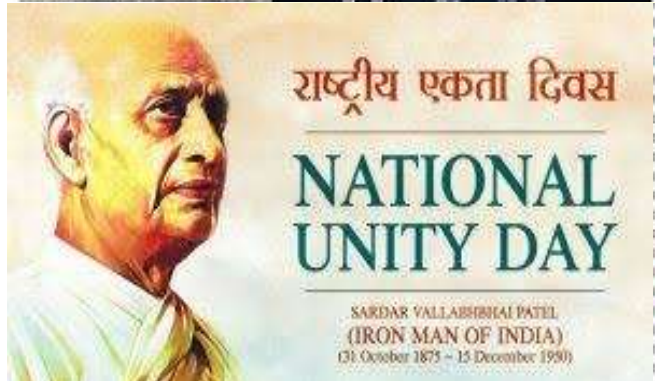
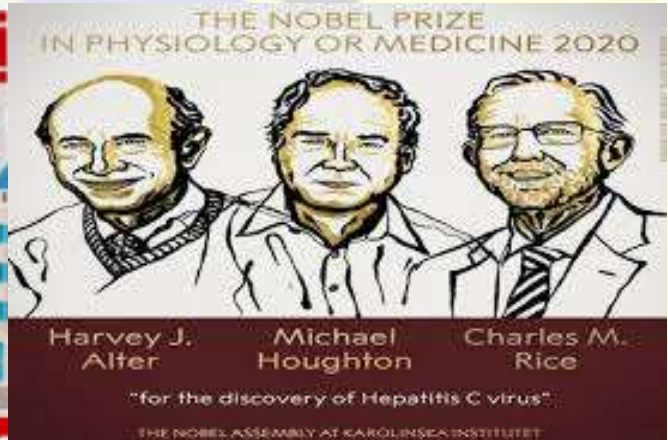


FundaMakers

OCTOBER – 2020 CURRENT AFFAIR



Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
The month of October is observed as breast cancer awareness month to increase awareness of the disease.		
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	Theme 2020 - "Leave No One Behind"
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	
October 1	International Coffee Day	
October 1	World Postcard Day	
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	This day is referred to as Gandhi Jayanti in India.
October 2 - 8	National Wildlife Week	Theme 2020 - "RoAR (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships"
October 4-10	World Space Week	Theme 2020 - "Satellites improve life"
October 4	World Animal Day	
October 5	World Teachers' Day	Theme 2020 - "Teachers: Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future"
October 5	Ganga River Dolphin Day	
October 5 (first Monday of October)	World Habitat Day	Theme 2020 - "Housing For All – A Better Urban Future"
October 7	World Cotton day	
October 8	Indian Air Force day	
October 8 (second Thursday of October)	World Sight Day	Theme 2020 - "Hope In Sight"
October 9	Indian Foreign Service Day	
October 9	World Post day	
October 9 to 15	National Postal Week	
October 9 (second Friday in October)	World Egg Day	
October 10 (second Saturday in May and October)	World Migratory Bird Day	Theme 2020 - "Birds Connect Our World"
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Theme 2020 - 'mental health for all'
October 10	World Day Against the Death Penalty	Theme 2020 - "Access to counsel – A matter of life or death."
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	Theme 2020 - "My voice, our equal future".
October 12	World Arthritis Day	Theme 2020 - "Time2Work"
October 13	International Day for Disaster Reduction	Theme 2020 - "Disaster risk governance"
October 14	National Philately Day	
October 14	World Standards Day	Theme 2020 - "Protecting the planet with standards"
October 14	International E-Waste Day	The WEEE Forum members have decided to focus the celebration on International E-Waste Day 2020 on the theme of education.
October 15	World Students' Day (birth anniversary of former President APJ Abdul Kalam)	Theme 2020 - 'learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace'
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Theme 2020 - "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19."
October 15	Global Handwashing Day	Theme 2020 - "Hand Hygiene for All,"
October 15	National Women Farmers' Day	
October 16	World Food Day	Theme 2020 - "Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future."

October 16-23 2020	India – International Food and Agri Week	The Ministry has started an awareness campaign named ‘Anna Devo Bhava’ to mark this occasion.
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Theme 2020 - “Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all”
October 17	World Trauma Day	
October 20	World Statistics Day	Theme 2020 - ‘connecting the world with data we can trust’
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	Campaign theme is “THAT’S OSTEOPOROSIS”
October 20	International Chef Day	Theme 2020 - ‘Healthy Food For the Future’.
October 21	Police Commemoration Day	
October 21	World Iodine Deficiency Day	
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Theme 2020 - “Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back”
October 23	International Snow Leopard Day	
October 24	United Nations Day	Theme 2020 - “The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism”
October 24	World Polio Day	Theme 2020 - “A win against polio is a win for global health”
October 24	World Development Information Day	Theme 2020 - “Information and Communications Technologies — New Solutions to Development Challenges”
October 24	International Day of Diplomats	
October 24 to 30	Disarmament Week	
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Theme 2020 - “Your Window to the World”
October 27 to Nov 2	Vigilance Awareness Week	Theme 2020 - “Satark Bharat, Samriddh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India)”
October 27	Infantry Day	
October 28	International Animation Day	
October 29	International Internet Day	
October 29	World Stroke Day	
October 31	National Unity Day	
October 31	World Cities Day	Theme 2020 - “Valuing our communities and cities”

MOU/Agreement Countries

- NITI Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi have signed a Statement of Intent to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.
- India and the Netherlands unveiled plans for a joint thrust in the e-health sector, with the aim of providing digital health facilities and security to every Indian.
- Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) Dr Jitendra Singh has invited the British Government and the private sector for exploiting huge business potential in North Eastern Region during the virtual meeting with officials of British High Commission.
- 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.
- The 8th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting was held through Video-Conference. The Meeting was co- chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Mexican counterpart Marcelo Ebrard. The two sides agreed that given their respective economic strengths, growing regional and global profile, India and Mexico will further work on strengthening their ‘Privileged Partnership’.

MOU Industry/States/Others

- Considering the importance of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS) in India’s fight against Climate Change and Global Warming, meeting the growing energy demands and building a strong ecosystem to meet commitments under Paris Agreement, Tata Steel and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) sign MoU to collaborate in the area of Carbon Capture, Utilisation & Storage (CCUS).

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.
- The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely – Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.
- A historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center and NCERT to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication, Indian Sign Language.
- Amazon India said it had partnered with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide their customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on its platform.
- 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.
- Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, 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.
- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) said that it had established a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC) with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to help address societal challenges through digital innovation.
- This is the first AWS Cloud Innovation Center in India, the 12th around the world, and the first AWS Center that will address societal challenges at a national level.
- Mastercard is partnering with Atlantis, a financial technology company headquartered in Singapore, to provide users with a technology solution that will enable them to enjoy a best-in-class digital banking experience.
- Stock exchange BSE said it has signed an agreement with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and startups, and promote their listing on the exchange.
- General insurance provider Acko has partnered with Finserv MARKETS, a fintech aggregator to offer two and four-wheeler insurance policies.
- Cochin Shipyard Limited and Fincantieri of Italy have signed an agreement to cooperate in shipbuilding, repairs and training.
- Microsoft collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to impart digital skills to more than one lakh underserved women in India over the next 10 months.

Appointments and Resignations

Name	Post	Other Info
Piyush Goyal	Additional charge of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	following the demise of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan
Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India	
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador of real estate developer Bengal Peerless Housing	
Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad, Al Sabah	Kuwait's emir	
Rinki Sethi	Information Security Head of Twitter	
M Rajeshwar Rao	4 th Deputy Governor of RBI	Replaces N S Vishwanathan Other 3 are - BP Kanungo, MK Jain and Micheal Patra
J Venkatramu	MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank	Replaces Suresh Sethi
Sashidhar Jagdishan	Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Bank	Replaces Aditya Puri
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Chairman of SBI	Replaces Rajnish Kumar
Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India	
Rajendra Prasad Goyal	CFO of NHPC Limited	
Arvind Hali	MD and CEO of Motilal Oswal Home Finance	
M A Ganapathy	Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)	
Nilesh Shah	Chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India	

Lewis Hamilton	Global Ambassador of LG Signature	
Dhanlaxmi Bank said that the RBI has approved a three-member interim committee of directors, to run the private sector bank after the shareholders voted out its MD and CEO Sunil Gurbaxani. The committee of directors (CoD) will be constituted with G Subramonia Iyer as chairman		
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the tenure of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R. K. Chhibber by another six months.		
Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has got extension of service till 22 nd August, 2021.		
The Central Government has further extended the term of Justice (ret'd) Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).		
In a truly remarkable development, a 16-year-old Finnish girl was made the country's Prime Minister. Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin handed her power to a 16-year-old girl Aava Murto as apart of a campaign to promote girls' rights in the country.		
Delhi girl Chaitanya Venkateswaran recently became the British high commissioner to India for a day.		
Bhuvan Bam	First digital brand ambassador of Myntra	
Ajinkya Rahane	Brand ambassador and advisor of Hudle	
Priyanka Chopra Jonas	Brand Ambassador of B-Fizz, a Parle Agro product	
Manoj Kumar	CMD of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	
Akbar Ebrahim	President of Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India	
Farooq Ahmed	Vice-President of Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India	
Dhruv Bahl	Chief operating officer (COO) of BharatPe	
Gurdeep Singh	Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC Ltd	
Vishal V Sharma	India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO	Succeeds Jawed Ashraf
Raj Kiran Rai G	Chairman of Indian Banks' Association	He is Union Bank of India's MD and CEO
Seema Mustafa	President of the Editors Guild of India	Succeeds Shekhar Gupta
Sanjay Kapoor	General Secretary of the Editors Guild of India	
General Secretary	Treasurer of the Editors Guild of India	
Rohan Jaitley	President of Delhi and District Cricket Association	
Bimal Julka	Chairman of Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports	
Kabir Ahmed Shakir	Chief Financial Officer of Tata Communications	Succeeds Pratibha K Advani
Michael Irani (Indian)	Interim President of International Weightlifting Federation	
Constantina Dita (from Romania)	Ambassador for the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships to be held in Gdynia	
Jacinda Ardern	Prime Minister of New Zealand	
Sadyr Zhaparov	Acting PM of Kyrgyzstan	
Bishr al-Khasawneh	Prime Minister of Jordan	
Saad Hariri	Prime Minister of Lebanon	
Wavel Ramkalawan	President of Seychelles	
Alpha Conde	President of Guinea	
Luis Arce Catacora	President of Bolivia	
Resignations		
Jordan's Prime Minister Omar al Razzaz submitted his resignation to Jordan's King Abdullah.		
Uday Shankar, president of Walt Disney Company APAC and chairman, Star & Disney India, has decided to step down to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors. The resignations will be effective as of December 31,2020.		
The president of the Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan, Sooronbai Jeenbekov resigned.		

Awards and Recognitions

Award Name	Person/Institution
'Gandhi' Award instituted by the Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation.	Sanjay Singh
Sarala Puraskar	Odia poet Nityananda Nayak for his poetry work 'Setebelaku Nathiba', published in 2017.
Top Stand-Alone University in India for filling highest number of patents in a year	Chandigarh University Gharuan (as per Intellectual Property India annual report)
Wildlife Photographer of the Year award	Aishwarya Sridhar (She is first Indian woman to win the award, won for her photograph titled 'Lights of Passion')
GOLD Stevie® Award	Seema Gupta, Director (Operations), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
2020 Central bank of the year award	Bank of Ghana
2020 Governor of the year	Mark Joseph Carney (Governor of Bank of England)
Safest Bank in Asia (by New York- based trade publication Global Finance)	DBS Bank headquartered Singapore
Goldman Sachs and Fortune Global Women Leaders award	Rayana Edwards, the South African who started a project to empower women to recycle saris into internationally-acclaimed fashion garments, and Emma Dicks, founder of CodeSpace Academy, a coding school.
BBC national short story	Sarah Hall (first writer to win the BBC national short story award twice). Hall, who previously took the £15,000 prize in 2013, won the annual competition again for The Grotesques, a "timeless and unsettling" story

Recognitions

Ravi Santhanam, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO), HDFC Bank has been recognised in the Forbes list of 'The World's Most Influential CMOs'.

Ranked at Number 39, he is the only CMO of an Indian company to be featured in the illustrious list which includes marketing heads of Apple, BMW, Lego, Adobe, Microsoft, P&G among others.

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has bestowed a lifetime achievement award to Indian business icon Ratan Tata at a closed-door meeting, owing to ongoing pandemic.

Iqbal Singh Chahal, I.A.S., Municipal Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, was honoured with Global 'Covid Crusader Award-2020' by the Indo American Chamber of Commerce(IACC) in the Indian Bureaucrats Category.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade launched an online discovery platform called 'Startup India Showcase' to spread awareness about and capture the details of some of India's most promising startups.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Limited, remains the wealthiest Indian for the 13th consecutive year on Forbes India list, which has recently been released.

Top 5 list:

- Mukesh Ambani (88.7 billion dollar)
- Gautam Adani (25.2 billion dollar)
- Shiv Nadar (20.4 billion dollar)
- Radhakishan Damani (15.4 billion dollar)
- Hinduja brothers (12.8 billion dollar)

Eight beaches in India have been awarded the coveted 'Blue Flag' certification by an eminent international jury, which comprises members of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The beaches selected for the certification are: Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

Dr Jajini Varghese, a UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, has been named an 'Outstanding Young

Person of the World 2020' by a non-profit NGO for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.

Managing Director of TRIFED Pravir Krishna (IAS) has been awarded CEO of the Year and Visionary Leadership Award in the virtual edition of National Awards for Excellence in PSU for Investment in Start-UPS.

Anika Chebrolu, a 14-year-old Indian-American girl has won 3M Young Scientist Challenge (a USD 25,000 young scientist challenge) for a discovery that could provide a potential treatment for COVID-19.
Rakayet Ul Karim Nakim, a native of Chittagong, Bangladesh, has won the 12th edition of the Greenstorm International Nature Photography Contest conducted in association with UNEP in connection with the World Environment Day. Rakayet Ul Karim Rakim won the first prize for his capture of a butterfly poised on a cactus, ready for flight.
India-assisted Mangdechhu hydroelectric project in Bhutan has been awarded the prestigious Brunel Medal for excellence in civil engineering by the UK-based Institute of Civil Engineers. The run-of-river power plant, built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan at a cost of Rs 4,500-crore, is seen as a symbol of friendship between the two countries.
Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE), an Indian organisation that leverages tourism and technology to help remote communities access solar energy has won a prestigious UN award for its efforts to combat climate change amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Kani Kusurthi bagged the award for the best actress, while Suraj Venjaramoodu adjudged the best actor at the 50th state film awards announced by Kerala Culture minister A K Balan.
- Fahad Fasil secured the best male actor award in a character role for a negative personality he played in the movie 'Kumbalangi Nights', while Swasika the best female actress in a character role for 'Vasanthi'.
- The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR, has released the names of 14 scientists who have been awarded Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020.
- Two Professors, one from IIT Kharagpur, Dr Abhijit Mukherjee and Dr Bushra Ateeq from IIT Kanpur are among the recipients of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize.
- Others who have received awards include, Dr Shubhadeep Chatterjee from Centre for DNA fingerprinting and diagnostics, Dr Vatsala Thirumalai from National Centre for Biological Sciences, Dr Jyotirmayee Dash from Indian Association for the cultivation of science, Dr Suryendu Dutta from IIT Bombay, Dr Subi Jacob George from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific, Dr Kinshuk Dasgupta from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Dr Ritesh Agarwal from PGIMER Chandigarh, Dr Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni, Dr Surajit Dhara from the University of Hyderabad.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat gave away the **Swachh Bharat Awards-2020** to States, Districts, Blocks and Village Panchayats. The awards were given particularly under the drinking water and cleanliness categories.
- Under the Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category Gujarat bagged the first position at state level whereas Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu got the Award for cleanliness at District Level. Khachrod block in Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh was awarded the first position and Chinnanur Village in Tamil Nadu bagged the top slot at Gram Panchayat level.
- Under the Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh were awarded as the best performing states whereas Prayagraj and Bareilly got it for being the best performing districts.
- Under the Gandagi Mukth Bharat Mission, Haryana and Telangana were awarded the top slot.
- Fleet Award Function (FAF), 2020 was organised to mark the successful culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.
- The most coveted trophies of Best Ship were awarded to INS Sahyadri amongst Capital ships and INS Kora amongst Corvettes and similar classes of ships. Indian Naval Ships Airavat and Kiltan jointly bagged the 'Best Spirited Ship' displaying indomitable spirit and grit whilst undertaking a plethora of challenging missions.
- Prince William and Sir David Attenborough launched the Earthshot Prize, which offers £50m (US\$65m) in funding for solutions to the environmental and climate crises.
- For the first time since the inception of the framework agreement of ISA, Solar Awards were conferred on countries of the region as well as institutions working for solar.
- The awards went to Japan for the Asia Pacific region and the Netherlands for Europe and other regions.
- The awards named after Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya to the representatives of the countries of Japan, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The winners received USD 12,330 prize money.
- Kalpana Chawla awards received by Dr Bhim Singh from IIT Delhi (India) and Dr Aesha Alnuaimi from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (United Arab Emirates).
- Diwakar award won by the Arpan Institute (Haryana) and Arushi Society.
- Late actor Om Puri was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the third India International Film Festival of Boston (IIFFB 2020).
- The Best Feature Film Award went to the Malayalam film "Kaanthi". The Best Actor (male) in a feature film award

went to Victor Bannerjee for his portrayal of a priest in “Josef: Born In Grace”. The Best Actor (female) award was given to Shylaja Ambu who played the part of the tribal mother in “Kaanthi”.

- The Best Short Film award went to the Iranian film “Better Than Neil Armstrong”, while “Baitullah” was adjudged Best Film With A Social Cause.
- Another highlight of the festival was a conversation with chef Vikas Khanna, recipient of the “Pride of India Award”.
- The Orations & Awards Committee of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), has selected Dr Satish Mishra, Principal Scientist, Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow for “Dr.Tulsi Das Chugh Award” for the year 2020 in recognition of his research work on Malaria parasite’s life cycle which is a complex process involving two hosts and three invasive stages.
- A six year old Bangladeshi boy Anzar Mustaeen Ali won a special prize of USD 1000 for his artwork in the global art competition organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Nobel Prizes 2020

- **Physiology or Medicine** has been awarded to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice “for the discovery of Hepatitis C virus,” the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet announced in Stockholm, Sweden.
- **Physics** has been awarded to Roger Penrose for black hole discovery and Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez for discovering “a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy.”
- Chemistry has been awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping “scissors.”
- Literature has been awarded to poet Louise Glück cited for “her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”. She has become the first American woman to win the Nobel prize for literature in 27 years.
- Peace Prize has been awarded to the World Food Program for its efforts to combat hunger and food insecurity around the globe.
- The 2020 Nobel Prize in Economics, also called the Memorial Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economics, has been awarded to a pair of Stanford professors – Professor Paul R Milgrom and Professor Robert B Wilson for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
- Ales Bialiatski of Belarus and his NGO Viasna, Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran, Bryan Stevenson of the United States and indigenous rights and environmental activist Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua share the **Right Livelihood Award (the alternative Nobel Prize)**.

Conference and Summits

<i>Summit</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Extra Knowledge</i>
The 12th BRICS Summit will be held on 17th November 2020 via video conference. The theme of the Meeting of the Leaders of BRICS countries is “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”.		
Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Quad group countries-Japan, the United States, Australia and India	Tokyo, Japan	
Annual Meeting 2021 of World Economic Forum (WEF)	Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland	as against the traditional venue of ski resort town Davos
7th meeting of Ministers of (Law and) Justice of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States	Virtually hosted by India	
3rd bilateral two plus two Ministerial Dialogue between India and US	New Delhi	
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade	India (virtually)	

International News

- India will build a 100-bedded cancer hospital and a 22,000-seater cricket stadium in Hulhumale, Maldives, under the USD 800 million Line of Credit (LoC) that was extended to the country last year.
- India has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and France as the Co- President for a term of two years.

- 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.
- India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in Near East.
- 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 will hand over INS Sindhuvir, a Kilo class submarine to the Myanmar Navy, the Ministry of External Affairs announced. INS Sindhuvir will be the first submarine of Myanmar.
- After 35 years, India has assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of International Labour Organization, ILO.
- Labour and Employment Secretary, Apurva Chandra, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020- June 2021.
- The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has introduced two new awards totalling \$5 million to Catalyst Management Service's COVID Action Collaborative (CAC) and the Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence as a part of the US authorities's help to India's Covid-19 response.
- This financial assistance brings USAID's COVID-19 assistance to India to over \$13 million.
- The constellation of maritime surveillance satellites for the Indian Ocean Region, to be jointly launched by India and France, will be able to trace illegal spillage of oil by ships.
- The World Bank said that the coronavirus pandemic could push as many as 150 million people into extreme poverty by the end of 2021, wiping out more than three years of progress in poverty reduction.
- Argentina has approved HB4 drought-resistant GMO wheat, making it the first country in the world to approve a strain of GMO wheat.
- In Singapore, online government services can now be accessed by facial recognition — a world first.
- 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, 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.
- In the list that features 36 countries across the globe, India stands at 28th position as per the percentage of money, people would pay on a plate of food compared to their salaries.
- Israel Embassy 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.
- Passenger train services from Dhaka to Siliguri are planned to be started from 26 March next year.
- Andorra (officially the Principality of Andorra) has joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to become its 190th member.
- The North Atlantic Treaty organization(NATO) is to setup a new Space Centre in Ramstein, Germany. The centre is to serve as a co-ordination Centre for space observation.
- 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.
- Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has said that the country will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 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.

National News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a campaign on Jan Andolan for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour in view of the upcoming festivals and winter season as well as the opening up of the economy.
- 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.
- As per the directives of Railway Board, the staff of Railway Protection Force in Vijayawada Division launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative in Train No.07225 Amaravathi Express between Vijayawada-Hubli. The main motto of this 'Meri Saheli' initiative is to provide a safe and secure environment to lady passengers travelling in trains throughout their journey.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a five-day global virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The

Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE 2020) summit organized by the Government of India in partnership with Industry and Academia.

- IBM announced the creation of an AI centre of excellence in partnership with the government e-marketplace during the inaugural session of RAISE 2020 virtual summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit, organised for the overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians.
- 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).
- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda virtually launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is embarking on a Sanitation Literacy Campaign (SLC) from October 2 to promote literacy on 'WASH' (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in 2,000 villages across the country covering one lakh rural population.
- The objective of the campaign, which would continue till January 26, 2021, is to focus on inculcating significant behavioural changes towards adapting good hygiene and sanitation practices.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has disbursed Rs 12,298 crore so far under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) for construction of 3.29 crore household toilets. To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the development finance institution has launched a nationwide sanitation literacy campaign.
- In a bid to promote sustainable and healthy lifestyle in rural areas, 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.
- To offer a safe passage to wildlife on the under-construction Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, five "animal overpasses" on the lines of "ecoducts" in the Netherlands are being planned, a first such effort in the country.
- These have been planned to ensure there are no disturbances to the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor connecting Ranthambore and Mukundra (Darrah) wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan.
- Tamil Nadu and Arunachal Pradesh have been integrated with existing national portability cluster of 26 States and UTs under One Nation One Ration Card.
- Under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, had launched the Application Programming Interface (API) integration between the PM SVANidhi Portal and the State Bank of India (SBI) portal.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal trade launched an online discovery platform called 'Startup India Showcase' to spread awareness about and capture the details of some of India's most promising startups.
- 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. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scheme to distribute property cards under the Svamitva scheme through video conference.
- The scheme aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of ₹75 denomination to mark the long-standing relation of India with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- Recalling the legacy of Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia on her birth centenary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs 100 in her honour.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Leave Travel Concession (LTC) cash voucher scheme and a special festival advance of Rs 10,000 to all government employees to increase consumer spending.
- Under this LTC Cash Voucher Scheme, government employees can opt to receive cash amounting to leave encashment, plus three times ticket fare, to buy items which attract a GST of 12 percent or more before March 31, 2021. Only digital transactions allowed, GST invoice to be produced.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 73 thousand crore rupees to stimulate consumer spending in the economy in an effort to fight the slowdown due to COVID-19 pandemic following lockdown.
- The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States - STARS project. The total project cost is Rs. 5,718 crore with the financial support of World Bank amounting to 500 million US dollar.

- The Central Government borrowed and transferred 6000 crore rupees as first tranche to 16 States and two Union Territories.
- Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said that the aim of the government is to make India Trans Fat free by 2022, a year ahead of target set by World Health Organization.
- 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.
- It has also been decided to celebrate the week of October 15th to 23rd as 'Intellectual Property Literacy Week'.
- India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, but there are wide inequalities between states, according to a new study which assessed more than 286 causes of death and 369 diseases and injuries in more than 200 countries and territories across the world.
- The study, published in the Lancet journal, noted that life expectancy in India has risen from 59.6 years in 1990 to 70.8 years in 2019, ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme which has been formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- Mr. Tomar announced that NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of 10 thousand crore in the coming years.
- Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) Portal (arhc.mohua.gov.in) under PM Awas Yojana via a webinar.
- India recorded the highest annual average PM 2.5 concentration exposure in the world last year, according to the State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report which was released by US-based Health Effects Institute and Global Burden of Disease (GBD).
- India was followed by Nepal, Niger, Qatar and Nigeria in high PM 2.5 exposures. This means people in India are exposed to the highest PM 2.5 concentrations globally.
- 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.
- Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to develop at least 100 airports, waterdromes and heliports by 2024 under the regional air connectivity scheme.
- 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. The footwear have been launched in 15 designs for ladies and 10 designs for men and their prices are in the range of Rs. 1100 to Rs. 3300 per pair.
- The third phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) will kickstart in January 2021, taking computing speed to around 45 petaflops.
- The Rs 4,500 crore-National Supercomputers Mission (NSM) envisages nearly 50 supercomputers across the country in three phases.
- Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C), virtually launched 'Life in Miniature' project, a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture.
- Hundreds of miniature paintings from the National Museum's collections can now be seen through the Google Arts & Culture app.
- Ministry of Union Housing and Urban Affairs has recently launched the 'e-Dharti Geo Portal' which will integrate legacy drawings such as maps and lease plans in the management information system. It will allow the data to become geographic information system (GIS)-enabled.
- Election Commission of India constituted a committee to examine the issues concerning the expenditure limit for candidates for Lok Sabha and assembly polls.
- The committee is comprised of Harish Kumar, Ex. IRS and DG (Investigation), Umesh Sinha, Secretary-General and DG (Expenditure).
- The Department of Posts released a commemorative postage stamp in the presence of External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- Prime Minister Modi e-dedicated country's biggest cardiac hospital at U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Center and launched a Mobile Application for tele-cardiology at Civil Hospital campus in Ahmedabad.
- He also launched the world's longest temple ropeway project at Girnar in Junagadh.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur and National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) have signed a pact to share their expertise for betterment of highway infrastructure.

- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare. These centers were launched in collaboration between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art of Living through video conference.
- The one Center will be engaged in the field of training tribal farmers in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra on sustainable natural farming while the second one will be working towards strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions in 5 districts covering 30 Gram Panchayats and 150 villages of Jharkhand.
- Shipping minister Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated a direct port entry (DPE) facility at V.O. Chidambaranar port trust, a development aimed at expediting cargo movement.
- Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu will get a vulture conservation and breeding centre each, according to the Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025.
- NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India (QCI) launched the 'National Program and Project Management Policy Framework' (NPPMF), with the aim of bringing radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India. It was launched by Union Minister for Street Transport & Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari assured that the ongoing construction of the bridge over the river Feni in southeastern Bangladesh and Tripura state to be completed by December this year. Gadkari said this while laying the foundation stones of nine highway projects in Tripura to be built at over Rs 2,752 crore.
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) and the Archaeological Survey of India have signed an agreement with two institutions from Italy, seeking restoration and protection of historical monuments.
- Kabartal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) have been designated as Ramsar sites, making them 'Wetlands of International Importance'.

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy along with Union Ministers launched the door delivery of fertilisers to farmers, PoS (Point of sale) version, and SMS gateway from Rythu Bharosa Kendras.
- An initiative was launched by the government to promote innovation and entrepreneurship amongst SC students in higher education campuses.
- The programme named Ambedkar Social Innovation Incubation Mission (ASIIM) was launched by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- The main objectives of ASIIM also include promoting entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs, supporting (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024.
- The United States Agency for International Development in India has been selected for funding from the White House-led Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative and it will collaborate with SEWA Bharat to support women entrepreneurs using the funding amount.
- CM 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 which is scheduled to begin from November 2.
- CM launched the YSR Bima scheme, which would benefit 1.41 crore families by providing insurance cover. The state government will be paying Rs 510 crore every year as a premium, despite the central government having withdrawn from the scheme.

Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh is poised to feature on country's aviation map with a greenfield airport at Hollongi. With estimated cost of 650 crore rupees, the project includes the development work, construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal Building and city side works.
- Amid face-off between the Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for the strategically important Nechiphu tunnel at West Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh via video conferencing.
- In its continuous endeavor to cover more workers under ESI Scheme, the Centre has extended the Employees' State Insurance, ESI Scheme to Arunachal Pradesh from 1st of next month.
- A war memorial has come up in at Bum La in Arunachal Pradesh. Joginder Singh of 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt received the highest gallantry award, 'Param Vir Chakra' in the Eastern Theatre during the 1962 Sino- India War.

Assam

- Assam govt launched a portal 'Kritagyata' an online pension submission and tracking system. With the help of the portal, the retired government employee, besides submitting pension related papers on line will get opportunity to check the status of his pension. The portal has been created in line with the 'Bhabhisya' portal of Government of

India.

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched “Swa-nirbhar Naari:Atmanirbhar Asom” scheme in a bid to empower the economically disadvantaged women of the State in a programme organized by Panchayat & Rural Development Department at Chandrapur in Kamrup (Metro) district.
- Assam govt. launched the Kisan Rath (fruits and vegetables) mobile application to facilitate timely selling of agriculture products by promoting buyer-seller network in a programme held at the Assam Administrative Staff College.
- Locals in Bongaigaon celebrated the Kati Bihu festival in Assam. Kati Bihu is celebrated on the first day of ‘Kati’ month in Assamese calendar.
- The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for India’s first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam.
- The multi-modal logistic park will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 700 crores at Bongaigaon district. The park has been developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Central Government.
- Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Assam Agar International Trade Centre, which is the first of its kind in the country at Dabidubi in Golaghat district.
- The Tribal Affairs Ministry launched an initiative that focuses on imparting entrepreneurship and business skills to tribals in Chhattisgarh.
- The initiative, Tech For Tribals, was launched in association with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT, Kanpur.

Delhi

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a mega anti-air pollution campaign “Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh”, saying polluted air can be life threatening in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the “DBT-BIRAC Clean Tech Demo Park” at Barapullah drain site, near Sundial Park, Sarai Kale Khan, New Delhi in a virtual event.
- The Delhi Cabinet at a meeting approved the ‘Tree Transplantation Policy’ for the preservation of trees in the Capital. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the Cabinet also gave its nod for the installation of the second smog tower in the world at Connaught Place within ten months.
- Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a new anti-pollution campaign ‘Red Light On, Gaadi Off’ under which people will be encouraged to switch engines of their vehicles off while waiting at traffic signals.
- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the ‘Green Delhi’ App to increase citizen participation in Delhi’s fight against pollution and ensure timely action against pollution sources in the city.

Goa

- The Goa government released an action plan to support agriculture and animal husbandry under its “Aatmanirbhar” programme.
- The government has announced a series of initiatives under the ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Swayampoorna Goa programme’ (ABSGP) including promoting dairy and poultry farming.
- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched DISHTAVO(Digital Integrated System for Holistic Teaching And Virtual Orientations), an online learning platform involving YouTube channel, which is first of its kind initiative in the country.
- DISHTAVO is a comprehensive and holistic program to create e-content in the form of video lectures of syllabus pertaining to the colleges affiliated to the Goa University.
- Goa has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household.
- In the country’s first and unique drive, the Goa Agriculture department has collaborated with the Postal Department to enroll 11,000 farmers, eligible to avail the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN), under which small and marginal farmers get up to Rs 6,000 per year as minimum income support.

Gujarat

- Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad has launched ‘Radio Prison’ on the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation.
- The Gujarat Chief Minister released the sanction letters to two farmer producer organisations (FPOs) for a 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.
- To ensure optimum utilisation of technology for public welfare in rural areas, the state government has decided to start ‘Digital Seva Setu’ programme in all the 14,000 gram panchayats in the state.

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development -NABARD has inked three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Public Sector Bank- State Bank of India(SBI) to extend credit support for various projects in Gujarat.
- Gujarat government has announced the setting up of the world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district. The project with the investment of Rs.10 thousand crore will also have a State- of-the-art Research and Development Centre.
- Chief Minister Vijaybhairu Rupani virtually unveiled projects worth Rs 201.6 crore of Surat Manpa and Suda, including the expansion of BRTS Corridor. With this, Surat became the city with the longest BRTS corridor in the country.
- PM Modi launched the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana for providing 16 hours of power supply to farmers. Under the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana farmers will get 3 phase power supply from 5 AM to 9 PM and will bring a new dawn in their lives. FPOs, Panchayats and all such organizations are assisted in setting up small solar plants on barren lands and that irrigation pumps of farmers are also connected to the solar energy.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat, inaugurated as many as 17 new projects including new tourist attractions near the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya in Narmada district.
- Modi first inaugurated Arogya Van (health forest''), spread over 17 acres with a wide range of medicinal plants. He also inaugurated a Children Nutrition Park, dubbed as the world's first such technology-driven theme park developed over 35,000 square meters. Its primary objective is to make children understand the importance of nutritious food.
- Modi then inaugurated Jungle Safari, a state-of-the- art Zoological Park spread across 375 acres and seven levels.
- The PM then inaugurated Ekta Cruise'', a ferry boat service which would cover the distance of 6 km from Shrestha Bharat Bhavan to the Statue of Unity within 40 minutes.
- Other projects inaugurated by the PM included a navigation channel in Narmada river to facilitate boating, Garudeshwar weir downstream on the river, a new bridge across the river near Gora village, a bus bay terminus, home-stay facility for tourists and eco-tourism project near Khalwani village.
- Late in the evening, the PM inaugurated the Unity Glow Garden, the first of its kind in India, developed in 3.61 acres with a glimmering array of illuminated installations.
- Lastly, Modi inaugurated the Cactus Garden spread in 25 acres on the opposite bank of the river. It is home to more than 450 species with a total of 6 lakh plants.

Haryana

- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar digitally launched 'Gram Darshan', which will allow accessibility to data of development projects of 6,197 gram panchayats of the state.
- The Haryana government has launched a mobile water testing laboratory van, fully equipped with a multi- parameter system containing analysers, sensor, probes and instruments meant for assessing water quality, the Jal Shakti Ministry said.

Himachal Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the strategically important Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang.

Jammu & Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha announced the 'My Town My Pride' programme, starting from October 19, as a part of the public outreach initiative "in J&K's towns to deliver services at doorsteps to the urban population".
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the first blasting for construction related work at the 14.15 km Zojila tunnel, one of the longest in Asia, that will provide all-year connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh.
- The JK Government signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with online store Flipkart to provide a platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers to reach customers across the globe.
- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first UT in the country to operationalize Public Financial Management System (PFMS) at the district level with e-inauguration of eight district offices by Additional Controller General of Accounts, Subodh Kumar Mathur.

Karnataka

- The Karnataka cabinet granted approval to implement the Bhagyalakshmi scheme, which provides financial security to girl child of BPL families, through Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana of the postal department instead of LIC.

Kerala

- 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.

- The state cabinet decided to set up the board to be known as ‘Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board’.
- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has declared the state public education sector completely digital as Kerala has become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms in all its public schools.
- Kerala’s first water taxi service launched in the backwaters of Alappuzha. The water taxi is set to ferry passengers.
- Kerala became the first state to fix the floor price for vegetables, which would be 20 per cent above the production cost.
- On the lines of IPL cricket, a unique Plastic Premier League (PPL) tournament is being played in Indore, Madhya Pradesh to free the city from single use plastic.

Maharashtra

- A 20-bed tribal unit of the National Institute of Naturopathy was inaugurated in Pune’s Ambegaon tehsil by Union AYUSH minister Shripad Naik. It would provide free clinical services to the tribal population in the area.
- After performing the most difficult task of providing nutritional food to 74 lakh beneficiaries during Corona pandemic, Maharashtra’s Women and Child welfare department has launched a new initiative ‘TARANG SUPOSHIT MAHARASHTRACHA’ to fulfill the nutritional requirements of lactating mothers and children in the state.

Meghalaya

- The Meghalaya government has joined hands with Israel for setting up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on high value vegetables in the state in a bid to improve and promote the livelihoods of farmers.
- Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma launched the ‘micro ATM’ service in rural areas of the state.

Mizoram

- In Mizoram, the state government has decided to observe ‘COVID-19 – No Tolerance Fortnight’ beginning from 26th October as a containment measure to flatten the curve of Covid-19 in the state.

Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a slum upgradation programme to make the state slum free in three years.
- On the occasion of World Postcard Day, the Chief Postmaster General, Odisha Circle, released a picture postcard named “Jau Kandhei” on the theme of ‘Traditional Toys of India’.
- The Odisha government, launched the ‘Sujal-Drink from Tap Mission’ in the state’s capital, Bhubaneswar and Masani Chandi in Puri to provide quality drinking water which would be suitable for consumption from the tap.
- With this initiative, Odisha has become “the first state in the country to provide quality drinking water, fit for direct consumption, in urban areas.”
- CM launched an electricity consumer service portal Mo Bidyut and its mobile app to provide efficient, time-bound and transparent online service to the people of the State.
- The Odisha Government will pay the Indian Rugby Football Union (also known as Rugby India) ₹3 crore as sponsor of National teams over three years.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched ‘Odisha State Scholarship Portal’ and ‘Sumangal Portal’. The former portal is to help eligible students of the state to avail scholarship benefits in a seamless and transparent manner, while the latter one is to help people avail inter-caste marriage incentives.

Puducherry

- Puducherry airport has become the Airports Authority of India’s (AAI) first entirely solar-powered airport in the country with the commissioning of 500KWp ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore.

Punjab

- The Punjab Cabinet cleared the decks for the state 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.

Rajasthan

- A toll-free government helpline for mental health “Mann Samvad” was launched by Health Minister Raghu Sharma in Rajasthan.
- The helpline 1800-180-0018 launched by the state government to continuously strengthening mental health services during the coronavirus period.

- The Rajasthan police launched a campaign 'AAWAJ' — Action Against Women-related crime and Awareness for Justice to spread awareness among woman about the crime against them and to educate them of their rights and ways to secure justice if they end up becoming its victims.
- The IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup and World Economic Forum's technology pioneer, Stellapps, launched announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind, fully-automated direct payment platform 'mooPay' for dairy farmers in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan.

Sikkim

- The famous red-hot cherry pepper of Sikkim, which is known as Dalle Khursani, has earned the geographical indication (GI) tag from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Tamil Nadu

- Guidance, nodal investment promotion and facilitation agency of the state of Tamil Nadu has partnered with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to establish India's first advanced manufacturing hub (AMHUB) in Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu government is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure better teaching environment.
- Young Advocates Welfare Fund was launched aimed at helping such fresh candidates to withstand the initial challenges.

Telangana

- The Telangana government along with Global Linker, has signed an MoU with the Bombay Stock Exchange to help MSMEs raise equity funds.
- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao launched 'Dharani' Portal for land and property registrations at Mudu Chinatalapalli.

Uttar Pradesh

- 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.
- Zurich Airport International has signed the concession agreement for the development of Jewar Airport on the outskirts of Delhi, India. The first phase of Noida International Airport is expected to be completed in 2024.
- The Uttar Pradesh government will dedicate the coming Navratra festival to women's safety, dignity and empowerment by launching "Mission Shakti".
- Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath emphasised upon the sanitation practice of hand washing while launching a 'Hath dhona, Roke corona' campaign on the occasion of the Global Handwashing Day.
- Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel launched the 'Safe City Project', a 180-day-long campaign under which the police and other departments will work towards safety of women in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- In a major decision related to women security in the state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has ordered to establish women help desks in each and every police station of state.

Uttarakhand

- 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 Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun is the first wetland from Uttarakhand, to be recognised by Ramsar.
- With this new addition, the country's wetlands tally now stands at 38, the highest in South Asia.
- CM inaugurated Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana) in the state in partnership with NABARD.

West Bengal

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the Pathashree Abhijan, a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers across the state will be repaired.
- To keep a check on the declining numbers of elephants in the state, the West Bengal government launched marketing campaign to prevent deaths of elephants from electrocution.

Finance and Banking News

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- The Finance Ministry said banks have sanctioned loans of about Rs 1.86 lakh crore to 50 lakh business units under the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector, impacted by slowdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fixed the minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) size for housing finance companies at Rs 25 crore.
- The housing finance companies (HFCs) holding a Certificate of Registration (CoR) and having an NOF of less than Rs 25 crore will be required to achieve NOF of Rs 15 crore by March 31, 2022 and Rs 25 crore by March 31, 2023.
- The RBI further said that it would be incumbent upon such HFCs whose NOF currently stands below Rs 20 crore to submit a statutory auditor's certificate to the central bank within a month evidencing compliance with the prescribed levels.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shared final guidelines for housing finance companies (HFC) highlighting that these NBFCs should have at least 60% of their net assets deployed in the business of providing finance for housing by March 31, 2024.
- The RBI has excluded six public sector banks, including OBC and Allahabad Bank, from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act following their merger with other banks.
- The six banks are Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India deferred implementation of provisions made under Basel III capital due to uncertainty related to Covid crisis.
- The RBI had earlier deferred the implementation by six months from 31 March 2020. The RBI has now deferred it for a second time to 1 April 2021.
- In a bid to increase credit flow to small businesses, the RBI raised banks' maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to entities with turnover up to ₹50 crore to ₹7.5 crore, up from ₹5 crore.
- In another notification, the RBI said it has 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. Banks may continue to hold such excess SLR securities in HTM category upto March 31, 2022.
- Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled its IB-eNote facility, aimed at providing a paperless working environment and to improve the turnaround time considerably.
- Indian Bank also unveiled 'Ind Guru', an e-learning platform for its employees that offers technology-enabled solutions aimed at capacity building.
- SBI Card has joined hands with American Express to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India.
- Under this agreement, SBI Card's top-end products SBI Card ELITE and SBI Card PRIME will be available on American Express' global network.
- SBI Card launched a contactless multi-purpose card in partnership with Delhi Metro that can function as a credit card as well as a metro smart card.
- 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) on the platform from November onwards.
- The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) signed loan agreements totaling about Rs 11,000 crore with the State Bank of India (SBI) and NTPC in support of India's manufacturing and renewable energy sectors.
- SBI signed an agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a loan worth USD 1 billion (around Rs 7,403 crore). Of the total loan amount, USD 600 million will be financed by JBIC and USD 400 million by other participating banks – SMBC, MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank, Shizuoka Bank and Bank of Yokahama.
- The Japanese lender also signed an agreement for financing worth JPY 50 billion (approx Rs 3,500 crore) to state-owned power generation company, NTPC for solar power generation projects and installation of environmental equipment in India.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set the ways and means advances (WMAs) limit at Rs 1.25 lakh crore for the central government for the second half of the fiscal year (October 2020 to March 2021) .
- India's largest lender State Bank of India has entered into a partnership with FMCG major Hindustan Unilever to offer corporate solutions to its trade partners.
- Indian Bank has introduced a Kisan credit card loan scheme for fishermen in Tamil Nadu.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched 'MSME Prerana' which is an online business mentoring programme for MSMEs launched by the public lender Indian Bank.
- The first two programs will be in Tamil language for the Coimbatore clusters of Indian Bank and it will help them scale up across the country in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali and Gujarati
- State-owned Indian Bank in collaboration with IIT-Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) launched an initiative for funding start-ups.
- Under the initiative IND Spring Board — 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.
- Zenpay Solutions announced its partnership with RBL bank and YAP to drive financial inclusion to issue salary cards to its customers across India.
- ICICI Bank said it has shut down operations in Sri Lanka after getting approval from the Sri Lankan monetary authority.
- ICICI Bank and Visa has partnered to launch a debit card facility for the customers who avail Loans Against Securities (LAS) from the bank.
- ICICI Lombard in partnership with Freepaycard, an online pre-paid card trading platform, has launched Group Safeguard Insurance to receive an assured amount in case of any injury or hospitalization for treatment.
- Axis Bank has partnered with Vistara to 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.
- Axis Bank announced the launch of its ACE Credit Card in India in collaboration with Google Pay and Visa.
- Citibank India (Citi) and Mastercard jointly announced the launch of "IKEA Family Credit Card by Citi" to make shopping at the Swedish furnishing company more affordable, convenient and rewarding.
- Digital financial services platform Paytm said it would be partnering with various card issuers to introduce co-branded credit cards, with an aim to issue two million such cards in the next 12-18 months.
- IDBI Bank introduced the banking services on WhatsApp for its customers. This launch is a part of sustained initiatives the Bank has taken to enable the customers to access banking services remotely at their convenience.
- BOB Financial Solutions, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, and Mastercard have launched 4 new credit cards catering to its customers across segments, including affluent as well as the first-time credit card owners.
- Two of these cards were in association with eminent professional institutions of the country. The new card variants are Eterna, which will cater to the distinctive needs of the NBFC's affluent customers and will be offered to customers as part of the Radiance program of Bank of Baroda. Swavlaban, a 'by Invitation only' card, targets the low-income employees of select corporates and SMEs which have a banking relationship with Bank of Baroda.
- 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 - BoB-ICSI Diamond credit card - for Company Secretaries (CS).
- India-based fuel outlet Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) has partnered with Fino Payments Bank for recharging truck drivers' fleet cards.
- As a part of the Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW), the nation's leading public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), launched the PNB Tracking & Monitoring Staff Accountability Cases (TMSAC) portal and PNB's 2020 Vigilance Manual.
- Private-sector lender CSB Bank, formerly Catholic Syrian Bank, said that it has entered into a partnership with non-banking finance company, IIFL Finance (IIFL) for sourcing and managing retail gold loan assets.
- State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) announced a tie up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) to enable finance options for the automaker's customers and dealers.
- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a financial inclusion and literacy initiative 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Public sector Indian Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for payment of subsidy to street vendors under the Centre's SVANidhi Scheme.
- Jana Small Finance Bank, a Bengaluru-based small finance bank (SFB), 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.

- Flipkart-owned PhonePe launched car and bike insurance products on its platform in association with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das proposed that the RTGS system for real time fund transfer to become 24X7 from December 2020.
- The Reserve Bank of India has said 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.
- LIC Housing Finance Ltd. (LICHFL) launched “Project RED” (Reimagining Excellence through Digital transformation) to improve efficiencies at every level of the organisation.
- 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.
- Tata Motors said it has partnered with HDFC Bank for financing of its passenger vehicles. Through the partnership, the company said it has introduced two new schemes’ Gradual Step Up Scheme’ and ‘TML Flexi Drive Scheme’ with an eye on making its products more accessible and driving up sales in the festive season.
- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched a new Unit Linked insurance plan (Ulip) titled ‘Invest 4G’.
- EarlySalary, India’s largest consumer lending platform, announced the launch of ‘Salary Card’ (powered by RuPay) zero-touch digital card that provides instant access for salaried professionals, enabling them to make instant purchases across thousands of merchants across India.
- SVC Bank (SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd.), one of the leading Co-operative Banks in the country, announced the launch of SVC Rewards Program in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Merchant payment platform BharatPe introduced digital gold product on its platform for merchants in association with Safegold.
- The government kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, unchanged for the October-December quarter amid moderating bank deposit rates. Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively.
- Small Savings Schemes with Interest Rates
- Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)- 7.4 percent. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Scheme (SSYS)- 7.6 percent. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)- 6.9 percent.
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1 percent. National Savings Certificates (NSC)- 6.8 percent.
- Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)- 6.6 percent.
- Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Repo Rate – 4%
- Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35%

Business News

- India is expected to overtake China as the world’s largest cooking gas LPG residential sector market by 2030, Wood Mackenzie said.
- Technology giant Google has launched a ‘Make Small Strong’ initiative in India to help small and local businesses across the country.
- The new initiative launched by Google will be aiming to support those small businesses, Kirana stores, vegetable vendors who have suffered massive loss during the lockdown period which was imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus.
- DigitX, India’s first business-to-business (B2B) cryptocurrency trading exchange, began its trading operations.
- IT services major Infosys said it has inked a pact to acquire Blue Acorn iCi, a digital customer experience, commerce and analytics services provider, for up to \$125 million (about Rs 915 crore).
- 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’.
- This is the first time that a new age FinTech company has rolled out a TV campaign with 11 top cricket stars as its brand ambassadors. Team BharatPe includes Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Suresh Raina, Shreyas Iyer, Prithvi Shaw, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, and Shubhman Gill.
- Senior India cricketer Rohit Sharma was named brand ambassador of healthcare company Dr Trust.
- The government has selected Hughes Communications India to connect 5,000 village panchayats in border and Naxal-affected states as well as in island territories with satellite broadband under BharatNet project by March 2021.
- The 5,000-gram panchayats are located in north-eastern states, including Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram,

Arunachal Pradesh, and the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh as well as in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep that lack terrestrial connectivity, such as fiber or cable.

- Singapore-based bond exchange, BondEvalue, developed by India-origin entrepreneurs, is targeting to launch a blockchain-platform in the New Year to facilitate investment in bonds by individuals and common man.
- IT firm Infosys Ltd announced that it has turned carbon neutral thirty years ahead of the 2050 timeline set by the Paris Agreement.
- Tech giant IBM said it has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to transform the latter's customer experience using digital tools.
- Private sector lender RBL Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has granted its approval to Maple Group to acquire up to a 9.99 percent stake in the bank.
- The Union government revised the base year for computing Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers) CPI-IW from the present 2001 to 2016 after a gap of 15 years.

Economy News

- India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6% in the fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21), the World Bank said in its report titled 'South Asia Economic Focus'. The World Bank earlier in June had estimated the Indian economy to shrink by 3.2% in the current fiscal. India's growth is projected to rebound to 5.4% in FY22.
- South Asia as a region is set to plunge into its worst ever recession with a sharper than expected contraction of 7.7%.
- The Indian economy will contract 9.5% in fiscal 2021 due to disruptions caused by the covid-19 pandemic that has hit economic activities, according to the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- The WTO (World Trade Organization) said that global merchandise trade would fall by 9.2% this year and then increase by 7.2% in 2021.
- The Indian economy, severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic, is projected to contract by a massive 10.3 percent this year, the International Monetary Fund said.
- However, India is likely to bounce back with an impressive 8.8 percent growth rate in 2021, thus regaining the position of the fastest growing emerging economy, surpassing China's projected growth rate of 8.2 percent, the IMF said in its latest "World Economic Outlook" report.
- The Centre notified the directorate general of shipping as the National authority for recycling of ships, as it moves closer to aligning India with an international convention for safe recycling of ships.
- As an apex body, DG Shipping is authorized to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to ship recycling in the country.
- The notification was issued under the section 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.
- The central government will borrow ₹1.1 lakh crore under the special window to meet the shortfall of Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation, the finance ministry informed.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has said that the value of global trade is set to fall by seven to nine per cent in 2020 from the previous year.

Science & Technology

- ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 and France will participate in it.
- The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals.
- According to a joint statement issued after a strategic dialogue between India and the US, the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite is expected to be launched by 2022 as India and the U.S. have decided to share Space Situational Awareness Information, which will catalyse efforts to create the conditions for a safe and sustainable space environment.
- IIT Kharagpur researchers have launched a telemedicine system 'iMediX' to help patients receive assistance from doctors without having to go to hospitals or clinics.
- IIT Kharagpur has designed a robotic system capable of identifying the diseases plaguing plants through camera-captured image analysis.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has validated the efficacy of 'COVIRAP', a diagnostic machine developed by IIT Kharagpur researchers to detect coronavirus.
- IIT Delhi-incubated startup Nanosafe Solutions has developed a range of antimicrobial mixing traditional science with nanotechnology i.e. antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal water storage containers and launched it as "AqCure", which is based on the inherent antimicrobial properties of copper.

- The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will soon be launching an e-learning hub and library as a pilot project for villagers in Mavoor, one of the five villages adopted by the institute under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).
- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will be commissioning India's largest HPC-AI supercomputer 'PARAM Siddhi – AI'.
- National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune for installing a state of the art super computer in the process of becoming part of the National Super Computing Mission of the Government of India.
- Nokia has been chosen by NASA to build the first ever cellular network on the moon.
- A private company, Origin Space in Beijing (China) is set to send out the world's first asteroid mining robot into space in November 2020. The robot has been named 'asteroid mining robot' by the space start-up in China.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has chosen an indigenous experimental satellite developed by three students from Tamil Nadu for launch in suborbital space.
- The three students are mentored and guided by Chennai-based Space Kids India. They hail from pockets in Tamil Nadu – M Adnaan of Thanthonrimalai, M Kesavan of Nagampalli village near Malaikovilur and V Arun of Thennilai.
- A first-of-its-kind system for South Asian countries that will provide alerts for flash floods 6-24 hours in advance was launched at the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- India also shares cyclone warning alerts with neighbouring countries. The system will enable the member countries – India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan-issue impact-based forecasting of floods which are very sudden and of short duration at watershed and also city level.
- The NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has confirmed, for the first time, water on the sunlit surface of the Moon.

Defence News

- Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS 'Kanaklata Barua' of the Indian Coast Guard was commissioned at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd in Kolkata, West Bengal .
- India successfully test fired a new version of the surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile BrahMos having a range of around 400 km from an integrated test range at Balasore in Odisha.
- India successfully test fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable hypersonic missile 'Shaurya' with a strike range of around 1,000 km from a test range in Odisha.
- The surface-to-surface tactical missile, which is the land variant of India's K-15 missile, has a strike range of 700 km to 1000 km and is capable of carrying payloads of 200 kg to 1000 kg.
- India successfully flight-tested the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), 'Vigraha' was formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port.
- The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- The eighth edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) – Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 from October 19 to 21 begins at Trincomalee coast in Sri Lanka.
- The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar is commenced in the Northern Bay of Bengal.
- Agnibaaz Division organized an anti-terror exercise "Suraksha Kavach" for both Indian Army and Maharashtra Police at Lullanagar Pune recently .
- Russia has successfully test-fired its highly touted hypersonic cruise missile called Tsirkon in the waters of northwestern Russia.
- The two-day half-yearly coastal security exercise, Sagar Kavach, along the Kerala and Karnataka coasts ended in October 2020.
- India successfully test-fired Rudram 1, the tactical anti-radiation missile that the Indian Air Force can launch from its Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets to take down enemy radars and surveillance systems.
- BRAHMOS, the supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai, hitting a target in the Arabian Sea.
- Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane commissioned the Anti-Submarine Warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- India successfully conducted a night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 missile as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Odisha.

- North Korea unveiled what analysts believe to be one of the world's largest ballistic missiles at a military parade celebrating the 75th anniversary in Pyongyang.
- Amid tensions between Beijing and Tokyo, Japan began test flights of an unmanned aerial vehicle SeaGuardian in a bid to learn whether it can carry out key duties, including search, rescue and maritime surveillance.
- Australia will join Malabar naval exercise involving India, US and Japan. The Annual Naval Exercise Malabar-2020 is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea later this year. This year, the exercise has been planned on a 'non-contact-at sea' format.
- Indian successfully test-fired the Stand-off-Anti-tank (SANT) missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the Odisha coast.
- It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa).
- SANT is an air-to-surface is being developed by the DRDO for the Indian Air Force & will have both Lock- on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capability and can destroy targets 15 km to 20 km away.
- The Indian Navy successfully test-fired an Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) from its Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal hit the target ship at "maximum range" with precise accuracy.
- Indian Army has developed a simple messaging application named the Secure Application for Internet (SAI).

Sports News

Tournament	Winner
I-League 2019-20 trophy	Mohun Bagan
10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.	Visnu Shivaraj Pandian
10m air pistol event in the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.	Yashaswini Singh Deswal
Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship	Nihal Sarin
Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship	Elavenil Valarivan won Gold
Rigochess International Festival tournament	Leon Luke Mendonca (Indian)
17th NBA championship	Los Angeles Lakers
Denmark Open 2020 (men singles) - Badminton	Anders Antonsen
Denmark Open 2020 (women singles) - Badminton	Nozomi Okuhara
French Open 2020 (men singles)	Rafael Nadal
French Open 2020 (women singles)	Iga Swiatek (from Poland)
2020 Eifel Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton
2020 Portuguese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton
St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament	Russia's Andrey Rublev
PGA Tour win at CJ Cup	American Jason Kokrak
2020 FIM World Championship Grand Prix	Honda Moto3 rider Jaume Masia
Ostrava Open WTA tournament	Aryna Sabalenka
Cologne Championship	Alexander Zverev

Sports

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) new logo at Delhi's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.
- The Indian women's cricket team has overtaken New Zealand to rise to the third spot in the T20 International standings and retained the second position in the ODI chart of the latest ICC rankings.
- At the time when country is encouraged to be aatmanirbhar, the Commonwealth Games medallist shuttler Chetan Anand will be sporting India's first-ever homegrown professional badminton brand "Transform" that was launched recently.
- The initiative is promoted by VICKY Sports, one of India's top three sports brands, which specializes in sports good manufacturing since 1978.
- All India Football Federation, the apex body for the sport of football in the country, announced the launch of their new motto 'Indian Football. Forward Together', defining the new brand direction.
- Mumbai Batsman Tanmay Srivastava, who was part of India's Under-19 World Cup winning team in 2008, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.

- Pakistan speedster Umar Gul announced that he will retire from all forms of cricket after the end of the ongoing National T20 Cup.

Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	India has set up a screening panel to vet all Chinese foreign investment proposals and those considered “non-controversial” could be approved.
Rajiv Gauba	Government has constituted a panel of secretaries 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
M.S. Ananth	All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) constituted a committee for preparing the Professional Engineers Bill.
Madan B Lokur	The Supreme Court appointed panel 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.
Madhabi Puri Buch	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.
P Umesh	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.
Rajiv Kumar	A panel constituted by the NITI Aayog will look into introducing reforms in the urban planning education system.
PM Narendra Modi	The Centre set up a high-level committee to commemorate the 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
Oxfam's Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII)	129th	Top - Norway
India has fared poorly in protecting labour rights and has slipped to rank 151 among 158 countries, according to Oxfam's Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRII) report. India also slipped from rank 141 to 151 with weak labour rights and high incidence of vulnerable employment. Overall, India ranked 129 in the CRI index out of 158 countries		
Global Passport Index by Arton Capital	58th	Top – New Zealand
Global Hunger Index	94th	17 nations, including China, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, bagged the top rank with GHI scores of less than five.
Asia Power Index for 2020	4th	The Asia Power Index, developed by the Lowy Institute in Australia, covers 25 countries across a very broad geographical spectrum, extending to Pakistan, Russia and Australia and the U.S. India ranks behind the U.S, China and Japan in that order.
Ookla Speedtest Global Index	131	Top – South Korea

- India is likely to overtake Japan as the third largest economy in the world by 2050 and continue in that position till 2100, according to a study published in the medical journal Lancet.
- By 2100, India was forecasted to still have the largest working-age population in the world, followed by Nigeria, China, and the USA.
- India ranked second in terms of the “total” inflow of new migrants to OECD countries during the year 2018 as well as in the number of Indians obtaining citizenship of these countries, a report by OECD revealed.

- Notably, China continued to retain the top position as the largest source country, India overtook Romania to emerge as the second-largest source country.

Rankings (Persons,Cities,Organisations and Others)

- According to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Mumbai recorded 6,519 cases, after national capital Delhi at 12,902 cases during the year 2019.
- Tata group flagship firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the most-valuable information technology (IT) company globally, surpassing rival Accenture for the first time.
- Haryana State has the best Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index among 29 states in the country. Haryana was ranked at the top slot with an AMB Index of 46.7.
- Uttar Pradesh, which is one of the historically rich places, has become the topmost visited state across the country, announced the Tourism Department of the Yogi Adityanath-led government.
- Uttar Pradesh government has secured the first rank in central government's one of the most ambitious schemes - the PM Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (SVANidhi Scheme) by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country.
- Seven cities of the state also find place in the list of top 10 cities of the country. Varanasi, Lucknow and Aligarh are the top three cities in the list even as other cities of the state include Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad and Kanpur.
- Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- Himachal Pradesh has also secured second position at the national level for construction of roads under PMGSY.
- Country's largest power producer NTPC Ltd came first among Indian PSUs under World's Best Employer this year in a list published by Forbes.
- South Korea based electronics conglomerate Samsung Electronics has topped the list of 'World's Best Employer 2020' published by Forbes'.
- Kerala was adjudged the best governed state in the country while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category, according to the Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre.
- According to the Annual State of Education Report (ASER) 2020, West Bengal occupies the top position in the decline of dropout rate among school students during 2018-2020.

Loans from Banks/Countries

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
New Development Bank	India	\$241 million	Loan for the Mumbai metro rail-II project will be used for implementing a metro rail line 6 with a length of 14.47 km in Mumbai
New Development Bank	India	\$500 million	Loan for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS project.
India	Maldives	\$400 million	Soft loan to Maldives through the Exim Bank for undertaking Greater Male's connectivity project in Maldives.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$270 million	Loan to develop water supply and integrated stormwater and sewage management infrastructure and strengthen capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$300 million	Loan to finance inclusive and sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in 14 secondary towns of the state of Rajasthan.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$177 million	Loan to upgrade 450 kilometres of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$346 million	Loan pact to help provide efficient and reliable power supply to rural agriculture customers in Maharashtra.
World Bank	India	Around 3 crore	Loan for Goa to develop India's first sand dune parks

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest \$15 million in Avaada Energy Private Limited (AEPL) to help the company to scale up photovoltaic solar energy generation capacity in India. The investment is ADB's second in AEPL after a first round of \$50 million made in April 2019.
- The US has committed USD 1.9 million to support vulnerable populations in India like informal sector workers whose livelihoods have been disrupted due to COVID-19.
- The World Bank has approved \$12 billion in financing to help developing countries buy and distribute coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treatments, aiming to support the vaccination of up to one billion people.
- The World Bank 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.
- 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. It was announced at the meeting of India-Central Asia Dialogue held virtually with participation of Afghanistan.

Deadlines/ Important Dates

- Food regulator FSSAI said its Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) will become operational in the entire country from November 1, 2020.

Books

<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>
Discovering the Heritage of Assam (It has a foreword by Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan)	Padampani Bora
The Khalistan Conspiracy	GBS Sidhu
Deh Vechava Karani	Autobiography of late multiple term Lok Sabha MP Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.
Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank the Dragon	Pradeep Goorha
The Battle of Belonging	Shashi Tharoor
On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East	Deepanker Aron
Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside	Autobiography of Veteran Economist and bureaucrat N K Singh
The Fixer	Suman Dubey
Night of the Restless Spirits: Stories from 1984	Sarbpreet Singh
Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel released a 'sciencetoon' book with comprehensive information on the COVID-19 pandemic, its symptoms and prevention through precautions. The book, named 'Bye Bye Corona', published by Vigyan Prasara of the Department of Science and Technology, makes people aware of COVID-19 in an engaging way.	

Obituaries

<i>Name</i>	<i>Profession</i>
Kishore Bhimani	Sports journalist, writer and commentator
Carlton Chapman	Sportsperson (Former India football captain)
M. Gopalakrishnan	Former CMD of Indian Bank
Pushpa Bhawe	Social activist (known as the Iron Lady of Mumbai)
Jashomatinandan Das	President of The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple, Ahmedabad
Pradeep Maharathy	Politician (Former Odisha Minister and veteran Biju Janata Dal MLA)
Mulayam Singh Yadav	Politician
Rasheed Masood	Politician (Former Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare)
Naseeb Pathan	Politician
Ram Vilas Paswan	Politician (Union Minister of Food and Public Distribution)
Sarat Kumar Kar	Politician (Former speaker of Odisha Assembly and writer)

Vinod Kumar Singh	Politician
Kapil Deo Kamat	Politician (Bihar's Panchayati Raj minister)
C.M. Chang	Politician (Nagaland Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Justice and Law)
Nayini Narsimha Reddy	Politician
Sukumar Hansda	Politician
Sukumar Hansda	Politician (Former Gujarat Chief Minister)
Anantkumar Surendraray Dave	Former acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court Justice
KK Usha	First woman chief justice of Kerala HC
B. Venkataraman	Former IAS officer and author of Chola History
Ashwani Kumar	Former Director of the CBI and former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland,
Mahesh Kanodia	Gujarati film musician, singer and former Lok Sabha MP
Rajan	Music Composer
Avinash Kharshikar	Marathi Actor
Vishal Anand	Actor (real name was Bhishmam Kohli)
Mishti Mukherjee	Actress
Zarina Roshan Khan	TV Actress
B. Vijaya Reddy	Kannada film director
Shobha Naidu	Kuchipudi dancer
Kaumudi Munshi	Singer ('Nightingale of Gujarat')
Puliyur Subramaniam Narayanaswamy	Singer
K J Mohammed Babu (Zero Babu)	Playback singer, music director and actor
Pradip Ghosh	Bengali elocutionist (Vocal Artiste)
Prasanth Rajesh (MP Rajesh)	Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) spinner
Savithri Vaithi	Philanthropist and social worker
Bhanu Athaiya	Costume designer (She is India's first Oscar winner, awarded for film – Gandhi in 1982)
Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri	Writer (Awarded Jnanpith Award for Malayalam literature)
AV Shetty	Cardiologist
Dr Vijayalakshmi Ramanan	Indian Air Force's First Woman Commissioned Officer
Dr. Jayanta Madhab	Economist
Charlie Moore	Sportsperson (400-meter hurdles champion at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics)
Priscilla Jana	Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer
Najeeb Tarakai	Afghanistan's cricketer
John R Reid	New Zealand's oldest surviving Test cricketer
Eddie Van Halen	American rock musician
Daniel Menaker	American Author
Mario Molina	Winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry (only Mexican scientist to be honored with a Nobel)
Lee Kun-Hee	Chairman of Samsung
Mesut Yilmaz	Former Turkish prime minister