Limited will be contributing to ISA's Corpus Fund.

### Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launches 22 bamboo clusters in 9 States; Logo for National Bamboo Mission also released

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated by virtual mode **22 bamboo clusters** in **9 States (Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka)**.
- A logo for the **National Bamboo Mission** was also released.
- The **winner of the logo contest, Shri Sai Ram Goudi Edigi of Telengana** was selected from 2033 entries received on MyGov platform from across the country.

### PM Modi to hold Swanidhi Samvaad with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will hold **Svanidhi Samvaad** with **street vendors** from **Madhya Pradesh**. Government of India had launched PM Svanidhi scheme on 1st June this year to help poor street vendors, impacted by COVID-



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19, resume livelihood activities. **4.5 lakh street vendors** were registered in Madhya Pradesh, with more than 4 lakh vendors having been given identification and vendor certification.

- The state of **Madhya Pradesh** stands first in the number of total applications accepted, with 47 per cent of these coming from the state alone..

### Cabinet approves asset monetization of subsidiaries of PGCIL through Infrastructure Trust

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved **Asset Monetization of subsidiaries of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited- POWERGRID** through Infrastructure Investment Trust. It has given approval to POWERGRID to undertake monetization of its Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) assets, held in existing Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs), through Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).
- The approval would facilitate POWERGRID, to undertake asset monetization of its identified TBCB transmission assets through InvIT, so that the proceeds from the asset monetization could be utilized for fresh investment in the transmission network expansion and other capital schemes of the company.

### India's child mortality rate declined between 1990 and 2019: UN

- **India's child mortality rate** has declined substantially between **1990** and **2019** but the country, along with **Nigeria**, still accounted for almost a **third** of all under-five deaths last year, according to a new UN report which warned that Covid-19 pandemic threatens to undo decades of progress in eliminating preventable child deaths globally.
- The '**Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020** stated that the number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lowest point on record in 2019 — down to **5.2 million** from **12.5 million** in 1990.
- The country also witnessed a decrease in neonatal mortality rate between 1990 and 2019 from **57 to 22 - 1.5 million neonatal deaths** in 1990 to 522,000 deaths in 2019.

### EPFO decides to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20

- The Labour and Employment Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** chaired the **227th Meeting** of the **Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund**.
- In view of the exceptional circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the Central Board has recommended the same interest rate at **8.50 per cent** to the Central Government.
- It would comprise of 8.15 per cent from debt income and balance 0.35 per cent capital gain from the sale of Exchange Traded Funds, ETFs subject to their redemption by 31st December this year.

### Indian agri-tech sector can grow to \$24.1 billion in five years: Report

- India's **agriculture technology sector** has the potential to grow manifold to **\$24.1 billion** in the **next five years**, according to a new report.
- With a turnover of **\$204 million**, India's agri-tech sector is at under 1% of its market potential.
- EY estimates that **five key categories** of agritech will control the lion's share of the sector's turnover, with the agritech market for supplying farm inputs being as big as \$1.7 billion by 2025, the market for precision agriculture and farm

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management growing to \$3.4 billion in that time, while the market for quality management and traceability could be worth \$3 billion.

- The market for tech enabled supply chain and output market linkages will be the largest segment, which could be worth \$12 billion by 2025, according to EY.

### Govt forms three-member expert panel to assist in assessment of relief to bank borrowers

- Government has constituted a **three member expert committee** to assist in the **assessment of relief** to bank borrowers.
- The committee chaired by former **CAG Rajiv Mehrishi** will measure the impact on the national economy and **financial stability of waiving of interest** and COVID-19 related moratorium.

### Railways launch India's second Kisan Rail from Andhra to Delhi

- The **Indian Railways** flagged off its **second and South India's first Kisan Rail**, from **Anantapur in the state of Andhra Pradesh to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi**.
- The rail carried 322 tonnes of fruits and vegetables which consist of papaya, sweet lime, mangoes, banana, musk melon, and tomatoes in 13 bogies.
- The very **first Kisan Rail train service** introduced by the Indian Railways network was launched on 7 August 2020. The train that runs between **Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in the state of Bihar** operates on a **weekly basis**.

### Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates webinar on Enhancing Water Use Efficiency and Coverage of Micro Irrigation in Indian agriculture

- Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated a **webinar on Enhancing Water Use Efficiency and Coverage of Micro Irrigation** in Indian agriculture.
- The Minister stated the Government has set the target of covering **100 lakh hectares** in five years under micro-irrigation.

### Atal Innovation Mission Launches Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC Initiative

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog**, launched one of its most awaited programmes, the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges**, to spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.
- The programme will be driven by **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**, four ministries—**Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**—and associated industries to facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.
- The Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC programme will support deserving applied research-based innovations by providing funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product.

### Housing Ministry launches Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework 2.0

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched the **Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0**, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge' in a virtual event organised by the **Smart Cities Mission**.

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- The objective of CSCAF is to provide a roadmap for cities for combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.
- The framework has 28 indicators across five categories: (i) **Energy and Green Buildings**, (ii) **Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity**, (iii) **Mobility and Air Quality**, (iv) **Water Management** and (v) **Waste Management**.

### Govt Sets up Empowered Group of Ministers Headed by Rajnath Singh to Oversee OFB's Corporatisation

- The government has constituted an **Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM)** under the **chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** to oversee the **process of corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)**.
- The ministry stated that the EGoM will oversee and guide the entire process (of corporatisation), including transition support and redeployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits.

### Govt enhances scholarship for students of J&K under Pragati, Saksham Scholarship Schemes to Rs 50,000

- The **Center government** has enhanced **scholarship amount for the students** of J&K under “**Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes**” from **Rs. 5000 per annum to Rs.50,000 per annum** from current academic year **2020-2021**.
- Pertinently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development had launched the “Pragati and Saksham Scholarship Schemes” being implemented and **offered by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**.
- Under Pragati scheme, **all girls of J&K belonging to families** having annual income of Rs. 8 lakh who shall be admitted in the AICTE approved institutions for the session 2020-21 will be eligible for scholarship.
- Under Saksham scheme, **all specially abled students with 40 per cent disability** pursuing technical education at Degree or diploma level belonging to families with annual income less than Rs. 8.00 lakh would be eligible for the scholarship.

### PM Modi addresses the 'Grih Pravesham' event in Madhya Pradesh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the ‘**Grih Pravesham**’ event in **Madhya Pradesh** through **video conferencing**, where **1.75 Lakh Families** were delivered **pucca houses** under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G)**.

### PM Modi inaugurates 3 petroleum projects worth Rs 900cr in Bihar

- **Bihar** is set to receive **three key petroleum projects** ahead of the Legislative Assembly polls, scheduled in October 2020.
- Modi devoted to the nation three petroleum sector initiatives value about **Rs 900 crore through video conferencing**.
- These projects that will help meet the demand for domestic cooking gas in the state include state-run **Indian Oil Corporation's 193-km long Durgapur-Banka section of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline** that will supply **cooking gas** for bottling at the new Banka plant in the state.
- Apart from the pipeline and the **bottling plant at Banka**, PM Modi also dedicated state-run **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd' LPG bottling plant** at Harsidhi in **East Champaran district** through video conferencing.

### Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh lays foundation stone online of Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex

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- The Union Minister of State, Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), **Dr Jitendra Singh** laid foundation stone for the construction of **Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex at Hiranagar, Jammu**.
- Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex at Hiranagar would be **first of its kind in the Northern Region**.
- The mega-sports complex -- to be spread over 270 kanals of land at Hiranagar in Jammu region at an estimated cost of **Rs.58.23 crore** -- is being undertaken under the **Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP)**.
- The Sports Minister informed that a world class '**Winter Sports Academy**' will be built in **Gulmarg**.

### MoRTH moves ahead with Orientation and Training Programme of iRAD App

- The **2-days Orientation and Training programme** on **iRAD App** was conducted by the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** on 7th & 8th September 2020 for the selected districts of Karnataka, and on 10th & 11th September 2020 for some districts of Uttar Pradesh.
- The basic **iRAD app** has been **developed and will be customized/integrated** as per the requirements of concerned States/UTs.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** is in the process of implementing '**Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD)**' which will be applicable across the country.
- The development and implementation of iRAD has been entrusted to **IIT Madras and National Informatics Centre Services Inc.**

### PM to inaugurate, launch 7 urban infra projects worth Rs 541 crore in Bihar

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated and **laid the foundation** of **seven urban infrastructure projects** worth **Rs 541 crore in Bihar**.
- The seven projects include **four related to water supply, two to sewerage treatment and one to riverfront development**.
- The **Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation (BUIDCO)** under the urban development and housing department of the state will undertake these projects.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the **sewerage treatment plants** built under **Namami Gange**, at **Beur and Karmalichak, in Patna Municipal Corporation**. He also inaugurated the water supply projects built under **AMRUT Mission in Siwan Municipal Council and Chapra Municipal Corporation** that will help local residents get pure drinking water through the day.

### Govt launches Postage Stamp commemorating Mission Shakti's success

- A customized My Stamp on India's **First Anti Satellite Missile (A-SAT)** was launched on the occasion of **Engineers Day** on September 15 in the presence of **Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA)**. The stamp was released by **Department of Posts**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted an **Anti-Satellite (A-SAT)** missile test '**Mission Shakti**' from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island** in **Odisha** on **27th March 2019**.

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- DRDO developed A-SAT Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** in a 'Hit to Kill' mode. The interceptor missile was a three-stage missile with two solid rocket boosters.

### Cabinet approves establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved establishment of a **new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** at **Darbhanga, Bihar**. This will be established under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.
- The total cost will be **Rs.1264 crore** and is likely to be completed **within a period of 48 months** from the date of the approval of Government of India.

### Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor gets nod from cabinet

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** approved the **121-km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor**, which will connect **Palwal and Sonipat**, and decongest the national capital region.
- The project will **provide rail connectivity to all routes originating from Delhi and passing through Haryana**, while bypassing the national capital. It will make train travel faster from Gurugram and industrial regions in Haryana, including Manesar, Sohna, Farukhnagar, Kharkhauda and Sonipat.
- The project will be implemented by **Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corp. Ltd**, a joint venture between the railway ministry and the Haryana government, and is expected to be complete in **five years** at an estimated cost of **Rs.5,617 crore**.

### PM Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19' extended for another 6 months

- The '**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19**' was announced on 30 March 2020 for a period of 90 days. This was extended for a further period of 90 days i.e. up to 25th Sept, 2020.
- The scheme has now been **extended for another 180 days i.e. 6 months**.
- This Central Sector Scheme provides **an insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh to healthcare providers**, including community health workers, who may have to be in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and therefore at risk of being infected. It also includes **accidental loss of life** on account of contracting COVID-19.
- There is **no age limit for this scheme** and **individual enrolment is not required**. The entire amount of premium for this scheme is being borne by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- **Ministry of Health and Family welfare** has collaborated with the **New India Assurance (NIA) Company Limited** for providing the insurance amount based on the guidelines prepared for the scheme.

### Lok Sabha passes bill to cut salaries of MPs by 30%

- The Lok Sabha passed a bill to cut salaries of all MPs by **30 per cent** for a year, to meet the exigencies arising out COVID-19 pandemic. The **Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020** was unanimously passed by the members of the Lower House.



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- The bill was introduced in the Lower House on September 14. Earlier this year, the government had brought the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which provided a 30 per cent cut in sumptuary allowance payable to each minister for a period of one year commencing from April 1, 2020.

### Lok Sabha passes Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill

- Bill seeks to strengthen regulatory framework around **cooperatives** undertaking banking activities
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Banking Regulation (amendment) Bill 2020** that seeks to protect the depositors of **cooperative banks** and empower the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to regulate the banking activities of cooperative societies.

### PM Modi to dedicate historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu to the Nation

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** shall dedicate to the nation the historic **Kosi Rail Mahasetu** (mega bridge) to the Nation through video-conference.
- Apart from this the Prime Minister shall also inaugurate **12 rail projects** related to passenger facilities for the benefit of the Bihar State.
- **The Kosi Mega Bridge line project** was sanctioned by Government of India during 2003-04. The Kosi Rail Mahasetu is 1.9 KM long and its construction cost is **Rs. 516 Crore**. This bridge is of strategic importance along the India-Nepal border. The project was completed during the COVID-Pandemic where the migrant labour also participated in its completion.

### Parliament passes Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill 2020

- The Bill was earlier passed in Lok Sabha on 19th March, 2020. This paves the way to establish a state-of-the-art Ayurvedic institution called the **Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA)** at **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, and to confer the status of **Institution of National Importance (INI)** to it.
- The ITRA is sought to be established by conglomerating the presently existing Ayurveda institutes at Gujarat Ayurved University campus Jamnagar.

### India seeks Blue Flag eco-label for its eight beaches, launches its own tag 'BEAMS' for clean beach

- A national jury, composed of environmentalists and scientists, has recommended **India's eight beaches for consideration** by **international jury** for the coveted International eco-label, the **Blue Flag certification**.
- The Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world.
- The eight beaches are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman & Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri beach in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden beach of Odisha and Radhanagar beach of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **Total 4664 beaches, marinas and boats from 46 countries** have, so far, **got the Blue Flag certification** by international jury. **Spain has the highest number of Blue Flag tagged sites**. There is **none from India**.



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- On the eve of **International Coastal Clean-Up Day** which is celebrated across 100 countries since 1986, India launched its own eco-label “**BEAMS**” (**Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services**) under its **Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)** project.

### Delhi's IGI airport gets India's first terminal for chartered planes, can handle 150 jets per day

- **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)**, a GMR Group-led consortium launched **India's first General Aviation Terminal facility for private jets** at **Indira Gandhi International Airport**.
- It was inaugurated by Union civil aviation minister **Hardeep Singh Puri**
- Equipped with 57 parking bays, this new terminal can cater to over 150 private jets per day. The newly-developed flight line or apron is spread over an area of 8 lakh square feet with 24/7 personal concierge services.

### Lok Sabha passes several bills including National Forensic Science University Bill 2020

- **Lok Sabha** has passed **The National Forensic Science University Bill 2020**. The Bill establishes National Forensic Science University as an institute of national importance. The proposed university would facilitate and promote studies and research and help achieve excellence in the field of forensic science in conjunction with applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.
- The Lok Sabha also passed the **Rashtriya Raksha University Bill**. The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the **Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat**.
- The **Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill** was also passed. The Bill seeks to provide a legal framework for bilateral netting of qualified financial contracts which are over the counter derivatives contracts.
- The Lok Sabha also passed **The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2020**.

### Govt launches Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts

- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has formulated and is implementing a **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025**. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.
- The activities under the NAPDDR include awareness generation programmes in schools, colleges, Universities, workshop and provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.
- He stated, the Ministry has also launched **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan** in 272 most affected districts with focus on institutional support, community outreach and awareness generation.

### DPIIT extends date of implementation of Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020 to 1st January 2021

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** issued notification extending the date of implementation of Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020 as **1st January 2021** in place of **1st September 2020**.
- This decision allows domestic manufacturers four months of extra time to make necessary arrangements for compliance of standards in view of difficulties arising out of COVID-19 pandemic.

### Govt sets up group under cyber security head to probe China Watching, will report in 30 days

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- The Government set up an expert committee under the **National Cyber Security Coordinator** to study the revelations in China Watching, an investigation, that a **Shenzen-based company**, with links to the Chinese government, is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and entities.
- The expert committee, led by **Lt Gen (retd) Rajesh Pant**, India's chief coordinator on **cyber security**, will evaluate the "implications" of the digital surveillance by Data Information Technology Co. Limited and "assess any violations of law and submit its recommendations within thirty days."

### FSSAI constitutes task force on vegan food

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** constituted a task force to look into guidelines/ provisions for vegan foods in the country. The task force comprises **seven members** including **Shankar Narayan**, founder-president, Satvik Vegan Society (formerly Indian Vegan Society), Bengaluru-Byndoor.

### ICT challenge for developing smart supply measurement and monitoring system under Jal Jeevan Mission

- The government has launched an **information and communications technology (ICT)** contest to create innovative, modular and cost-effective solution to develop a smart water supply measurement and monitoring system to be deployed at the village level, according to an official statement.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, has launched the challenge and will be inviting proposals from Indian firms, including start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** aims at providing tap water connection to every rural household by **2024**.

### Govt forms expert panels for inspection of covid hospitals

- The Centre has formed expert committees for inspection of government and other COVID facilities following directions of the Supreme Court.
- The **expert committees constituted by the Ministry of Health** have been tasked to inspect, supervise and guide government and other hospitals dedicated to COVID-19.
- The Ministry of Health has written to all the states and union territories with regard to prescribing **reasonable rates for testing and treatment of COVID-19**.

### Hyderabad International Airport gets ACI health accreditation for safe travel of passengers

- GMR-led **Hyderabad International Airport** has managed to get the **Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Health Accreditation (AHA)**.
- Hyderabad is among the first airports in the Asia Pacific region to have received this accreditation.

### Govt has launched National Conservation Strategy for Indian One-Horned Rhino

- Union Minister Prakash Javadekar stated **India** is home to the largest number of **Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros** in the world with population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and UP.

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- Mr Javadekar stated Environment Ministry has launched a **National Conservation Strategy** for Indian One-Horned Rhino.

### Parliament passes Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- Parliament has passed the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020** with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill allows the central government to regulate the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances such as war and famine. It will replace the **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020** which was promulgated in June this year.

### Centre sanctions Rs. 108 crore under UDAN scheme for three Airports in Chhattisgarh

- The Central Government has sanctioned **Rs. 108 crore** under **UDAN scheme** for upgradation of **three Chhattisgarh Airports**.
- Out of the total amount, **Rs. 48 crore** have been sanctioned for Jagdalpur, Rs. 27 crore for Ambikapur and Rs. 33 crore for Bilaspur under UDAN scheme for up-gradation and development of these Airports.
- Mr Puri also informed that the Airports Authority of India has planned for the investment of about **900 crore rupees** to develop and expand Raipur airport which includes expansion of the terminal building.

### Niti Aayog, ISPP join hands for capacity building

- The **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)** of the Aayog has signed a statement of intent with the **ISPP** to build a collaboration for faster intermediation of knowledge and use within the public system, the statement stated.
- Niti Aayog** and the **Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP)** have joined hands for training, mentoring, and capacity building of government officials as well as public policy scholars, a statement stated.

### Government gives one-year extension to Company Law Committee

- The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the **Company Law Committee** by one year to **September 2021**.
- The committee, constituted is now chaired by corporate affairs secretary **Rajesh Verma**.
- It was set up to suggest measures to de-clog and improve functioning of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and make recommendations on various issues pertaining to implementation of the **Companies Act** as well as the **Limited Liability Partnership Act**.
- The committee, which has a **total of 11 members**, has the mandate to submit recommendations in phases and subject-wise to the government from time to time as may be decided by the chairperson.

### PM Modi lays foundation stone of 9 highway projects, launches 'Ghar tak fibre' scheme in poll-bound Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of **nine highway projects** in Bihar through video conference.
- He also inaugurated the **'Ghar Tak Fibre'** project wherein all the 45,945 villages of **Bihar will be connected through optical fibre internet Service**.

### Ghar Tak Fibre

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- The “**Ghar Tak Fibre**” is a prestigious project covering all 45,945 villages of Bihar which will enable a digital revolution to reach the farthest corner of the State.
- This project will be executed by combined efforts of **Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and Common Service Centres (CSC)**.

### Centre approved Outlay for PM Svanidhi Scheme is Rs.600 Crore

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched **Prime Minister Street Vendor’s Aamta Nirbhar Nidhi Scheme (PM SVANidhi)**.
- It aims at facilitating **collateral free working capital loans upto Rs 10,000 of 1 year tenure, to about 50 lakh street vendors** across the country.
- It also provides for incentives in the form of interest subsidy **@ 7% per annum** on regular repayment of loan and cash-back upto Rs. 100 per month on undertaking prescribed digital transactions.
- For the purpose of scheme administration, an end-to-end solution through an IT platform has been developed in collaboration with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- The approved **outlay** for **PM SVANidhi** scheme is **Rs.600 crore**.

### Lok Sabha passes Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020

- Lok Sabha passed the **Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020**.
- The bill aims to make **Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu** as the official languages of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The minister informed that earlier the official language for the Union territory was only **Urdu**.

### Government has launched YuWaah – a multi-stakeholder platform to make young people career ready

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and **United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)** have signed a “**Statement of Intent**” to establish **YuWaah, Generation Unlimited (GenU)**, a global multi-stakeholder platform in India.
- **Support young people by providing entrepreneurship classes (online and offline)** with successful entrepreneurs and experts, towards establishing entrepreneurial mindset among young people.
- **Upskilling of young people** on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, life skills, digital skills **through online and offline channels and support them through self-learning**, for their productive lives and the future of work.

### India aims to end tuberculosis by 2025: Health Minister at UN

- Health Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has stated that India has accorded high priority for ending **tuberculosis by 2025**, five years ahead of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

### Railways target to complete 100% electrification of broad gauge routes by 2023

- **Railways** has planned for **100 per cent electrification** of its **broad gauge routes by 2023**. This was stated by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- The Minister informed that around 63 per cent broad gauge lines have already been electrified out of a total 63,631 route kilometers as on 1st of April this year.

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### CII-IGBC launches Green Logistics Parks, Warehouses Rating System

- **CII-Indian Green Building Council** has launched the **IGBC Green Logistics Parks & Warehouses Rating System** during the inaugural session of CII Institute of Logistics Conference on Building Warehousing Competitiveness 2020.
- The rating system is the **27th rating** of the Indian Green Building Council.
- CII Indian Green Building Council formed an exclusive Committee under the leadership of **Visvanathan** on Green Logistics Parks, Warehouses & Cold Storages with the industry leaders and experts from the logistics sector to take views and suggestions, on driving the green logistics movement in the country.

### PM Narendra Modi launches 'Fit India' protocols on first anniversary of 'Fit India Movement'

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **(September 24, 2020)** interacted with fitness experts and influencers from across the country to mark the **one-year anniversary** of the **'Fit India Movement.'**
- The PM also launched the **'Fit India Age Appropriate Fitness Protocols'** during the **online Fit India Dialogue 2020.**
- **Cricketer Virat Kohli, model-actor and runner Milind Soman and nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar** were among the fitness influencers who **participated in the event.**
- **Paralympic javelin gold medallist Devendra Jhajarhia and footballer from Jammu and Kashmir Afshan Ashiq** were the first ones to **speak at the event.**

### Govt raises limit for use of SDRF funds by states from 35 per cent to 50 per cent to tackle COVID situation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced that the limit of using the **State Disaster Response Fund** for COVID specific infrastructure has been increased **from 35 per cent to 50 per cent.**
- These States and UTs are **Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.**

### Country's apex regulator of medical education 'National Medical Commission' comes into existence

- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)**, in place of the **Medical Council of India (MCI)**, as the country's apex regulator of medical education and profession has come into existence. With the NMC coming into being, the Board of Governors (BoG) which superseded the MCI on September 26th, 2018, to perform its functions, has been dissolved and the nearly **64-year-old Indian Medical Council Act abolished.**
- **Dr Suresh Chandra Sharma**, former head of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences ENT department, Delhi, has been appointed **as chairman** for a period of three years.

### Govt forms five task forces to make Indian MSMEs future-ready

- The government has constituted **five task forces** to make India's micro, small and medium enterprises future-ready and formulate a concrete strategy towards making the country a leading exporter, a top government official stated.
- One of the five areas identified is **Industry 4.0**, including elements like artificial intelligence, 3D and virtual reality, and this task force has been formed with the objective of making India a global leader in Industry 4.0.
- The second area is **export promotion and import reduction**, including how to focus in the key manufacturing areas, how to improve our quality standards, designs and technology, packaging.



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- The third is how to re-engineer vertically and horizontally our existing cluster schemes so that they are able to assist the grass-root and the micro-level enterprises as well as the high-end enterprises.
- The fourth task force will focus on **how to integrate our technology centres**.
- The fifth task force will explore interventions to align various modernisation schemes like **ZED (zero defect and zero effect) and LEAN (for manufacturing competitiveness)**, as well as other schemes related to design, intellectual property rights and marketing scheme.

### IEA and NITI Aayog hold India launch of IEA Special Report on Sustainable Recovery

- In collaboration with **NITI Aayog, the International Energy Agency** held the India launch of the **Special Report on Sustainable Recovery** from the IEA's flagship **World Energy Outlook series**.
- To help countries rebuild better from the Covid-19 crisis, the report sets out a series of actions that can be taken over **the next three years** to revitalise economies and boost employment while making energy systems cleaner and more resilient.

### 'Saubhagya' scheme completes three years since its inception

- **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - "Saubhagya"** has completed **three years** since its inception.
- The scheme was launched with an aim to achieve universal household electrification by providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas across the country.
- The scheme was started with an outlay of 16,320 crore rupees.

### Income Tax Department launches Faceless Income tax appeals

- The **Income Tax Department** launched **Faceless Income tax Appeals**. In a statement, CBDT stated, under it, all income tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner with the exception of appeals relating to serious frauds, major tax evasion, sensitive and search matters, International tax and Black Money Act. while launching the Faceless Assessment and Taxpayers' Charter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced to launch the faceless appeals on the birth anniversary of **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay**.

### First-ever annual 'India Happiness Report' released; Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands top index

- The first-ever annual '**India Happiness Report**', which is India specific and studies happiness in the thirty-six states and union territories of India, has been released.
- In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, **Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands** are the top three. Among the big states, **Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana** are among the top three states whereas, among smaller states, **Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh** are the top three states in happiness rankings. Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories in happiness rankings.

### Railways extends pact with IIT Kanpur for infrastructure modernisation research



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- The **Indian Railways** has extended the memorandum of understanding signed with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur for encouraging a state of the art collaborative research for **modernisation of railway infrastructure and efficient utilisation** of its scientific assets through the centre for railway research (CRR).

### India's first RRTS train with design speed of 180 kmph unveiled

- The Centre unveiled the **first look of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train** that can attain a **top speed of 180 kilometres per hour** on the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor**.
- The design is inspired by **Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple** and is aligned with PM Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' policy.
- The entire rolling stock of RRTS will be manufactured at **Bombardier's Savli plant in Gujarat** and it is sustainable and energy-efficient green train. With radiating stainless steel outer body, these aerodynamic RRTS trains will be lightweight and fully air-conditioned.
- **Innovative Train Control Monitoring System (TCMS) technology**, as well as its predictive and condition-based monitoring features, which will enhance the fleet's performance by providing extensive train-to-ground diagnostics.

### MoRTH notifies amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has notified amendments in **Central Motor Vehicle Rules** facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information Technology portal with effect from 1st of next month.

### Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurates 'Destination North East-2020'

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** virtually inaugurated '**Destination North East-2020**', a four-day event to highlight the Northeast region's various potentials like eco-tourism, culture, heritage and business.
- An array of cultural music and dance was showcased at the inaugural function for the four daylong online events held with the theme '**The Emerging Delightful Destinations**'.

### KVIC opens outlet in SPG complex to promote 'Swadeshi'

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** has taken another step towards promoting '**Swadeshi**' by roping in the Special Protection Group with the drive.
- KVIC inaugurated a **new Khadi India Sales Outlet** within the premises of SPG Residential Complex at Dwarka in Delhi.

### ICAR Announces KRITAGYA Hackathon Under National Agricultural Higher Education Project

- The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has announced **KRITAGYA (Krishi-Taknik-Gyan)** hackathon under the **National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)**.
- It aim to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on **women-friendly equipment**.
- The online application form is available on the official website, [nahep.icar.gov.in](http://nahep.icar.gov.in).

**Govt committed to increase public healthcare spending from existing 1.15% of GDP to 2.5 % by 2025: Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan**

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- **Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** stated that government is committed to increase the public healthcare spending from the existing 1.15 per cent of the GDP to 2.5 per cent by 2025.

### Railway rolls out User Depot Module to completely digitize its supply chain

- **Indian Railway** has rolled out **User Depot Module (UDM)**. The UDM developed by Centre for Railway Information Systems was rolled out digitally across all User Depots of Western Railway by P. C. Sharma, Member (T&RS) Railway Board. This system will be implemented shortly across all Zones of Indian Railways.
- The implementation of this system will bring in changes from manual working to digital working with real time transactions and online information exchange among all stakeholders.

### Centre releases first instalment of over Rs. 19,000 Crore for Paddy procurement in three states under MSP Scheme

- **National Cooperative Development Corporation, NCDC** has sanctioned the first installment funds of **Rs. 19, 444 crore** to three states for Kharif paddy procurement under Minimum Support Price operations. These states are **Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Telangana**.
- Chhattisgarh gets the highest amount to the tune of Rs. 9,000 crore. Telangana has been sanctioned Rs. 5,500 crores and Haryana Rs. 5,444 crore.

### PM Modi to inaugurate 6 mega projects in Uttarakhand under Namami Gange

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **six mega projects in Uttarakhand** under the **Namami Gange Mission**.
- The projects include construction of a 68 MLD sewage treatment plant (STP), up-gradation of the existing 27 MLD plant at Jagjeetpur in Haridwar and construction of an 18 MLD STP at Sarai in Haridwar.
- **'Ganga Avalokan'** was also inaugurated by PM Modi, which is the **first museum on Ganga** aimed at showcasing the biodiversity, culture, and rejuvenation activities done in the river.
- **The museum, Ganga Avalokan** is situated at **Chandi Ghat, Haridwar**.
- PM Modi also unveiled the logo of **'Jal Jeevan Mission'** and **'Margdarshika'** under the Namami Gange mission for village panchayats and 'Paani Samitis'.
- A book titled, **'Rowing down the Ganges'**, co-published by National Mission for Clean Ganga & Wildlife Institute of India.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils Defence Acquisition Procedure

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** unveiled the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)--2020** in the national capital. The DAP 2020 will be applicable with effect from October 1.
- **The first Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was promulgated in the year 2002** and has since been revised periodically to provide impetus to the growing domestic industry and achieve enhanced self reliance in defence manufacturing.
- Singh had approved constitution of Main Review Committee under Chairmanship of DG (Acquisition) **Apurva Chandra** in August 2019 for preparation of DAP-2020.

### Rajnath Singh launches Defence India Startup Challenge-4, releases PMA guidelines for iDEX

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- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched the **Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4)** during the **IDEX event**, featuring the initiatives aimed at expanding the horizons of **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** ecosystem in New Delhi. Mr Singh also launched the **iDEX4Fauji** initiative and **Product Management Approach (PMA)** guidelines during the event.

### DPIIT shares list of 24 key sectors with ministries to boost manufacturing

- The **DPIIT** has shared a list of **24 key sectors** including food processing, toys, furniture, agro chemicals and textiles with respective ministries asking them to work on an action plan with a view to boost domestic manufacturing and make India a self-reliant country, an official stated.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is working actively on promoting domestic manufacturing of toys and furniture.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for April-July contracted by 29.2 per cent. The manufacturing sector constitutes about 78 per cent of the IIP.

### NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands sign Statement of Intent on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda'

- NITI Aayog** and **Embassy of the Netherlands**, New Delhi, signed a **Statement of Intent (Sol)** to support the **decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy**.
- The focus of the partnership is on co-creating innovative technological solutions by leveraging the expertise of the two entities. This will be achieved through an exchange of knowledge and collaborative activities.

### Thaawarchand Gehlot launches Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission under Venture Capital Fund for SCs

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot** launched the **Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission** under **Venture Capital Fund for SCs**, with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.
- The objective of this fund is to provide concessional finance to the entities of the SC entrepreneurs. Under this fund, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs have been sanctioned financial assistance to set up business ventures.

### Centre releases COVID-19 Safe Workplace Guidelines for Industry

- Union Health Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** and Labour Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** have virtually released a booklet on '**COVID-19- Safe Workplace Guidelines for Industry**' in the presence of Member (Health) in NITI Aayog, **VK Paul**.
- Health Minister stated, the guidelines will act as a comprehensive planning guidance for employers and workers to use it to help identify risk levels of Covid-19 at individual workplace settings in their premises and to determine appropriate control measures.

### South Eastern Railway launches project to enhance security of women passengers

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- The South Eastern Railway has launched **Operation My Saheli** to boost the security of women passengers in trains, an official stated. '**Operation My Saheli (friend)** gives security to women passengers during their journey on train.
- It has been introduced as a pilot project in three trains **Howrah-Yeshvantpur Duronto Special**.
- The project has been executed under the framework of the '**Nirbhaya Fund**'.

### Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh integrated with existing national portability cluster under One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

- Two more States, **Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh** have been integrated with existing national portability cluster of 26 States/UTs under **One Nation One Ration Card**.
- With this, a total of **28 States/UTs** are now seamlessly connected with each other under the One Nation One Ration Card plan.
- "One Nation One Ration Card" plan, which aims to provide an option to all **NFSA beneficiaries**.

### PM to dedicate to nation world's longest high altitude tunnel 'Atal Tunnel'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation **the world's longest high altitude tunnel, the Atal Tunnel, at Rohtang**. The **9.2 km long highway tunnel** has been constructed at an estimated cost of 3,200 crore rupees.
- The tunnel will prove to be beneficial for the development of the tribal area of **Lahaul-Spiti** which remains isolated for six months due to heavy snowfall at **Rohtang Pass**.

### Arjun Munda to launch largest market of tribal products 'Tribes India E-Marketplace'

- Minister of Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** will virtually launch **India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace- Tribes India E-Marketplace** on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- **TRIFED** will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country. It will help them market their products directly.

### Centre agrees to waive interest on interest during moratorium for individual, MSME loans up to Rs 2 crore

- The **Government** has informed the Supreme Court that loans up to **Rs.2 crore** taken by individuals and **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** will be eligible for waiver of compound interest during the **six-month moratorium period**, i.e., March-August 2020.
- Though, the government has not mentioned the cost of this waiver, according to industry sources, it could be up to Rs.6,000 crore and likely to be paid by the Centre.
- The affidavit listed eight categories of loans for waiver of compound interest. These include – MSME loans up to Rs.2 crore, education loans up to Rs.2 crore, housing loan up to Rs.2 crore, consumer durable loans up to Rs.2 crore, credit card dues up to Rs.2 crore, auto loans up to Rs.2 crore, personal loans to professionals up to Rs.2 crore and consumption loans up to Rs.2 crore.

### Sunidhi' project to digitise provident fund, pension services of CMPFO

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- The government announced the launch of an ambitious information technology project '**Sunidhi**' to digitise all **provident fund** and pension related activities of the **Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO)**.
- This software application is running from its data centre at Hyderabad in sync with the **Disaster Recovery Centre** at Bhubaneswar.

### Jal Shakti Minister launches 100-day campaign to provide potable piped water in Schools and Anganwadi Centres

- **Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched a **100-day campaign** to provide potable piped water supply in Schools and Anganwadi Centres. This mission was envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while releasing the '**Margdarshika**' for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.
- These facilities will be operated and maintained by the Gram Panchayat and its sub-committee. Jal Jeevan Mission aims at the universal coverage of provision of tap water connection to every rural home by 2024.

### Piyush Goyal Inaugurates Renaming Of Naugarh Railway Station To Siddharthnagar

- **Railway Minister Piyush Goyal** through a video link inaugurated the **renaming of Naugarh railway station to Siddharthnagar railway station** situated at Siddharthnagar district in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- The approval has been given for the construction of a new railway line of 240 km from Khalilabad to Bahraich via Dumariyaganj-Utraula-Balrampur-Shravasti.

### India's first 5 Animal bridges to come up on this greenfield expressway

- The road infra structure development is currently one of the major focuses of the government as various expressway projects are underway in the country. The construction of one such highway project and also the most awaited is **Delhi-Mumbai greenfield expressway**.
- This upcoming expressway is tipped to be the longest greenfield expressways that is expected to be completed by **2024**.
- The upcoming expressway project would have **India's first animal bridges or animal overpasses** that will be designed keeping in mind not to disturb the environment and wildlife section that comes up on way of over 1,200 km long expressway.

### Integration between PM SVANidhi & SBI portals 'API' launched to ease processing of loan applications

- Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra launched the Application Programming Interface, integration between the **PM SVANidhi Portal** and the **State Bank of India** portal to ease processing of loan applications.
- This integration will facilitate seamless flow of data between the PM SVANidhi Portal and **SBI's e-Mudra Portal** in a secure environment and expedite the loan sanctioning and disbursement process, which will benefit the street vendors seeking working capital loan under the scheme.
- The Ministry is implementing Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi, PM SVANidhi Scheme since 1st June this year, for providing affordable working capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to COVID-19 lockdown.



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### My Ganga My Dolphin campaign launched at six sites across river Ganga

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga**, the **Wildlife Institute of India** and the **Forest Department** launched the **My Ganga My Dolphin** campaign.
- A Dolphin-based ecotourism programme was launched at various sites along the Ganga River. It was started in **six sites** across the states of **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar** and **West Bengal**.
- The **Ganga Praharis** in all the sites have been trained in biodiversity-based eco-tourism and will take the tourists on boat rides to view Dolphin and another biodiversity present in the Ganga River.

### Govt launches online startup discovery platform 'Startup India Showcase'

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** launched an online discovery platform for startups called "**Startup India Showcase**".
- The website will also feature companies that have won national competitions, are successful sellers on the **Government e-Marketplace portal**, are solving critical problems, and have shown exceptional innovation in their sectors.

### Union Cabinet approves signing of Memorandum of cooperation in field of cyber-security between India & Japan

- The cabinet also gave its approval for signing a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** in the field of **cyber-security** between **India** and **Japan**.
- The MoC will enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, which includes capacity building in the area of cyberspace, protection of critical infrastructure, cooperation in emerging technologies, sharing information on cyber security threats and malicious cyber activities.

### PM Modi launches 'Jan Andolan' campaign for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign by way of a **Tweet** on **Jan Andolan** for COVID-19 **Appropriate Behaviour**. The campaign has been launched in view of the upcoming festivals and winter season as well as the opening up of the economy.

### Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day

- **Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani** launched the **first ever Brand and Logo** for **Indian Cotton** on **Second World Cotton Day** through video conferencing
- Now India's premium cotton would be known as '**Kasturi Cotton**' in the world cotton trade.

### NITI Aayog, MNRE and Invest India hold symposium on solar PV manufacturing

- **NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, and **Invest India** organized a symposium on solar PV manufacturing, "**India PV Edge-2020**", to inform the global PV industry of opportunities in India.
- In addition to the vision of **450 GW** installed renewables capacity by **2030**.



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- India now has the **third-largest solar** installed capacity in the world. It is one of the few countries on track to meet its three key NDC targets – achieve 40% non-fossil-fuel-based installed power capacity, reduce 33%–35% emissions, and create a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide – by **2030**.

### Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurates virtual “International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19”

- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment **Thaawarchand Gehlot** inaugurated the virtual “**International conference on Mental Health: Looking Beyond COVID 19**” through video conferencing.
- He also spoke about the recent initiatives of the government including setting up of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Sehore in Madhya Pradesh and KIRAN mental health rehabilitation helpline for addressing mental health issues.

### Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' virtually inaugurates Gyan Circle Ventures

- Union Minister for Education **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** virtually inaugurated the **Gyan Circle Ventures**, a MeitY funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh through Video Conference.

### Government to launch Ayurveda and Yoga protocols for management of Covid-19

- The National Clinical Management Protocol** based on **ayurveda and yoga** for the management of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) will be jointly released by Union health and family welfare minister Harsh Vardhan and **minister for Ayush (ayurveda, yoga & naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy) Shripad Yesso Naik**. The event will be held virtually.
- The government has been promoting medicinal herbs under the Ayush system for people to improve their immunity levels to be able to fight off infections.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan Inaugurates DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park In Delhi

- Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the “**DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park**” at Barapullah drain site, New Delhi in a virtual event.
- Clean Tech Demo Park at Barapullah drain site is a Department of Biotechnology (DBT) initiative that will demonstrate innovative waste-to-value technologies.
- The **DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park** will be used to demonstrate innovative **Waste-to-Value technologies** with support from **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, the Government of India, and the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.
- This park will be managed by the **Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC)**, a public-private-partnership incubator set up jointly by DBT, BIRAC and Tata Power.

### Coal Ministry launches website for research endeavors in coal sector

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- **Ministry of Coal** has launched the website to promote **Research & Development (R&D) activities** of the ministry and attract research institutes for R&D endeavors in coal sector.
- Shri Anil Jain launched the **website (<https://scienceandtech.cmpdi.co.in/>)** during the 56th meeting of Standing Scientific Research Committee of the Ministry. Coal India R&D arm, **Central Mines Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI)** has designed and developed this website.

### Narendra Modi launches physical distribution of property cards under SWAMITVA scheme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched the **physical distribution of property cards** under the **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages And Mapping With Improvised Technology In Village Areas)** scheme via videoconferencing that enables rural masses to use the property as a financial asset.

### PM Modi releases Rs 100 commemorative coin in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a commemorative **100 rupee coin** in the honour of **Vijaya Raje Scindia**. One of the founder members of BJP, Vijaya Raje Scindia is also popularly known as the **Rajmata of Gwalior**.
- The special commemorative coin was minted by the **Finance Ministry** as a part of these celebrations.
- **Scindia** was one of the major faces of the saffron party and vocal proponent of its core Hindutva issues.

### All eight beaches recommended by Govt gets coveted International Blueflag Certification: Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar

- Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar stated that all **eight beaches** recommended by the Government has got the coveted **International Blueflag Certification**.
- The **iconic Blue Flag** is one of the world's most recognised voluntary awards for beaches, marinas. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria is met and maintained.

### Nirmala Sitharaman announces major schemes to boost demand in country by Rs 73,000 Cr

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced major schemes to boost demands in the country by nearly **73 thousand crore rupees**.
- Ms. Sitharaman informed that the new proposals aim at giving a thrust of around **36 thousand crore rupees** to the consumer demands by the Leave Travel Concession LTC Voucher and Festival advance scheme. Additionally she stated, **37 thousand crore rupees** will be infused in the capital expenditure by the Centre and the State Governments.

### MORTH enhances allocation of funds for SARDP-NE related works

- **The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has enhanced the allocation of funds for expenditure under **Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North Eastern Areas (SARDP-NE)** related works during the current financial year.

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- Under the revised allocation, almost double the amount originally allocated has been allowed. Against the earlier Rs **390 crore** expenditure envisaged to be incurred from National Investment Fund during 2020-21, a sum of Rs 760 crore has been set aside for the same period. Of this, Rs 300 crore is specifically marked for Arunachal Pradesh package.

### Atal Innovation Mission collaborates with CGI to promote innovation across schools

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog**, has signed a Statement of Intent with **CGI India** in order to promote innovation across the schools.
- Atal Innovation Mission, AIM has collaborated with CGI India which is one among the largest IT and business consulting services firms, for creating a successful and innovative workforce from the **Atal Tinkering Lab, ATL** schools.

### Trifed in Collaboration with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT, Kanpur to Launch "Tech for Tribals Initiative"

- **TRIFED** under **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** in collaboration with **Chhattisgarh MFP Federation** and IIT, Kanpur will be launching Tech for Tribals initiative.
- The program titled "**Tech for Tribals**" aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through Van Dhan Kendras (VDVKs).

### India among top 3 overseas investment destinations'

- **India** will be one of the **top three overseas investment destinations** for the **next two-three years**, according to a survey by **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)** and **EY**, which assessed the country's competitiveness on selected parameters.
- According to the survey, India is the number one choice for future investments for over two-thirds of multinational companies. More than 80% of all respondents and 71% of the non-India headquartered respondents plan to invest globally over the next two-three years and about 30% companies were planning to invest over **\$500 million** each globally.

### PM Modi to release commemorative coin on 75th anniversary of FAO

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will release a commemorative coin of **Rs 75 denomination** on the **75th anniversary** of the **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** to mark India's long-standing relations with the UN agency.
- India's proposals for declaring 2016 as the International Year of Pulses and **2023 as the International Year of Millets** have also been endorsed by the FAO.

### Prolonged closure of schools may cost India \$400 billion: World Bank

- According to the recent **World Bank** report titled '**Beaten or Broken? Informality and Covid-19 in South Asia**', the prolonged closure of schools in India could cost the country over **\$400 billion** in future earnings.
- For the continent, the estimated loss, in an optimistic scenario, stands at **\$622 billion**, while for the pessimistic scenario, this could stand at **\$880 billion**. The report added that this continental loss is largely driven by India.

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### Cabinet approves World Bank supported 'STARS' project to boost school education system

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved **World Bank** supported **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States - STARS project**. The total project cost is **5 thousand 718 crore rupees** with the financial support of World Bank amounting to **500 million US dollar**.

### Ministry of AYUSH launches Jan Andolan Campaign on COVID-19

- The **Ministry of AYUSH** has launched the **Jan Andolan Campaign** on COVID-19.
- This Andolan is regarding “**Public Health Response to COVID-19: Campaign for COVID-Appropriate Behaviour**” which has been launched Prime Minister.
- The campaign emphasizes on “**Unlock with Precautions**”. The three key messages which are being highlighted across the sector are - “**Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, and Maintain Hand Hygiene**.”

### Government sets up a panel of secretaries headed by Rajiv Gauba to streamline telecom spectrum allocation

- The **government** has constituted a **panel of secretaries** under **cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba** to streamline the **spectrum allocation process** and examine the **possibility of drawing up** an annual calendar for auction of airwaves that will give telcos a clear road map of the quantum as well as the frequency of spectrum on offer for commercial use.

### Cabinet Decisions

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved a **Special Package worth Rs. 520 crore** in the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years till FY 2023-24 and ensure funding of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** in the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh on a demand driven basis without linking allocation with poverty ratio during this extended period.
- Cabinet approved MoU between **India and Australia** for collaboration in capacity building, research and development and making impact for sustainable groundwater management.
- Implementation of the **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** project with a total project cost of **Rs 5718 crore** with the financial support of **World Bank amounting to US \$ 500 million** (approximately Rs. 3700 crore).

### Dr Harsh Vardhan launches second phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna” for underprivileged thalassemic patients

- **Union health minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan**, launched the second phase of “**Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna**” for the underprivileged thalassemic patients, virtually from Nirman Bhawan.
- **Launched in 2017**, this scheme is a **Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) programme** that aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for haemoglobinopathies like thalassaemia and sickle cell disease for patients who have a matched family donor.
- The CSR initiative was targeted to provide financial assistance to a total of 200 patients by providing a package cost not exceeding **Rs. 10 lakhs per HSCT**.

### Foreign Secretary inaugurates 1st edition of Lectures designed to introduce India to foreign diplomats posted in New Delhi

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- The **first edition of Lectures** designed to introduce India to foreign diplomats posted in New Delhi was inaugurated by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.
- It has been named as **Sushma Swaraj Lectures 2020**.

### India designated Vice-Chair of OECD Working Group on GLP

- **India** has been designated the **Vice-Chair of Good Laboratory Practice**, GLP Working Group of the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, recognising the contribution of the Indian GLP programme.
- The Department of Science and Technology had established the **National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA)** with the approval of the Union Cabinet on April, 2002.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari initiates Asia's longest ZojiLa Tunnel works virtually

- In Ladakh Union Territory, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Mr Nitin Gadkari initiated **Asia's longest ZojiLa Tunnel works** virtually, by igniting ceremonial blasts.
- At a height of 3000 meters in the **Peerpanjal mountain range**, construction of Zojila tunnel is a historic necessity to provide an all weather road connectivity between Ladakh and the rest of the world.
- Minister Nitin Gadkari also sets a target for the **National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)** and the contractor to complete the construction before **2024**.

### Films Division to stream documentary 'People's President' on Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary

- The **89th Birth Anniversary** of **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, who served as the **11th President of India** is being celebrated. In its tribute, Films Division is streaming the **52-minute English documentary** titled '**People's President**' on its website and YouTube Channel.
- Directed by **Pankaj Vyas**, the documentary is dedicated to Dr Kalam's life and work including the Missile Man's pivotal role in the success of Indian aerospace science programme.

### NTPC collaborates with cement manufacturers across country to supply fly ash

- **NTPC Limited** has started to collaborate with **cement manufacturers** across the country to supply fly ash as part of its endeavour to **achieve 100 per cent** utilization of the by-product produced during power generation.
- **NTPC Rihand** is the first power plant in Uttar Pradesh to send conditioned fly ash to cement manufacturers.

### India among high-burden TB nations to register 25-30 pc drop in case notifications: WHO report

- Disruptions in services caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have led to further setbacks and according to a new report, there has been a **25 to 30 per cent drop in tuberculosis (TB)** case notifications across three high-burden countries – **India, Indonesia and the Philippines** – between January and June 2020 compared to the same period a year before.
- The Global TB report, released by the **World Health Organisation**, has collated data from over 200 countries that has shown significant reductions in TB case notifications.

### GST compensation: Centre to borrow Rs 1.1 lakh crore to meet shortfall



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- The central government will borrow Rs 1.1 lakh crore under the **special window** to meet the shortfall of **Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation**.
- The general government (states + centre) borrowings will not increase because of this, as the states that get the benefit from the special window are likely to borrow a considerably lesser amount from the additional borrowing facility of **2 percent of gross state domestic product** (from 3 percent to 5 percent) under the Aatma Nirbhar Package.

### Union Education Minister virtually launches 'KAPILA' Kalam Program for IP Literacy and Awareness Education campaign

- **Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** virtually launched the **'KAPILA' Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign** on the 89th birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

### Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates Food and Agri Week 2020

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Rural Development and Panchayati **Raj Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually inaugurated the India - **International Food & Agri Week** being organised.
- Tomar stated that Indian food processing sector is **32% of India's food market**. He stated that the focus of this agro and food tech is the use of technology in the field of food and agriculture sector to increase the income of farmers.

### SC appoints former justice Lokur to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning

- The Supreme Court appointed former justice **Madan B Lokur** to monitor steps taken to prevent **stubble burning** in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh amid rising levels of pollution in the national capital and adjoining regions.
- The order was passed by an apex court bench headed by **Justice SA Bobde**. It has also directed that the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts be deployed to assist the panel.

### Govt amends Panchayat law to set up District Development Councils in J&K, elections soon

- The Central government has amended **Jammu and Kashmir's Panchayati Raj Act, 1989**, to establish **District Development Councils (DDCs)** in all districts in the union territory.
- The final step in the implementation of the **73rd Amendment**, which envisages the Gram Sabha as the foundation of the **Panchayat Raj system** and empowers Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

### Prime Minister to inaugurate India Energy Forum

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **annual India Energy Forum** by **CERAWeek**, which gathers energy leaders to further important dialogue on the nation's new energy future.
- India Energy Forum by CERAWeek, now in its fourth year, is hosted by IHS Markit, a world leader in critical information, analytics and solutions.



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### Gadkari to lay foundation stone for country's first multi-modal logistic park in Assam

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** will virtually lay the foundation stone for the **first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam**.
- The **Rs 693.97 crore park** will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people. It will be developed under the ambitious **Bharatmala Pariyojana** of the Government of India.

### RPF launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative on AP Express

- **Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam**, started implementing 'Meri Saheli' initiative in AP Express (Visakhapatnam to New Delhi in order to provide proactive security to women passengers).
- The main motto of 'Meri Saheli' is to provide safety and security to women passengers travelling in trains throughout their journey.

### NITI Aayog to establish Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with AWS

- **NITI Aayog** announced the establishment of a **Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre, CIC with Amazon Web Services, AWS**. It is the first of its kind in India.
- This CIC is part of the AWS CIC Global Programme which provides an opportunity for government agencies, non-profits and educational institutions, to come together on pressing challenges, apply design thinking, test new ideas, and access the technology expertise of AWS.

### CSIR-IHBT makes history by introducing asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation in Indian Himalayan region

- **Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur**, a historical shift in farming practices is in the offing with farmers of the remote **Lahaul valley** in **Himachal Pradesh** taking up cultivation of **asafoetida (Heeng)** to utilize vast expanses of waste land in the cold desert conditions of the region. CSIR-IHBT brought in seeds of asafoetida and developed its agro-technology.
- **CSIR-IHBT** raised the plants of heeng at CeHAB, Ribling, Lahaul & Spiti, H.P. under the vigil of NBPGR.

### Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

- Union **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** launched **AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR** scheme. The scheme is a unique way to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country. **AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR** scheme has been formulated by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)**.
- Interest subvention of **one per cent** is available to women-majority cooperatives.

### Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches indigenous software solution for vessel traffic

- Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** e-launched an **indigenous software solution** for **Vessel traffic services (VTS)** and **Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS)**.

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- Presently, India has approximately 15 VTS systems operational along the Indian Coast and there is no uniformity of VTS software as each system has its own VTS software.
- Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned an amount of **Rs 10 crore** to **IIT, Chennai** for development of indigenous VTS software.

### Defence Minister releases new version of DRDO Procurement Manual 2020

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** released a new version of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Procurement Manual 2020 (PM-2020)**. The previous Procurement Manual was modified in 2016.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan Launches CuRED, CSIR Partnered Clinical Trials Website

- Union Health and Science and Technology Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** launched **CuRED**, a website that gives comprehensive info about the **numerous COVID-19 clinical trials** that the **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** is engaged in partnership with industry, other government departments and ministries.
- CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs (CuRED) provides information about the drugs, diagnostics and devices including the current stage of the trials, partnering institutions and their role in the trials and other details.

### Indian spends 3.5% of average daily income on food

- On an average an Indian spends **3.5% of his/ her daily income** for a plate of food as compared to **0.6% by a New Yorker** and an astonishing , according to the “**Cost of a Plate of Food**” report released by the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP).
- As per the report, the most expensive plate of food is of **South Sudan** where people on average would have to spend **186%** of their daily salary on basic ingredients.
- India stands at 28th position as per the percentage of money, people would pay on a plate of food compared to their salaries.

### Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) virtually launches “Life in Miniature” project

- Union Minister of State for **Culture and Tourism (I/C) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel** virtually launched the “**Life in Miniature**” project, a **collaboration between** the **National Museum**, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & culture.
- Users will be able to see famous **miniature collections** of the National Museum, like the **Ramayana, Royal Saga, Pahari style paintings** in never before seen ways and in extraordinary detail, in just a few clicks at [g.co/LifeInMiniature](https://www.google.com/LifeInMiniature).

### ECI Sets Up Panel To Examine Expenditure Limit For Candidates

- The **Election Commission** has constituted a **two-member committee** to examine the **issues concerning expenditure limit for a candidate** considering increase in number of electors and rise in Cost Inflation Index and other factors.
- Former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer **Harish Kumar, Umesh Sinha** will be the committee members.

### CBSE introduces facial recognition systems for accessing digital documents)

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- Using the state of the art **Facial Recognition System**, CBSE will enable students, to download their digital academic documents of **class X and XII**. This computer application matches human face from a digital image already stored in the database.
- This application is now available on “**Parniaam Manjusha**” and **Digi Locker** at <https://digilocker.gov.in/cbse-certificate.html> for all 2020 records.

### Dept of Posts to release stamp on 75th anniversary of United Nations

- **Department of Posts** will be releasing a stamp in the presence of External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** on the eve of **75th anniversary** of the **United Nations**.
- He stated reformed multilateralism will be a key pillar of overall approach in the upcoming innings of India as a non permanent member.

### MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear

- **Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- MSME**, **Nitin Gadkari** launched **India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear**, designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through Video Conference. These footwear are made of Khadi fabric like Silk, Cotton and Wool.
- Mr Gadkari also launched the online sale of **Khadi footwear** through **KVIC's e-portal** [www.khadiindia.gov.in](http://www.khadiindia.gov.in).
- Khadi India can capture a market worth Rs. 5000 crore.

### PM Modi approves MoU for ICAI to help strengthen Papua New Guinea's financial and audit knowledge base

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the **Institute of Chartered Accounts of India (ICAI)** and the Certified Practising Accountants, **Papua New Guinea (CPA PNG)** to work together in capacity building and strengthening the Accounting, Financial and Audit Knowledge base in Papua New Guinea.

### Cabinet Gives Nod To MoU Signed Between India, Nigeria On Space Cooperation

- The Union Cabinet gave a go-ahead to the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed between **India** and **Nigeria** on cooperation in **space exploration** for peaceful purposes. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the MoU that was signed between both the nations in August this year. The MoU was signed between India's Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and **Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA)**.

### AYUSH Minister inaugurates Regional Raw Drug Repository at AIIA

- **AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik** inaugurated the **Regional Raw Drug Repository** at **All India Institute of Ayurveda** in **New Delhi** through a virtual function.
- This RRDR is the second in the series of repositories proposed by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).

### PM Modi to inaugurate 3 projects including Kisan Suryodaya in Gujarat

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate three projects, including '**Kisan Suryodaya Yojana**' for the farmers in Gujarat, via video conferencing. To provide day-time power supply for irrigation, the Gujarat Government under Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had recently announced the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana.
- Under this scheme, farmers will be able to avail power supply from **5 AM to 9 PM**. The state government has allocated a budget of **Rs.3,500 crores** for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by **2023**.

### Indian Railways launches Freight Business Development Portal to boost freight business

- The **Indian Railways** launched a **Freight Business Development Portal** amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to boost the **freight business**. As per a statement, the aim of the new portal is to motivate new customers to transport goods through railways and provide better facilities to existing customers.
- The portal, which has been specially designed and developed on the principle of '**Customer First**', shows the complete timetable of all goods trains, routes, distance from one station to another and freight fares.

### Indo-Tibetan Border Police celebrates 59th Raising Day

- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** celebrated its **59th Raising Day** across the country.
- This year 28 types of new vehicles have been provided. A budget of Rs 7,223 crore has been allocated for the ITBP and more than Rs. 15 crore has been sanctioned for management.
- He presented **six Presidential Police Medals to ITBP personnel** and **23 Police Medals for Meritorious Services**.

### Income tax return filing deadline for FY20 extended till December 31

- The **deadline for filing returns by individual taxpayers** for FY 2019-20 has been **extended by a month till December 31**.
- **For those taxpayers whose accounts need to be audited**, the Income-Tax Return filing deadline has been **extended by two months till January 31, 2021**.

### MoS for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan inaugurates philately exhibition on 'India and the UN: A Postal History'

- Minister of State for External Affairs, **V. Muraleedharan** inaugurated a **philately exhibition** on '**India and the UN: A Postal History**'. This was done during a virtual event organized by the UN in India.
- Reaffirming India's commitment to the United Nations, he underlined that India looks forward to working with all other nations to reform and revitalize the United Nations during its term at the UN Security Council from 2021-22.

### Ministry of Earth Sciences dedicates Flash Flood Guidance services for South Asian countries

- Dr. M. Rajeevan dedicated **Flash Flood Guidance services**, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka**.
- An automated mode of dissemination is to be established with the stakeholders along with the use of social media, so that the information reaches the concerned disaster authorities in a timely manner.

### Centre forms panel to bring in reforms in urban planning education system

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- The Union government has constituted a **14-member advisory committee** for introducing reforms in **urban planning education system** in India.
- The Committee will review the current urban planning education system in India in terms of multi-disciplinary curriculum and related issues at graduate and post graduate levels in the context of rapid urbanisation and will suggest changes.

### Centre notifies new laws allowing any Indian citizen to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified new land laws for the **Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh** and omitted any precondition on **the purchase of land in Jammu and Kashmir**, as existed under **Article 370** for the outsiders.
- The MHA in its release stated that the order will be called the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020**. It added that it will come into effect immediately.
- The Centre also notified that the **“permanent resident of the state”** clause has been omitted now.

### Wealth of Indian adults rises marginally amid covid outbreak: Credit Suisse

- **Wealth per adult in India rose 0.6% to USD 17,420**, despite covid-19 bringing economic activities across the nation to a standstill with gross domestic product (GDP) contracting **23.9%** in the first quarter of the current fiscal, shows the **Global Wealth Report 2020 by Credit Suisse**. As per the report, wealth per adult in India stood higher at USD 17,299 as on 31 December 2019, from USD 14,569 in June 2019.
- The 2020 report has made similar changes to other parameters of India's wealth. Personal debt per adult was reduced from **USD 1,345** (end June 2019) to **USD 1,080** (end December 2019). Population with wealth below USD 10,000 fell from 78% to 73% and the proportion of adults with wealth above USD 100,000 rose from 1.8% to 2.3%.
- Official data however has presented a more muted picture, pegging nominal GDP growth in FY 2019-20 at **7.2%**.

### Centre sets up high-level committee to commemorate Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur's 400th birth anniversary

- The Centre set up a **high-level committee** headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to **commemorate the 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur**.
- The mandate of the **70-member committee** includes approval of policies, plans, programmes and supervision and guiding the commemoration, besides deciding broad dates for detailed programmes of celebration.
- Union Home Secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** will be the member secretary of the high-level committee.

### Mandaviya inaugurates direct entry facility at VOC port

- Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated **direct port entry facility** at **VO Chidambaranar Port** in Tuticorin, a move that **will reduce logistics cost and boost ease of doing business**.
- The DPE facility was developed under the 'Sagarmala' for issuing customs clearance of export cargo

### Shri Arjun Munda launches two Centers of Excellence for tribal welfare in partnership with Art of Living

- **Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda** launched **two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare** in a collaboration between **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** and **Art of Living (AoL)** through video conference.



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- It is a very praiseworthy initiative of Art of Living (AoL) to launch two Centres of Excellence in partnership with The first initiative '**Strengthening PRIs**' will be launched in **5 districts**.
- The second is about **training 10000 tribal farmers** in Aurangabad District of **Maharashtra** on sustainable natural farming based on **Go-Adharith farming techniques**.

### V Prez Venkaiah Naidu launches virtual festival of 'Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance'

- Launching the virtual festival of '**Parampara Series 2020-National Festival of Music and Dance**' organized by **Natya Tarangini** in partnership with the **United Nations**.
- Referring to Samaveda and Bharatamuni's Natyashastra, the vice president stated India has a glorious tradition of music and dance.
- This festival has been organized to coincide with the **World Day for Audio-visual Heritage**.

### Microsoft, NSDC collaborate to empower 1 lakh women with digital skills

- **Microsoft** stated it has collaborated with the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** to impart digital skills to more than one lakh **underserved women** in India over the next ten months.

### NITI Aayog, Rockefeller Foundation & Smart Power India Launch Electricity Access & Utility Benchmarking Report

- **NITI Aayog, Ministry of Power, Rockefeller Foundation, and Smart Power India** launched the '**Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities**' report.
- 'The report highlights the benefits of government-led schemes such as **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana**, which have been well received in rural as well as urban areas.'

### Key findings of the report:

- As much as 92% of customers reported the overall availability of electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises; however, not all have connections, the primary reason being the distance of households from the nearest pole.
- Overall, 87% of the surveyed customers have access to grid-based electricity. The remaining 13% either use non-grid sources or don't use any electricity at all.
- Nearly 85% of customers reported to have a metered electricity connection.
- Access to electricity is observed in 83% of household customers.
- A satisfaction index was created to assess the overall satisfaction level of customers with utility services. The study suggested that a total of 66% of those surveyed were satisfied—74% of customers in urban areas and 60% in rural areas.

### Govt extends payment date for 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme to March 31

- **The government extended** for the third time the **deadline for making payment** under the direct tax dispute settlement scheme '**Vivad Se Vishwas**' by three months to **March 31, 2021**.
- **Vivad se Vishwas** is a direct tax scheme for settling tax disputes between individuals and the income tax department.



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### Cabinet approves Rs 10,000 crore project to improve dams in India

- The **cabinet committee on economic affairs** approved a **Rs 10,211-crore** project to improve the safety and performance of select dams across India.
- The **dam rehabilitation and improvement project (DRIP)**--phase II and phase III--is financially supported by the **World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**.
- **India is the third ranked country** in terms of **total number of dams**, next after the US and China, and it has 5,334 big dams and another 412 dams under construction.

### PM Modi inaugurates 'Arogya Van' in Narmada district of Gujarat

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, inaugurated **four new tourist attractions** near the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya in Narmada district
- The prime minister inaugurated **Arogya Van, Ekta Mall, Children's Nutrition Park and Sardar Patel Zoological Park/ Jungle Safari**.
- He was launched 17 new projects, including a **seaplane service**.
- The prime minister then inaugurated **Ekta Mall**, a unique store near the Statue of Unity where **tourists can buy handloom and handicraft products** from various states.

### Indian Railways launches 'Meri Saheli' to provide safety to women passengers

- **Indian Railways** started another great initiative named **"Meri Saheli"** to provide more safety and security to **women passengers** during their entire journey.
- The "Meri Saheli" initiative is to provide more safety and security of lady passengers travelling by trains in their entire journey from originating station till destination station.
- The **'Meri Saheli'** initiative was started as a pilot project in the **South Eastern Railway** in September 2020 and after getting positive response from women passengers, **it was extended to all zones**.
- **Central Railway** has always been at the forefront in providing a safe and comfortable journey to Women and **"Meri Saheli"** will be another important part of the dedicated efforts to ensure safety and security of women passengers.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan launches DST initiative SERB – POWER for women scientists

- **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare launched a Scheme titled **"SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)"**, designed exclusively for women scientists, in a function on an e-platform.
- **SERB – POWER Scheme will have two components** namely (i) SERB-POWER Fellowship (ii) SERB- POWER Research Grants.

### AYUSH Ministry and Invest India to jointly set up "Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau" for planned and systematic growth of Ayush sector

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- The **Ministry of AYUSH** and **M/s Invest India** will form a collaboration to set up a “**Strategic Policy & Facilitation Bureau**” to facilitate planned and systematic growth of the Ayush sector.

### Govt set to divest 10% in GIC Re, New India Assurance

- **Government** is set to offer **10% shares** in the country’s largest non-life insurance company **New India Assurance** through an offer for sale to the public. The Centre may also do a similar dilution in the **General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re)**. However, the timing is not decided.
- The government had divested close to **15% stakes** in both New India and GIC in 2017.
- All listed companies are required to have at **least 25% of** their holding with the public. In May this year, Sebi had relaxed the **25% minimum public shareholding** norms for listed companies in the wake of the Covid outbreak.

### NITI Aayog, QCI Launch National Program and Project Management Policy Framework Initiative to Transform Infrastructure Sector in India

- **NITI Aayog** and **Quality Council of India** launched the ‘**National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPPMF)**’, envisaged to bring radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.
- India will require an investment of around **\$4.5 trillion by 2040** to develop the infrastructure for sustaining its economic growth.

### Mansar Lake Project in Jammu to attract 20 lakh tourists every year: Jitendra Singh

- **Union minister Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **Mansar Lake Project in Jammu** which will attract 20 lakh tourists every year once completed.
- It is e-foundation stone laying ceremony of the **Comprehensive Mansar Lake Rejuvenation/Development Plan**.
- Mansar Rejuvenation Plan will lead to employment generation of about 1.15 crore man-days and will generate an income of more than **Rs 800 crore per year**.
- **World's highest railway bridge** is coming up in **Reasi**, the work on a new national highway project from Sudhmahadev via Marmat to Khileni has also started.

### TransUnion CIBIL, MoSPI launch MSME Credit Health Index

- **TransUnion CIBIL** in partnership with **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has launched **MSME Credit Health Index**.
- The MSME Credit Health Index will provide government, policy makers, lenders and MSME market participants, a numeric indicator for benchmarking the health of the MSME sector.
- The MSME Credit Health Index is built using credit data submitted by lending institutions to TransUnion CIBIL.

### Centre releases Rs 2,200 cr as first installment to 15 states for improvement of air quality

- The Centre has released **2,200 crore rupees** as the first installment to **15 states** for the improvement of **air quality measures** in their million-plus cities.
- The states which have been given the amount include Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

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- Of the total amount, **396.5 crore** rupees has been released to Maharashtra, 202.5 crore rupees to Gujarat, 357 crore rupees to Uttar Pradesh and 209.5 crore rupees to West Bengal.

### Ganga Utsav-2020 begins virtually with COVID-19 precautions

- The much-awaited **Ganga Utsav-2020** began virtually amidst COVID-19 precautions. The festival will continue till **4th of November**.
- Ministry of Jal Shakti stated that several programmes were also held in districts as a part of Ganga Utsav celebrations.

### FIP organises virtual version of Delhi Book Fair this year

- The **Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP)** has organised a **virtual version of Delhi Book Fair** this year in light of the Corona pandemic. The book fair organised in partnership with **PragatiE** is a two day online event. The organisers stated that arranging the book fair online was a challenging task but expressed satisfaction that the virtual module of the **Delhi book fair 2020** has opened up new and future avenues of marketing books.

### 30 Indian cities to face increasing 'water risks' by 2050: WWF report

- About **30 Indian cities** will face increasing "**water risks**" in the next few decades according to a new report released by **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**.
- According to the scenarios in the WWF Water Risk Filter report, nearly 30 Indian cities, including Jaipur, Indore, Amritsar, Pune, Srinagar, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kozhikode and Visakhapatnam will face acute "**water risks**."
- Globally, the report estimates that "hundreds of millions of people in cities across the globe could face dramatically increased water risks." 100 cities will witness a massive rise in water risks by **2050**.

### India's Unemployment Rate Rises to 6.98%: CMIE

- **Unemployment rate for October** rose to **6.98%** comparing to **6.67%** in **September**, according to latest data by **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy CMIE**.
- The rural areas saw a big rise in unemployment. The **rural unemployment** rate rose from **6.9%** in **October** from **5.86 percent** in **September** whereas the **urban unemployment** in **decline** from **7.1%** in **October** **8.45%** in **September**.
- If we compare the states, **Haryana** has the **highest unemployment rate** of **27.3%** followed by Rajasthan **24.1 %** and J&K **16.1 %**.

### FinMin releases Rs 6,000 Cr to states under special window for meeting GST compensation shortfall

- The **Ministry of Finance** is releasing **Rs 6,000 crore** as the second tranche to **16 States** and **3 Union Territories** under the special window to states for meeting the GST compensation cess shortfall.
- The government added that the amount was raised at a weighted average yield of **4.42 per cent** and it will be passed on to the states at the same interest rate, which is lower than the cost of borrowings for the states and will thus benefit them.

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### Hardeep Singh Puri launches 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge'

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge** focusing on shaping cities for young children and their families. The challenge is conducted with the support of the **Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands** with technical support from **WRI India**.

### President Kovind promulgates Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** promulgated the **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020** to further amend **Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996**.
- Through the Ordinance, an addition has been made to **Section 36** whereby if the Court is satisfied that a prima facie case is made out that the arbitration agreement or contract which is the basis of the award was induced or effected by fraud or corruption, it will stay the award unconditionally pending disposal of the challenge made to the award under **Section 34**.

### 79% of Indians would adopt a 'robot nanny' to help care for children while WFH: Survey

- **IEEE**, a global technical professional organisation for advancing technology, unveiled its survey report titled '**Generation AI 2020: Health, Wellness, and Technology in a Post-COVID World**'.

### I&B Ministry sets up committee to review norms on TV ratings

- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**, decided to set up a **committee** to review its existing guidelines for **Television Rating agencies** and look into various evolving dynamics concerning the television rating system.
- **Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi S Vempati** has been appointed as **the Chairman** of the committee. Other members include IIT Kanpur's **Dr Shalabh**; **DrRajkumar Upadhyay, ED, C-DOT**; and **Pulak Ghosh** of the Centre for Public Policy . The committee has been asked to submit its report to the I&B Ministry within two months.

### Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurates "Tourist Facilitation Centre" facility at Guruvayur, Kerala under PRASHAD Scheme

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel** inaugurated the "Tourist Facilitation Centre" facility constructed under the project "**Development of Guruvayur, Kerala**" under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism through Virtual Platform.
- The '**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive**' (PRASHAD) launched by the **Ministry of Tourism** in the year **2014-15** with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.

### CCEA approves Rs.1,810-crore investment for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I hydel project

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the investment of **Rs.1,810.56 crore** for the **210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project** located on the **Sutlej river**. The project will be situated in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal

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- This project will generate 758.20 million units of electricity annually.
- This project is being implemented by **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN)** on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain (BOOM) basis with support from the centre and state governments.

### Cabinet Approves Signing Of MoU Between India, Spain For Scientific And Technical Collaborations In Astronomy

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru** and the **Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC)** and the **GRANTECAN, S.A. (GTC), Spain** to develop scientific and technical collaborations in astronomy field.
- The activities to be carried out under this MoU will lead to new scientific results, new technologies, capacity building through increased scientific interaction and training and joint scientific projects etc.

### Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India, UK for co-operation in telecom, ICT

- The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **United Kingdom** for **co-operation in telecommunications** and **ICT**.
- The MoU will contribute towards strengthening bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding between the two sides, in the field of Telecommunications, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), an official release stated.

### Cabinet Approves MoU Between India, Israel On Cooperation In Field Of Health And Medicine

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Israel** on cooperation in the **field of health and medicine**.
- According to a press statement from the cabinet, the MoU covers areas of cooperation in "Exchange and training of medical doctors and other health professionals".

### Airports Authority Of India Signs MoU With NTPC To Set Up Solar Power Plants At Airports

- The **Airports Authority of India** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with an **NTPC Ltd.**, subsidiary to promote usage of electric vehicles and set up **solar power plants** at its **airports**.
- The solar capacity required at airports in **Tamil Nadu** and **Rajasthan** is around **55 MW** and **8 MW**, respectively to become **100% solar powered airports**.

### PM announces change of name of Shipping Ministry to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

- The Prime Minister stated, Government is changing the name of the **Ministry of Shipping** and it will be known as the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**. Mr.Modi has stated that to reduce the expenditure on logistics, India is fast developing multimodal connectivity.



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### FASTags to be mandatory for all four wheelers from 1st January, 2021

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has issued a notification making **FASTags** mandatory for all four wheel vehicles from **1st January 2021**. This will apply to old vehicles as well as M and N category of motor vehicles sold before 1st December, 2017.
- As per Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the FASTag had been made mandatory for all registration of new four wheeled Vehicles since 1st December 2017 and is being supplied by the Vehicle Manufacturer or their dealers.

### Railways to implement artificial intelligence, data analytics for better operational efficiency

- The railways is set to go big with **artificial intelligence** and **data analytics** to improve its operational efficiency and has tied up with **the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad** to analyse the data generated by the national transporter, Railway Board Chairman V K Yadav stated.
- He stated the railways will set up a **Centre for Excellence** in this regard in the next three months.
- The Railway Board has taken a decision to appoint a **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)** in every zonal railways whose mandate will be to keep track of emerging technologies in analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) and use it in the rail system, Yadav stated.

### Vice President launches 'International Satavadhanam' event, a unique literary feat

- The '**International 'Satavadhanam"** program, launched virtually by the Vice President, was organized by Dr. **Medasani Mohan** under the auspices of Sri Krishnadevaraya Satsang in Tirupati.
- The Vice President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has observed that 'avadhanam' as a literary feat has greatly contributed to the Telugu language's glorious tradition.

### PM Modi virtually inaugurates several developmental projects in Varanasi

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects in **Varanasi** via video conferencing. The total cost implication of these projects is **Rs. 614 crores**.

### Working On Aviation Fuel From Gadchiroli Bamboo Plan: Nitin Gadkar

- **Union minister Nitin Gadkari** was working on an idea to set up a refinery for the production of **aviation fuel from bamboo** grown in **Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district**.
- Gadkari was speaking at the inauguration of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat" assistance office in **Maharashtra**.

### Govt approves 21 projects under Scheme for Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition

- **Government** has approved **21 projects**, leveraging investment worth **443 crore rupees** supported with a grant of **189 crore rupees** under the Scheme for **Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition**.
- He stated, 21 projects are likely to generate employment for nearly 12 thousand 600 people and benefit over two lakh farmers.



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### MNRE scales up PM-KUSUM scheme goal to 30.8 GW of solar capacity by 2022

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** has issued an order for the scale-up and expansion of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme**. The target now is to achieve enhanced solar capacity of **30.8 gigawatt (GW)** by 2022 with revised Central financial support of Rs.34,035 crore.

### Govt sets up Inter-Ministerial Committee to strengthen capital goods sector: Prakash Javadekar

- **Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister Prakash Javadekar** informed that the government has set up an **Inter-Ministerial Committee** to strengthen the capital goods sector.
- The Minister stated, the **21-member Inter-Ministerial Committee** will be headed by **Secretary of Department of Heavy Industries**.

### Rajnath Singh unveils model of Anti-Satellite Missile at DRDO Bhawan

- A model of **Anti-Satellite Missile** installed inside the **DRDO Bhawan** premises was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. '**Mission Shakti**' was the country's **first ever Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) Missile Test** successfully conducted on 27th March 2019 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- The successful conduct of Mission Shakti made India the **fourth nation** in the world with the capability to defend its assets in outer space.

### Digital news, OTT added under I&B Ministry

- The government has brought **films, audio-visuals, news** and current affairs content on online platforms-- under the domain of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**.
- According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat, content made available by online providers such as Netflix will also come under the ministry.

### 15th Finance Commission submits its Report for 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind

- The **Fifteenth Finance Commission (XFVC)** led by Chairman **N K Singh**, submitted its Report for the period **2021-22 to 2025-26** to President.
- As per the terms of reference (ToR), the Commission was mandated to give its recommendations for five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30 October, 2020. Last year, the Commission had submitted its report containing recommendations for the year 2020-21 which was accepted by the Union Government and tabled in the Parliament on 30 January 2020.
- The cover and title of the Report are also unique in this Report- "**Finance Commission in Covid Times**" and the use of Scales on the cover to indicate the balance between the States and the Union.

### After Jammu And Kashmir, Saffron Cultivation Likely To Be Expanded To Northeast India

- The **North East Centre For Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)** has undertaken a **pilot project** to explore the feasibility of **growing saffron in North East region** of the country.
- Saffron production has long been restricted to a limited geographical area in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

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### Home Minister Amit Shah to inaugurate “Sarhad Vistar Vikasotsav 2020 “in Gujarat

- **Home Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated “Sarhad Vistar Vikasotsav 2020 “at Dhordo village situated in the forward border area in Kutch district of Gujarat.
- “Sarhad Vistar Vikasotsav 2020” is aimed to address the problems relating to health, education and road connectivity in remote and border villages, so that standard of living in such areas can be improved considerably.

### Survey sights good signs: High biodiversity in 49% of Ganga main river

- With celebrations of the Ganga Utsav — to mark the **12th anniversary** of declaring the **Ganga as a national river** — having come to an end, the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** in the second phase of its survey of the entire main stem of the Ganga river (the main river without its tributaries), has found that **49 per cent** of the river has high biodiversity and that biodiversity sightings, including of the Gangetic Dolphin and otters, have increased in the river.

### Cabinet approves Production-Linked Incentive Scheme for key sectors to boost manufacturing & exports

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA**, has approved continuation and revamping of the Scheme for **Financial Support to Public Private Partnerships** in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding Scheme till 2024-25 with a total outlay of eight thousand 100 crore rupees.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated, the aim of this Scheme is to promote Public Private Partnerships in social and economic infrastructure, leading to efficient creation of assets and ensuring their proper operation and maintenance and make the economically and socially essential projects commercially viable.

### Centre brings OTT platforms, online news portals under Information & Broadcasting ministry

- The **ministry of information and broadcasting** has brought **digital audio-video content**, including **films and web shows on OTT platforms**, as well as **news and current affairs online platforms** under its ambit.
- This means that online streaming portals like Netflix, Amazon Prime among many others will now come under the purview of I&B headed by **Union Minister Prakash Javadekar**.
- The petition, filed by an advocate, **Shashank Shekhar Jha**, looked for setting up an autonomous body to monitor and filter content on these OTT portals.
- These rules may be called the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty-Seventh Amendment Rules, 2020**.

### PM Narendra Modi unveils Swami Vivekananda's statue on JNU campus

- Prime Minister Shri **Narendra Modi** unveiled a **statue of Swami Vivekananda** in **JNU Campus, New Delhi** through video conferencing.
- It took renowned **sculptor Naresh Kumawat** seven months to complete this statue of Swami Vivekananda on the JNU campus.

### Prime Minister to dedicate Two Ayurveda Institutions to the nation at the 5th Ayurveda Day on 13th November

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- The **Prime Minister will dedicate two** future-ready Ayurveda institutions to the nation at the **5<sup>th</sup> Ayurveda Day** on **13<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**.
- These are the **Institute of Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar** and the **National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur**.
- Ministry of AYUSH, since **2016**, has been observing 'Ayurveda Day' every year on the occasion of **Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)**. This year, it falls on **13<sup>th</sup> of November**.

### India Post Payment Bank launches doorstep service to submit digital life certificate

- **India Post Payments Bank, IPPB** have successfully launched the initiative of **doorstep service** for **submission of Digital Life Certificate through Postman**.
- The facility to **submit life certificate online through Jeevan Pramaan Portal** was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November, 2014 with the objective to provide a convenient and transparent facility to pensioners for submission of Life Certificate.

### Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0: Key Takeaways From Finance Minister's Stimulus Package

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** announced **new stimulus measures** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan 3.0** to boost the Indian economy amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The total stimulus announced by the Government and Reserve Bank of India till date, to help the nation tide over the COVID-19 pandemic, works out to **Rs. 29.87 lakh crore**, which is **15% of national GDP**. Out of this, stimulus worth 9% of GDP has been provided by the government.

### 12 Key announcements as part of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat 3.0

#### Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana:

- Ms Sitharaman announced the new **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana** which will incentivise the **creation of new jobs**. The new employees hired by the EPFO-registered organisations will receive benefits during COVID-19. If the EPFO registered establishments take in new employees or those who lost jobs earlier will get benefits from government.
- Beneficiaries under this new scheme will include: new employees joining employment in EPFO-registered establishments on monthly wages less than Rs 15,000, and EPF members drawing monthly wage of less than Rs 15,000 who exited employment during March-September, and employed on or after October 1.
- Central government to give subsidy on new employment
- Employee and employer contribution of **12% each** to be borne **by government**, for next two years; aimed at easing financial burden on companies for creating jobs
- 95% of all (organised sector) establishments estimated to be covered under this scheme will have employees up to 1,000

#### Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme:

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- The **emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS)** for MSMEs, businesses, MUDRA borrowers and individuals (loans for business purposes), has been extended till **March 31, 2021**.
- A credit guarantee support scheme for health care sector and 26 sectors stressed due to COVID-19 pandemic was also launched. The entities of the **26 stressed sectors** are identified by **Kamath Committee**.

### Production-Linked Incentive:

- The PLI scheme worth **Rs. 1.46 lakh crore** is being offered to **10 champion sectors** which will help boost the efficiency and competitiveness of domestic manufacturing.
- A **total amount of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore** has been earmarked across sectors, for the next five years.

### Pradhan Mantri Awaaz Yojana Urban:

- An **additional outlay of Rs. 18,000 crore** over budget estimate towards **PM Awaaz Yojana Urban** has been announced which will help ground 12 lakh houses and complete 18 lakh houses. This will create additional 78 lakh jobs and improve the production and sale of cement and steel.

### Relaxation of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):

- The performance security on government contracts in the construction/infrastructure sector will be **reduced to 3 per cent from 5-10 per cent**. EMD will not be required for bid tenders and will be replaced by Bid Security Declaration. The **relaxations** will be applicable till **December 31, 2021**.

### Income Tax Relief for Developers and Home Buyers:

- The finance ministry announced **tax relief for developers and home buyers for houses up to Rs. 2 crore**. The differential between circle rate and agreement value in real estate income tax is being increased **from 10 per cent to 20 per cent** from November 12, 2020 till June 30, 2021, for primary sale of residential units up to Rs. 2 crore the income tax relief provides an incentive to the middle class to buy homes.

### Equity Investment in Debt Platform by NIIF:

- The government will make **Rs. 6,000 crore** equity investment in debt platform of **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, which will help NIIF raise **Rs. 1.1 lakh crore by 2025** for financing infrastructure projects.

### Support for Agriculture: Rs. 65,000 Crore for subsidized fertilizers

- **As fertilizer consumption** is going up significantly, increased supply of fertilizers will ensure that forthcoming crop seasons will not be affected for want of adequate fertilizers.

### Boost for Rural Employment:

- Additional outlay of **Rs. 10,000 Crore** is being provided for **PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana**. Funds can be used for MGNREGA or for Gram Sadak Yojana, this will help accelerate rural economy .

### Boost for Project Exports

- **Rs. 3,000 Crore boost** to be given for project exports through assistance given by India to developing countries **under Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS Scheme)**. This will help **EXIM Bank** facilitate these Line of Credit development assistance activities and promote exports from India.

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### Capital and Industrial Stimulus

- **Rs. 10,200 Crore additional budget stimulus** will be provided for capital and industrial expenditure on **defence equipment, industrial infrastructure and green energy.**

### R&D grant for COVID Vaccine

- **Rs. 900 Crore** is being provided to **Department of Biotechnology** for research activities related to **COVID-19 vaccine development.** This does not include cost of vaccine or logistics for vaccine distribution (whatever is required for that will be provided)

### Sports Ministry announces incentive structure to fund 500 private academies

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports Kiren Rijju** has introduced an **incentivisation structure** to extend monetary support to 500 private academies, through the **Khelo India Scheme** over the next four years starting FY 2020-21.
- In this model, private academies shall be graded into different categories based on quality achievement of players trained by the academy, level of coaches available at the academy, quality of the field of play and allied infrastructure, availability of sports science facilities, and staff.
- The 14 priority disciplines identified for excellence in the **2028 Olympics** will be eligible for receiving support in the first phase.
- Under the scheme, **SAI and NSFs** will be working together. SAI will also hold discussions with NSFs and implement categorisation and gradation of the academies.
- There will be a special focus on developing sports science facilities at all the academies to improve the overall quality of training.

### PM Modi to unveil 'Statue of Peace' to mark 151st Birth Anniversary of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will unveil '**Statue of Peace**' to mark the **151st Birth Anniversary** celebrations of **Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj** through video conferencing. The 151 inch tall statue has been made from **Ashtadhatu- 8 metals**, with Copper being the major constituent, and is being installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, **Rajasthan.**
- The Statue to be unveiled in his honour has been named as 'Statue of Peace'.

### Finance Ministry moves to set up database of migrant workers

- The **Finance Ministry** has given its **first ever national database of migrant labour** to provide a platform for workers and employers, and for the government to implement specific programmes for such labourers.
- The **Ministry of Labour & Employment** has envisaged development of a '**National Database of Unorganised Workers**' (NDUW) seeded with **Aadhaar.**
- The project will enrol all unorganised workers, including migrant workers.
- Total cost is expected around **₹650 crore.**

### Health Minister Harsh Vardhan addresses Boston Center of Excellence for Health & Human Development



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- Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** addressed the **Boston Center of Excellence for Health and Human Development** through Video Conference.
- Detailing that India has already mastered all components of **Modern medicine** from antibiotics to emergency care, surgery, immunization, and vaccine, Dr Vardhan noted that the focus is now on the cost, quality, and affordability.

### Ministry of Tourism organizes a webinar on “India’s Hidden Gems” under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series

- The **Ministry of Tourism’s Dekho Apna Desh Webinar** series titled “**India’s Hidden Gems**” on hidden gems of India. India is truly like a kaleidoscope, where every twist and turn will present you with a different pattern of landscape, colour, cuisine and culture. This also inspires the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The best way to experience this is by traveling to destinations that are not popular on the internet, and as much as you can, by road.

### Govt Extends Period For Submission Of Life Certificate By Central Govt Pensioners Till 28th Feb 2021

- Government has extended the period for submission of **Life Certificate** by **Central Government pensioners till 28th February** next year.
- Earlier, the government had extended the timeline for submission of Life Certificate from **1st of November to 31st of December, 2020**.

### Education Minister inaugurates 46 online ATAL Faculty Development Programmes

- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** inaugurated **46 online AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs)** to train teachers of higher education institutions. The FDPs will be conducted in **22 Indian states**.
- The online Faculty Development Programmes will be conducted according to the new National Education Policy - 2020.

### India, EU hold 6th round of consultations on disarmament & non-proliferation matters

- **India** and the **European Union** held the **sixth round of consultations** on disarmament and non-proliferation matters in a virtual format.
- The consultations involved exchanges on developments in the area of nuclear, chemical, biological disarmament and non-proliferation, conventional weapons, outer space security issues, export control regimes, strategic stability environment and other developments of mutual interest.

### Ravi Shankar Prasad launches international version of UMANG App

- To mark the occasion of 3 years of UMANG and 2000 plus services milestone, an online conference was organized under the chairmanship of **Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad**..
- The **UMANG mobile app -Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance** is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-lingual, multi-service Mobile App.

### HM Amit Shah inaugurates mobile COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab at ICMR in New Delhi

- Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated a mobile **COVID-19 RT-PCR Lab** at the Indian Council of **Medical Research (ICMR)** in New Delhi. It has been jointly developed by Spice Health and the ICMR.



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- This testing lab and more such labs which are planned to be set up will help in adding more capacity to COVID-19 testing. The lab is accredited by NABL and approved by the ICMR.

### Govt. aims to replace safeguard duty with custom duty to protect local manufacturers of solar equipment, says Power Minister R K Singh

- **Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh** has stated, India is going to replace the **safeguard duty** with the **custom duty** to protect the local manufacturers of solar equipment. He stated, some countries are dumping solar equipment at very low prices in our country to destroy local manufacturers.

### Agriculture Minister unveils 'Sahakar Pragya' to impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas

- **Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** unveiled **Sahakar Pragya**. The 45 new training modules of Sahakar Pragya of the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** will impart training to primary cooperative societies in rural areas of the country along with **Lakshmanrao Inamdar National Cooperative Research and Development Academy**.

### Govt approves 7 proposals of Food Processing Projects worth over Rs 234 cr

- The government has approved **seven proposals** of **Food Processing** Projects worth over **234 crore rupees**. It also includes grants-in-aid of **60.87 crores rupees** in Meghalaya, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.
- Minister of Food Processing Industries **Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually chaired **Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee meeting**. Proposals received under the Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Cluster of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana** were considered. Ministry of Food Processing Industries in a statement stated that these projects will leverage private investment of 173.81 crores rupees and are expected to generate employment for 7750 persons.

### Tenth edition of National Science Film Festival kicks off in virtual mode

- **Tenth edition** of prestigious **science film festival** got off in a virtual mode. **VigyanPrasar**, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has been organizing the four-day long festival as a part of its science popularization endeavour.

### Expert panel recommends 5 technologies for drinking water, sanitation

- A **high-level multi-disciplinary technical panel** in the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has recommended **five technologies**, three for safe drinking water and two for sanitation.
- The technologies include **Grundfos AQpure**, a solar energy based water treatment plant based on ultra-filtration, **Janajal Water on Wheel**, an Internet of Things (IoT) based electric vehicle to deliver safe water to households and **Presto Online Chlorinator**, a non-electric online chlorinator for disinfection of water for removal of bacterial contamination.
- The panel was headed by **K VijayRaghavan**.

### ESIC extends ABVKY scheme up to June 2021

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- **ESI Corporation (ESIC)** has announced the extension of the “**Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana**” (ABVKY) by another **one year** up to **June 30, 2021** and relaxed the eligibility conditions for the period between March 24, 2020 and **December 31, 2020**.
- The original eligibility conditions of the ABVKY scheme would, however, hold good for those rendered unemployed on or before March 23, 2020 and on or after January 1, 2021.

### Cabinet approves infusion of 6000 crore rupees in NIIF; Lakshmi Vilas Bank to be merged with DBS Bank India Limited

- Union Cabinet has approved equity infusion by Government of **6000 crore rupees** in **NIIF Debt Platform** sponsored by **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund**, comprising Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited and NIIF Infrastructure Finance Limited.
- NIIF Infrastructure Debt Financing Platform is expected to contribute nearly one lakh crore rupees in debt to the infrastructure sector over the **next five years**.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar informed that Cabinet has approved Scheme of Amalgamation of **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)** with **DBS Bank India Limited**.
- Cabinet was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the **field of Physical Culture and Sport** signed among **BRICS Countries**.
- Mr Javadekar also informed that CCEA has approved FDI of **2480 crore rupees** in M/s. ATC Telecom Infrastructure Private Limited by M/s. ATC Asia Pacific pvt Ltd.
- This would lead to foreign direct investment inflow of 2480.92 crore rupees. The inflow of foreign investment to India will spur economic growth; as well as foster innovation.

### PM Narendra Modi chairs 33rd PRAGATI interaction

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** chaired the **PRAGATI meeting**. It marked Prime Minister’s **thirty-third interaction through PRAGATI** - the ICT based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Central and State governments.

### All fixed to mobile calls to be dialed with prefix ‘0’ from Jan 15

- **Communications Ministry** has stated all Fixed to Mobile calls will be dialed with **prefix ‘0’** from **15th January next year**. There will be no change in dialing plan from fixed to fixed, mobile to fixed and mobile to mobile calls. Department of Telecommunications has taken the decision of implementing this with the consideration of TRAI Recommendation on “**Ensuring Adequate Numbering Resources for Fixed Line and Mobile Services**”.

### NITI Aayog Forms Panel To Study Feasibility Of Hyperloop Tech In India

- Government think-tank **NITI Aayog** has formed a **high-level panel** to explore the technological and commercial viability of the **Virgin Hyperloop technology** for ultrahigh speed travel in India, weeks after its first test was completed with humans on board.

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- The committee has NITI Aayog member **VK Saraswat** as its **Chairman and Adviser** (Infrastructure Connectivity, Niti Aayog) **Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha** as its convener.
- Its other members are Railway Board Chairman & CEO **VK Yadav**.

### Cabinet minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurates Phagwara mega food park in Punjab

- **Union Food Processing Industries Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** virtually inaugurated the **Rs 107.83 crore mega food park** at **Phagwara** in **Kapurthala district** of **Punjab** which is likely to generate 5,000 jobs.
- **37 mega food parks** have been sanctioned across the country, of which 20 have started functioning.

### Railway launches completely digitized online Human Resource Management System

- **Indian Railway** has launched a **completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)**. HRMS is a high thrust project for Indian Railways to leverage improved productivity and employee satisfaction. It is a move to improve efficiency and productivity of the Railway system.
- **Vinod Kumar Yadav**, Chairman and CEO of Railway Board launched HRMS modules of Employee Self Service, PF Advance and Retirement Settlement.

### Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot E-Launches 'National Portal for Transgender Persons' and E-Inaugurates Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons in Gujarat

- **Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** e-launched a '**National Portal for Transgender Persons**' and e-inaugurated a '**Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons**' in **Vadodara**, Gujarat .

### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7400 Cr in Uttar Pradesh

- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated and laid the **foundation stones** of **16 National Highway projects** worth **7477 crore rupees** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Mr Gadkari stated that National Highways works worth **two lakh crore rupees** are being undertaken in UP.

### APEDA holds Virtual Buyer Seller Meet with Germany

- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, APEDA**, continued its endeavour to promote export of agricultural products through the virtual medium.
- A virtual networking meet with German importers was also organised to promote export of fresh fruits and vegetables from the country. The event was organised by **APEDA** in collaboration with **Embassy of India, Berlin and German Agribusiness Alliance**.

### India has emerged as fourth largest producer of renewable energy in world: PM Modi

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** stated **India's renewable power capacity** is the **4th largest** in the world and it is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries. He stated, the renewable energy capacity in India is currently **136 Giga Watts**, which is about **36 percent** of the country's total capacity.

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### Railways Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates newly electrified Dhigawara-Bandikui section of NW Railway

- Minister of Railways **Piyush Goyal** inaugurated the newly electrified **Dhigawara-Bandikui** section of **North Western Railway**. He also flagged off the first train on this newly electrified route at the function organized at **Dhigawara station**.
- Mr Goyal stated, to avoid any inconvenience to the farmers, **Kisan Rail** is being operated by the railways to transport their agricultural products.

### Govt. announces Rs 900 crore package for COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission

- The Centre has announced the **third stimulus package** of **Rs 900 crore** for the **Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission**.
- The **Ministry of Science and Technology** stated that this will help accelerate development of approximately **5 to 6 vaccine candidates**
- Phase-I of the **COVID Suraksha Mission** has been allotted **900 Crore rupees** for a period of **12 months**.

### PM Modi to inaugurate six-lane widening project of Varanasi-Prayagraj section of NH-19

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited Varanasi and dedicate to the nation the **six-lane widening project** of the **Handia (Prayagraj) - Rajatalab (Varanasi) section** of **National Highway 19**.
- The **73 Kilometers stretch** of the newly widened and six laned NH-19, made with a total outlay of 2 thousand 4 hundred 47 crore rupees is expected to reduce the travel time between Prayagraj and Varanasi by one hour.

### EPFO extends deadline for submission of Jeevan Pramaan Patra to February 28, 2021

- Taking into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of the elderly population to the virus, the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has extended the date for submission of **Life Certificate (Jeevan Pramaan Patra-JPP)** to **February 28, 2021**.
- As of now, a pensioner can submit a JPP anytime during the year up to November 30. With the latest move, any pensioner can submit a Life Certificate till February 28, 2021.

### Union IT and Communications Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad releases "My Stamp on Chhath Puja"

- Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad**, Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law and Justice released a **"My Stamp on Chhath Puja"**.
- My Stamp is an innovative concept initiated by **Department of Posts**.
- My Stamp on Chhath Puja** is available in **all Philatelic bureaux** and major post offices across the country. A special cover on the theme **'Chhath- A symbol of Simplicity and Cleanliness'** was also released.

### PM Modi virtually inaugurates five state-of-the-art facilities to mark 8th convocation of PDPU at Gandhinagar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has virtually inaugurated **five state-of-the-art facilities**.
- These include 45 MW production of monocrystalline solar photo-voltaic panels set up by GEDA at the cost of Rs. 17 crore. Mr. Modi has also launched the PDPU - technology business incubator with the fund of Rs.22 crore.
- He has inaugurated the Sports complex set up by **Sports of Authority of Gujarat** at the cost of **Rs. 15 crore**.

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- Prime Minister has also inaugurated the Indo-EU bilateral project under horizon 2020 “India-h2o” for industrial waste & desalination and PDPUs Translational Research Centre.

### Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Seismic Survey Campaign by Oil India Ltd

- **Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **Seismic Survey Campaign** by **Oil India Limited**. The survey under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy, OALP, will be undertaken in 5 blocks of 8 districts of Odisha in the Mahanadi basin and nearby areas.

### Health Minister chairs an event to mark National Newborn Week 2020

- Health Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** chaired an event to mark the **National Newborn Week 2020**, being observed from **15th to 21st November** to reinforce the importance of newborn health as a key priority area of the health sector and to reiterate the commitment at the highest level.
- This year, the theme of National Newborn Week is ‘**Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere.**

### RailTel bags e-office phase 3 project from Indian Railways

- **RailTel** has bagged **Indian Railway’s e-office phase 3 project** from the Indian Railways. Under the project, RailTel will implement e-office for Zonal Railways (Phase 3) using cloud enabled e-office application developed by NICs (National Informatics Centre).
- As per the MoU executed, the NIC e-office platform project which is helping the Indian Railways digitize its manual records, is planned to be completed by Jan’2021 and cost approximately **Rs 47.05 crores** additionally.

### Centre launches Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge in 243 cities

- Union minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge**, aimed to ensure that no person needs to enter a sewer or septic tank, unless absolutely unavoidable in the interest of greater public hygiene.
- The initiative, that promotes mechanized cleaning, also aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of ‘**hazardous**’ cleaning.

### Bengaluru PM Modi virtually inaugurates Tech Summit 2020

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Bengaluru Tech Summit** virtually.
- During the event, 12 Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with foreign countries paving the way for investments in Karnataka.

### Food Processing Ministry launches GIS One District One Product digital map

- The **Ministry of Food Processing** launched the **GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India**. Minister for Food Processing Industries, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, also virtually inaugurated the capacity building component of the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM-FME Scheme)**.



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- The GIS ODOP digital map of India provides details of ODOP products of all the states and facilitates the stakeholders, the official statement added.

### Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates curtain raiser of IISF-2020 Virtual Event

- Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the curtain raiser of IISF-2020 for kick-starting different events of the 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF), in New Delhi.
- The Minister also released an e-brochure of this mega-event, on the occasion. IISF is an annual event organized jointly by DST, DBT, MoEF, MoHFW and CSIR from the Government of India and VijnanaBharati (VIBHA).
- Dr Harsh Vardhan announced that the theme for this year's festival is 'Science for Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Global Welfare'.

### Govt disbursed over Rs 42,700 crore to 20.6 lakh ex-servicemen under OROP in 5 years

- The central government has disbursed more than Rs 42,700 crore to 20.6 lakh retired defence personnel under the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme, which was notified five years ago.
- The OROP was implemented to bridge the gap between the pensions of current and past ex-servicemen at periodic intervals.

### MoHFW launches three-month campaign to check childhood pneumonia deaths

- The Union Ministry of Family Welfare (MoHFW) launched a three-month campaign to focus on awareness generation and early intervention with regard to childhood pneumonia.
- The initiative targets to reduce less than five pneumonia deaths, per a 1000 live births, to less than three deaths by 2025 through the accelerated SAANS (Social Action and Awareness to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully) initiative.

### Govt expands scope of PM-KUSUM for harnessing solar energy by farmers

- The selected renewable power generator (RPG) shall commission the solar power plant within twelve months from date of issuance of Letter of Award (LoA).
- Moreover, there shall be no penalty on RPG for shortfall in solar power generation from minimum prescribed Capacity Utilization Factor.
- As per the amendments, now MNRE will retain 33% of eligible service charges for nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.

### PM participates in Dev Deepawali Mahotsav in Varanasi

- The Prime Minister named Guru Nanak Dev ji himself as the biggest symbol of reforms in the society and system.
- The Dev Deepavali is the festival of Kartik Poornima celebrated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. The festival is also observed as Tripura Purnima Snan or Worship of Shiva.

### New farm Acts aim to transform agriculture sector in country & raise farmers' income

- The government has recently implemented new farm Acts in this direction which include Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020.



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- It will promote barrier free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations which will reduce marketing costs for the farmers.

### India's 5G Connection by 2026

- India, which has the highest average monthly mobile data traffic per smart phone, is expected to surpass **350 million 5G subscriptions** by 2026, accounting for 27% of all mobile subscriptions in the country, according to a report by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson.
- In the India region, LTE (long-term evolution technology) subscriptions are forecast to increase from 710 million in 2020 to 820 million in 2026” by which time 3G will be phased out.

### National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) meeting held Through video conference

- Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** chaired a **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)** meeting through video conferencing.
- As per the naming convention, it is named as ‘**Burevi**’ (बुरेवि), and the name has been contributed by the Maldives.

### First Mobile CNG Dispensing Unit Launched

- The unit was launched by **Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan**. The **Mobile Refuelling Unit** will be operated by **Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MNGL)** in Pune.
- Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Tarun Kapoor**, stated the company should ensure that **2-3 compressed biogas plants** are connected to the gas network.

### Board of Trade meeting

- **Piyush Goyal** chaired a meeting of the **Board of Trade (BOT)** through a Video Conference.
- The meeting would be also addressed by ministers of state for commerce and industry **Som Parkash** and **Hardeep Singh Puri**.
- Board of Trade took an Overview of the Export and Import Performance, Investment Promotion Strategy for AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

### Global Terrorism Index 2020: India 8th most affected country

- India ranked eighth - with a score of 7.353 - on the index that measures the impact of terrorism.
- Afghanistan (9.592) was reported to be the most impacted of the 163 countries, Iraq (8.682) was the second most affected nation, followed by Nigeria (8.314).

### India's first 100 Octane petrol

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched the nation's first 100 Octane petrol, helping India join a select league of nations globally that have such superior quality fuel.
- Launching the fuel, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated XP100 premium petrol will initially be available at select outlet of IOC in 10 cities
- The Cities are Delhi, Gurgaon, Noida, Agra, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad

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### Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed inaugural session of Annual DGsP/IGsP Conference

- This is the first such Conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau in virtual mode. Paying homage to the Police martyrs, the Union Home Minister awarded Indian Police Medals to 50 awardees and congratulated them on their achievements.
- A session on various initiatives of security forces on the LWE front was held in which discussions were held to improve the security situation in LWE infested areas.

### Prime Minister to virtually inaugurate Agra Metro Rail project on December 7

- **Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation** has set a deadline of **five years** for the completion of two corridors of Agra metro which would connect all the major tourist destinations and the tourists coming from all over the world to see the Taj will get a new experience of green transport.
- Agra Metro will be a boon to tourism and it will take around 3 years for the first metro train on the priority section between Tajmahal to Jama Masjid.
- The tendering process has been completed. The **UP Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC)** has begun preparations in this regard.

### Ayush ministry to develop Nisarg Gram campus in Pune

- The **Union Ministry of Ayush** has recently announced that the upcoming new campus of the **National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune** will be called Nisarg Gram.
- To start with, the new institute's curricula will be prepared in light of National Education Policy, 2020.

### Government Announces List of 10 best performing police stations in india 2020

- The **Government of India** selects the **best-performing police stations** across the country every year, to incentivise more effective functioning and bring healthy competition.
- This year's survey for the best police stations was conducted under challenging circumstances by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 19 parameters were identified to evaluate the standards of service delivery and identify techniques of improvement in policing.

#### The Top 10 Police Stations In The Country For 2020:

1. NongpokSekmai, Manipur
2. AWPS-Suramangalam, Tamil Nadu
3. Kharsang, Arunachal Pradesh
4. Jhilmili (Bhaiya Thana), Chhattisgarh
5. Sanguem, Goa
6. Kalighat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
7. Pakyong, Sikkim
8. Kanth, UP

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9. Khanvel, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

10. Jammikunta Town PS, Telangana

### Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana Participates in 7th WASH Conclave

- A 3 day virtual 7 th edition of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene conclave 2020 started in Hyderabad from Dec 2 to Dec 4.
- Theme - Hygiene Matters
- Seventh WASH Conclave was organised by UNICEF and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

### IIT Bombay Releases Urban Quality of Life Index: Mumbai Bagged the 1 st Place

- IIT-Bombay researchers have come up with an urban quality of life index tailored to the reality of life in India.
- Chennai is the most women-friendly and Patna the least. Mumbai tops the list of 14, followed closely by Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.
- The study found that Jaipur has the highest crime rate against women, Chennai has the lowest .

### PM virtually inaugurates construction of Agra Metro project in UP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the phase one of construction of the Agra metro project.
- The estimated cost of the construction of the project is Rs 8,379.62 crore and it will be completed in five years, an official stated.

### The ICAR Wins King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award 2020

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has bagged the prestigious International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome.

### Gwalior, Orchha in UNESCO world heritage cities list: MP Govt

- The historical fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCO's world heritage cities under its urban landscape city programme, according to the state government.
- Under the plan UNESCO will suggest best measures and resources for the development of these places under the Historic Urban Landscape recommendations, the official said.

### PM Modi to inaugurate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on 9th of Jan'21

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on in virtual format.
- Theme - Contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### Government announces CO-WIN mobile app for COVID-19 vaccine delivery

- The central government has introduced a new digital platform called CO-WIN for COVID-19 vaccine delivery.
- CO-WIN app is set to be available for smartphone users and will be publicly available as soon as possible.
- The platform will be used for recording vaccine data and will form a database of healthcare workers.

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### PM Modi to address International Bharati Festival 2020 On Dec 11

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **International Bharati Festival**, 2020 via video conferencing.
- The festival is being organised by **Vanavil Cultural Centre** to celebrate the **138th** birth anniversary of **Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati**.

### PM Modi to lay foundation stone of new Parliament House building

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building at **Sansad Marg** in Parliament Complex.
- The new building is an intrinsic part of the vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The new Building is being constructed at a cost of **971 crore** rupees which will house more Committee Rooms and Political Parties offices than the existing Parliament House.

### Punjab agricultural scientist declines award

- **Varinderpal Singh**, an agricultural scientist with the Punjab agricultural University, refused to accept an award being presented to him by a Union Minister to express his solidarity with the farmers agitating against the Centre's farm laws.
- Dr. Singh, a principal soil chemist on the PAU in Ludhiana, Punjab, was chosen for the '**FAI Golden Jubilee Award for Excellence**' for finest work executed in plant vitamins.

### New School Bag Policy 2020 Proposed By Union Education Ministry

- The **Union Education Minister** proposed a **new School Bag Policy 2020** and recommends that weight of the school bag needs to be monitored on a regular basis as per NCERT recommendation.
- As per the new School Bag Policy 2020 proposed by the Education Ministry, the maximum weight of the school bags has been **not more than 10% of the student's weight**.

### Cabinet Approves PM- WANI Scheme

- The Central government's scheme is called the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) and is being seen as an attempt by the government to elevate wireless internet connectivity in the country.
- It aims to promote the growth of public wi-fi networks in the country.
- The scheme would enable our small shopkeepers to provide Wi-Fi service. This will boost incomes as well as ensure our youth gets seamless internet connectivity.
- Salient Features: This Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface will be known as PM-WANI. PM-WANI ecosystem will be operated by different players as described herein under:

### Cabinet approves Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY).

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- Cabinet has approved an expenditure of Rs 1,584 crore for the current financial year and Rs 22,810 crore for the entire Scheme period i.e. 2020-2023.

### Salient features of the Scheme are as under:

- Government of India will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October 2020 and up to 30th June 2021
- Government of India will pay both 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution i.e. 24% of wages towards EPF in respect of new employees in establishments employing up to 1000 employees for two years

### G Kishan Reddy inaugurates National Centre for Divyang Empowerment in Telangana

- Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy inaugurated National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE) at the CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet near Hyderabad in Telangana on 10th December 2020.
- NCDE aims to provide the soldiers who suffered and sustained grievous injuries during operational duties and rendered physically challenged, a chance to enhance and train them for various fields of work including Information Technology and para-athletes.

### Ministry of AYUSH, AIIMS to set up Department of Integrative Medicine

- The Ministry of AYUSH and AIIMS have decided to initiate work on setting up a Department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS.
- CIMR receives notable support through the Centre of Excellence Scheme of the Ministry of AYUSH.

### Lakshadweep declared first UT to become 100% organic

- The **Ministry of Agriculture** has declared **Lakshadweep** as India's **first Union Territory** to become **100% organic**.
- Earlier in **2016**, **Sikkim** was declared as the **first organic farming state** in India.
- The success of acquiring a certification of being 100% organic was achieved with the help of the central government's **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana**.

### BSE Launches e- agricultural spot market platform

- **BSE** has launched an **electronic spot platform** for **agricultural commodities** through its subsidiary **BSE Investments Ltd**.
- **BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd (BEAM)** will function as a national level, institutionalised, electronic, transparent commodity spot trading platform in line with the Prime Minister's vision to create a single market, **BSE** stated.

### Indian Railway Launches Hospital Management Information System

- **Indian Railways** has launched the **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** to provide better health care facilities to its work force with the help of information technology.
- The **HMIS Trial Project** has been launched over **South Central Railway**.

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- The HMIS has been developed by Indian Railways in coordination with **RailTel Corporation Limited**.
- Presently, three modules of HMIS – Registration, OPD doctor desk, and pharmacy – are being taken up implemented.

### NITI Aayog releases a white paper Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India

- The white paper lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into **Ayushman Bharat**.
- Citizen-friendly public health surveillance system will ensure individual privacy and confidentiality, enabled with a client feedback mechanism

### Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure scheme

- All the states except **Tamil Nadu** have availed benefits of the newly announced scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure.
- **Aim:** The Scheme is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments who are facing a difficult financial environment this year due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.

### Housing & Urban Affairs secretary launches PM SVANidhi beneficiaries & their families

- Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary **Durga Shanker Mishra** launched a programme of Socio-Economic Profiling of **PM SVANidhi** beneficiaries and their families, as an additional component of PM SVANidhi Scheme.
- In the first phase, **125 cities** have been selected for the programme.

### Handicraft and GI Toys exempted from Quality Control Order

- Centre has **exempted Handicraft and Geographical Indications toys from Quality Control Order**. Order will come into effect from **1st January next year**.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade mentioned this exemption in Toys (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2020.

### Health minister releases 5th National Family Health Survey for 17 states & 5 UTs

- Health minister **Harsh Vardhan** released the **5th National Family Health Survey (NFHS)** which contains detailed information on population, health and nutrition for India and its states and UTs.
- In **Phase I** results Show the status of **17 States and 5 UTs**.
- **Phase II** covering the remaining **12 States and 2 UTs** and is expected to be completed by **May 2021**.

### British PM Boris Johnson to be Chief Guest at Republic Day Of India

- The **United Kingdom** has confirmed that **Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson** will be the chief guest at **Republic Day Parade in January 2021**.
- This was confirmed by **British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab**, on **14 December 2020**.
- India will be observing **72nd Republic Day on 26 January 2021**.



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### GRSE Kolkata launches 'Himgiri', its 1st Ship of Project 17A

- Himgiri, which is the first of the **three Project 17A** ships being built at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE)**, Kolkata was launched on **December 14**.
- Project 17A has upheld India's vision for **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

### PM Modi Inaugurates World's Largest Renewable Energy Park Opens in Kutch

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **world's largest renewable solar and wind energy 30,000 megawatts (MW)** Ultra Mega Hybrid Park in **Gujarat's Kutch**.
- It will be the largest renewable energy park of its kind in the world.
- The vast project in western Gujarat's Kutch region spread over **1,80,000 acres**
- The park is being constructed between Khawda and Vighakhot villages near India-Pakistan border.

### ISRO sets up dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has set up a dedicated Space **Situational Awareness (SSA)** Control Centre, at its ISTRAC campus at **Peenya, Bangalore**.
- According to ISRO, the **Network for space object Tracking and Analysis (NETRA)** project is initiated as a first step towards meeting this goal, its main elements being a radar, an optical telescope facility, and a control centre.

### Cabinet approves assistance of Rs 3,500 crore for sugarcane farmers

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister **Mr. Narendra Modi** has approved assistance of about **Rs. 3,500 crore** (US\$ 476.10 million) for sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan).
- This subsidy aims at covering expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport and freight charges on export of up to 60 LMT of sugar limited to Maximum Admissible Export Quota (MAEQ) allocated to sugar mills for sugar season 2020-21.

### QCI Launches Recognition Scheme for Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies

- **Quality Council of India (QCI)** at the behest of the FSSAI has come out with a Scheme for approval of **Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies** to scale up Hygiene Rating by increasing the number of recognised Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies in the country.
- FSSAI's initiative of '**Food Hygiene Rating Scheme**' is a certification system for food businesses supplying food directly to consumers, either on or off premise, the ministry said in a statement.

### India and Bangladesh to reopen Chilahati-Haldibari rail link after nearly 55 years

- **India** and **Bangladesh** reopened the **55 years old Chilahati-Haldibari rail link** between the two nations. The inauguration took place during a virtual bilateral summit between **PM Modi** and **PM Sheikh Hasina**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- It will enhance the railway network accessibility and will also give a boost to the economic development and bilateral trade in the region.

### CCEA approves revised cost of Rs 6.7k cr for power transmission project

- CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs), chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved the Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) at an estimated cost of **Rs 6,700 crore**
- The central government approved the revised cost estimate of Rs 6,700 crore for North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project for **six states** to strengthen intra-state transmission and distribution systems.
- Six beneficiary the north-eastern states – **Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura**, and are targeted to be commissioned by December 2021.

### British PM invites Prime Minister Modi to attend UK hosted G-7 summit next year

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has invited India to attend the **G7 Summit next year**.
- Mr Johnson has sent a letter inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the summit.
- This year, the G7 grouping will also reportedly witness an expansion and will include ten democracies, naming it **D10**.

### India and Bangladesh sign 7 MoUs, agreements

- **India and Bangladesh** signed **seven MoUs** and agreements during the virtual summit between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**.
- The agreements include a framework of understanding in Hydrocarbon sector, framework agreement on High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP), protocol on transborder elephant conservation, an MoU on the supply of equipment and improvement of Garbage and solid waste disposal, MoU in the field of agriculture, an MoU between National Museum Delhi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial museum, Dhaka and terms of reference for India Bangladesh CEO forum.

### EAM S Jaishankar launches economic diplomacy website

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** launched a dedicated **economic diplomacy website**.
- Aim : To provide critical and relevant information on major economic indicators, central and state government policy updates as well as the latest business news and trade data.

### India signs one billion dollar loan agreement with NDB for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- **The Government of India and New Development Bank** signed a loan agreement for **one thousand million dollars** to provide support to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through **MGNREGA Scheme**.
- It will support the Government in mitigating the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic and enable economic recovery in the rural areas through Natural Resource Management (NRM) works.

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### Defence Acquisition Council approves proposals worth Rs 27,000 crore to procure equipment from domestic industry

- **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** meeting, headed by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, approved proposals to procure equipment worth **Rs 27,000 crore** from the domestic industry.
- DAC approved Capital Acquisition proposals of various weapons, platforms, equipment and systems required by the Indian Army, the Navy and Air Force at an approximate overall cost of Rs 28,000 crore.

### AICTE to Release Rs 20,000 Maintenance Allowance For Jammu And Kashmir, Ladakh Students

- AICTE has decided to release the instalment of **Rs 20,000** as maintenance allowance under **Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS)** for the students of **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.
- It is Implemented by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

### On 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Ministry dedicates a Museum in Kolkata

- To commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary on 23rd January, the Union Culture Ministry was planning a museum in Kolkata.
- The government has also decided to expand the current museum of Netaji at Red Fort in Delhi.

### Government Finalises GPS based Technology toll collection across India

- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs **Nitin Gadkari** has stated that the Government has finalised **GPS-based(Global Positioning System)** technology toll collection to ensure seamless movement of vehicles across the country.
- That will ensure India becomes **'toll booth free'** in the next two years.

### Nehru Zoo gets ISO certification from UK

- The **Nehru Zoological Park** in Hyderabad has become the **first zoo in the country** to receive the **ISO 9001:2015** Quality Management Standards Certification from the Accreditation Services for Certification Bodies (ASCB), UK.
- In this achievement, the Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad has also become the **first zoo in the country to get this certificate**.

### Odisha CM launches Pareshram portal

- Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched **'Pareshram'** Portal along with **22 online services** of **Labour and Employees State Insurance Department**.
- The **'PARESHRAM'** portal is the foundation of the **5-T initiative** and this will have all the information regarding different labour laws, to help the industries, commercial organisations, small entrepreneurs and the general public.

### Nitin Gadkari to inaugurate and lay foundation stone for 33 highway projects in Karnataka

- Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for **33 highway projects in Karnataka**.
- The project worth **11 thousand crore rupees**, has a road length of nearly 1200 kilometers.

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### Skill India establishes first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Power Sector

- **Skill India** has established the **first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in the Power Sector** in the campus of **National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram Haryana**.
- The Centre of Excellence located in Gurugram is an outcome of collaboration between the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India**, along with the **Ministry of National Education and Youth, Government of France** and **Schneider Electric**.

### PM Modi to be chief guest at virtual centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University

- In **Uttar Pradesh**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be the **chief guest** at the **virtual centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University**.
- This is for the first time in over five decades that any Prime Minister of India will attend a function at Aligarh Muslim University.

### PM Modi to address India-Japan Samvad Conference On Dec 21

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **India-Japan Samvad Conference**.
- This Samvad Conference revolves around the need to **build the future of Asia** on the positive influence of traditions of non-violence and democracy in Asia.
- The first conference, **Samvad-I**, was held in **New Delhi** in **2015**, at **Bodh Gaya**.

### PM Modi to deliver inaugural address at IISF 2020

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** delivered the inaugural address at the **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020** through video conferencing.
- Launched in **2015**, IISF is a celebration to **promote science and technology**.

### PM Modi Presents ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award to Shri Ratan Tata

- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** addressed the '**ASSOCHAM Foundation Week 2020**' via video conferencing.
- The theme of the programme : **India's resilience: Atmanirbhar roadmap towards a \$5 trillion economy**.

### New electricity rules give consumers across India the right to 24x7 supply

- Government Notifies **New Electricity Rights of Consumers Rules, 2020** to give consumers the right to **24x7 supply**.
- These rules provide for **rights of consumers and obligations of distribution licensees**, release of new connection and modification in existing connection, metering arrangement, billing and payment.
- The distribution licensee shall supply 24x7 power to all consumers. However, the commission may specify lower hours of supply for some categories of consumers like agriculture.

### Union environment Minister releases Status of Leopards in India 2018 report

- The **Union environment minister Shri Prakash Javadekar** released a report of the **Status of Leopard in India 2018**.
- The population of leopards in India has **increased by 60 percent**, according to a report released by the government.

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- As per report, India now has **12,852 leopards**.
- To the States of **Madhya Pradesh (3,421)**, **Karnataka(1783)** and Maharashtra(1690) who have recorded the **highest leopard** estimates.

### 8th North East Festival 2020 Held in Guwahati

- On Dec 19 to 20, 2020, The **8th North East Festival (NEF)** was held at **Radisson Blu Hotel** in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- This is the **first time** that Guwahati hosted this annual two day event.
- This festival mainly focuses on the **Growth Agenda for North East Post COVID-19**.

### Dharmendra Pradhan Dedicates Bengal's First Oil And Gas Reserve To Nation

- **Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister**, dedicated **West Bengal's first oil and gas reserve, Bengal Basin**, to the nation.
- He stated production from the petroleum reserve in Ashoknagar, about 47 km from Kolkata, has started with the extracted oil being sent to Haldia refinery of **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.
- The Bengal Basin is explored and owned by **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, and It is the **eight producing basin** of India by ONGC.
- The **first proven reserve of oil and gas** in the state was discovered in **2018**.

### The other seven are :

- Krishna-Godavari (KG),
- Mumbai Offshore,
- Assam Shelf,
- Rajasthan,
- Cauvery,
- Assam-Arakan Fold Belt
- Cambay

### Centre and WB sign USD 500 million project to build Green National Highway Corridors

- The **Centre and the World Bank** signed a **USD 500 million project** to build **safe and green national highway corridors** in **Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The project will also enhance the capacity of the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.

### Govt decides to constitute High Level Committee to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- Government has decided to **constitute a High Level Committee** to commemorate the **125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- The Committee will decide on the activities for a one year long commemoration starting **23rd January, 2021**.
- The High Level Committee will be **headed by Home Minister Amit Shah**.



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### IMD releases End of the Season Report for Southwest Monsoon 2020

- National Weather Forecasting Centre of the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, has released the **End of the Season Southwest Monsoon 2020 report**.
- The report noted that seasonal (June-September) rainfall over the country as a whole was 109% of its **Long Period Average (LPA)** in 2020. It was the third highest after 112% of LPA in 1994 and 110 % of LPA in 2019.

### Prime Minister to launch SEHAT, health insurance scheme for Jammu-Kashmir on Dec 26

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **PMJAY - SEHAT scheme** for Jammu and Kashmir.
- The scheme will cover the remaining population which has not been covered under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- Under **Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** eligible beneficiaries were covered under Health cover of **Rs 5 lakhs**.
- According to the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, SEHAT scheme stands for **Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine**, a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.

### NITI Aayog launches india's first indigenous digital storage platform DigiBoxx

- NITI Aayog's CEO **Amitabh Kant** has virtually launched **India's first digital asset management and storage platform DigiBoxx**.
- The platform provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location.
- DigiBoxx has free 2GB storage space and the file shared stays for 45 days.

### Cabinet gives nod to merger of 4 Film Media Units with NFDC

- The **Cabinet** approved the merger of **Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India with National Film Development Corporation**.
- The Cabinet also approved revision in guidelines for providing **DTH services** in India.
- Under the DTH licence will be issued for 20 years in place of present 10 years.
- Guidelines have been amended to allow **100 percent FDI** in DTH services.

### Ministry of Environment rolls out Firefly bird diverter initiative

- The **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** along with the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** India has come up with a unique initiative of a **firefly bird diverter** for overhead power lines in areas where **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** populations are found in the wild.

### PM Narendra Modi Releases Postal Stamp To Mark Centenary Celebrations Of AMU

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a special **postal stamp** to mark the **centenary celebrations** of the **Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**.
- This is the **first time** in five decades that a prime minister has attended an AMU event as the chief guest. Prime Minister Modi attended the event via video conferencing.



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- Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** also Participated in the event.

### PM Modi to release Rs. 18,000 crore under PM-Kisan scheme to more than 9 crore farmers

- Prime Minister **Modi** will release **Rs. 18,000 crore** for the next instalment of financial benefit under the **PM-Kisan scheme** to more than **9 crore farmers** through video conference.
- Under the PM-KISAN Scheme, a financial benefit of **Rs. 6,000 per year** is provided to small and marginal farmers, payable in three equal 4-monthly installments of Rs. 2,000 each.

### Cabinet approves post matric scholarship scheme for more than four crore SC students

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has also approved **Rs. 59,048 Crore** post matric scholarship scheme for more than **4 Crore Scheduled Castes** students in 5 years.
- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Thawarchand Gehlot** stated, the Central Government will spend Rs. 35,534 Crore for it which is 60 percent and the balance 40 per cent will be spent by the State Governments.

### India's largest hockey stadium to be set up at Rourkela, will host 2023 World Cup Games

- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced that India's biggest hockey stadium will come up at **Rourkela** and the **20,000-capacity** facility will host matches of **FIH men's World Cup in 2023**.
- The stadium will be constructed in the **Biju Patnaik University of Technology** campus in Rourkela.
- Once operational, the Rourkela city stadium would be the biggest hockey stadium in India.

### Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot Launches Swachhata Abhiyan

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Shri Thawarchand Gehlot** launched a Mobile Application **Swachhata Abhiyan**.
- It Provides the authorities concerned details of any insanitary latrine or manual scavenger.

### FASTag to be mandatory for all vehicles in country from new year

- Road Transport & Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has announced that **FASTag** is being made mandatory for all vehicles in the country from new year.
- FASTag will be enforced from **1st of January, 2021**. Enumerating its benefits, it is useful for the commuters as they will not need to stop at toll plazas for cash payments. FASTag was launched in **2016**.

### India's 1st tiger reserve hot air balloon safari launched in Madhya Pradesh

- **India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari** in a **tiger reserve** was launched in the world famous **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** by **Madhya Pradesh** forest minister **Vijay Shah**.
- It is the **first in any tiger reserve in the country**.
- The service is being operated by **Jaipur-based Sky Waltz**.

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### MoRTH extends validity of vehicular documents till 31st March 2021

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has extended the validity of vehicular documents such as **driving licenses (DLs), registration certificates (RCs)** and Permits till **31st of March 2021** in the light of need to prevent the spread of Covid-19 Pandemic.
- The Ministry had earlier issued advisories on 30th March, 9th June and 24th August this year regarding extension of validity of documents related to **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** and **Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989**.
- This covers all documents whose validity has expired since 1st Feb, 2020 or would expire by 31st March 2021.

### Rajya Sabha MP RCP Singh unanimously elected as National President of JD (U)

- Rajya Sabha MP **RCP Singh** was unanimously elected as the **national president of the Janata Dal**.
- This decision was taken at the **party's national executive meeting in Patna**.

### Home Minister Amit Shah to lay foundation stone for 7 major projects in Manipur

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** laid the **foundation stone for seven major projects** while two other projects would be inaugurated.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr. Jitendra Singh will also attend the function.
- The convention was organised by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), which was formed to spearhead public movement against any outcome of the Indo-Naga peace talks that could potentially disintegrate Manipur.

### Jai Ram unveils Vajpayee's statue at Ridge

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** unveiled an **18 feet statue** of former prime minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at the historic Ridge Maidan here on his **96th birth anniversary**.
- The statue has been built at a cost of **Rs 1.08 crore**. The Ridge Maidan also houses statues of Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister **Indira Gandhi**.

### PM Modi launches Ayushman Bharat PMJAY

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme** via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The scheme will ensure **universal health coverage, and focus on providing financial risk protection and ensuring quality and affordable essential health services** to all individuals and communities.

### PM Modi flags off 100th run of Kisan Rail in Maharashtra

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the **100th run of Kisan Rail in Maharashtra**.
- The move is a big step toward **empowering farmers of the country**.
- The 100th run of the Kisan Rail was flagged off from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in **West Bengal** virtually.

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### PM Modi flags off India's first driverless train on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the country's **first ever fully-automated driverless train** service on the Magenta Line of the **Delhi Metro**.
- With the commencement of these new-generation trains, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has entered the elite league of "seven per cent of world's Metro networks" which can operate services without drivers, according to DMRC.
- PM also launched a fully operational **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** on the Airport Express Line of Delhi Metro, to connect DMRC with the NCMC service.

### Skyroot Aerospace successfully test fire solid-fueled rocket engine

- **Skyroot Aerospace**, a Hyderabad based start-up in the space sector, has successfully test-fired a solid propulsion rocket engine named **Kalam-5**.
- It is the country's **first private sector company** to successfully test-fire a solid propulsion rocket stage engine.

### Home Secretary and Secretary DoPT, A K Bhalla releases progress report of e-HRMS

- Home Secretary and Secretary DoPT, **A K Bhalla** released the progress report of **e-HRMS (Electronic-Human Resource Management System)**.
- e-HRMS was launched by Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions **Dr Jitendra Singh** on **25th December, 2017**.
- It had 25 applications of 5 modules of the system.

### Indian Institute of Skill invites applications for its first batch

- The first batch of training at the **Tata-Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai** was launched to provide an **impetus to Skill India programme through private sector participation**.
- The institute is a joint initiative between the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, Government of India and **Tata-Indian Institute of Skills (Tata-IIS)**.

### Amit Shah lays foundation stone of medical college, law colleges in Assam

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of a **medical college and nine law institutes**, besides launching two other projects in **Assam**.
- It will be set up by amalgamating the Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital and the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Chest Hospital at an estimated amount of **Rs 755 crore**.

### The Nine law colleges to be set up at

- Diphu,
- Silchar,
- Dhubri,
- Dibrugarh,
- North Lakhimpur,
- Jorhat,

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- Nalbari,
- Rangia and Raha.
- Under Asom Darshan " scheme the Union Minister distributed financial grants to 8000 Namghars (Traditional Vaisnave monasteries of Assam ).

### Centre sets up panel to work out common entrance test for UG Admission

- The **UGC set up a seven-member committee** , headed by Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab R P Tiwari, to consider the issue holding common entrance tests at undergraduate level only from the next academic year in central universities to provide a single platform for admission.
- This is the first attempt, after the introduction of the **new National Education Policy**,

### Union Health Minister Launched India's first indigenous pneumonia vaccine, developed by SII

- **Harsh Vardhan** launched **Pneumosil, India's first Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)**.
- The Pneumosil' has been developed by **Serum Institute of India** in collaboration with the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- Pneumosil has been extensively evaluated in **5 randomized** controlled clinical trials and has demonstrated comparable safety and immunogenicity

### President Ram Nath Kovind to be on a four days visit to Diu

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** will be on a four days visit to **Diu** in the **UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu** starting from **December 25 to 28, 2020**.
- In this Visit, He inaugurated the **Jalandhar Circuit House** in Diu.
- Mr Kovind inaugurated the **INS Khukhri Memorial**.

### Indian Railways launches HMIS for UMID

- The **Indian Railways** has launched the recently integrated **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)** and a mobile application for downloading **Unique Medical Identity Card (UMID)**.
- The HMIS project has accordingly been launched with four modules in **five units at Central Hospital**, Lallaguda and health units located at Chilkalguda, Moulali, Kacheguda and Nampally and **2 units at Northern Railways**.
- The HMIS in Railways has been developed by **Indian Railways** in coordination with **RailTel Corporation Limited**.

### PM Modi dedicates to nation section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor in UP

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation the ambitious **New Bhaupur-New Khurja** section of **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor in Uttar Pradesh** through video conference.
- The **351-kilometre** New Bhaupur- New Khurja section of EDFC is built at a cost of **Rs. 5,750 crore** and most of its part passes through Uttar Pradesh. This will act as the command centre for the entire route length of the EDFC.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan issue a report – Action Agenda

- Science and Technology Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** releases report - **Action Agenda** for an **Atma Nirbhar Bharat** prepared by **Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, TIFAC** in New Delhi.

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- TIFAC's White Paper on Focused Interventions for Make in India: post COVID -19 which was released earlier in July this year.

### National commission for welfare of scheduled caste students: Thawarchand Gehlot

- Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawarchand Gehlot announced, the Central government is committed for the welfare of scheduled caste students as it has made a historic change in the scholarship available to students of this community pursuing higher education.
- He explains about the commission in a meeting which is held in Newdelhi, the government has approved Rs. 59,048 Crore post matric scholarship scheme for over four crore SC students for the next five years.
- Mr. Gehlot said, Central Government will spend 60 per cent of the scholarship amount and remaining 40 per cent will be spent by the State governments.

### Make sure all last mile connectivity in DFC- Shri Piyush Goyal

- Union Minister for Railways and Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal reviews the progress of upcoming DFC.
- It may be noted that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate the 351 km long 'New Bhaupur- New Khurja section' of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) in Uttar Pradesh.

### Uttarakhand: India's first pollinator park comes up at Haldwani

- The country's first pollinator park with over 40 species of butterflies, honey bees, birds and insects has been developed over four acres at Nainital's Haldwani.
- Developed by the research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department, the colourful park was inaugurated by renowned butterfly expert Peter Smetacek.

### Union Cabinet approves export of Akash missile system

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to export indigenously-developed Akash Missile System.
- Akash is the country's important missile with over 96 percent indigenisation. Akash is a Surface to Air Missile with a range of 25 Kms. The missile was inducted in 2014 in IAF and in 2015 in Indian Army.

### Indian Railways Completes 180 Kmph Speed Trail Run

- Indian Railways successfully completed a speed trial for 180 km per hour of a new design vistadome tourist coach.
- According to the Railway Ministry, the new vistadome tourist coach has been manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai.

### PM to lay foundation stone of Light House Projects at six sites

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- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of Light House Projects under the **Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India)** at six sites across six states in video conference.
- The Prime Minister will also announce winners under **Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators (ASHA)**- India and give out annual awards for excellence in implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) Mission**.
- He will release a certificate course on innovative construction technologies named '**NAVARITI**' (**New, Affordable, Validated, Research Innovation Technologies for Indian Housing**).
- The LHPs are being constructed at **Indore** (Madhya Pradesh), **Rajkot** (Gujarat), **Chennai** (Tamil Nadu), **Ranchi** (Jharkhand), **Agartala** (Tripura) and **Lucknow** (Uttar Pradesh).

### PM Modi chaired the 34th PRAGATI interaction

- Modi chaired the meeting to review the **various projects, programmes & grievances**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the **34th PRAGATI interaction**.
- Projects of the **Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** were discussed.
- These projects, with a total cost of about one lakh crore rupees, pertained to ten states and Union Territories including, **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli**.

### Prime minister remembers Netaji's 75 th anniversary

- "To mark the **75th anniversary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose**, he had gone to Port Blair and had the **honour of hoisting the Tricolour**,"
- The Prime Minister said, **30th December 1943**, a day etched in the memory of every Indian, when the brave Netaji Subhas Bose hoisted the Tricolour at Port Blair.

### Centre has achieved remarkable achievement: Power Minister R K Singh

- The renewable energy minister was speaking at the Chief Ministers' **Plenary session of the virtual 3rd Global RE-INVEST Summit**.
- Power Minister **R K Singh** said that Centre has achieved remarkable achievement in terms of expanding access to electricity in the country.
- India will have around **60 per cent** of its installed electricity generation capacity from clean and green sources by 2030.

### Highlighting the achievements :

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** said Gujarat has been a pioneer in the space of renewable energy (RE) and in the last 3 years, the capacity of RE has increased considerably despite challenges.



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- "Gujarat has given subsidies to **55,000 people** to install solar panels and have a vision of achieving 5,000 MW solar and bringing solar energy in agriculture," he said.
- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** said Rajasthan is the second largest state in terms of investments in solar energy projects.
- "When we started **20 years ago, cost of RE was Rs 16 and now it is Rs 2 per unit.**
- This is sure to reduce further. It is our duty to work towards renewable energy and climate change," Gehlot added.
- He further said incentives have been extended to the investors in terms of reduction in **stamp duty**, easy availability of land, free electricity for 10 years, **90 per cent subsidy in GST** etc.
- Gehlot also said Rajasthan has 1,25,000 acres of desert land across cities which have been utilised in Jodhpur and Bikaner for large mega scale solar projects.
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** said India is an ideal country for renewable energy.
- "With Madhya Pradesh being a centrally located state, it has a lot of possibilities and can supply RE power to neighbouring states if needed," he added. Madhya Pradesh is planning a **15,000 MW solar project**, the cost of which is **Rs 5,000 crore**, he said. Besides starting work on power transmission, the state has also started survey work for some other innovative RE projects, like floating solar etc. in the state.
- He announced that "Aatmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh' plan is being developed and RE will play an important role".
- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur** said "Himachal Pradesh is a small state, but we are making all efforts to harness our RE potential.
- Our target is to achieve **24,000 MW of RE**. So far, we produce **10,000 MW** of hydro power and plan to double these numbers in the next decade".
- **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath** informed the session that producers have plans to set up 12,000 MW of solar energy parks in UP. Two plants of 600 MW each will be set up in Jhansi. These will be commissioned soon, he added.
- Talking about the multi-pronged benefits of the **PM-KUSUM Yojana**, launched by the **Union government in 2019**, Mr. Singh said that the scheme has financially empowered the farmers, discoms and has also benefitted the state and union territories in terms of huge financial savings.

### Cabinet approves MoU between India and Bhutan

- Cabinet approves MoU between **India and Bhutan** on **Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the peaceful users of outer space signed on November 19, 2020 by both sides at Bangalore/Thimpu and exchanged.
- This MoU shall enable India and Bhutan to pursue cooperation in potential interest areas, such as remote sensing of the earth.
- Satellite communication and satellite based navigation.

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- Space science and planetary exploration; use of spacecraft and space systems and ground systems; and application of space technology.

### DoS Signed 1st of its kind NDA with Agnikul Cosmos for Launch Vehicle Development Programme

- Department of Space (DoS) has signed first one of its kind Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd under which the latter can access the facilities and technical expertise of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its launch vehicle development programme.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman released 'Smuggling in India Report 2019-20' during 63rd Founding Day of DRI

- The 63rd Founding Day of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) was observed virtually which was attended by Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Ministry of Finance.
- Bravery Awards were conferred upon Najimudheen T S of DRI Cochin Zonal Unit and Sumer Sen, an independent witness of a case booked by DRI, Jaipur. The DRI Utkristh Seva Samman, 2020 was awarded to B. Sankaran.

### India Pledges USD 1 Million to WADA's Scientific Research Budget towards doping free sport

- India pledged to contribute USD 1 Million (Approximately INR 7.35 Crores) to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) Scientific Research Budget.
- The amount will be India's contribution to WADA's initiative of raising a corpus of USD 10 Million. This will contribute greatly towards WADA's mission for doping-free sport.

### External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launches Economic Diplomacy website

- Minister of External Affairs (MEA) S. Jaishankar launched an economic diplomacy website to highlight India's economic, sectoral and state wise strength.
- This website paves way for the Global business community to utilise India's ease of doing business initiatives and enhance trade with India.
- Website will provide multidimensional global business thereby creating a dynamic "Brand India".

### Vice President virtually releases Postage Stamp in honour of late Prime Minister of India, I K Gujral

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu virtually released a commemorative Postage Stamp in honour of the Late Prime Minister of India & Freedom Fighter, I K Gujral (Inder Kumar Gujral). I K Gujral was the 12th Prime Minister of India, he served as the Prime Minister from April 1997-March 1998. He was born in Jhelum, Punjab (now in Pakistan) in 1919.

### Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivers Keynote address at the Inauguration of 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of SLES 2020

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman delivered the Keynote Address virtually at the inauguration of the 20th Edition of Sri Lanka Economic Summit (SLES) 2020.
- It was organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC). President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. The Theme for SLES 2020 is 'Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People-Centric Economic Revival'.

### Central Zoo Authority grants recognition to New Zoos at Bihar & Uttar Pradesh

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- 37th General Body meeting of Central Zoo Authority (CZA) chaired by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Prakash Javadekar granted recognition to 2 New Zoos – Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar & Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Prakash Javadekar stated that an Investors Summit will be held in 2021 to raise funds and take forward the Modernization agenda.

### NHPC to commission 2, 000 MW Hydropower project on Subansiri River by March 2022

- NHPC stated that the 2, 000-Megawatt (MW) Hydropower Project on Subansiri River would be commissioned by March 2022. The project is located near North Lakhimpur on the border of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- The project was delayed due to protests by many groups in Assam.

### A.K. Singh CMD of NHPC, lays foundation stone of head regulator works for Indo-Nepal Link Canal

- The Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC limited, A.K. Singh, has laid foundation stone of head regulator works of Indo-Nepal Link Canal at Barrage of 94.2 MW Tanakpur Power Station of NHPC at Uttarakhand. This project is constructed under the “Mahakali Treaty” signed between India and Nepal. The Indo-Nepal Link Canal is 1.2 Km long Canal.

### Government launches Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme to boost India's Infrastructure

- Finance Ministry notified the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme to provide financial support to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in selected Infrastructure projects.
- The selection of Private companies will be done through transparent, open and competitive bidding process.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates 3 lane 1.5 Km long Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Rs.266 crore 3 lane 1.5km long Koilwar Bridge over Sone river in Bihar through video conferencing. Construction of the 6 lane Bridge to connect Bihar and Uttar Pradesh through road.
- Other Initiatives:
  - i. 7-km four lane Koshi bridge worth Rs 1478 crore planned to get completed by 2023.
  - ii. 4 km long Rs 1110 crore, Vikramshila bridge to be completed by 2024.
  - iii. Other 2 lane bridge over Ganga river in Patna by 2021.

### India's 1st Maritime Theatre Command to get its final shape in 2021

- India's 1st Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) will get its final shape in 2021 and its headquarters will be set up at Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka. It will be the first new “Geographical” Theatre command to be created as part of military restructuring plans.

### RK Singh Launches India's 1st CoE for Skill Development in Power Sector at NISE, Haryana

- Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), RK Singh virtually launched India's 1st Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Skill Development in Power Sector at the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gurugram, Haryana.

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### GOI sets up HLC to Commemorate 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- The Government has decided to constitute a High-Level Committee (HLC), to be headed by Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), for commemoration of 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Netaji was born on January 23, 1897 at Cuttack, Bengal Presidency, British India (present-day Odisha, India).
- A permanent exhibition and a 'Light and Sound show' on Netaji has been planned to be set up at Kolkata at the historic Victoria Memorial building.

### International Gita Mahotsav 2020 begins in Haryana's Kurukshetra

- The International Gita Mahotsav 2020 (17 to 25 December) commenced in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- The highlight of the day is when 55,000 school students will collectively recite 19 verses from the Bhagavad Gita on the concluding day.
- The international festival is held every year, where about 9,000 students will be from Kurukshetra and the remain will be from the rest of 21 districts in the state.

### Arjun Munda launches 'Aadi Mahotsav'

- The **10-day-long 'Aadi Mahotsav'**, a festival of tribes will be launched by **Union Minister** for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda in a virtual format. Due to COVID 19 the TRIFED has decided to organise its annual event Aadi Mahotsav-2020 in an online mode.

#### Guests of honour for this online inauguration

- Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh
- Minister for Tribal Development, Madhya Pradesh Meena Singh
- TRIFED chairman Ramesh Chand Meena

### Power Minister RK Singh Launches 'Green Charcoal Hackathon'

- Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Raj Kumar Singh virtually launched 'Green Charcoal Hackathon' to deliberate on technology to convert Farm Residue into Green Charcoal. The hackathon has been organised by Energy Efficiency Service Limited (EESL) & NVVN (NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) Vidyut Vyapar Nigam). The Hackathon has been launched to reduce India's Carbon footprint.

### Ministry of Home Affairs approves Rs. 90.6 Crore to Land Ports Authority of India for new ICP in Tripura

- Ministry of Home Affairs approved Rs.90.6 crores to the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) for construction of a new Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India- Bangladesh border at Sabroom in South Tripura.
- This will be the 6th multi-facilitated ICP in the India- Bangladesh Border.

#### Revision Points

Portfolio	Union Minister	Constituency
Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions	Narendra Modi	Varanasi

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Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow
Ministry of Home Affairs	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises	Nitin Gadkari	Nagpur
Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers	DV Sadananda Gowda	Bangalore North
Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution	Piyush Goyal (Additional charge)	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena
Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Patna Sahib
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Narendra Singh Tomar (Additional charge)	Morena
Ministry of Social justice and empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot	RS
Ministry of External Affairs	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	RS (Gujarat)
Ministry of Human Resource Development	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Haridwar
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti
Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences	Dr Harsh Vardhan	Chandni Chowk
Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise	Prakash Javadekar	Rajya Sabha

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Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Rajya Sabha
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli
Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai
Ministry of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jodhpur

### Important International News

#### New e-market platform launched to bridge gap between Indian farmers and UAE food industry

- **The UAE** has launched **Agriota**, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market platform that will bridge the gap between millions of **rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation's food industry**.
- Launched by the Dubai's free-zone Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) and the government of Dubai's authority on commodities trade and enterprise.

#### Israeli Airliner Completes First Direct Flight to Arab Emirates

- **A chartered EI AI airliner** carrying Israeli and American diplomats landed in the United Arab Emirates, completing a symbolic **first direct flight from Tel Aviv to Abu Dhabi**.
- This would pave the way for formal diplomatic and commercial ties and might inspire other Arab nations to follow suit in normalizing relations with the Jewish state.

#### India to receive development assistance loan worth Rs 3,500 Cr from Japan to fight COVID-19

- Japan has committed an official Development Assistance loan of 3 thousand 500 crore rupees for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA is a governmental agency that coordinates Official Development Assistance for the Government of Japan.
- This programme loan aims to support India's efforts in fighting COVID-19 and to prepare the health system to manage future epidemics and also to improve the resilience of India's health systems against infectious diseases.

#### Togo first in Africa to end sleeping sickness



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- **Togo** has become the first country in Africa to eliminate human African Trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness, a disease caused by parasites transmitted through infected tsetse flies. The World Health Organization (WHO) August 27, 2020 certified so, after the country applied for it in 2018.
- Sleeping sickness is currently found in 36 sub-Saharan African countries, according to the WHO. If untreated, it can become fatal.

### China to unveil statue of Dr Dwarkanath Kotnis, the most celebrated Indian doctor in China

- **China** is set to unveil a bronze statue of Indian doctor **Dwarkanath Kotnis**, one of five Indian physicians dispatched to China for medical assistance during the second **Sino-Japanese war in 1938**.
- Solapur-born Dr Kotnis, who also lived in Vengurla, is revered by the Chinese. His status and memorials were also set in some of the Chinese cities in recognition of his services.

### India, Australia and Japan to launch resilient supply chains for Indo-Pacific

- **India, Australia and Japan** agreed to launch an initiative to ensure the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific, with the move coming against the backdrop of tensions created by China's aggressive actions across the region.
- The supply chain initiative was a natural follow on to the security cooperation between the three countries, both bilaterally and through platforms such as the **Quadrilateral Dialogue Mechanism or Quad**, which also includes the **US**.
- The three nations see countries such as **Vietnam, Indonesia and New Zealand** among the players who can have a key role in the initiative.

### Google partners with Bangladesh for flood forecasting

- **Google** has partnered with **Bangladesh Water Development Board** to bring the **flood warning services** to the country.
- The company is also partnering with the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** to build to deliver alerts to people who don't have smart phones to receive the alerts directly.
- The company uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to analyse historical data to predict flood in the river basins. Google launched its flood forecasting pilot programme in Patna in 2018.

### Donald Trump announces Wilmington as first World War II Heritage City

- US President Donald Trump announced **Wilmington in southern US state North Carolina** as the **first World War II Heritage City** at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- During the war, Wilmington was the site of the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, which built 243 ships in five years as part of the federal government's emergency shipbuilding program.

### G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting (Virtual) on Strengthening International Cooperation Across Borders

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- The G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting was convened by the current G20 Chair, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al-Saud, chaired the meeting. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar represented India.
- This virtual meeting was convened in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The discussions centred on strengthening international cooperation across borders in wake of COVID-19 crisis.

### UNEP launches "Green Nudges" programme for universities

- The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** launched a new publication, "**The Little Book of Green Nudges**", which aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- The book is UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory, which focuses on human actions and how to change them, and was drafted with **The Behavioural Insights Team** and **GRID-Arendal**.

### Rajnath Singh to represent India at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Moscow

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, who is on a three-day visit to **Russia**, visited the Main Cathedral of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and the Museum Complex in Moscow.
- The Defence Minister will attend the combined meeting of **Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization**, SCO, Collective Security Treaty Organization, CSTO and Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS Member States in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of victory in the World War-II.

### Germany launches Indo-Pacific strategy with 'key role' for India

- Germany, current EU president and Europe's biggest economy, has launched its Indo-Pacific strategy with India that is expected to play a key role in **Berlin's outreach in the region where China's aggressive foreign policy** has rattled countries.
- Berlin's strategy also suggested opening dialogue with institutions where India plays a key role -- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and Indian Ocean Rim Association -- in the areas of business and maritime safety, as well as disaster risk management.

### India-Bangladesh to hold Joint Consultative Commission meeting

- **India** and **Bangladesh** have agreed to hold the **6th meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC)** later this month.
- The 5th meeting of the JCC was held in **New Delhi** in February last year between Dr. A.K.Abdul Momen and the then Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj.

### First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue held virtually

- The **first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue** was held virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla**. The focus of the dialogue was on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

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- The outcome oriented meeting was held with the objective of building on the strong bilateral relations that the three countries share with each other. The three sides agreed to hold the dialogue on an annual basis.

### India, Japan sign pact for reciprocal supplies between armed forces

- **India** and **Japan** have signed an agreement for **reciprocal provision** of supplies and services between the **Armed Forces of India** and **The Self-Defense Forces** of Japan.
- This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.

### Bangladesh launches campaign against fake information and rumours

- The **government of Bangladesh** has launched a campaign named '**Asol Chini**' or '**real-sugar**' to fight **fake information and rumour** spreading on **social media**.
- The campaign aims to create digital literacy to stop fake information and rumours.
- The Digital Security Agency (DSA) of the **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department** and the **LICT project** of the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) will jointly run the campaign to create awareness among people in the country in a three-month campaign.

### ADB provides 50 million dollar loan to Bangladesh for PPP infrastructure projects

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and government of **Bangladesh** signed a **50 million dollar loan** agreement to **promote, fund and implement public-private partnership (PPP)** infrastructure projects in the country.
- The project will help Bangladesh to mobilise private investment, develop infrastructure projects and create jobs which will help accelerate the economic recovery process in the aftermath of the Corona pandemic.

### Bahrain will be fourth Arab country to recognize Israel

- The island kingdom of **Bahrain** became the **fourth Arab country** to normalize **diplomatic relations with Israel** — and the **second** as part of a Trump administration **peace initiative**.
- **Bahrain follows the United Arab Emirates'** decision to recognize Israel's statehood.
- Trump will host Bahrain foreign minister Abdullatif bin Rashid al Zayani, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Emirati foreign affairs minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan at the White House.
- **Egypt** was the **first Arab country** to recognize **Israel**, in **1979**, followed by **Jordan** in **1994**.

### Liberia declares rape a national emergency after spike in cases

- **Liberian President George Weah** has declared **rape** a **national emergency** and ordered new measures to tackle the problem after a recent spike of cases in the West African state.
- The move comes after thousands of Liberians protested against rising incidents of rape in the capital Monrovia last month in a bid to draw attention to the country's alarming rate of sexual assault.

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- The government will also establish a so-called "**national security task force**" on sexual and gender-based violence. The high rates of rape in Liberia have been a long-standing concern.

### India beats China to become member of UN's Commission on Status of Women

- India has been elected as the **member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW)**, a body of the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- India will be a member of the prestigious body for four years from 2021 to 2025.
- India, Afghanistan and China had contested the elections to the Commission on Status of Women. While India and Afghanistan won the ballot among the 54 members, China failed to cross the half-way mark.
- The **CSW** is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- A functional commission of the **ECOSOC**, it was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.

### World's first sovereign bond linked to UN goals hits market

- The bond, from Mexico, reflects a trend of fund-raising to tackle social and environmental issues.
- **Mexico** issued what it described as the **world's first sovereign bond** linked to the sustainability development goals set by the **United Nations**, raising **750 million euros (\$889.73 million)**.
- The bond is part of an emerging trend of debt issuance aimed at raising funds that attempt to tackle social, environmental and other issues. It was more than six times oversubscribed.

### India walks out of SCO meet after Pakistan projects fictitious map

- India walked out of a meeting of the **National Security Advisors of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** member countries in protest after the Pakistani representative used a "**fictitious**" map showing Indian territories as **part of Pakistan**.
- Hosted by the chair of the **SCO (Russia)**.
- India issued its strong objection to the use of this illegal map by Pakistan. Indian counterpart **Ajit Doval** attended the SCO Summit.

### India joins Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment as Observer

- India has joined the **Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment, DCOC/JA**, as Observer.
- DCOC/JA is a grouping on maritime matters comprising **18 member states** adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region. India has joined Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the DCOC/JA.
- The DCOC, established in **January 2009**, is aimed at repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean Region, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

### Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) releases report 'A WORLD IN DISORDER'

- It would take **500 years** to spend as much on preparedness as the world is currently losing due to COVID-19. The world cannot afford this cycle of panic and neglect.

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- This will not be the last global health emergency. The world simply cannot afford to be unprepared again, warns the **Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)** in its second report 'A World in Disorder.

### Israel, U.A.E. and Bahrain Sign Accords, With an Eager Trump Playing Host

- **Israel** and **two Arab nations** signed agreements at the **White House** to normalize their relations, a step toward a realignment of the Middle East but one that failed to address the future of the Palestinians.
- President Trump presided over a South Lawn ceremony where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and the foreign ministers of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed a general declaration of principles the White House has named the **Abraham Accords**, after the biblical father of three monotheistic religions, as well individual agreements between Israel and the two Arab states.

### India extends 250 million dollars support to Maldives to overcome economic impact of Covid-19

- **India** has provided financial assistance of **250 million dollars** as budgetary support to the **Maldives government** to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. A handover ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives government to mark the occasion.
- The **soft loan** has a comfortable tenor of **10 years** and a **very low interest rate**.

### Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched

- Shipping Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** and Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Maldives, Ms Aishath Nahula jointly **e- launched** a **direct cargo ferry service** between **India** and **Maldives**.
- During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of **200 TEU** and **3000 MT** of break bulk cargo will sail from Tuticorin to Kochi, from where it will proceed to **Kulhudhuffushi port** in North Maldives and then to Male port.

### World's richest 1% cause double CO2 emissions of poorest half, says Oxfam

- The **wealthiest 1%** of the world's population were responsible for the emission of more than twice as much carbon dioxide as the poorer half of the world from **1990 to 2015**, according to new research.
- Carbon dioxide emissions rose by **60% over the 25-year period**, but the increase in emissions from the richest 1% was three times greater than the increase in emissions from the poorest half.
- The report, compiled by **Oxfam** and the **Stockholm Environment Institute**, warned that rampant overconsumption and the rich world's addiction to high-carbon transport are exhausting the world's "carbon budget".

### Arctic sea ice hits second-lowest level on record

- This year, **Arctic sea** ice shrank to its **second-lowest extent** in more than 40 years of satellite measurements. On 15 September, ice covered just **3.74 million square kilometres** of Arctic waters at its annual summer minimum. In only one other year — 2012 — has the annual minimum Arctic sea-ice cover dropped below 4 million square kilometres (see 'Thin ice').
- As global temperatures rise, the minimum Arctic sea-ice extent has shrunk by an average of 13.4% per decade since 1979. The ice that remains is often thinner and more fragile than before, making it more vulnerable to melting the following year.



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- This year's near-record low — reported by the **US National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC)** in Boulder, Colorado on 21 September — got its start last winter, when winds blowing offshore along Russia's northern coast allowed only thin sea ice to form there; much of this ice melted away when spring came.

### India, Nepal launch website on post-earthquake reconstruction

- Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinay M Kwatra and Sushil Gyewali, CEO of Nepal's National Reconstruction Authority, launched a dedicated **website** for **post-earthquake reconstruction of education sector projects in Nepal**.
- Post the earthquake, the Indian Government had committed **USD 1 billion** for the **reconstruction** of Nepal in form of **grant and Line of Credit**. Around USD 150 million was allocated for reconstruction in the housing sector, USD 100 million as grant and USD 50 million to be drawn from Line of Credit.

### Tel Aviv to become first city with electric roads that charge public buses

- The city of **Tel Aviv** is working on creating **wireless electric roads** to charge and power public transportation in the city.
- The electric roads are part of a pilot program led by the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality in collaboration with **ElectReon**, a company developing a system that can charge electric vehicles while they are moving, and Dan Bus Company.

### G4 countries call for decisive push for UN Security Council reforms

- Foreign Ministers of the **G4 countries - India, Brazil, Japan, and Germany** have highlighted the urgency of reforming the **United Nations** and updating its main decision-making bodies, in order to better reflect contemporary realities.
- They expressed disappointment at attempts to derail this process and committed to addressing the issue in a meaningful way and with increased urgency at this 75th anniversary of the UN.

### Merchant Navy union collaborates with UN to help stranded Indian seafarers

- India's oldest union of **merchant navy officers MUI** has collaborated with the **United Nations** to assist these sailors.
- The **Seafarers Crisis Action Team (SCAT)** has been established by the **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)**, a specialised UN agency and a global standard-setting authority of safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.

### India, Denmark ink pact to increase cooperation on IPRs

- **India** and **Denmark** inked a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to increase cooperation in the area of **intellectual property rights (IPRs)** by exchanging best practices and collaborating in training programmes.
- The two sides will draw up a biennial work plan to implement the MoU which will include detailed planning for carrying out cooperation activities, including scope of action, the Commerce and Industry Ministry stated in a statement.

### India Extends USD 15 Mn Grant Assistance To Sri Lanka For Promoting Buddhist Ties

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** stated that India has announced **USD 15 million** grant assistance to **Sri Lanka** for the promotion of **Buddhist ties** between the two countries.

### India, US, Japan, Australia hold meet on Indo-Pacific under Quad framework



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- Senior officials of India, the **US, Japan and Australia** held a virtual meeting under the framework of **Quadrilateral coalition or “Quad”**, focusing on ways to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Ten-nation regional grouping **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a major stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific region.

Amnesty International suspends India operations after accounts are frozen

- **Amnesty International** has **halted its operations in India** after the **"complete freezing"** of its bank accounts by the **Indian government**, the **not-for-profit human rights organization**.
- Amnesty has been critical of the Indian government in recent years, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir last year.

**ADB signs Dollar 200 million financing deal with Reliance for power plant in Bangladesh**

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a dollar 200 million financing deal with the Reliance **Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited (RBLPL)** to build and operate a **718 megawatt** combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh.
- The financing deal has two components of dollar 100 million each. While ADB will provide dollar 100 million, it will also administer the other part worth dollar 100 million from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP).
- The plant is proposed to be located on land allotted by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), in Meghnaghat, Narayanganj District near Dhaka.

**India & UK tie up for new 8 Million Pounds Medicinal Research**

- The United Kingdom (UK) and India tied up for five new medicinal research projects worth 8 million pounds (around Rs. 78 crore) to tackle the anti-microbial resistance to support the combat against antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes during his 'virtual visit' to India. The United Kingdom will contribute 4 million pounds (around Rs. 39 crore) from the UK research and Innovation (UKRI) fund for international collaboration and India will contribute 4 million pounds for the funding of the five projects that are planned for September 2020.

**Bangladesh Receives \$202 million from World Bank to Increase Food Security for 4.5 Million People**

- The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved \$202 million in additional financing for the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project to increase the storage capacity of Bangladesh's national strategic grain reserves by 535,500 tons for 4.5 million households.
- The project is helping Bangladesh address food insecurity in challenging times, such as frequent climate-induced disasters or crisis situations like the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- The credit from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), which provides concessional financing, has a 30-year term, including a five-year grace period.

**UAE becomes first country in Arab World to produce nuclear energy**

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- As the Barakah Nuclear Plant's 1st Unit got operational, UAE became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy.
- Barakah plant situated in the Al Dhafrah region of Abu Dhabi started producing heat, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation stated. The plant, powered by South Korean technology, hopes to produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity and supply up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs, the corporation stated.

### ISA amends framework agreement to enable UN member states to join grouping

- In a major development and push to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of achieving universalization of membership of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the requisite number of member countries have given the go-ahead.
- After ratification to the amendment of the ISA framework, all the Member States of the United Nations will now be able to join the International Solar Alliance, including those countries which are beyond the Tropics.
- The International Solar Alliance was launched jointly by Prime Minister Modi and the President of France during COP21 in Paris.

### Global Economy Could Lose \$108 Billion In Remittances: ADB

- Global remittances will fall by 108.6 billion dollars if the Covid-19 economic impact persists throughout the year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) stated.
- This is equivalent to 18.3 per cent decline from what would have been expected without the impact of Covid-19, wrote economists James Villafuerte and Aiko Kikkawa Takenaka in a blogpost.
- Remittance receipts in Asia and the Pacific will fall by 54.3 billion dollars, equivalent to 19.8 per cent of remittances in 2018.
- By sub-region, remittances in South Asia are expected to fall furthest by 28.6 billion dollars (24.7 per cent of 2018 receipts) followed by remittances to Central Asia (3.4 billion dollars, 23.8 per cent), southeast Asia (11.7 billion dollars, 18.6 per cent) and east Asia ex-China and Japan (1.7 billion dollars, 16.2 per cent).

### U.K. to issue coin to honour Gandhiji

- Chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak's office confirmed that Mahatma Gandhi's image on a coin is being considered as part of efforts to celebrate achievements of non-white individuals such as Indian-origin British spy Noor Inayat Khan and Jamaican British nurse Mary Seacole.
- Sunak has written to the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) that recommends themes and designs of coins, supporting a campaign called "We Too Built Britain," which seeks representation of non-white icons on British currency.

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- The proposal to put Gandhi's image on a British coin was made by former chancellor Sajid Javid in October 2019. If the proposal now becomes reality, it would make the Indian independence hero the first non-White person to feature on a British coin.

### National Bank of Bahrain selects Infosys Finacle for transformation of transaction banking business

- National Bank of Bahrain and Infosys Finacle announced the bank's decision to adopt the Finacle Cash Management Suite to digitally transform its transaction banking business.
- NBB will be implementing the Finacle Liquidity Management Platform, and upgrading its existing Finacle Corporate Online Banking platform to a full-fledged Digital Engagement Suite - with the latest versions of the Finacle Corporate Online and Mobile Banking solutions, along with the Finacle Digital Engagement Hub.

### India extends Line of Credit worth 18 million US dollars to Maldives for expansion of fishing facilities at MIFCO

- India has extended Line of Credit worth 18 million US dollars to the Government of Maldives for the expansion of fishing facilities at Maldives Industrial Fisheries Company (MIFCO).
- The project envisages investment in fish collection and storage facilities and the setting up of a tuna cooked plant and fishmeal plant. It is part of the 800 million US dollars line of credit offered by India with repayment tenor of 20 years and a 5-year moratorium.

### UNESCO recognises two Odisha villages as Tsunami Ready

- In a first two coastal villages of Odisha have been recognised as being "Tsunami Ready" by UNESCO for their overall preparedness to face the calamity.
- Odisha became the first state in the country to have such villages and the country the first in the Indian Ocean region to achieve the honour from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- The two coastal are Venkatraipur (Boxipalli) village of Rangeilunda block in Ganjam district and Noliasahi village of Ersama block in Jagatsinghpur district.

### Bangladesh to construct memorial for Indian soldiers martyred in 1971 liberation war

- Bangladesh will construct a memorial for the Indian soldiers martyred during the country's liberation war in 1971. The memorial will be constructed coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh, stated the Minister of Liberation War Affairs of Bangladesh AKM Muzammel Haq.
- Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Muzammel Haq recalled the support of the government and people of India during the Bangladesh liberation war against Pakistan in 1971.

### India, Maldives ink contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of island nation

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- India and Maldives signed a contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of the island nation.
- These eco tourism zones are part of grant projects being implemented under the High-Impact Community Development project (HICDP) scheme which involves a total grant assistance of 5.5 million US dollars to the Maldives. Currently, there are 9 such high-impact projects being implemented in the Maldives.

### Russian President Vladimir Putin announces world's first COVID-19 vaccine

- Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the country's first coronavirus vaccine, touted as the first in the world too. News agency Reuters reported that Putin's daughter received a shot of the vaccine.
- The country has registered the world's first coronavirus vaccine, amid widespread concerns about the rapidly developed vaccine's safety.
- The Health Ministry announced that it plans to begin mass production in September and launch a mass vaccination drive in October. The vaccine developed by the state-run Gamaleya research institute entered phase 3 clinical trials.

### EU to give 1.65 million euro to flood hit people in South Asia

- The European Union stated it is providing 1.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia-most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- The funding comes on top of the 1.8 million euro announced earlier this year to support families affected by a series of disasters, including Cyclone Amphan that ravaged India and Bangladesh in May.

### Bangladesh to get largest ever dollar 3.1 billion loan package from Japan

- Japan has signed its largest ever loan package worth dollar 3.1 billion for Bangladesh. The embassy of Japan stated that the loan under its Official Development Assistance (ODA) will be given for seven projects of Bangladesh under concessional terms.
- The loan will cover the construction of Jamuna railway bridge in parallel to the existing Bangabandhu Bridge, expansion of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Projects and Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway improvement project among the seven projects.
- The loan carries an interest rate of 0.65 percent with a repayment period of 30 years including initial 10 years as grace period.

### India extends USD 1 million assistance to Antigua, Barbuda to combat COVID-19

- India has extended an assistance of USD 1 million to Antigua and Barbuda to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.
- This assistance is aimed at improving health infrastructure and capacities in Antigua and Barbuda.

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- The same level of assistance, i.e. USD 1 million, has been offered to each Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country. CARICOM is a group of twenty developing countries in the Caribbean.
- This assistance of USD 1 million from India will be used for improving health infrastructure in Antigua and Barbuda, for procurement of life-saving medical supplies and equipment like ventilators, etc, the Indian High Commission to Guyana stated.

### Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Commits USD 25mn To Expand Unified Champion Schools To 6 Countries Including India

- Special Olympics Bharat announced that Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has committed USD 25 million to expand Unified Champion Schools (UCS) to six countries -- India, Argentina, Egypt, Pakistan, Romania and Rwanda.
- The four-year project will play a critical role in making the Indian education system more inclusive by creating 120 Unified Champion Schools across 12 states.

### India Announces \$500-Million Package For Connectivity Project, Creation Of Air Travel Bubble With Maldives

- India announced a USD 500 million-package to the Maldives for the largest connectivity project in the island nation to connect Male with three neighbouring islands.
- The interaction which took place through video conference was part of regular high-level exchanges between India and Maldives, according to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

### Donald Trump announces 'historic' peace deal between Israel, UAE

- US President Donald Trump announced Israel and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to a "full normalization" of relations, including re—establishing diplomatic ties.
- This historic diplomatic breakthrough will advance peace in the Middle East region and is a testament to bold diplomacy and vision of the three leaders and the courage of the United Arab Emirates and Israel to chart a new path that will unlock the great potential of the region," stated a joint statement by the United States, the UAE and Israel released by the White House.

### EU launches 1-mn-euro project in Maharashtra, Odisha for skilling women in housing sector

- To help drive change towards sustainable housing through empowering women, the European Union has launched a 1-million-euro project in four districts of Maharashtra and Odisha under which it will train 3,000 women in masonry, plumbing and electrical fitting, among others.
- The project is being implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts Of Odisha and is aimed at positively impacting two lakh families over the next three years.

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- The project aims at targeting 3,000 women-led households in these four districts and is being implemented with the housing-focussed not-for-profit Habitat for Humanity India.

### One in two youths subject to depression, anxiety, says ILO survey on effects of Covid-19

- Half of the world's youth population are subject to anxiety or depression-causing circumstances and more than a third are uncertain of their future career prospects due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a survey by the International Labour Organization.
- The ILO's 'Youth and Covid-19: impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being' survey found that if urgent action is not taken, youths are at the risk of suffering severe and long-lasting adverse impacts from the pandemic.

### UK launches £3 million innovation challenge fund in India to tackle COVID-19 and threat to environment

- The UK Government has launched a £3 million Innovation Challenge Fund to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the most acute global challenges of our time – COVID-19 and the threat to our environment.
- The Fund invites tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in Karnataka and the Future Mobility cluster in Maharashtra to submit research and development proposals for tackling Covid-19 or which promote a greener planet.

### India, UAE agree to integrate financial transactions

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UAE's Minister of State for Financial Affairs Obaid Al Tayer have agreed to cooperate in the area of FinTech especially UPI and RuPay card, thereby integrating financial transactions between two economies.
- "FM mentioned that with NIP (National Infrastructure Pipeline), there are greater avenues between India & UAE to collaborate in the field of infrastructure investment. The leaders agreed to cooperate in area of FinTech especially UPI & RuPay card, thereby integrating financial transactions between two economies.

### UAE connects first Arab nuclear plant to power grid

- The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced that it has connected its Barakah nuclear power plant to the national grid in a new first for the Arab world.
- The milestone follows the successful start-up of the plant's first reactor at the end of last month and launches the UAE on the road to meeting 25% of its electricity needs from nuclear power.
- Barakah was built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation at a cost of some \$24.4 billion.
- More than 950 kilometres (nearly 600 miles) of 400 kV overhead power lines had to be built to link the plant to the grid. Barakah's other three reactors are stated to be almost ready for operation.
- Construction work has already been completed on Unit 2, and Units 3 and 4 are respectively 93% and 86% complete.



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### 41 lakh youth lost jobs in India due to COVID-19 impact, says ILO-ADB Report

- At least 41 lakh youth in the country lost jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic while construction and farm sector workers account for the majority of job losses, according to a joint report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), released.
- According to the report, employment prospects for youth in Asia and the Pacific are severely challenged due to the pandemic. Youth (15-24 years) will be hit harder than adults (25 and older) in the immediate crisis and risk-bearing higher longer-term economic and social costs, the report added.

### Senator Kamala Harris becomes first Indian American to accept Democratic Party nomination for Vice President post in US

- US Senator Kamala Harris has accepted her nomination for the US Vice Presidential candidate for Democratic Party. In her acceptance speech she stated that she was honoured to accept the nomination for Vice President of the United States.
- Taking the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor Kamala stated they have got to do the work to fulfill that promise of equal justice under law adding that none of us are free until all of us are free.

### MEA in partnership with Foreign Ministry of Thailand organize 6th Round Table of AINTT

- The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT). The theme of the two day Round Table which was conducted through video conferencing was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.

### Mahatma Gandhi's Iconic Glasses Sold For \$340,000 In UK

- A pair of gold-plated glasses worn by Mahatma Gandhi has sold in Britain for 260,000 pounds (about 288,000 euros, \$340,000) equivalent to 2.5 crores in Indian rupees.
- The non-violent protestor gave the glasses to the vendor's uncle while he was working for British Petroleum in South Africa during the 1920s or 30s.
- The sale price smashed the original estimate of around 15,000 pounds.

### WHO blasts 'vaccine nationalism' in last-ditch push against hoarding

- The WHO has an Aug. 31 deadline for wealthier nations to join the "COVAX Global Vaccines Facility" for sharing vaccine hopefuls with developing countries. Tedros stated he sent a letter to the WHO's 194 member states, urging participation.
- Nations that hoard possible Covid-19 vaccines while excluding others will deepen the pandemic, World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated, issuing a last-ditch call for countries to join a global vaccine pact.

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- Tedros' push for nations to join COVAX comes as the European Union, Britain, Switzerland and the United States strike deals with companies testing prospective vaccines. Russia and China are also working on vaccines, and the WHO fears national interests could impede global efforts.

### India, Uzbekistan Co-Chair First National Coordination Committee Meet; Discuss Trade, Investment

- India and Uzbekistan co-chaired the first National Coordination Committee meeting, wherein they held "fruitful" discussions on issues of bilateral interests such as Line of Credit (LoC) projects, trade and investment.
- India and Uzbekistan have a modest bilateral trade turnover of over USD 300 million. Pharmaceuticals is a major area of both trade and investment by India. Medical tourism to India has increased sharply in the recent past.

### World Health Organization declares Africa free of polio

- World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world. This was announced by WHO Regional Director of Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti. She described this as a historic day for Africa.
- A commission led by Prof. Rose Gana Fomban Leke, has certified that no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years, the threshold for eradication of poliovirus. The WHO stated, polio virus now joins smallpox in the list of viruses that have been wiped out in Africa.

### BRICS Industry Ministers attend video meeting to discuss ways to boost cooperation in 5G, AI

- Industry Ministers of BRICS countries have attended a video meeting to discuss ways to boost cooperation in areas including 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI). As per Chinese state media, the meeting adopted a joint statement on cooperation in new industries such as 5G, AI and the industrial Internet, among the five members bloc which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

### Germany to issue "green bonds" worth up to \$13B this year

- The German government plans to generate up to 11 billion euros (\$13 billion) for clean transportation and renewable energy projects this year by issuing so-called green bond, officials stated.
- The step is part of an effort to meet demand for environmentally friendly investments and follows the path already taken by other countries, including neighbouring France.
- Each green bond will mirror a regular debt issuance by the German government, known as "bunds", which are considered safe havens for investors.

### 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue via video conferencing

- The 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held via video conferencing. It was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee.

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- At the end of the DPD, the Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) between India and Singapore was also signed.

### India co-sponsors UN security council resolution on women peacekeepers

- India has co-sponsored a security council resolution that calls for full, effective and meaningful participation of women personnel in peacekeeping operations. India's Permanent Mission to the UN stated that India is proud to co-sponsor the resolution which was put forth by Indonesia. The mission stated UN Security Council Resolution on 'women in peacekeeping' calls for full, effective and meaningful participation of women in peacekeeping operations.
- India is one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations. The mission stated India has set for itself during its tenure in the Security Council beginning 2021 that India will continue to push for greater involvement of women in all areas.

### Global tourism lost USD 320 bn in 5 months due to coronavirus :UN

- The tourism global industry has been devastated by the coronavirus pandemic, with USD 320 billion lost in exports in the first five months of the year and more than 120 million jobs at risk, the UN chief stated.
- It employs one in every 10 people on Earth and provides livelihoods to hundreds of millions more, he stated.

### Bangladesh's Beximco signs Covid-19 vaccine deal with India's Serum Institute

- Bangladesh's Beximco Pharmaceuticals is investing in the Serum Institute of India (SII) to ensure Dhaka gets priority access to COVID-19 vaccines being developed by the Indian drug manufacturer, the company stated.
- SII has partnered with AstraZeneca, the Gates Foundation and the Gavi vaccine alliance to produce more than a billion doses of a COVID-19 vaccine for global supply.

### India-Bangladesh form 50:50 Joint Venture Company for LPG business in Bangladesh

- India and Bangladesh signed an agreement for the formation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) for LPG business in Bangladesh.
- The new Joint venture company set up takes further the 'neighbourhood first' policy of the government of India.

### Germany to become first major economy to phase out coal, nuclear power

- German lawmakers have finalized the country's long-awaited phase-out of coal as an energy source, backing a plan that environmental groups say isn't ambitious enough and free marketers criticise as a waste of taxpayers' money.
- Bills approved by both houses of parliament envision shutting down the last coal-fired power plant by 2038 and spending some 40 billion euros (\$45 billion) to help affected regions cope with the transition.

### Indian Coast Guard & Indonesia Coast Guard sign MoU to boost maritime relations

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- In a significant step towards bolstering the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, a MoU has been signed between the Indian Coast Guard and Indonesia Coast Guard.
- This will enhance collaborative and cooperative engagements in the domains of maritime law enforcement, maritime search and rescue and marine pollution response.

### World food price index rises in June, first increase in 2020: UN

- World food prices rose in June to post their first increase of 2020 and mark a slight rebound after the sharp falls triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, the United Nations food agency stated.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 93.2 points last month, up 2.4 per cent on May.
- FAO stated it had rebased all its indices, shifting the base period to 2014-16 from a previous 2002-04.

### U.S. to formally withdraw from WHO in 2021

- The U.S. has sent a letter officially notifying the United Nations that it is leaving the World Health Organization, starting the formal process of withdrawal that President Trump first started in April when he halted funding to WHO.
- The United States' notice of withdrawal, effective July 6, 2021, has been submitted to the UN Secretary-General, as per sources.

### India funded new school infrastructure inaugurated in Nepal

- A new four-storey school building built with Indian assistance of Rs 1.94 crore for students pursuing both vedic and modern education was inaugurated in Nepal's Ilam district, according to the Indian embassy.
- The new building of Shri Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidyalaya, which was setup in 2009 and has unique qualification of imparting vedic as well as modern education including Sanskrit, was inaugurated through video conferencing that was attended by Nepalese officials, school management committee and members of the Indian Embassy, a statement issued by the Indian mission here stated.

### Maldives, Sri Lanka eliminate measles & rubella ahead of 2023 target

- Maldives and Sri Lanka have become the first two countries in the South-East Asia region to eliminate both measles and rubella ahead of the 2023 target.
- Dr. Singh stated protecting all children against these killer and debilitating diseases is an important step in endeavour to achieve healthier population and health for all.

### WHO to set up independent panel to review handling of COVID-19 pandemic

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- The World Health Organization (WHO) was setting up an independent panel to review its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the response by governments.
- Former New Zealand prime minister Helen Clark and former Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf have agreed to head the panel.

### Bangladesh govt launches 'Digital Haat' for sacrificial animals before Eid-UI-Azha

- The government of Bangladesh has launched a 'Digital Haat' for online sale and purchase of sacrificial animals ahead of the festival of Eid-UI-Azha.
- The initiative has been taken to save the cattle farmers and traders from financial loss amid the Corona pandemic and also to stop further transmission of the infection in the country.

### US approves \$620 mn missile upgrade package for Taiwan

- The United States has approved a possible \$620 million upgrade package for Patriot surface-to-air missiles to Taiwan.
- The United States, like most countries, has no official diplomatic ties with Taiwan but is bound by law to provide the democratic island with the means to defend itself.
- China, which claims the democratically-ruled island as its own territory, routinely denounces U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

### United Nations organised 2020 Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week from 6-10 July 2020

- The Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week will be held from 6-10 July and convened under the overarching theme of "Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment".
- The event will be launched on 6 July 2020 at 10:00 am (New York time) with an opening two-hour high-level session titled "Post COVID-19 World: Contours and Pivot Points and Benefits of Multilateral Collaboration."

### India joined Chile and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) to co-host the High-Level Political Forum side-event 'On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021

- Sustainable agriculture is fundamental to food security, India has stated at a high-level UN session, and emphasised the need to bring seed diversity back as shift by farmers from local varieties to genetically uniform, high-yielding breeds has reduced the ability of crops to survive when faced with challenges.
- India joined Chile and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO) to co-host the High-Level Political Forum side-event 'On the road to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021: Highlighting health and nutritional benefits through sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables'.

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### India-Bhutan Open New Trade Route To Facilitate Connectivity Between Two Countries

- India and Bhutan have opened a new trade route between Jaigaon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan.
- This link between Jaigaon and Ahlay, Pasakha will facilitate connectivities between our two countries in these COVID 19 times, further strengthening our special relationship. A step forward!" Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Ruchira Kamboj stated.

### Boeing receives \$916 mn deal to support International Space Station for 4 years

- Boeing announced that it has won an almost one billion dollar contract to support the operations of the International Space Station (ISS) through to 2024.
- Boeing, NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) lead industry partner for the ISS since 1993, will continue supporting the celebrated orbiting laboratory through September of 2024 under a \$916 million contract extension awarded, the release stated.

### Pakistan and China signed for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project

- Pakistan and China signed an agreement for the 700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum river in Sudhoti district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- The \$ 1.5-billion project is the second power project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), for which an agreement has been signed in the last two months. The first agreement, for the 1,100 MW Kohala project, was signed on June 23. That project, worth \$ 2.3 billion, too will come up on the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad.

### UAE launches its first space mission to Mars from Japan

- UAE's historic journey to Mars has been successfully started from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan. The spacecraft Hope Probe took off in an early morning launch.
- H2A, the rocket carrying the Hope Probe to space, was launched from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan. It is the Arab world's first interplanetary landmark mission, putting UAE firmly ahead of all the countries in the Middle East in the area of space and technology.

### India-US announce new areas of research on transformational power generation

- India and the US have announced new areas of research on transformational power generation based on supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> (sCO<sub>2</sub>) power cycles and advanced coal technologies, including carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS), the Ministry of Science and Technology stated.
- This emerged at a virtual ministerial meeting of the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) to review progress, highlight major accomplishments, and prioritise new areas for cooperation.



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### India, Maldives sign agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in Male

- India and Maldives have signed an agreement for establishment of 'Emergency Medical Services' in capital Male.
- It is one of the several small and medium projects that are being financed by India under a grant assistance of around 20 million US dollars for the neighboring country.

### EU approves biggest green stimulus in history with \$572-billion plan

- The plan is part of Europe's bid to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050
- European governments approved the most ambitious climate change plan to date, agreeing to pour more than €500 billion (\$572 billion) into everything from electric cars to renewable energy and agriculture.

### Turkmenistan gets observer status in World Trade Organization

- Turkmenistan has been granted Observer status by the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council. Turkmenistan has become the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body.
- The Central Asian country filed a request for Observer status in May and expressed willingness to trigger the talks on accession to the WTO within five years.

### India revives initiative with South African Customs Union for the Preferential Trade Agreement

- The discussions between India and the South African Customs Union (South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho) have been revived to achieve a Preferential Trade Agreement. The two sides had a virtual meeting last week to discuss the various aspects of PTA.
- The Indian side of the dialogue was led by the Joint Secretary of Department of Commerce, Srikar Reddy while South African Customs Union side was led by Executive Director of Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, Namibia, Steve Katjjuanjo.

### Nicaragua latest country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

- Nicaragua has become the latest country to join the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement, an initiative led by India to promote sustainable energy.
- Nicaragua's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Jaime Hermida Castillo signed the agreement at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations. The Central American country is the 87th country to sign the agreement.

### High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das inaugurates school building in Bangladesh

- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das and Information Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Hasan Mahmud jointly inaugurated the Science block building of Alipur Rahmania School and College, Chattogram.

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- The Taka 52 lakh project is funded by the Government of India under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) Scheme.

### India, Israel jointly develop ultra rapid testing kit for COVID-19; results within 30 sec

- India and Israel have jointly developed an ultra rapid testing kit for COVID-19.
- The testing kit which has proven its efficacy in lab results will now be subjected to broader trials. India and Israel are also the members of the world consortium of scientists working on COVID Vaccine.

### India, UK affirm shared commitment towards FTA between both countries

- India and the United Kingdom have affirmed their shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement between both the countries. The two sides will engage into early harvest schemes or limited trade agreements in a staged manner marking preparatory steps towards the free trade agreement.

### WHO launches Covid-19 Law Lab to aggregate legal info from over 190 countries

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) launched its Covid-19 Law Lab to gather and share pandemic-related legal documents from over 190 countries across the world.
- It is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

### India extends medical assistance worth about USD 1 million to North Korea

- India has extended medical assistance worth about USD 1 million to North Korea in response to a request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ministry of External Affairs stated.
- India is sensitive to the shortage of medical supply situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and decided to grant a humanitarian assistance of USD 1 million in the form of anti-tuberculosis medicines.

### DST launches Rs. 15 crore fund to support India-Russia collaboration joint R&D and cross-country tech adaptation

- The Department of Science and Technology has launched the India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE) of the Russian Federation.
- The programme will connect Indian, and Russian Science & Technology (S&T) led SMEs and Start-ups for joint R&D for technology development and for cross-country technology adaptation.

### India hands over 10 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh

- India handed over 10 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh, aiming to help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in the neighbouring country.

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- The 10 locomotives handed over and are designed for a speed of 120 mph, and are suitable for hauling freight and passenger trains.

### IMF approves \$4.3 bn to South Africa in biggest COVID-19 loan

- The IMF has decided to grant South Africa \$4.3 billion in emergency funding, the largest amount given to any country yet to fight the coronavirus pandemic.
- The funds "support the authorities' efforts in addressing the challenging health situation and economic impact of the COVID-19 shock". South Africa is the worst-hit country in the continent with over 4,50,000 cases.

### India, Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue held in New Delhi

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation while the Indonesian delegation was led by their Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto. Defence Ministers' Dialogue between India and Indonesia was held in New Delhi.
- The dignitary is in India for strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbours.

### India and EU renew Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for next 5 yrs till 2025

- India and European Union have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years till 2025.
- This will expand the cooperation in scientific and technological research and strengthen the conduct of cooperative activities in areas of common interest and application of the results of such cooperation to their economic and social benefit.

### India begins reconstruction of 300-year-old Sree Sree Joy Kali Matar Temple in Bangladesh

- India began the reconstruction a 300-year-old temple Sree Sree Joy Kali Matar Temple in Bangladesh's northern Natore district.
- The reconstruction is happening with Indian grant assistance of Bangladeshi Taka 97 lakhs and a total cost of Bangladeshi Taka of 1.33 Crores under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) scheme of India.

### India hands over 10 broad-gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh

- India handed over ten broad-gauge diesel locomotives to Bangladesh. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar flagged them off online in presence of Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and several dignitaries from across the border.
- These locomotives will help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in Bangladesh, stated Ministry of Railways.

### New Supreme Court building in Mauritius 'landmark project' completed under India's development partnership: MEA

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- **External Affairs Ministry** stated the new **Supreme Court building** in **Mauritius** is another landmark project completed under India's development partnership.
- He stated the project has been completed on schedule and at a cost below the initial estimates. India is making development partnerships that are marked by respect for partners, diversity, care for the future and sustainable development.

### Australia to make Google and Facebook pay for news content

- The **Australian government** stated it plans to give **Google** and **Facebook** three months to negotiate with Australian media businesses fair pay for **news content**.
- The government has released a **draft mandatory code of conduct** that aims to succeed where other countries have failed in making the global digital giants pay for news siphoned from commercial media companies.

### India-Bangladesh Naval Forces To Hold Exercise Bongosagar In Bay Of Bengal

- The **second edition** of **India-Bangladesh** Bilateral Exercise **Bongosagar** is scheduled to begin in the **Bay of Bengal**. The **first edition** of this exercise was held in 2019.
- The **Exercise Bongosagar** will then be followed by the third edition of **IN-BN Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)**.
- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kiltan** and **INS Khukri**, an indigenously built Guided-Missile Corvette are participating along with **Bangladesh Naval Ship (BNS) Abu Bakr**, a Guided-Missile Frigate and **BNS Prottoy**, a Guided-Missile Corvette.
- **Exercise Bongosagar and IN- BN CORPAT** will take place over a span of three days and this year's edition hold extra significance. The exercise also goes to show the importance that the Indian Navy accords to the Bangladesh Navy as a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region)**.

### Embassy of India in Nepal marks 56th Anniversary of ITEC Day-2020

- The Embassy of India in Nepal marked the **56th Anniversary** of the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day-2020** through a Webinar on "Sharing Knowledge and Experiences on COVID-19 Management".
- **ITEC Programme** is fully funded by the Government of India to share India's developmental experience and expertise with 160 developing countries, including Nepal.

### Foreign Ministers of all four Quad countries- India, US, Japan, Australia to meet in Tokyo File P

- Foreign ministers of all **four Quad countries** met in the **Japanese capital Tokyo**.
- This is the **second such Quad foreign ministers** meet. In 2019, all the foreign ministers of Quad countries met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

### India and Myanmar agree to operationalise Sittwe port in the first quarter of 2021

- **India** and **Myanmar** have agreed to work towards the operationalization of the **Sittwe port** in the **Rakhine state** in the first quarter of **2021**.
- India and Myanmar discussed the progress in the ongoing Indian-assisted infrastructure projects such as the Trilateral Highway and the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**.

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- India announced a grant of **USD 2 million** for the construction of the border haat bridge at **Byanyu/Sarsichauk** in Chin State that will provide increased economic connectivity between Mizoram and Myanmar.

### Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin gives country's top job to a teenager for a day

- Finish Prime Minister Sanna Marin stepped aside to let **16-year-old** take her place, with the young campaigner **Aaava Murto** using the platform to decry online violence and gender stereotypes about technology. The teenager also warned of **online violence that restricts girls' access to information**.

### World Economic Forum shifts annual meeting 2021 from Davos to Lucerne

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** will hold its Annual Meeting **2021** in **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**, from May 18 to 21. 2021 Davos summit, themed as "**The Great Reset**". The WEF aims to be back in Davos for 2022.

### Argentina becomes 1st nation to approve genetically modified wheat

- Argentina** has approved **HB4 drought-resistant GMO wheat** by biotechnology firm **Bioceres**, making it **the first country in the world to approve a strain of GMO wheat**. It will only begin marketing HB4 once it's approved for importation by Brazil.

### Indian, Taiwanese think tanks join hands to foster cooperation in Indo-Pacific region

- The **Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF)**, a leading think tank from Taiwan has signed a memorandum with India's **National Maritime Foundation (NMF)** in order to foster cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region as part of Taiwan's South bound policy**.
- The two groups will set up a joint task force to deepen bilateral dialogue. The memorandum's aim is to **conduct joint research and expand cooperation**.

### Seventh round of military level talks between India & China underway to de-escalate tension along LAC

- In Ladakh region, the talk between **India** and **China** is underway to resolve the border issues on Line of Actual Control.
- The Military commanders are meeting for the **seventh time** to work out the measures to preserve the peace and tranquility at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh region.

### India donates 1.8 million N95 masks to Philadelphia

- India has donated **1.8 million N95 masks** to **Philadelphia** to help in its fight against Covid-19, setting another example of a robust Indo-US partnership in the health sector.
- The move comes after the Mayor of Philadelphia, Jim Kenney, made a request to India for supply of masks to be used by the city's frontline workers.

### FATF's Asia Pacific Group keeps Pakistan on 'enhanced follow-up list' for slow progress against terror financing

- In a major setback to **Pakistan**, the **Financial Action Task Force's (FATF's) Asia Pacific Group (APG)** on Money Laundering has reprimanded the South-Asian country for its slow progress on the technical recommendations of the FATF to fight terror financing.

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### In a world first, iodine sanitisers to hit Indian market soon

- The **world's first iodine-based sanitisers**, which are stated to be more effective and long-lasting than alcohol-based hand cleansers, will be launched in India.
- Moreover, India would be the manufacturing hub for supplying the **iodine sanitiser**, which will be named as **I2Cure**, to other parts of the world, stated Anil Kejriwal, Global President of the Singapore-based biotechnology firm I2Pure, which holds the patents for this molecular iodine-based product.

### Nepal Re-Elected To UN Human Rights Council

- **Nepal** has been **re-elected** as a member of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC)** in the elections held at UN Headquarters in New York.
- Established by the **UN General Assembly** in **2006** as the principal United Nations entity dealing with human rights, the Human Rights Council consists of **47 elected Member States**.

### World Bank approves USD 12 billion to help developing countries finance coronavirus vaccines

- The **World Bank** has approved **USD 12 billion** in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute **coronavirus vaccines, tests**, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to 1 billion people.
- The USD 12 billion "**envelop**" is part of a wider World Bank Group package of up to **USD 160 billion** to help developing countries fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the bank stated.

### One stillbirth occurs every 16 seconds, according to first ever joint UN estimates

- Almost **2 million babies** are stillborn every year – or **1 every 16 seconds** – according to the first ever joint stillbirth estimates released by **UNICEF, WHO**, the World Bank Group and the **Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**.
- The vast majority of stillbirths, **84 per cent**, occur in low- and lower-middle-income countries, according to the new report, *A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths*.

### India and France re-elected as president and co-president of International Solar Alliance

- **India and France** were **re-elected** as the **president and co-president** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for a term of **two years** at the virtual meeting of the third assembly.
- **A total of 53 member countries** and 5 signatory and prospective member countries participated in the assembly.
- Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA. The representatives of **Fiji & Nauru** for **Asia Pacific Region**; **Mauritius & Niger** for **Africa Region**; **UK & Netherlands** for **Europe and others Region**, and **Cuba and Guyana** for **Latin America and Caribbean Region** assumed the vice presidency.

### India contributes 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

- India has contributed **one million dollars** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** for **Palestine Refugees** in Near East.



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- This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.

### Climate change spurs doubling of disasters since 2000: UN

- The **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** stated **7,348 major disaster** events occurred between **2000 and 2019**, claiming **1.23 million lives**, affecting **4.2 billion people**, and costing the global economy some **\$2.97 trillion**.
- The sharp increase was largely attributable to a rise in **climate-related disasters**, including extreme weather events like floods, drought and storms, the report stated, adding that extreme heat is proving especially deadly.

### After Sputnik V, Russia grants approval to 2nd COVID-19 vaccine EpiVacCorona

- **Russia** announced that it has granted regulatory approval to another coronavirus COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine named **EpiVacCorona** comes after Russia recently granted similar approval to its first COVID-19 vaccine named **Sputnik V**. Notably, Sputnik V is also the first vaccine candidate in the world to attain regulatory approval.
- Developed by **Siberia-based Vector Institute**, **EpiVacCorona** completed its early-stage human trials in September.
- **Sputnik V**, which was developed by **Gamaleya Institute in Moscow**, was licensed for use in Russia in August. Sputnik V was also registered before Phase III trials just like EpiVacCorona. A human trial of Sputnik V is currently under way in Moscow for it.

### Myanmar Navy to acquire its first submarine, INS' retrofitted Sindhuvir

- **Myanmar** is all set to acquire its **first diesel-electric submarine**, with the **Indian Navy handing over** its retrofitted **INS Sindhuvir** to the country for training and operations.
- India will be delivering a kilo class submarine INS Sindhuvir to the Myanmar Navy. This will be the first submarine in the Myanmar navy. This is in accordance with our vision of **SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region**.
- The **Indian Navy had bought the INS Sindhuvir**, a Soviet-origin Kilo-class submarine, **from Russia in 1980s** and has operated it since 1988.
- It is currently being modernized by the **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Vizag**, after which its service life will be extended by 10-15 years.

### Singapore Becomes First Country to Use Facial Recognition to Pay Taxes

- **In Singapore**, **online government services** can now be accessed by **facial recognition -- a world first**.
- This technology is being rolled out to the city-state's **SingPass digital identity scheme**, offering access to no less than 400 online services, including tax declarations and public housing applications. Facial recognition is also increasingly being used to access other online services, such as banking.
- The function is designed to work via home computers, tablets and cell phones, as well as at public kiosks.

### India , Netherlands collaborate in e-health initiative

- **India and the Netherlands** discussed a joint thrust in **e-health sector** with the purpose of providing digital health facilities and security to Indians and helping the Netherlands accelerate the digital transformation of health.

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- Part of India's ambitious **National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)**, this collaboration will see the two countries work closely to create capacities and put in place the requisite technology backbone to enable this revolutionary initiative.

### Israel Embassy to have 'Water Attache' in India from January

- **Israel Embassy** in Delhi will have a separate '**Water Attache**' from **January 2021** to help share their country's best practices and technologies for advancements in **India's water management** and **agriculture sectors**.
- It is announced by Israeli Ambassador to India **Ron Malka**.
- As many as **29 such centres** of excellence have already been established across India and nearly 1.5 lakh farmers have been trained at these centres in just one year.

### 5th Joint Working Group Meeting On Coal Between India, Indonesia On Nov 5

- **India** will host **5th Joint Working Group (JWG)** on coal with **Indonesia** and the meeting will be on November 5 through video conference.
- The meeting will be co-chaired from the Indian side by **Vinod Kumar Tiwari**.
- The release stated that a **B2B session** will bring together industries from both the sides to discuss the issues impacting business opportunities in the backdrop of the regulatory framework.

### Andorra joins the IMF and becomes the organization's 190th member

- **Europe's Andorra** formally joined the **International Monetary Fund**, becoming the crisis lender's **190th member state** as the tourism and trade-dependent principality struggles with the coronavirus pandemic.
- IMF's Membership allows the Andorran government to benefit from IMF policy advice, especially as the country tackles the crisis caused by COVID-19 and can now receive an annual review or "health check" of its economy by the IMF, tap technical assistance, and access IMF lending if needed.

### India gets chairmanship of International Labour Organisation's governing body after a gap of 35 years

- **India** has assumed the **chairmanship** of the governing body of the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** after a gap of **35 years**.
- **Labour secretary Apurva Chandra** has been elected as the **chairperson of the governing body** of the organisation for the period **October 2020- June 2021**.
- At present, **ILO has 187 members**.

### NATO plans to set up new space center in Germany

- The **NATO alliance** is to build a **headquarters for space operations** at its airbase in **Ramstein in Germany**, to counter a rising Russian and Chinese threat.
- Te new center is to be a central point of contact to support NATO missions with communication and satellite images.
- Currently, at least 40 percent of NATO's communications are via satellite.

### Pakistan to remain in grey list of global terror financing watchdog- FATF till February 2021

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- **Pakistan** will remain on **the grey list** of global terror financing watchdog, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** as it has not been able to fulfil six out of the 27 mandates to check terror funding. The decision was announced by the President of FATF Marcus Pleyer.
- The FATF strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its full action plan by **February 2021**.

### US, EU launch new bilateral dialogue on China

- The **United States** and **European Union (local time)** have launched a **new bilateral dialogue** between the **European External Action Service** and the US Department of State on China.
- They also discussed a range of issues of common interest in the context of the Transatlantic Partnership, read an official statement issued by the State Department.

### Bangladesh govt orders 'no mask, no service' policy

- The **Bangladesh government** has decided that **no service will be provided** to people who don't wear mask.
- It decided that all offices must install notice boards saying '**no mask, no service**' in order to control the spread of COVID 19 virus in the country.

### Third India-US 2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue underway in New Delhi

- The **Third India-US two plus two Ministerial Dialogue** is underway at **Hyderabad House** in **New Delhi**.
- The First two plus two dialogue was held in **New Delhi** in September 2018 and the Second in **Washington DC** in 2019. The agenda for the Third dialogue will cover all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

### The World's Longest Immersed Tunnel Will Connect Germany and Denmark — and Make Trips So Much Shorter

- After 10 years of planning, the construction of **the world's longest immersed tunnel** has officially begun. The **Fehmarnbelt Tunnel** that will connect **Denmark** and **Germany**, is scheduled to be officially opened by **2029**. It's one of Europe's largest ongoing infrastructure projects, with a budget of more than US\$8 billion.
- The tunnel will have an 18 kilometers extension and will be built across the Fehmarn Belt.
- It will be the **longest combined road and rail tunnel in the world**, with two double-lane motorways, separated by a service passageway, and two electrified rail tracks.

### India, UK to set up bilateral Sustainable Finance Forum

- **India** and **the United Kingdom** agreed to establish a **bilateral Sustainable Finance Forum** to drive forward deeper cooperation on sustainable finance.
- "India and the United Kingdom enjoy close bilateral relations in diverse areas. India-UK economic ties are important as together they are two of the world's top seven economies with a combined GDP of over **\$5 trillion**."

### European Commission, ICSSR sign new implementing arrangement to enhance scientific cooperation

- **The European Commission** and the **Indian Council of Social Science Research** signed a new implementing arrangement to enhance **scientific cooperation**. The EU stated it encourages top Indian social scientists to join

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temporary research teams in Europe funded by the **European Research Council (ERC)**. The joint initiative is the second of its kind for the ERC with an Indian funding body, it stated.

### India extends \$1 bn credit line to Central Asian countries for priority projects

- India extended a **\$1-billion line of credit** to **Central Asian countries** for priority projects in connectivity, energy, IT and health care, with the move being perceived as part of New Delhi's efforts to boost its role as a transparent development partner

### India Post, US Postal Service sign agreement for electronic exchange of customs data

- **Department of Posts** and **United States Postal Service, USPS** have entered into an agreement for **electronic exchange of customs data** related to postal shipments exchanged between the two countries.
- USA is the top export destination for India which is also reflected in exchange of goods through postal channel.

### Japan to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050

- Japanese Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga** has stated that the country will achieve **zero carbon emissions** by 2050.
- As per Japan's current energy plan, **56 per cent** of its energy requirements come from fossil fuels.

### India, U.S sign five agreements including 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement'

- **India** and **the U.S** inked a landmark **defence agreement** that will allow sharing of **high-end military technology**, classified satellite data, and critical information between the two countries.

### Panna (India), Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll (Maldives) join UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves

- UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme included **Panna in India** and **Fuvahmulah and Addu Atoll in the Maldives**, to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- For **India** it is the **twelfth** entry, whereas for **Maldives** second and third after **Baa Atoll**.

### AIM Launches India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon(I-ACE), with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

- **AIM (Atal Innovation Mission)**, in association with **CSIRO**, is organizing a **two-day hackathon** on circular economy, 'India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)', on **7 and 8 December**.
- I-ACE will focus on identification and development of innovative technology solutions by bright-minded students, startups and MSMEs of both nations.

### India, Mexico Hold Joint Commission Meeting, Review Bilateral Cooperation

- **India** and **Mexico** held their **eighth joint commission** meeting and reviewed cooperation in several areas including trade, investment, agriculture, health and education.
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** co-chaired the meeting with his Mexican counterpart **Marcelo Ebrard**.

### 206th Session of Governing Council of the IPU to be held from 1st to 4th November

- The **206th Session** of the **Governing Council** of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU** will be held from **1st to 4th November** this year.
- The term of the new President of IPU will be from 2020 to 2023.

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### Super Typhoon Goni, world's most powerful storm in four years, smashes into the Philippines

- **Super Typhoon Goni**, the world's most powerful storm in four years, crashed through the **Philippines**, smashing buildings, toppling trees, and causing floods and mudslides.
- Goni arrived days after **Typhoon Molave** killed at least 22 people.

### USTATED provides \$3 m to COVIDActionCollab to mitigate effects of Covid-19 in India

- The funds will be used to provide comprehensive support on health, livelihood, and social protection for vulnerable communities
- **Catalyst Management Services (CMS)**, a part of Catalysts Group, has ideated COVID Action Collaborative, partnered with the **United States Agency for International Development (USTATED)**, to support India's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- USTATED will provide **\$3 million** over two years to support the **COVIDActionCollab (CAC)** partnership, which was formally announced through a virtual conference.

### India, GCC Troika hold annual Political Dialogue in virtual mode

- **India** and the **GCC Troika** held their annual Political Dialogue in virtual mode. External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** led the Indian delegation.
- The GCC welcomed India's inclusion in **the UNSC** as a **non-permanent member** from **January 2021**.

### UNGA adopts two India sponsored resolutions on Nuclear disarmament

- The first committee of the **United Nations General Assembly** has adopted **two India-sponsored resolutions** on **nuclear disarmament** which aim to reduce risk of nuclear accidents and call for a prohibition on the use of nuclear weapons.
- The UNGA first committee deals with the issue of disarmament and works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the **Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament**, the other two bodies to deal with the nuclear issue.

### World's Biggest Pink Diamond Mine in Australia Stops Production

- The **world's largest pink diamond mine** has **shut its doors** after exhausting its reserves of the expensive gems.
- **The Argyle mine**, in the remote Kimberley region of **Western Australia**, churned out more than 90 percent of the world's pink diamonds -- sought after for their incredible rarity.
- The **end of operations** at Argyle is likely to push the price of the diamonds even higher.

### India and Italy sign 15 agreements in various sectors; Reaffirm commitment to strengthen cooperation against common global challenges

- **India** and **Italy** signed **15 agreements** in various sectors following a **Virtual Bilateral Summit** between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte. The agreements signed will provide for cooperation in a diverse range of areas including energy, green energy, shipbuilding and media sector.
- The leaders discussed a wide range of issues including political, economic, scientific and technological, space and defence cooperation. On regional and international issues, both sides agreed to coordinate closely at multilateral fora



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especially G-20. Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022. Together, India and Italy will be part of the G20 Troika from December this year.

### Joe Biden announces 12 member task force to deal with COVID-19; Former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to co-chair group

- US President-elect Joe Biden has announced a 12-member coronavirus task force to mount an effective response to the pandemic that has infected millions and damaged the US economy.
- The task force will be co-chaired by former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy.

### Interpol creates cybercrime-related communication services

- The Interpol has created two secure and flexible services to facilitate cybercrime related communication among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to ensure more effective and coordinated action based on timely intelligence.
- One of them is the Cybercrime Knowledge Exchange workspace that handles general, non-police information and is open to all relevant users.
- The Cybercrime Collaborative Platform-Operation, assists in the law enforcement operations, with access restricted to the operational stakeholders only. The CBI is the nodal agency in the Interpol for India.

### Guadalajara named World Book Capital 2022

- Guadalajara (Mexico) was named World Book Capital for the year 2022 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, on the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.
- The city, already a UNESCO Creative City since 2017, was selected for its comprehensive plan for policies around the book to trigger social change, combat violence and build a culture of peace.

### Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari releases special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi

- Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has released a special anthology on Mahatma Gandhi- 'My understanding about Gandhi' - during a ceremony at Kathmandu in the presence of Indian Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

### India, Maldives sign 4 pacts including \$100M grant for key connectivity project

- India and the Maldives signed four agreements, including one for a \$100-million grant for a connectivity project, as visiting foreign secretary Harsh Shringla and the Maldivian leadership discussed ways to boost economic recovery amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Maldives is the sixth country he has visited in the aftermath of pandemic-related travel restrictions, the others being Bangladesh, Myanmar, France, Germany and the UK.
- India will also provide a \$400-million line of credit for the project, the largest such infrastructure venture undertaken in the Maldives.

### Turkey bans smoking in public places to curb virus spread

- Turkey's interior ministry has banned smoking in public places across the country to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- Smoking would be banned in busy streets, bus stops and public squares when necessary.



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### India provides 50 Metric Tons of food aid to people of Djibouti

- **India** has provided **50 Metric Tons** of food aid to the **people of Djibouti** as part of its assistance to friendly countries to overcome natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In a statement, Ministry of External Affairs stated that the step was part of **SAGAR II** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) through which the Government of India is providing **270 Metric Tons** of Humanitarian assistance to friendly countries in the region.

### Indian students contributed \$7.6 billion to US economy last year

- **Indian students** contributed **\$7.6 billion** to the **US economy** in the academic year 2019-20, even though there was a **4.4 per cent** drop in the total number of Indian students, according to a report.
- **China** remained the largest source of international students in the US, with the number of Chinese students in the country increasing for the **16th consecutive year**.
- India remained the **second largest source** of international students, despite the 4.4 per cent decline to 193,124 students, it stated.

### UNICEF lays plans to deliver Covid-19 vaccine to 92 low-income countries

- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** has started collaborating with airlines, shipping lines, and freight operators, among other logistics, to deliver **lifesaving coronavirus vaccine** as quickly as possible.
- The agency revealed that for the distribution, UNICEF is working with over **350 logistics partners** from around the world to effectively deliver Covid-19 vaccines in more than **92 countries**, as soon as doses are available.
- With such collaborations, UNICEF aims to manage the purchase and delivery of vaccines in **92 low- and lower-middle-income economies**.

### India announces launch of Phase-IV of High Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan

- India has announced the launch of **Phase-IV of the High Impact Community Development Projects** in Afghanistan. It envisages more than **100 projects** worth **80 million dollars** that India would undertake in Afghanistan. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar stated this during the **2020 Afghanistan Conference organized** in Geneva through video-conference. The two day conference began and was co-hosted by the **United Nations**, the Government of Afghanistan, and the Government of Finland.

### UN release \$25 mn for women-led projects fighting gender-based violence

- The **United Nations humanitarian** chief has released **25 million US dollars** from its emergency fund to support **women-led organisations** that prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- The funding has gone to the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** and UN Women that have been asked to channel at least **30 per cent** of it to organisations run by women that prevent violence against women and girls.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

### UNDP, Invest India launch SDGs Investor Map for India

- **United Nations Development Programme, UNDP** and **Invest India** have launched the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map for India**. It laid out **18 Investment Opportunities** Areas in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help the country push forward on the trajectory of Sustainable Development.

### 4th NSA-level meeting held between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives

- The **fourth National Security Advisor Level Meeting** on **Trilateral Maritime Security Cooperation** was held between **India, Sri Lanka** and **Maldives** in **Colombo**.

### The UK plans to ban sales of diesel and petrol cars from 2030

- The **U.K.** will **stop selling** new diesel and petrol (gasoline) cars and vans from **2030** under plans announced by Prime Minister **Boris Johnson**.
- The vehicle ban represents an acceleration of prior targets; **U.K. authorities** had **previously** said the sale of new petrol and diesel vans and cars would end in **2040**.
- Johnson announced **£500 million** for the hydrogen-related plan that includes trialling homes using hydrogen for heating and cooking, starting with a “Hydrogen Neighbourhood” in 2023, moving to a “Hydrogen Village” by 2025, with an aim for a “Hydrogen Town” before the end of the decade.

### PM Modi & his Bhutanese counterpart to launch RuPay Card phase-2 in Bhutan

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Bhutanese counterpart **Lotay Tshering** will virtually launch **RuPay Card phase-2** in **Bhutan**.
- External Affairs Ministry spokesperson **Anurag Srivastava** stated the implementation of phase-1 of RuPay cards in Bhutan has enabled Indian visitors in Bhutan to access ATMs and points of sale terminals across Bhutan. The phase-2 will now allow Bhutanese cardholders to access **RuPay network in India**.

### Green Climate Fund approves USD 256 million for Bangladesh

- The **Green Climate Fund** has approved **dollar 256 million** for **Bangladesh** in grants and loans to meet its **Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction** targets under the Paris agreement.
- The two sectors combined together contribute more than **27 percent** of the industrial carbon emission as they are working with old and outdated machines with poor energy management. By **2030**, Bangladesh is committed to reduce its GHG emission by 15 percent compared to business-as-usual scenario.
- In the current year, GCF has approved over **dollar 2 billion** in new climate finance, taking its total portfolio to over **dollar 7 billion**.
- GCF was set up under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010.

### India, Australia sign pact on cyber tech to ensure free, secure Internet

- Around 25 countries, under a single group called the ‘**Global Innovation Alliance**’ came online to attend the **Bengaluru Tech Summit**.

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- They have signed the landmark **Australia India Technology Framework Agreement** on cyber and cyber-enabled technology.

### UK Government first sponsors for 2021 UN Climate Change Conference

- The **UK government** announced the **first principal partners** for the **UN climate conference, COP26**, scheduled for November 1-12, 2021 in **Glasgow**.
- “The UK has revealed its first sponsors for COP26 as it drives climate action in the run up to the international climate change summit in Glasgow.
- The country is working to reach an **emission-free economy by 2050**, while NatWest Group is one of the largest investors in the UK renewable energy industry.
- It was originally scheduled for November this year but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference is hosted by the **UK** in partnership with **Italy**.

### Japan Inc to begin experiments issuing digital yen on ‘mutually compatible platform’

- More than **30 major Japanese** firms will begin experiments next year towards issuing a common, private digital currency to promote digitalisation in one of the world’s most cash-loving countries.
- The move follows the **Bank of Japan’s** recently announced plan to experiment with issuing a **digital yen**.
- Japan has among the **most cash-loving people** in the world, with cashless payments making up only 20 per cent of total settlement - well below the **United States**, with 45 per cent and **China** with 70 per cent.
- Japan’s three megabanks - Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc , Mizuho Financial Group Inc and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc - have each rolled out their own digital payment systems.

### US President-elects Treasury Secretary & Director of Office Management & Budget

- Us President Elect Joe Biden names **Jenett Yellen** as **Treasury Secretary** (If confirmed by the Senate, she will be the first woman ever to hold the post ). **Neera Tanden** as Director of Office of Management & Budget
- Mr Biden also named **Wally Adeyemo**, a former Obama administration official and the first CEO of the former president’s nonprofit foundation, as his nominee for deputy treasury secretary.

### Moderna to Seek US EU vaccine authorisation

- **Moderna Inc** stated it will apply for **U.S. and European emergency authorization** of its COVID-19 vaccine based on full results from a late-stage study showing its vaccine was 94.1% effective with no serious safety concerns.
- The company reported 30 severe cases - all in the placebo group - which means the vaccine was 100% effective at preventing severe cases. The trial included one COVID-19-related death in the placebo group.
- Moderna stated it was on track to have about **20 million doses** of its vaccine ready to ship in the United States by the end of 2020, enough to inoculate 10 million people.

### Jet Airways may fly in the sky again from summer of 2021: Report

- According to the report, Murari Lal Jalan, the businessman who led the winning consortium for Jet, plans to hold more than **51 per cent stake** in the airline. Around 14 per cent will be held by London-based financial advisory firm

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**Kalrock Capital** while lenders will keep close to 10 per cent in the Naresh Goyal-promoted airline. The new owners are stated to pump in more money after the regulatory clearance. The consortium has proposed to invest around Rs 1,000 crore.

- The resolution plan proposed by Kalrock Capital and Jalan, which was approved by the lenders of Jet Airways in October, is currently awaiting approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

### First Country To Approve sale of Lab Grown Meat

- **Singapore** Becomes **First Country** In World To Give **Approval For Sale Of Lab-created Meat**.
- The first-in-the-world regulatory allowance of real, high-quality meat created directly from animal cells for safe human consumption paves the way for a forthcoming small-scale commercial launch in Singapore.

### US imposes sanctions on Chinese firm over Venezuela internet curbs

- **The United States** has imposed sanctions on **Chinese firm China National Electronics Import & Export Corporation (CEIEC)**, accusing it of supporting President Nicolas Maduro's efforts to undermine democracy in Venezuela.

### Non-resident Indians (NRIs) may soon get to vote remotely with e-ballots

- Election Commission, in a proposal sent to the law ministry, has suggested that **NRIs** be allowed to vote through **electronically-transmitted postal ballot system (ETPBS)**, a facility already extended to service voters that include members of the Armed forces and para-military forces and government employees serving abroad.

### India, US hold talks on counternarcotics, agree to boost collaboration on regulation

- The two countries agreed to enhance their **data sharing operations** to combat the production, distribution and export/import of drugs and precursor chemicals.
- During the inaugural meeting of **the Counternarcotics Working Group (CNWG)**, held virtually.
- The Indian delegation was led by **Sachin Jain**, Deputy Director General, Narcotics Control Board, Ministry of Home Affairs, while the US side was headed by White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Assistant Director Kemp Chester.

### World Leaders To address High Level, Special Session of UN General Assembly on Covid 19

- The Special Session of the **United Nations General Assembly** in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Pandemic took place at the **UN Headquarters**.
- The session's first day will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly **Volkan Bozkir** and Chair of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries **Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev**.

### The 7th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting held virtually

- The JCM was co-chaired by the Minister of state for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of Suriname, Albert R. Ramdin,
- It was agreed that the next JCM Meeting would be held in 2022 in Paramaribo

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### India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference

- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare to chaired the inaugural session of the annual conference of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – ‘health talks,’ under Sweden India Nobel memorial week.
- India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre announces 14 winning healthtech solutions

### Bangladesh Signs Preferential Trade agreement with Bhutan

- Bangladesh signed its maiden preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Bhutan to boost bilateral trade between the two countries.
- Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Bhutanese Economic Affairs Minister Lyonpo Loknath Sharma signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

### Invest India wins United Nations Investment Promotion Award for 2020

- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared ‘Invest India’ as winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.
- The award ceremony took place at UNCTAD Headquarters in Geneva.
- The evaluation was based on UNCTAD’s assessment of work undertaken by 180 national Investment Promotion Agencies across the world.

### The Second Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020 Conference Inaugurated In New Delhi

- The Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan held the second TCGA-Cancer Genome Atlas 2020 conference in New Delhi.
- The conference brought together scientists and clinicians from all over the world to jointly establish the Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA).

### Mount Everest is 8,848.86 metres tall, says Nepal and China after remeasurement

- The world’s highest peak is now taller by 86 centimetres, Nepal and China jointly announced after they remeasured Mt. Everest at 8,848.86 metres, over six decades after India conducted the previous measurement in 1954.
- The new height is 86 cms more than the previous measurement. According to the measurement done in 1954 by Survey of India, the height of Mount Everest is 8,848 metres.

### UK become first country to roll out Covid 19 Vaccine

- The United Kingdom will become the first country to roll out the Covid-19 vaccine. As per the government, the shots will be initially available at hospitals before distributing stocks to doctors’ clinics.
- Britain gave emergency use approval for the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.



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### WEF 2021 to be held in Singapore instead of Switzerland

- The **World Economic Forum** will hold its 2021 annual meeting in **Singapore** instead of its traditional home of Switzerland, which is battling a rising number of coronavirus infections.
- The meeting is generally held in Davos, Switzerland, but amid covid, the meeting was first shifted to Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland in October 2020. Now again the venue has been shifted to Singapore.
- The event is expected to **return to Davos in 2022**.

### Joe Biden & Kamala Harris jointly named Time magazine's Person of the Year

- U.S. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly named Time magazine's 2020.
- The US president was named as Person of the Year in 2016 by Time.

### UNESCO to launch international prize in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

- The **UNESCO** has decided to launch an international prize in the field of '**creative economy**' in the name of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- UNESCO has declared 2021 as '**International Year of Creative Economy** for Sustainable Development'.

### UNESCO launches 2020 State of the Education Report for India

- The State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), was launched virtually by UNESCO New Delhi.
- It is the second edition of the State of Education Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- India has made considerable progress towards its goal of creating a skilled workforce of 110 million people by 2022.
- It was Developed by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

### Singapore's Foodie 'Hawker' Culture Given UNESCO Recognition

- **Singapore's** tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, has been recognised by **UNESCO** for its **cultural significance**.
- The **United Nations'** cultural agency announced it had added the city-state's **hawker culture** to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

### UNICEF launches the COVID-19 vaccine market dashboard

- On December 21, The **Unicef** announced the launch of a **Covid-19 vaccine market dashboard**.
- It is an interactive tool to follow the developments of the rapidly evolving coronavirus vaccine market and the efforts of the COVAX Facility to ensure fair and equitable access for every country in the world.

### Jaishankar holds virtual meet with Spanish counterpart Arancha Gonzalez Laya

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and his Spanish counterpart **Arancha Gonzalez Laya** held a virtual meeting, during which they agreed to maintain the momentum of cooperation in a range of areas like defence and energy.

### US financial body to invest USD 54 mn in India to support critical infrastructure projects



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- The **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** has announced to invest **USD 54 million** in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The DFC will invest USD 54 million in equity for the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects.

### Myanmar Navy formally commissions INS Sindhuvir submarine, handed over by Indian Navy

- The **Myanmar Navy** has officially commissioned the submarine **INS Sindhuvir**, which was handed over by the Indian Navy to the country in October 2020.
- INS Sindhuvir was commissioned as UMS Minye Theinkhathu and inducted on the **73rd anniversary of the Myanmar Navy**.
- The submarine has been refurbished for the Myanmar Navy by state-run defense shipbuilder, **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** in Visakhapatnam.

### India to replace UK as fifth-biggest economy in 2025

- The **Centre for Economics and Business Research** stated **Indian economy** will again overtake the **UK to become the fifth largest economy in 2025** and race to the third spot by 2030.
- The Research organisation forecasts that the Indian economy will expand by 9 percent in 2021, and another 7 percent in 2022.
- As per the report, **China** will become the **World's Biggest Economy in 2028** meanwhile, Japan will remain on 3rd spot till 2030s.

### US plans to set up nuclear reactor on moon

- US's plan to have the **first nuclear reactor** on the **moon by the end of 2026**.
- The US Department of Energy in collaboration with Nasa intends to solicit industry design proposals in early 2021 got an impetus with a recent White House directive.

### Jaishankar 2 Day visit to Qatar

- External Affairs Minister (EAM) **Dr S Jaishankar**, two-day visit to **Qatar**.
- Both Ministers discussed ways to **strengthen the multifaceted bilateral relationship** in areas such as energy, trade, investment, food processing, healthcare, education, culture, defence and security.
- EAM also extended an invitation to Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of Qatar to visit India for the first **Joint Commission Meeting in 2021**.

### Cambodia's first commercial extraction of oil begun in Gulf of Thailand

- Cambodia's first commercial **extraction of oil** begins in Gulf of Thailand.
- **Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen**, the country's **long-awaited** first commercial extraction of oil has finally begun.
- The **first drop of oil** was extracted by **KrisEnergy** from a well in offshore Block A in the Gulf of Thailand, west of the coastal Cambodian province of Preah Sihanouk.

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### Bill for citizenship of 11 million undocumented Migrants: Kamala Harris

- **US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris** promised to bring a bill to Congress with a roadmap to citizenship for **11 million undocumented people**.
- Her **first priority** after assuming office would be to **save American lives** from coronavirus, and along with Biden.
- She also vowed to join the **Paris climate agreement** from which the Trump administration had withdrawn earlier.

### Joint working group on fisheries – Meeting held by India and Sri Lanka

- The **Fourth Meeting** of the **India-Sri Lanka** Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held through virtual mode.
- The meeting covered the entire gamut of issues related to fishermen and fishing boats which have been on the agenda of bilateral discussions between India and Sri Lanka for many years.

### CinemaSCOpe – India's exclusive movie series for members of SCO Organisation

- Indian Embassy in Beijing, China has launched "CinemaSCOpe" exclusively for the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), more than a 2 dozen Indian films will be dubbed in Russian.
- Screenings will continue till India's Chairmanship of the SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023.
- The movie series will coincide with "SCO Year of Culture" in 2021.

### Facebook-Backed Libra Association Renamed Itself as Diem

- Libra Association has renamed itself as 'Diem'. Its currency name has also been changed from Libra currency to Diem. Diem will be backed by government currency.
- Diem, which means "day" in Latin, now aims to initially launch a single dollar-backed digital coin.

### UN CND removes Cannabis from "Most Dangerous Drug" Category

- In the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN-CND), Cannabis has been removed from the "Most Dangerous Drug" category.
- It is removed after UNCND voted to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, decades after they were first placed on the list. Out of the 53-member CND, 27 member states voted in favour including India, US and most of European Nations and 25 members against.

## Important Appointments

### National Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Hariharan K	Chief Financial Officer, Lakshmi Vilas Bank	
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	Chairman, Indian Oil	He is the Chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation
Rajkiran Rai G	Managing Director, Union Bank of India	Extended till May end 2022. He was



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		Executive Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce
Ravinder Bhakar	Chief Executive Officer, Central Board of Films and Certification	Anurag Srivastava (Bhakar was posted as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways)
V Suryanarayanan (President & COO of the company)	Managing Director, Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company	S S Gopalarathnam
Sanjay Kapoor	President, Hyderabad Management Association	HMA is affiliated to All India Management Association New Delhi
Sanjay Dwivedi	Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication	He is the Registrar of Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal
Karnam Sekar	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Overseas Bank	Subramaniam Kumar
T C Suseel Kumar	Non-executive member, Axis Bank	Managing Director of LIC
Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Chairman, National Highways Authority of India	Given the extension of 6 months
Zoya Khan from Vadodara district of Gujarat	1 <sup>st</sup> transgender operator, Common Service Centre in India	
M Taj Mukarrum	Director (Finance), Power Grid Corporation	



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SP Kochhar	Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India	Rajan Mathews
Ajai Puri	Chairman, Cellular Operators Association of India	Chief Operating Officer, Bharti Airtel
Pramod Kumar Mittal	Vice Chairman, Cellular Operators Association of India	President, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited
Injeti Srinivas	Chairman, International Financial Services Centres Authority	
Sukhbir Singh	Brand Ambassador, Luxury Ride	
Sijo Kuruvilla George	Member, Expert Committee on Science and Technology Policy (8-member panel)	CEO of Startup Village and founder of Re-think Foundation
Justice Bansi Lal Bhat	Chairperson, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	Given extension for three months
Shyamala Gopinath	Additional Director (Independent), CRISIL	She was Deputy Governor at Reserve Bank of India for seven years till June 2011.
Priyanka Chopra	Brand ambassador to the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival	
Saif Ali Khan & Kareena Kapoor Khan	Brand Ambassador,s, Vectus Industries Limited	
Gyanendro Ningombam (Editor of Meeyam)	Officiating President, Hockey India	Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad
Kunal Bahl	Chairman of CII's E-Commerce Committee	Co-founder & CEO of Snapdeal
Hemang Amin	Interim CEO, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	Rahul Johri
Ashwini Kumar Tewari	MD & CEO, SBI Cards and Payment Services	Hardayal Prasad
Roshini Nadar Malhotra	Chairperson, HCL Technologies	Shiv Nadar
Kulmeet Bawa	President & MD, SAP Indian Subcontinent	Deb Deep Sengupta



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Shyam Srinivasan	MD & CEO, Federal Bank	Extended till September 22, 2021
P Praveen Siddharth	Private Secretary to the President	Vikram Singh
Ramesh Babu Boddu	MD & CEO, Karur Vysya Bank	Retired as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India in April 2020
Sumit Deb	Chairman & MD, National Mineral Development Corporation	N Bajendra Kumar
Sanjiv Bajaj	Chairman, Bajaj Finance Ltd	Rahul Bajaj
Dr Alok Misra	Chief Executive Officer, Microfinance Institutions Network	Harsh Dhrivatsava
Prakash Chandra Kandpal	MD & CEO, SBI General Insurance	Pushan Mahapatra
Pushan Mahapatra	Director (strategic investments & digital initiatives), SBI General Insurance	
Arun Kumar	Nominated Vice Chairman, International Union of Railways, UIC, Paris	He is the Director General of Railway Protection Force
Ganesh Lakshminarayanan	Chief Executive Officer-Enterprise Business, Bharti Airtel	Ashish Arora
P Amudha	Joint Secretary in PM's Office	She is serving as a professor in Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
Varsha Joshi	Joint Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	
Keshav Chandra	Director, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, Ministry of Corporate Affairs	
Sajjan Yadav	Joint Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance	Shifted from the Department of Women and Child
Sudhir Kumar	Additional Secretary, Central Vigilance	



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	Commission	
Nitishwar Kumar	Member Secretary, National Council for Teachers' Education	Shifted from the Ministry of Water Resources
Partha Pratim Sengupta	MD & CEO, Indian Overseas Bank	He served as the Deputy MD of SBI
Sahil Seth	Honorary adviser to the steering committee for the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Appointed for the period of 2020-23
Rajesh Bhushan	Union Health Secretary	Preeti Sudan
Sushil Kumar	Secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes	Ram Kumar Mishra
Ram Kumar Mishra	Women and Child Development Secretary	
Anil Kumar Jain	Secretary, Ministry of Mines	
Ajay Tirkey	Secretary, Department of Land Resources	Ruolkhumlien Buhril
Anandiben Patel (Governor of Uttar Pradesh)	Governor, Madhya Pradesh	Lal Ji Tandon
Vivek Ram Chaudhari	New commander-in-chief, Indian Air Force's Western Air Command	Air Marshal B Suresh
Naveen Tahilyani	MD & CEO, Tata AIA Life Insurance	Rishi Srivastava
N Sivaraman	Managing Director & CEO, ICRA Ltd	aresh Takkar
Anil Kumar Jha (Former Coal India Chief)	Member of a key panel	Panel that deals with violation of environment rules
Varun Sridhar	CEO, Paytm Money	Pravin Jadhav
B Ramesh Babu	MD, CEO of Karur Vysya Bank	
Ketan Patel	Managing director - Greater India operations	Vinay Awasthi
Urjit Patel	Additional and independent director, Great Eastern Shipping Company	Appointed for 5 years
Navin Agarwal	MD & CEO, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company	
SN Rajeswari	Chairman & Managing Director, Oriental Insurance Company Limited	
Babita Phogat (Wrestler)	Deputy directors (sports)	Haryana





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& Kumari Kavita Devi (kabaddi player)		Government
V. R. Chaudhari	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command	Air Marshal B Suresh
Sashidhar Jagdishan	Managing Director and CEO, HDFC Bank	Aditya Puri
Ajay Jain, Vivek Johri, Sungita Sharma	Members, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs	
Jaideep Bhatnagar	Director General, News Services Division of All India Radio	
Ajay Tyagi	Sebi chairman	Extended for 18 months
Manoj Sinha	Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir	Girish Chandra Murmu
Parekh Ashvin	Independent Director, Nippon Life India Asset Management	Tenure of 5 years
Harmanpreet Kaur and Suresh Raina	Global Brand Ambassadors, Win Trade Fantasy	
Girish Chandra Murmu	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	
Hardayal Prasad	MD & CEO, PNB Housing Finance	Resigned as MD & CEO of SBI Card
Harsh Kumar Bhanwala	Executive Chairman, Capital India Finance Limited	Former Chairman – NABARD
Pradeep Kumar Joshi	Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission	Arvind Saxena
Praveen Pardeshi	Global programme coordinator, United Nations Institute for Training and Research	Former BMC Commissioner
Deepak Shetty	Deputy CEO and MD, JCB India	Subir Kumar Chowdhury
Soma Mondal	Chairman, Steel Authority of India Limited	Anil Chaudhary
Harbhajan Singh	Brand ambassador, eBikeGO	
Subhash Sheoratan Mundra	Non-executive chairman, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd	Sameer Gehlaut
Pramod Bhasin	Chairperson, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)	Isher Judge Ahluwalia



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Suhail Sameer	Group President, BharatPe	
Kaushik Khona	CEO of GoAir	Vinay Dube
Dinesh K Tripathi	Director General Naval Operations	
G P Garg	Executive director, Securities and Exchange Board of India	
Rakesh Asthana	Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF)	Working as the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
V S K Kaumudi	Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Home Ministry	Working as DG, Bureau of Police research and Development
Satya Pal Malik	Governor of Meghalaya	
Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Additional Charge, Goa	
Prashant Joshi	Managing Director and Head of National Distribution, D BS Bank India	Report to Surojit Shome (Managing Director and CEO of DBS Bank India)
Rohit Sharma	Brand ambassador, Oakley	Period of two years
PK Vijayakumar and G Rajagopalan Nair	Directors, Dhanlaxmi Bank	
G Subramonia Iyer and Suseela Menon R	Additional Directors, Dhanlaxmi Bank	
Cyril C. George	Deputy Chairman, Cochin Port Trust	A.K. Mehera
A.K. Mehera	Transferred to Kolkata Dock System, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust, Kolkata	
Kishor Rungta	Chairman, Fertilisers Association of India, Southern Region	
Ashwani Bhatia	Managing Director, State Bank of India	
Justice AV Chandrashekar and Pradeep Kumar Panja	Additional Directors, Karnataka Bank	Pradeep Kumar Panja - Managing Director (Corporate Banking) of State



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		Bank of India
Rajiv Kumar	New election commissioner	Ashok Lavasa
G Satheesh Reddy	Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation	Two-year extension
Vinay Tonse	Managing Director & CEO, SBI Funds Management Private Ltd	
Sanjiv Singh	Group President, Reliance Industries Ltd	Former Indian Oil Corp (IOC) chairman
Yatinder Prasad	Government nominee Director in CIL Board	
Kiara Advani	Brand Ambassador For Myntra	
Csaba Laszlo (Romania)	Head coach for the 2020-21, Chennaiyin FC	Chennaiyin FC - Two-time Indian Super League champions
Utpal Kumar Singh	Secretary in Lok Sabha	Appointed by LS Speaker Om Birla
Hemant Khatri	Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd	He was in-charge of the refit of INS Sindhuvir & spearheaded the refit of INS Astradharani
S R Sarma	Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy	
Rajiv Kumar	Election commissioner (5-year tenure)	Ashok Lavasa (Asian Development Bank- vice president)
M Veeralakshmi	1 <sup>st</sup> woman ambulance driver	Tamil Nadu govt
Aveek Sarkar	Chairman, Press Trust of India	Vijay Kumar Chopra
Pramod Chandra Mody	Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).	
K Padmakar	Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd	D Rajkumar and R Ramachandran (MD and director refineries, respectively)



**Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1**

L C Goyal	Chairman and Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)	
Charu Sinha	First woman commander (Inspector General (IG) of CRPF's Srinagar sector)	Head the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) formation in the Kashmir Valley
M V Raja Sekhar	Director (R&D), Bharat Electronics Ltd	
Murali Ramakrishnan	MD and CEO, South Indian Bank	V G Mathew
S Krishnan	Managing Director and CEO, Punjab & Sind Bank	S Harishankar
Vinod Kumar Yadav	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Railway Board	
Kshatrapati Shivaji	Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	
Ayushmann Khurrana	Brand ambassador, Bajaj Allianz Life	
Kenichi Ayukawa	President, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers	Rajan Wadhera
Vipin Sondhi	Vice President of SIAM	
Manoj Kumar	Executive Director, International Finance Services Centres Authority (IFSCA – regulates GIFT City)	Chief General Manager at SEBI
Vinkesh Gulati	35th President, The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations(FADA)	For the period 2020-22
Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Smriti Mandhana	Brand ambassadors, Playerzpot	
Anil Jain	President, All India Tennis Association	
Anil Dhupar	Secretary general, All India Tennis Association	
Rohit Rajpal	Treasurer, All India Tennis Association	
Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman	Chairperson of SC legal services committee	
Ayushmann Khurrana	Celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign – 'For Every Child'	UNICEF India
Paresh Rawal	Chairman, National School of Drama	
Subhash Kamath (Chief	ASCI's new Chairman	Rohit Gupta



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Executive Officer at BBH & Publicis Worldwide)		
NS Rajan	Vice-chairman, ASCI	Managing director at public relations firm Ketchum Sampark P. Ltd
Shashidhar Sinha	Honorary treasurer.	Chief executive, Mediabrands India Pvt. Ltd
Harivansh	Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	Manoj Kumar Jha
Sachin Tendulkar	Brand ambassador, Paytm First Games	
Virat Kohli	Brand ambassador, Great Learning	He will lead the brand's latest 'Power Ahead' campaign
Amitabh Bachchan	Alexa voice assistant, Amazon.com	First used celebrity voice (Amazon) - Samuel L Jackson
Suresh Raina	Brand ambassador, Online poker platform 9stacks	
Sandeep Batra	Whole-time director (designated as Executive Director), ICICI Bank.	Seeking approval from RBI
Narendra Singh Tomar	Additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Harsimrat Kaur Badal
Anil Dhasmana (Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief)	Chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO).	Satish Jha (former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer)
H D Deve Gowda	Member of the Rajya Sabha	At first time, JD(S) leader has become a member of the Upper House since 1996.
Simanchala Dash	Advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund	
Raghvendra Singh (Chief	Secretary, Ministry of Culture	Kumar



**Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1**

Executive Officer, Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces.)		
Kumar	Secretary, National Commission for Backward Classes, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Ajoy Kumar
S Aparna	Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals	P O Vaghela
Apurva Chandra	Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment	
Dr Girija Shanker Mungali	Member, Asian Football Confederation's task force	Chairman of the Club Licensing Committee of the All India Football Federation
AK Dixit (Former Union Bank of India general manager)	New administrator, Punjab and Maharashtra Co- operative (PMC) Bank	Surinderpal Singh Ram Singh - Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of PMC bank limited.
Khushi Chindaliya from Surat	Regional Ambassador for India	By the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Tunza Eco- Generation
Sonu Sood	Brand ambassador, Acer India	
Uday Kotak	Board Member, IL&FS	1 year extension
Rajat Sud	Managing director, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd	S Gopal
Aamir Khan	Brand ambassador, Ceat Tyres	
Yuvraj Singh	Brand ambassador, Aakash Educational Services Limited	
Neetu David	Chairman, Women's selection committee	Hemalata Kala
Sunil Sethi	Advisor, Khadi and Village Industries Commission	He is the Chairman of the Fashion





**Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1**

		Design Council of India
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand ambassador, Reserve Bank	For the customer awareness campaign
Rajasthan Royals cricketer Robin Uthappa	Brand ambassador, Entri	
Dr P. D. Vaghela	TRAI chairman	R.S. Sharma
Aamir Khan	Brand ambassador, Vedantu	
Shekhar Kapur	President, Film and Television Institute of India, FTII	
Rinki Sethi	Chief information security officer, Twitter Inc	
DK Kashyap	Additional Director, Dhanlaxmi Bank board	In February 2020, G Jagan Mohan, was appointed as Additional Director on the board of the bank
Anil Kumar Chaudhary (nominated)	Chairman of CII's PSE Council	He is the Chairman of SAIL
S S Deswal	Additional charge of National Security Guard DG	A K Singh
Sourav Ganguly	Brand ambassador, Bengal Peerless Housing	He is the current president of the Board of Control for Cricket
Purnachandra Rao Surapaneni	National President of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)	
Rahul Parikh	Digital Head, Bandhan Bank	He is the former Bajaj Capital chief
RJ Duckworth	Air Officer in charge Personnel	He was awarded Vishisht Seva Medal in 2008
Apurva Chandra	Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment	He was serving as Special Director



**Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1**

		General, Defence Acquisition
S Aparna	Secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Dr PD Vaghela
Charanjit Surinder Singh Attrra	Chief Financial Officer, State Bank of India	Attrra was a partner with EY India
Madhabi Puri Buch	Whole-Time Member, Securities and Exchange Board of India	
Madhu Mahajan &B. R Balakrishnan	Special Expenditure Observers for General Election	
Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Verma and Shashank Bhide	Monetary Policy Committee	
M A Ganapathy	Director General, BCAS	Rakesh Asthana
Rakesh Asthana	MD & Chief Executive Officer, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited	
Amar Bahl	Deputy Managing Director & COO, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited	
M Rajeshwar Rao	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India	
Dinesh Khara	Chairman, State Bank of India	Rajnish Kumar
RK Chhibber	Chairman & MD, Jammu & Kashmir bank	Extended for 6 months
Ajinkya Rahane	Brand ambassador and advisor of Hudle	
Rana Daggubati	Brand ambassador, Ubon	
J Venkatramu	MD & CEO, India Post Payments Bank	Suresh Sethi
Bhuvan Bam	Digital brand ambassador, Mynta	
Piyush Goyal	Additional charge of the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution ministry	Ram Vilas Paswan
Nilesh Shah	Chairman, Association of Mutual Funds in India	MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management
Saurabh Nanavati	Vice-chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India	Chief executive officer of Invesco Asset Management
Chetan Anand	Brand ambassador, Badminton brand 'Transform'	



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Amit Banerjee	Director (Rail and Metro Business) and Member on the Board of BEML Limited	
Srikant Datar	Dean of Harvard Business School	Nitin Nohria
Subhash Kelkar	Chief Technology and Digital Officer, ICICI Securities	Yagnesh Parikh
R. Balasubramaniam (Founder and chairman of GRAAM, Mysuru)	Technical Group on Social Stock Exchange, SEBI	Committee is chaired by Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
Pradeep Kumar Rawat	Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Netherlands	He is the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Indonesia
Uma Shankar	Additional Director (non-executive, independent), Karnataka Bank	He is a former Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand ambassador , Cello Group	
Gurdeep Singh	Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC Ltd	
Rajkiran Rai G	Chairman, Indian Banks' Association	
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Deputy Chairman, Indian Banks' Association	
Rohan Jaitley	President, Delhi and District Cricket Association	
Sashidhar Jagdishan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, HDFC Bank	
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Brand ambassador, Parle Agro's B-Fizz	
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Home Secretary	Extended up to August 22, 2021
Rohit Sharma	Brand ambassador, Vega	
Rajendra Prasad Goyal	Chief Financial Officer, NHPC	Mahesh Kumar Mittal
Dr Neena Malhotra	Ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino	She is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy
Ghanshyam Jha	Chairperson, Jammu and Kashmir Water	



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

	Resources Regulatory Authority	
Nanda Kishore Sahoo	Director General, Dental Services and Colonel Commandant of Army Dental Corps	
Bimal Julka	Chairman, Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports	John Loffhagen
Saman Habib	Fellow of Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi	He is CSIR-CDRI Scientist
Justice BL Bhat	Acting Chairperson, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal	
Harpreet A De Singh	Chief executive officer, Alliance Air	(First woman pilot of Air India)
Nivedita Bhasin	New ED (flight safety), Alliance Air	Harpreet A De Singh
Rajiv Jalota	Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust	Sanjay Bhatia
PVG Menon	Chief Executive Officer, Electronics Sector Skill Council of India	
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	India's next Chief Information Commissioner	
AK Gupta	Managing Director and CEO, ONGC Videsh Limited	
Dilip Rath	Board of International Dairy Federation	Chairman, National Dairy Development Board
Anand Selva	Global Head, Citigroup Inc	
Jagbir Singh	Chief Technology Officer, Vodafone Idea	Vishant Vora
Ramesh Lakshminarayanan	Group Head – Information Technology, HDFC Bank	
MM Kutty	Commission's first chairperson, Air Quality Management for the NCR	Rajiv Gauba has named Arvind Kumar Nautiyal, joint secretary, as the Commission's full- time member.
Gyanendro Ningombam	First President from the north east India to Hockey India	
Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad	Senior Vice President, Hockey India	



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Aloke Singh	Chief Executive Officer, Air India Express	
Akshay Kumar Singh	Managing director and Chief executive, Petronet LNG Ltd	
Nitish Kumar	Chief Minister of Bihar	7 <sup>th</sup> term Chief Minister
Sanjay Kumar Mishra	Enforcement Directorate Director	Extnded by 1 year
Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan	First Chairperson of the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub	
Sonu Sood	State icon of Punjab`	By the Election Commission of India
Naveen Munot	Managing Director and CEO, HDFC Mutual Fund	Milind Barve
Virat Kohli	Brand ambassador for Vize	
Jitan Ram Manjhi	Pro-tem speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly	
SN Rajeswari	Whole-Time Member (Distribution), IRDAI	
Achyuta Samanta	President, Volleyball Federation of India	1 <sup>st</sup> person from Odisha to be elected
Sunil Mittal	Executive Chairman, Low Earth Orbit (LEO)	
Vijay Kumar Sinha	New speaker of Bihar Assembly	
Chandrasekaran	Chairman, Tata Chemicals	
Harpal Singh	New Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army	
Rajeev Chaudhary	Director-General of the Border Roads Organisation	
Rajnish K Jenaw	Chairman and Managing Director, National Schedule Castes Finance & Development Corporation	
SM Vaidya	Vice President, World LPG Association	
Rajeev Chaudhry	27 th Director General of the Border Roads	He was serving as the ADG LW & E in QMG's Branch
Kuldeep Handoo	Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Ambassador	He is the first Dronacharya awardee
Anil Soni	Chief Executive Officer for the WHO Foundation	
Uday Kotak	Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank	



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Chairman, National Highways Authority of India	
Aditya Nath Das	Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh	
Vineet Agarwal (Managing Director of logistics major Transport Corporation of India Ltd)	President, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India	Niranjan Hiranandani (Co-Founder and MD, Hiranandani Group)
Satyendra Garg	Andaman and Nicobar DGP charge	
Prasanth Prabhakaran	MD & CEO, YES Securities	
Florin Citu	Prime Minister, Romania	
Atanu Chakraborty	Chairman (likely), HDFC Bank	Shyamala Gopinath
Rajeev Mishra	Additional Director - General	Promoted by West Bengal govt
Niranjan Banodkar	Chief Financial Officer, YES Bank	Anurag Adlakha
Harsh Vardhan	Nominated Member of the GAVI Board	Nominated by Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	Vice President, World Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association	
Akshay Kumar	Brand Ambassador, Hindustan Unilever Limited	
Rajesh Bindal	Chief Justice of the Common High Court for the UT of J & K and Ladakh	

### International Appointments

Name of the Person	Designation	Predecessor/Others
Gudni Th. Jóhannesson	President of Ireland	Elected for second 4-year term
Nigar Johar	Lieutenant general of Pakistan Army	1 <sup>st</sup> female surgeon general of the Pakistan Army
Indra Mani Pandey	Next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva	
Jean Castex	Prime Minister, France	Edouard Philippe





## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Jayant Krishna	CEO, UK India Business Council	1st Indian CEO of UKIBC
Baushuan Ger (DG of the department of East Asian and Pacific Affairs)	Taiwan's ambassador to India	Tien Chung-kwang
Dr Parag Chitnis	Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	
Rudrendra Tandon	New envoy to Afghanistan	
Vikram Doraiswami	High commissioner to Dhaka	
Lee Hsien Loong	Prime Minister, Singapore	
Madeline Swegle	First known Black female tactical air pilot in the U.S. Navy's history	She is set to receive 'Wings of Gold'
Andrzej Duda	President, Poland	
Dr. Vidhu P. Nair	Next Ambassador to Turkmenistan	
Chan Santokhi	President, Suriname	Desi Bouterse
Ashok Lavasa	Vice President, Asian Development Bank	Diwakar Gupta
Brett Lee (Australian Cricketer)	Brand Ambassador, Sports Adda	
Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda	Prime Minister, Gabon (1 <sup>st</sup> female PM)	Appointed by the president of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba
Andrej Plenkovic	Incumbent Prime Minister, Croatia	
Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid	Interim Prime Minister, Somalia	Hassan Ali Khaire
Hichem Mechichi	Prime Minister, Tunisia	Elyes Fakhfakh
Jin Liqun	President, AIIB (Re-elected)	His second five-year term will begin on January 16, 2021
Hamed Bakayoko	Prime minister, Ivory Coast	Amadou Gon Coulibaly
Mohamed Irfaan Ali	President elect of Guyana	David Arthur(A.) Granger
Mahinda Rajapaksa	Elected PM of Sri Lanka	
Walter Roger Martos Ruiz	Prime Minister of Peru	Pedro Cateriano
Alexander Lukashenko	Belarusan President	Sixth consecutive term
Patanjali Jha	Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai	
Vikram Kumar Doraiswami	High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh	Riva Ganguly Das



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Shahzan Mujeeb (Indian Idol Season 11 Finalist and Oscar Nominated Playback Singer)	First Ever National Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign	Aligarh Municipal Corporation
Luis Rodolfo	President, Dominican Republic	
Assimi Goita	In charge of the West African country Mali.	
Dakar Francisco Asue	Prime minister, Equatorial Guinea	
Dr. Keith Rowley	Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago	
Akinwumi A. Adesina	President, African Development Bank Group	He was first elected as President of the Bank on May 28, 2015
Mustapha Adib	Prime Minister, Lebanon	Lebanon's ambassador to Germany
Dr Neena Malhotra	Ambassador of India to Italy	
Raj Kumar Srivastava	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia.	Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Tokyo
Dwayne Bravo	Brand ambassador, Sbotop	
Matthew Hayden, Lisa Singh	Trade envoys to India	Australian government
R. Masakui	High Commissioner of India to Jamaica	He is the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe
Manisha Kapoor	Secretary-General, Advertising Standards Council of India	
Preeti Sudan	One of its 11 panellists, World Health Organisation's independent panel for pandemic preparedness	
Jane Fraser	CEO, Citi group	Michael Corbat
Rajesh Khullar	Executive Director, World Bank	
Sameer Kumar Khare	Executive Director - Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila.	
Yoshihide Suga	Japan's Prime Minister	Shinzo Abe
Arun Srinivas	Director of Global Business Group, Facebook	



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Takeo Konishi	New Country Director for India	Kenichi Yokoyama
Bah Ndaw (Former Mali defense minister)	Interim President, Mali	Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta
Ishmael Toroama	President, Bougainville	
Mohamed Hussein Roble	Prime Minister, Somalia	
Alexander Lukashenko	President, Belarus (6 <sup>th</sup> term)	
Moctar Ouane	Prime Minister, Mali	
Devyani Uttam Khobragade	India's next ambassador to Cambodia	
South Korea's Yoo Myung-hee and Nigeria's Okonjo-Iweala	Nominated Next attorney-general, World Trade Organisation	
Bishr Al-Khasawneh	13th premier, Jordan	Omar Al-Razzaz
Saad Hariri	Prime Minister, Lebanon	
Sadyr Zhaparov	Acting PM, Kyrgyzstan	Kubatbek Boronov
Myktybek Abdyldaev	Speaker of the parliament, Kyrgyzstan	
Chaitanya Venkateswaran	British High Commissioner of India	Called the 'High Commissioner for a Day'
Constantina Dita	Ambassador, World Athletics Half Marathon Championships Gdynia 2020	Romania's 2008 Olympic champion
Vishal V Sharma	Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO	
Michael Irani	President, International Weightlifting Federation	
Jacinda Ardern	Prime Minister, New Zealand	
Lewis Hamilton	Global ambassador, LG Electronics	
Sushil Kumar Singhal	High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands	Presently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea
Wavel Ramkalawan	President, Seychelles	He defeated President Danny
Alpha Condé	President, Guinea	His main opponent - Cellou



**Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1**

		Dalein Diallo
Luis Alberto Arce Catacora	President, Bolivia	Carlos Mesa
Priyanca Radhakrishnan	Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, New Zealand	
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	India's Next Chief Information Commissioner	
Priyanca Radhakrishnan	Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, New Zealand	
Duarte Pacheco of Portugal	President, Inter Parliamentary Union	
Alassane Ouattara	President, Ivory Coast	
John Magufuli	President, Tanzania	
Joe Biden	46th president of the United States.	Donald Trump
Kamala Harris	Vice President, USA.	
Vidisha Maitra	UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	
Vjosa Osmani	Acting President, Kosovo	Hashim Thaci
Kash Patel	Chief of Staff , Acting US Defence Secretary	
Aung San Suu Kyi	First and incumbent State Counsellor, Myanmar	
Maia Sandu	President, Moldova	She is a former World Bank economist
Francisco Sagasti	Interim President, Peru	Manuel Merino
Greg Barclay (New Zealand)	New independent chairman of the International Cricket Council	
Mala Adiga	Jill Biden's Policy Director	She will be the first lady of USA
Roch Marc Christian Kabore	Burkina Faso's president	
Debendranath Sarangi	Vice President, World Squash Federation	President, Squash Rackets Federation of India
Dr Vivek Murthy	Surgeon General, Joe Biden Administration	



## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah	Prime Minister, Kuwait	
Zena Wooldridge	President, World Squash Federation	Jacques Fontaine of France
Annika Sorenstam	President, International Golf Federation	Peter Dawson
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Vice President, Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union	
Nana Akufo-Addo	President, Ghana	

### Resignation/Retirement

Name of the Person	Designation
Shashank Manohar	Chairman, ICC (Imran Khwaja will assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson)
Rahul Johri	CEO, BCCI
Elyes Fakhfakh	Prime Minister, Tunisia
Saba Karim	General Manager - Cricket operations, Indian Cricket Board
Rahul Bajaj	Chairman, Bajaj Finance
Hassan Diab	Prime Minister, Lebanon
Isher Judge Ahluwalia	Chairperson, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
Vinay Dube	CEO, GoAir
Ashok Lavasa	Vice-president, Asian Development Bank
Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta	President, Mali
Rajiv Srivastava	Managing Director and CEO, Indian Energy Exchange
Shinzo Abe	Prime Minister, Japan
Arun Kumar Mishra	Supreme Court judge
Rajiv B Lall	Non-executive chairman of IDFC First Bank
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Minister of Food Processing Industries
Mustapha Adib	Lebanon's prime minister
Uday Shankar	Chairman, Star & Disney India
Sooronbai Jeenbekov	President, Kyrgyzstan
Vineet Nayar	Executive Vice-Chairman, IL&FS Group

## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

Michel Aoun	President, Lebanon
Hashim Thaci	Kosovo President
Ajit Pai	Chief, Federal Communication Commission
Nicolae Ciuca	Prime Minister, Romania
M M Murugappan	Chairman, Tube and Cholamandalam Investments
Navneet Munot	Chief Investment Officer, SBI Funds Management

### 2 Agricultural experts from India named by UN chief to scientific group for 2021 food summit

- Prof Rattan Lal of Ohio State University and Dr Uma Lele of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) are among the Scientific Group Members named by UN President Guterres.
- Lal, a pre-eminent Indian-American soil scientist, was named last month as the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.
- Lal serves as distinguished university professor of Soil Science and founding Director of the Carbon Management and Sequestration Centre at The Ohio State University.
- Lele, the first woman to be awarded a PhD in agricultural economics by Cornell University, was elected President Elect of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in July 2018.
- Guterres, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Rome-based Agencies, will convene the Food Systems Summit in 2021, as a critical contribution to the Decade of Action to deliver the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Priyanka Chopra Chosen Ambassador for Toronto International Film Festival

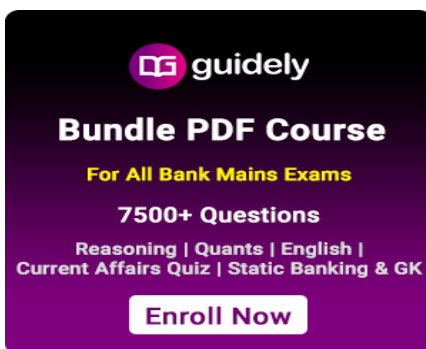
- Priyanka Chopra announced that she has been invited to be an ambassador to the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). PeeCee, who starred in the American television show Quantico and Hollywood flicks like Baywatch and Isn't it Romantic?, shared the news.
- Bollywood filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has also been chosen for TIFF 2020.
- Other ambassadors include Ava DuVernay, Darren Aronofsky, Taika Waititi, Nicole Kidman, Martin Scorsese, Nadine Labaki, Alfonso Cuarón, Tinto Brass, Riz Ahmed, Rian Johnson, Jason Reitman, Isabelle Huppert, Claire Denis, Atom Egoyan, Viggo Mortensen, Zhang Ziyi, David Oyelowo, Lulu Wang, Rosamund Pike, Sarah Gadon, and Denis Villeneuve.
- TIFF will take place between September 10 and 20 this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it will hold socially distanced physical screenings, drive-ins, virtual red carpets, and digital screenings.

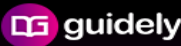
### Young Indian activist Archana Soreng named by UN chief to new advisory group on climate change

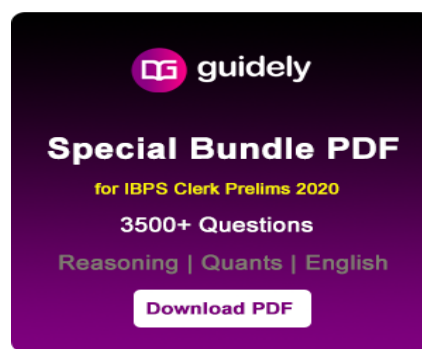


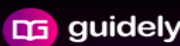
## Current Affairs Capsule for SBI/IBPS/RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Part 1

- A climate activist from India Archana Soreng has been named by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to his new advisory group comprising young leaders who will provide perspectives and solutions to tackle the worsening climate crisis, as the global body mobilises action as part of the COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- Archana Soreng joins six other young climate leaders from around the world are in the UN chief new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.
- Soreng is experienced in advocacy and research, and she is working to document, preserve, and promote traditional knowledge and cultural practices of indigenous communities.



  
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