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# FundaMakers

## MAY 2020 CURRENT AFFAIR



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

सत्यमेव जयते



## Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
May 1	International Labour Day	
May 2	World Tuna Day	
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Theme- Journalism without Fear or Favour
May 5	World Hand Hygiene Day	Theme- Save Lives: Clean Your Hands
May 5(First Tuesday)	World Asthma Day	Theme- Enough Asthma Deaths
May 5	International Midwife Day	Theme- Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, Mobilise, unite
May 7	World Athletics Day	
May 8	World Red Cross Day	
May 8	World Thalassaemia Day	Theme- The dawning of a new era for Thalassaemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients.
May 9 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of May & October)	World Migratory Bird Day	Theme- Birds Connect Our World
May 11	National Technology Day	
May 12	International Nurses Day	Theme- Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Nursing the World to Health
May 15	International Day of Families	Theme- Families in Development
May 16	National Dengue Day	
May 16	International Light Day	
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Theme- Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
May 17	World Hypertension Day	Theme- Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer.
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	
May 18	International Museum Day	Theme- Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion
May 20	World Metrology Day	Theme- Measurements for global trade
May 21	Anti-Terrorism Day	
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Theme- Our solutions are in nature
May 23	World Turtle Day	
May 25	International Missing Children's Day	
May 25	World Thyroid Day	
May 28	International Day of Action for Women's Health	
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	Theme- Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace
May 29	World Digestive Health Day (WDHD)	Theme- Gut Microbiome: A Global Perspective
May 30	World No-Tobacco Day	Theme - Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use

## MOU Industry/States/Others

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad is going to collaborate with New Frontier Capital Management, a financial firm based in Hong Kong with offices in Tokyo and Singapore, to establish a global network for ventures as well as to create a venture ecosystem.
- PNB Housing Finance Ltd (PNBHFL) signed a memorandum of understanding with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to support critical research and development of a unique prototype material to be used in manufacturing washable and reusable personal protective equipment (PPE) surgical gowns and masks.
- The Coir Board has signed a pact with the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras to establish a centre of excellence for the application of Coir exclusively or in combination with other natural fibres.
- Government of India, West Bengal Government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, AIIB signed a loan agreement for a 145 million dollar project to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area in West Bengal.
- UNICEF has entered into a partnership with Airtel Africa to provide children with access to remote learning and enable access to cash assistance for their families via mobile cash transfers amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Flipkart and the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding, enabling farmers to sell their fresh produce online.

## Appointments and Resignations

Name	Post	Other Info
Shikha Sharma	Advisor to Google Pay	
Manoj Ahuja	CBSE Chairman	
Anurag Jain	Vice-Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA)	
Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi	Secretary in the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)	
Katikithala Srinivas	Additional Secretary and Establishment Officer, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)	
Vasudha Mishra	Secretary, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)	
Shiv Das Meena	Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board	
V Vidyavathi	Director General of Archaeological Survey of India	
Rajendra Kumar	Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	
Sanjeeva Kumar	Secretary, Department of Border Management in the Home Ministry	
Rakesh Sarwal	Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog	
Rakesh Ranjan	Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education	
S Kishore	Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce	
Devendra Kumar Singh	Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	
Arti Ahuja	Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare	
Alok Kumar	Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat	
Nivedita Shukla Verma	Additional Secretary, Department of Defence	
Anil Kumar Nayak	Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Department of Posts	
Aniruddha Kumar	Additional Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	
Subir Mallick	Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Department of Agricultural Research and Education	
Anuradha Thakur	Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat	
Zubair Iqbal	MD of J&K Bank	
Krishnan Ramachandran	MD, CEO of Max Bupa Health Insurance	succeeds Ashish Mehrotra
SN Rajeswari	CMD of Oriental Insurance Company	Will succeed AV Girija Kumar

Ramesh Babu V	Director (Operations), NTPC	
Manoj Jain	Chairman of Mahanagar Gas Ltd	
D P S Negi	Director General of Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment	
Tarun Bajaj	Director on RBI Central Board	replaces Atanu Chakraborty
Govinda Rajulu Chintala	Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	
Shaji KV and P V S Surya kumar	Deputy Managing Directors in NABARD	
Rajesh Goel	Director General of National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)	
Dilip Oommen	President of Indian Steel Association	
R.Sreelekha	Kerala's First Woman DGP	
Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	Chairperson of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC)	
Narinder Batra	President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)	
Narinder Batra	Member of the Olympic Channel Commission	
Jahnabi Phookan	National President of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)	Phookan is the 37th National President of FICCI FLO.
Mohit Gupta	Co-founder of Zomato.	
Sandip Pradhan	Director General of the Sports Authority of India (SAI)	
Arun Singhal	CEO of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)	will succeed GSG Ayyangar
Harsha Bangari	Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of Exim Bank	
PR Jaishankar	MD of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)	
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board	
Leo Puri	Chairman of JP Morgan South Asia and South East Asia	
Thierry Delaporte	CEO & MD of Wipro Limited	Succeeded Abidali Neemuchwala
Aiman Ezzat	CEO of Capgemini Group	succeeded Paul Hermelin
Mustafa Al Kadhimi	Prime Minister of Iraq	
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israel's Prime Minister	
Moeketsi Majoro	Prime Minister of Lesotho	
Ashok Michael Pinto	US representative to World Bank's lending arm IBRD	
TS Tirumurti	India's New Permanent Representative To UN	
Carmen Reinhart	Vice President and Chief Economist of World Bank	
Marcos Troyjo, Brazil	President of the New Development Bank (NDB)	
Kumar Sangakkara	President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)	

### **Resignations**

Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO) said that its chief Roberto Azevedo will step down on August 31.

Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma will resign from SoftBank board.

Lesotho Prime Minister Thomas Thabane has formally resigned more than a week after his coalition government fell apart.

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) extended environmentalist and actor-producer Dia Mirza's term as its National Goodwill Ambassador for another two years till the end of 2022.
- Former Commonwealth Games gold-winning boxer Akhil Kumar has been re-inducted into the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) Disciplinary Panel.
- Abhas Jha, an Indian economist, has been appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia.

## Awards and Recognitions

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Person/Institution</b>	<b>Extra Knowledge</b>
Nikkei Asia Prizes 2020 in 'Science and Technology' category	T Pradeep	
Fed Cup Heart Award from the Asia/Oceania zone	Sania Mirza and Indonesia's Priska Medelyn Nugrorho	
2020 Pulitzer Prize in the field of feature photography	Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand	
Young Career Award in Nano Science and Technology for the year 2020	Saurabh Lodha	instituted by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India
Vice Admiral GM Hiranandani Memorial Rolling trophy for the year 2020	Lieutenant commander Akshay Kumar	
2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award	Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar	For his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the wider Indian Ocean region
United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019)	Suman Gawani and Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo	
Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2020	Joseph J Landsberg, Richard H Waring and Nicholas C Coops	for forest sector for 3-PG (Physiological Principles Predicting Growth), a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate.
Commemorative World War II medal by Russian President Vladimir Putin	Kim Jong Un	
Christophe Merieux Prize	Quarraisha Abdool Karim	for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)

### Recognitions

A doctor from Manipur named Thangjam Dhabali Singh has been conferred the 'Order of Rising Sun' by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.

Chak-Hao, the scented glutinous rice popularly known as Black Rice cultivated in Manipur, has got GI (Geographical Indications). Besides this, the terracotta work of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh has also received the GI Tag. Also, Kovilpatti kadalai mittai, a peanut candy, from Tamil Nadu has also bagged GI tag.

NASA's first Mars helicopter has a name now and the credit goes to 17-year-old Indian-origin girl Vaneeza Rupani.

Three Indians have been elected for the prestigious membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences this year. Two of them are in the sciences: Biman Bagchi from the Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and Shobhana Narasimhan from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru. Kavita Singh, from the School of Arts and Aesthetics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, has been selected for the Humanities and Arts stream.

Bangaluru's Kempegowda International Airport was voted by customers as the best regional airport in India & Central Asia for the third time in four years at the 2020 World Airport Awards.

Indian journalist Siddharth Varadarajan was one of 17 recipients of the Freedom of Speech Award presented by German public news outlet Deutsche Welle, for showing "outstanding commitment to human rights and freedom of expression in the media".

Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Telia Rumal were given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai.

The United Nations listed the KHUDOL initiative of Manipur as one of the top 10 global initiatives to fight against COVID-19.



## Conference and Summits

Summit	Place	Extra Knowledge
32 <sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting	New Delhi	<i>Theme- Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response</i>

## International News

- According to a UN report titled 'Lost at Home' report, published by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), more than five million people were internally displaced in India due to natural disasters, conflict and violence in 2019, constituting the highest number of new internal displacements in the world during the period followed by the Philippines, Bangladesh and China.
- Iran's parliament has passed a bill allowing the government to slash four zeros from the rial, after a sharp fall in the value of the currency as a result of crippling U.S. sanctions.
- The WHO and the UN's postal agency have released a commemorative postage stamp on the 40th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox, with the head of the global health body expressing gratitude to a top Indian-origin UN official.
- Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday.
- Slovenia is the first country in Europe to declare an end to its coronavirus outbreak.
- India has given USD 2 million in support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees in assist of its core programmes and providers, together with schooling and well being, amidst the coronavirus disaster.
- China will provide USD 2 billion over two years to fight the coronavirus pandemic announced by President Xi Jinping, rallying around the World Health Organization.
- Indian Association in Uganda, with help of the Indian Military training team, set up a military war game centre in Jinja district.

## National News

- National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology (DST) has launched a programme on health and risk communication 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)' with focus on COVID-19.
- The railways will run "Shramik Special" trains from "Labour Day" on May 1 to move migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places due to the nationwide lockdown that came into force from March 25.
- Kashmir saffron, which is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir, has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the online Summit of Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group held to discuss response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis. The online NAM Contact Group Summit on the theme of "United against COVID-19". was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of Republic of Azerbaijan HE Ilham Aliyev.
- Indian Navy has launched Operation Samudra Setu – meaning Sea Bridge, as a part of national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas.
- Union Government has started Aarogya Setu IVRS services to cater to people having feature phone or landline.
- Government think tank Niti Aayog in association with Piramal Foundation — the philanthropic arm of the Piramal Group launched a campaign focussed on ensuring wellbeing of senior citizens during the COVID- 19 pandemic.
- In one of the largest evacuation exercises named the Vande Bharat Mission, the government will operate 64 flights from May 7 till May 13 to bring home nearly 14,800 Indian nationals stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.
- Indian navy ship INS Jalashwa reached Maldives capital of Male today as part of efforts to repatriate Indian nationals from foreign shores.
- After the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu Kashmir and turning it into two separate Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has included regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad, territories currently under Pak occupied Kashmir (PoK), in its daily weather bulletin.
- The ministry of road transport and highways has set a target of constructing roads worth 15 lakh crore over the next two years.

- India launched Mission Sagar as part of the government's outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The government's flagship social security scheme, Atal Pension Yojana (APY), has achieved the milestone of 2.23 subscribers as it completes five years of its implementation.
- PM Modi announced a Rs 20-lakh-crore stimulus package, equivalent to about 10% of India's GDP, aimed at making the country self-reliant and reviving the stalled economy. Details of the plan, dubbed the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, unveiled by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust decided to allocate Rs. 3100 Crore for fight against COVID-19.
- The government announced a Rs 1.63 lakh crore package for agriculture and allied sectors aimed at strengthening infrastructure, logistics and capacity building at farm gate.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund that will finance projects at farm-gate and aggregation point for efficient post-harvest management of crops.
- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched the "GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)" programme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Facebook at a Webinar in New Delhi.
- The government announced an additional Rs 40,000 crore allocation for the rural employment guarantee scheme to help provide jobs to migrant workers returning home.
- A LAND pooling model enabling corporatisation of agriculture, opening up EPF and ESIC for the unorganised sector, merging the MNREGA with skill development programmes to create a wage subsidy programme — these are some of the proposals that have been drafted by a Group of Ministers (GOM) on employment and skill development.
- India Post, Mumbai, paid a tribute to migrant workers by releasing a special postal cover dedicated to them.
- Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar has sang a song titled as JAYTU BHARATAM saluting the spirit of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- Extremely severe cyclonic storm Amphan over the west and central parts of Bay of Bengal has intensified into a super cyclone with wind speed above 200 kmph (kilometres per hour) on Monday afternoon, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- The Indian Railways operationalised its most powerful 'Made in India locomotive – a 12000 HP engine named WAG12 becoming only the sixth country in the world to join the elite club of producing high horsepower locomotive indigenously.
- The Cabinet approved a scheme to bring about a blue revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector with a total estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore in the next five years.
- The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave approval for a new central scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore for providing credit-linked subsidy to 2 lakh micro food processing units across the country.
- The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for distribution of 5 kg foodgrains from the central pool for free to 8 crore migrant workers for two months.
- The Union Cabinet approved additional funding of up to Rs 3 lakh crore at a concessional rate of 9.25 per cent through the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector hit hard by the coronavirus crisis.
- Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE has recently launched a Cyber Safety Handbook for the students of Classes 9 and 11 to ensure healthy digital habits in students.
- 'Hunar Haat' a platform for artisans and craftsmen from various parts of the country to showcase their art and craft, will restart from September 2020 with the theme of "Local to Global".
- Aarogya Setu has become world's largest contact tracing app reaching over 11 crore 40 lakh people in 40 days.
- Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 440 metre-long tunnel, constructed below the busy town of Chamba as part of the Chardham Connectivity Project.
- Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) has been renamed as Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), a premier national institution under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India.
- The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has started free online career skills training through its National Career Service project for job-seekers registered with it.
- The foundation stone for a missile park was laid at INS Kalinga by Cmde Rajesh Debnath, Commanding Officer, in the presence of Flag Officer Commanding-In-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain.

## State News

### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched an app 'CMAPP (Comprehensive Monitoring of Agriculture, Price, and Procurement)', a mobile application to monitor the agriculture needs of farmers.
- AP Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a new programme christened 'ReStart' to support the MSME sector in the State.

### Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated a revamped "strategic bridge" over Subansiri river in Upper Subansiri district.

### Assam

- Assam government has launched a new scheme Dhanwantari under which locally unavailable medicines are provided to patients at home.

### Chhattisgarh

- The Chhattisgarh government launched a scheme to ensure "minimum income availability" to farmers of the state through direct bank transfer on the death anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on May 21.

### Delhi

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under Ministry of AYUSH and Delhi Police organised AYURAKSHA programme for Delhi Police personal at New Delhi.
- Delhi Police has inducted in service India's first thermal detection headgear Thermal Corona Combat Gear (TCCH) that will enhance the social distancing while still enabling the policemen to perform their duties.

### Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched the first indigenous seam sealing machine, which helps in manufacturing PPE kits at half the price of the imported one in Rajkot.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojana. The scheme is for small shop keepers and self-employed hit by the lockdown.

### Goa

- The Goa Government on Sunday launched the 'COVID-Locator' app, a GPS based location tracker that will help the government in tracking those who have been home quarantined.

### Haryana

- To curb the spread of highly contagious coronavirus, Indian Railways set up a fumigation tunnel at Jagadhri Workshop near Yamuna Nagar in Haryana.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched a mobile application 'HelpMe' designed to help the needy in the state during the crisis caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

### Himachal Pradesh

- Looking to revive the coronavirus-hit economy of the state, the Himachal Pradesh government decided to launch a programme Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna guaranteeing at least 120 days' employment to the those living in urban areas.
- In Himachal Pradesh, the state government is planning to launch a new programme Nigah, in order to sensitize and educate the family members of the people coming to the state from other parts of the country.

### Jammu & Kashmir

- In order to spread awareness about psychological impact of lockdown and measures to be adopted to overcome them, Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K has started an initiative 'SUKOON' – COVID-19 Beat the Stress".



### Jharkhand

- Jharkhand government announced three labour intensive programmes Birsa Harit Gram Yojana (BHGY), Neelambar Pitambar JAL Sammridhi Yojana (NPJSY) and Veer Sahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Scheme (VSPHKVS) to add jobs in the rural economy.
- In Jharkhand, the State Education Department in collaboration with Doordarshan started online classes and educational programs to provide school education to students of the state through video and thematic lectures.
- Over 140 migrant workers were sent to their native places on buses, a day after the 'Tatpar' programme was launched by the Ranchi district administration to ease their tiresome journey on foot.

### Kerala

- A Kerala-based institute Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology has developed a diagnostic test for Covid-19 which it claims can furnish results in less than half the time taken by the method currently being used in the country and for a fraction of its cost — ₹1,000.
- A government hospital in Ernakulam has deployed a robot named 'KARMI-Bot' to serve food and medicines to coronavirus patients with an aim to reduce risk of infections for doctors and health workers.

### Karnataka

- Bengaluru Urban district in Karnataka has launched Pranavayu programme to create awareness on the need to self examine the respiratory health for Bangaloreans.
- The Karnataka government said it would soon launch a project to maintain the health database of all its citizens by having a "State Health Register."

### Ladakh

- Parliamentarian from Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, started "MP Cares" initiative to distribute masks and hand sanitisers to all households in the area and create awareness among people on ways to check coronavirus pandemic.

### Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to provide mid-day meal ration.
- In Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind initiative, a unique vehicle has been developed at the local level. With the help of this vehicle, health workers can investigate any suspected patients without coming in to the contact of him. This vehicle has been named Sanjeevani.
- Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra launched country's first ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal.
- Madhya Pradesh government has re-launched the ambitious Sambal Yojana aimed to strengthen the lives of the poor and the SC and ST communities.
- Bringing together composers, musicians and singers from across India, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has unveiled a musical creation "United we Fight".
- In Madhya Pradesh, in a first of its kind of initiative, Charan Paduka campaign has been started for the migrant labourers passing through the state.
- In the tribal-dominated Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh, the women of Rural Livelihood Mission have started Didi Vehicle Service for rural women for the safe delivery.
- In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the 'Everybody will get employment' scheme through video conferencing.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the launch of the 'Rozgar Setu' scheme, saying it would help secure employment for skilled workers who have returned.

### Maharashtra

- Maharashtra becomes first state in India to provide free & cashless insurance cover to its people.
- With the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic throwing up challenges everyday, India's first test bus for the disease was flagged off on Maharashtra Day.
- Mee Annapurna, an inclusive programme has been launched for the welfare of farmers and Bhoomiputras in Maharashtra.

### Manipur

- The United Nations listed the KHUDOL initiative of Manipur as one of the top 10 global initiatives to fight against COVID-19.

### Mizoram

- The Mizoram Cabinet has granted “industry” status to “sports”.

### Odisha

- Union Government has launched scheme for 100 per cent solarization of Konark Sun Temple and Konark town in Odisha. Rs 25 crore rupees has been earmarked for this project.

### Punjab

- Punjab Governor and Administrator of UT Chandigarh V.P Singh Badnore inaugurated a newly developed android based mobile app named “CHDCOVID”.

### Rajasthan

- A total of 40.59 per cent of the crimes related to environment in the country were committed in Rajasthan during 2014-16, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
- Rajasthan government has exclusively partnered with healthcare startup MedCords to provide 24×7 online consultation and medicine delivery to the people of Rajasthan as the State battles to control cases of Coronavirus.

### Sikkim

- The Sikkim government launched a portal [www.covid19sikkim.org](http://www.covid19sikkim.org) for disseminating credible information on coronavirus outbreak.

### Tamilnadu

- The Tamil Nadu government raised the age of superannuation of its employees to 59 years from 58.

### Telangana

- V Safe Tunnel, a disinfectant tunnel was installed at the office of Director General of Police by S3V Vascular Technologies Private Limited. The tunnel was made to sanitize people within 20 seconds from any possible bacteria and virus.
- Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao launched “T COVID-19” mobile application, a single source of information on coronavirus, which is aimed at curbing the spread of fake news.
- Telangana government has launched a helpline number 108 to address mental health and psychological problems that may arise during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

### Tripura

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has launched an online portal [scholarships.gov.in](http://scholarships.gov.in) under ‘Mukhyamantri Yuba Yogayog Yojana’.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched ‘Ayush Kavach-Covid’ app to help people get health remedies which can be useful in fight against COVID-19. The app has been developed by AYUSH ministry.
- UP CM, launched the ‘Pravasi Rahat Mitra’ App that is aimed at aiding migrant citizens coming to Uttar Pradesh from other states.
- UP CM launched the ‘UP Start-up Fund’ to be managed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

### Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched a portal HOPE aimed at creating employment avenues for the trained youth as well as offering them skill development opportunities to increase their employability.
- Uttarakhand state government launched a scheme Mukhya Mantri Swarojgar Yojana to provide loans to the migrant workers amid coronavirus pandemic.

### West Bengal

- The West Bengal government launched an exit app for people from other states who are stranded in the state due to the lockdown and want to return to their native place.
- The West Bengal government launched a scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in six districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture.

## Finance and Banking News

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank(KVGB) has launched 'Vikas Abhaya' a loan scheme to provide some relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise(MSME) borrowers.
- Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of city-based The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd.
- To keep up hopes up amidst the ongoing national lockdown and coronavirus pandemic, HDFC Bank released a collaborative song titled #HumHaarNahiMaanenge (We will not lose).
- Ameyo, an Omnichannel Customer Engagement Technology provider, announced the launch of video-based KYC for businesses to eliminate the need for physical KYC following the latest RBI guidelines issued in Jan 2020.
- Merchant payment and lending service provider BharatPe expects to disburse around Rs 700 crore in the next five months as the demand for capital by shopkeepers is set to rise with the lockdown starting to ease out.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said public sector banks (PSBs) sanctioned loans worth Rs 5.66 lakh crore to borrowers during March and April.
- Paytm Payments Bank has crossed Rs 600 crore in fixed deposit accounts.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has disbursed ₹12,767 crore to State Co-operative Banks (StCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) across the country to augment their resources for extending credit to farmers during the ongoing lockdown.
- The Supreme Court held that the cooperative banks involved in the activities related to banking are covered within the meaning of 'banking company' and Parliament has legislative competence to provide for procedure for recovery of loan under the Sarfaesi Act.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a new scheme for senior citizens called "SBI Wecare Deposit" for senior citizens in its retail term deposit segment.
- SBI General Insurance launched the standard health insurance policy – Arogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy SBI General Insurance.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman announced a Rs 70,000-crore boost to housing sector by extending the subsidy scheme for affordable housing for the middle income group. The credit-linked subsidy scheme for the middle income group with an annual income of Rs 6 lakh to Rs 18 lakh was operationalised from May 2017 and extended up to March 2020.
- MoneyGram Payment Systems has tied up with Federal Bank to offer a cost-effective direct-to-bank account credit option for customers in India.
- Bengaluru-based Canara Bank, the fourth-largest public sector lender, has launched a special business vertical dedicated for gold loans.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has disbursed Rs 20,500 crore to cooperative banks and regional rural banks (RRBs) for on-lending to farmers.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has introduced video-KYC facility for customers opening savings account on Kotak 811 – the banks digital banking platform.
- The government has released Rs 92,077 crore towards devolution of central taxes to states for April and May.
- The Reserve Bank announced a Rs 15,000-crore line of credit to the Export-Import Bank of India, for a period of 90 days from the date of availment with rollover up to a maximum period of one year.
- The Reserve Bank of India has cut key repo lending rate by 40 basis points to 4%. Reverse repo gets automatically gets adjusted to 3.35% from 3.75%. The loan moratorium will be extended till 31 August.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received Rs 15 crore from the Uttar Pradesh government as the first tranche towards the UP Start-up Fund.
- The Union Cabinet gave nod to launch a special liquidity scheme worth Rs 30,000 crore for stressed non- banking financial companies and housing finance companies, whose financials further deteriorated due to COVID-19 crisis.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved Union Bank of India's proposal to continue with its 30% holding in IndiaFirst Life Insurance.
- ICICI bank has introduced a special fixed deposit (FD) scheme for senior citizens called 'ICICI Bank Golden Years FD' which offers an interest rate of 6.55% per annum(p.a) for deposits up to Rs 2 crores with a tenure of more than 5 years(5 years and 1 day ) to 10 years.
- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Mastercard to build customised solutions for payments such as tap-and-pay NFC, credit facility and other neighbourhood banking services for farmers and SMEs.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 5 crore on state-owned Bank of India for non-compliance with certain provisions, including those related with NPA.
- RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 1.2 crore on Karnataka Bank for non-compliance with NPA norms.

- RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Saraswat Co-operative Bank for non-compliance with directions on 'Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms.'

### **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

- The Rs 20 lakh crore package includes Rs 1.7 lakh crore package of free foodgrains to poor and cash to poor women and elderly, announced in March, as well as the Reserve Bank's liquidity measures and interest rate cuts. While the March stimulus was 0.8 per cent of GDP, RBI's cut in interest rates and liquidity boosting measures totaled to 3.2 per cent of the GDP (about Rs 6.5 lakh crore).
- Rs 3 lakh crore emergency working capital facility for businesses, including MSMEs
- Rs 20,000 crore subordinate debt for stressed MSMEs
- Rs 50,000 crore equity infusion through MSME Fund of Funds
- Announces new definition for MSMEs
- No global tenders for govt tenders of up to Rs 200 crore to promote MSMEs
- Extended the EPF support for business, organised workers for another 3 months
- Announces Rs 30,000 crore special liquidity scheme for NBFC/HFC/MFIs
- Rs 45,000 crore partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 for liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs
- Announces Rs 90,000 crore liquidity injection for stressed discoms
- Relief to contractors given by providing extension of up to six months to complete projects
- States are being advised to invoke the force majeure clause under RERA.
- Reduction in rates of Tax Deduction at Source, Tax Collected at Source by 25 per cent
- Last date for payment without additional amount under "Vivad Se Vishwas" scheme extended till December.
- The package will focus on land, labour, liquidity and laws. It will cater to various sections, including cottage industry, MSMEs, labourers, middle class, and industries.

### **Business News**

- Traders' body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has announced to launch a national e-commerce marketplace 'bharatmarket' soon for all retail traders in collaboration with several technology partners.
- Social media networking site Facebook has collaborated with some of the biggest names in Indian entertainment to put together a home-to-home fundraiser concert, 'I For India'.
- Two exchanges, India International Exchange (IFSC) and NSE IFSC began trading foreign-exchange settled rupee derivatives, part of a push to bring the market back home.
- Mahindra has launched 'Own-Online', a digital sales platform that enables customers to purchase any of its vehicles without the need for physically visiting a dealership.
- In a first of its kind initiative in the country, the Railways and Postal department in Kerala have entered into a tie-up for door delivery and pick up of parcels to help people during the lockdown.
- Facebook has acquired the animated graphics startup GIPHY.
- National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has partnered with fintech start-up DotPe to build its own tech platform.
- Reliance Industries announced the sale of 1.34 per cent stake in its digital unit to global equity firm General Atlantic for Rs 6,598.38 crore.
- Accenture has acquired Byte Prophecy, an automated insights and big data analytics company based in Ahmedabad, to meet the growing demand for enterprise-scale artificial intelligence (AI) and digital analytics solutions across the region.\
- Flipkart and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company have partnered to offer a digital motor insurance policy to customers of the e-commerce major.
- Labour ministry has notified lower rates of provident fund (PF) contribution at 10% for May, June, July.
- Walmart-owned Flipkart has partnered with retail store chain, Vishal Mega Mart for home delivery of essential items in 26 cities in the country, including Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Kolkata.
- According to a report, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Noida-Greater Noida, Gurugram- Manesar and Mumbai-Aurangabad are among the top 10 industrial corridors where MNCs can set up manufacturing units,
- Samsung India has partnered with social media giant Facebook to train offline retailers to go digital.
- Maruti Suzuki India announced partnership with Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd to provide customised auto retail financing solutions to retail buyers.
- Leading agri-commodity bourse NCDEX launch the country's first agri-futures index, NCDEX AGRIDEX.

- Fintech startup, Zagggle, has announced a partnership with Visa to launch innovative payment solutions for SMEs and startups.
- Tata Capital has launched the voicebot “TIA” on WhatsApp.
- Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has joined hands with ICICI Bank to offer retail financing schemes to its customers.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (Modified- 2020) Scheme for senior citizens.
- Facebook has come up with another calling application called Catch-Up. The idea behind the new app is to coordinate call timings with friends and family members.
- National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an artificial intelligence (AI)-based chatbot Called PAi to create awareness around its digital payment platforms like FASTag, RuPay and UPI.
- Ola Electric Mobility Pvt Ltd, the electric vehicle arm of Ola, has acquired Amsterdam-based Etergo BV, manufacturer of electric scooters.
- Vakrangee Ltd has tied up with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to distribute micro insurance products in unserved and underserved areas through its centres across the country.

## Economy News

- Domestic rating agency ICRA estimated that the country’s GDP might contract by as much as 20 per cent in the June quarter and is expected to overcome some lost ground in the remainder of the year but still close 2020-21 down by up to 2 per cent.
- Singapore-based DBS Bank has cut India’s FY21 GDP forecast to 1 per cent vis-a-vis 1.5 per cent projected on April 9.
- According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the Covid-19 crisis has led to a spike in the country’s unemployment rate to 27.11 per cent.
- Moody’s Investors Service estimated India’s GDP growth to hit zero’ in FY21.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes has amended Rule 44G of Income-tax Rules, 1962 for making an application to invoke the mutual agreement procedure in Form no. 34F.
- The government increased its market borrowing estimate by staggering Rs 4.2 lakh crore to Rs 12 lakh crore for the current fiscal to deal with the expected shortfall in revenue due to the impact of COVID-19 crisis on the economy.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that ₹18,253 crore has been disbursed to 9.13 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme during the ongoing nationwide lockdown.
- Two foreign brokerages Nomura and Goldman Sachs predicted a contraction of 0.4 per cent of India’s GDP in the current financial year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2020 released by the UN said that global gross domestic product is forecast to shrink by 3.2 per cent in 2020
- The country’s foreign exchange reserves surged by \$4.235 billion to \$485.313 billion.
- The global economy is expected to suffer \$5.8-8.8 trillion in losses due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- American brokerage Goldman Sachs expects the Indian economy to contract by 5 per cent in FY21.
- In the wake of coronavirus pandemic, rating agency Fitch Ratings has made further cuts to its world GDP forecasts in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO).
- According to SBI’s research report — Ecowrap, the country’s GDP is estimated to have grown at 1.2% in the last quarter of the previous fiscal.
- Rating agency Standard and Poor’s said the Indian economy will contract 5% in FY21 assuming that the ongoing coronavirus pandemic will peak by September quarter.
- The country’s GDP growth is likely to be at 3.6 per cent in January-March 2020 as economic activity came to a complete halt due to the countrywide lockdown imposed to contain the coronavirus outbreak reported by CARE ratings.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India grew by 13% to a record of \$49.97 billion in the 2019-20 financial year, according to official data.
- The country’s economy, which is likely to contract by 5 per cent in the current fiscal, may expand by around 5 per cent in the next financial year, former RBI governor Duvvuri Subbarao said.
- India’s economy grew 3.1 per cent in the January-March quarter compared with the same period last year.



## Science & Technology

- CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed HCARD (Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device).
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched Kisan Sabha App to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation Management System.
- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'COVID Katha', a multimedia guide on the Covid-19 disease.
- Russia will launch its first Arktika-M satellite for monitoring the Arctic climate and environment at the end of the year.
- Adding support to the Health Minister's promise that India will be able to produce RT-PCR and antibody test kits by the end of May, researchers from the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad, have developed a biosensor named eCovSens that can detect the novel coronavirus in saliva samples.
- In an attempt to make Aarogya Setu a one-stop solution for all healthcare and Covid-19 prevention needs, the Indian government has launched a new Mitr portal to offer free telemedicine and consultation services for coronavirus-related inquiries.
- Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the Saras collection on Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal in New Delhi.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Health & Family Welfare Minister launched the 'AYUSH Sanjivani' App and two AYUSH-based studies related to COVID-19 situation, in New Delhi.
- China successfully launched its most powerful rocket, the hulking Long March-5B, on its maiden voyage into orbit.
- With increasing demand for face masks to contain transmission of coronavirus, an IIT-Delhi startup named 'Nanosafe Solutions' has launched an antimicrobial and washable face mask that can be reused up to 50 launderings.
- CSIR – National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore, a constituent of lab of CSIR has developed a Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator.
- Hyderabad based Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lab has developed automated Ultraviolet systems to sanitise electronic gadgets, papers and currency notes.
- Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched Central University of Odisha Helpline
- "Bharosa" and its Helpline Number 08046801010 through a virtual platform today in New Delhi.
- National Institute of Virology (NIV) situated in Pune, Maharashtra has achieved success in developing the nation's first indigenous COVID-19 antibody test kit.
- A web portal 'CHAMPIONS' (champions.gov.in), a tech-driven control room-cum-management information system, was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India as part of its effort to support enterprises.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs has partnered with tech startups Safejob and Seekify to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level. The Suraksha Store initiative is designed for the health and safety of the citizens during and after the lockdown, as per the companies' joint release.
- The TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation and IIT-Madras have jointly developed a low-cost, automated respiratory assist device called The Sundaram Ventago.
- The Genoa-based Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) has come up with iFeel-You, an intelligent bracelet which will help users respect social distancing rules.
- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the first automated COVID-19 testing machine
- 'COBAS 6800', procured by the government at the NCDC.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sachet and two interceptor boats (IBs) C-450 and C-451 in Goa via video conference.
- Researchers at IIT Gandhinagar have developed an interactive COVID-19 dashboard called "MIR AHD Covid-19 Dashboard".
- The Centre has asked the States to use online portal National Migrant Information System (NMIS) for capturing the information on movement of migrants and for better inter-State co-ordination.
- Lieutenant General PS Rajeshwar, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command, commissioned INLCU L57 into the Indian Navy at Port Blair.
- In the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak, the South Central Railway zone has developed a robotic device, "RAIL-BOT" (R-BOT) to assist in the functions of hospital management so that they can provide better health care to the COVID patients.
- Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched a new mobile app

named – the ‘National Test Abhyas’.

- The Indian Navy’s indigenously-made PPE kit, “NavRakshak”, made for enhancing comforts of the health workers under Indian conditions, is helping fight the war against Covid-19 in a better and effective manner.
- NASA has renamed its Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), a next-generation space telescope set to launch in 2025, in honor of Nancy Grace Roman, the US space agency’s first chief astronomer, who paved the way for space telescopes focused on the broader universe.
- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), along with the University of North Texas and US Army Research Laboratory, have developed a magnesium alloy with significantly improved properties, that can replace steel and aluminium in automotive and aerospace components.
- India Observatory has come up with a Geographic Information System (GIS)-enabled dashboard called Collaboration/Covid Action Support Group (CoAST India) to monitor the movements of migrants.
- Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Law and Justice and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India’s national Artificial Intelligence Portal called [www.ai.gov.in](http://www.ai.gov.in).

## Defence News

- Australia has informed India that their premier multilateral air combat training exercise Pitch Black 2020 scheduled from July 27 to August 14 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation.

## Sports News

<b>Tournament</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Other news</b>
FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup	China	Beat USA

## Sports

- Discus thrower Sandeep Kumari has been slapped with a four-year ban by WADA’s Athletics Integrity Unit for flunking a dope test.
- Long-distance runner Kiranjeet Kaur has been handed a four-year ban by World Athletics’ anti-doping body for testing positive for a banned substance (Enobosarm).
- The National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) has provisionally suspended two powerlifters Savita Kumari and Ankit Shishodia for violating anti-doping rules.
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has launched a campaign called “#WeWillWin”.
- Former World Snooker Champion Peter Ebdon has retired from the sport as the result of an ongoing neck injury.
- Athletic Bilbao striker Aritz Aduriz from Spain has announced his retirement from football.
- American tennis player and former world number 24 Jamie Hampton has officially announced her retirement from professional tennis.
- Egyptian Youssef Hossam has been banned from tennis for life after being found guilty of multiple match-fixing and other corruption offences said by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU).
- Sri Lanka’s cricket board suspended pace bowler Shehan Madushanka from all forms of the game, two days after he was arrested allegedly in possession of heroin.
- French cyclist Remy Di Gregorio has been banned for 4 years by the International Cycling Union (UCI) for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone EPO (Erythropoietin).
- The postponed FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in India was on Tuesday rescheduled to next year from February 17 to March 7.
- 36th National Games, scheduled to be held in Goa, were postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik announced that she has bid adieu to active sports in order to serve as the office bearer in the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) in accordance with the National Sports Code.
- The Bundesliga of Germany becomes the world’s first major sports event to resume after COVID-19 lock down.
- Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka has become the highest paid female athlete in the world, topping American great Serena Williams.

## Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
Yegnapriya Bharat(By IRDAI)	to frame standard professional indemnity policy for insurance intermediaries
C Rangarajan(By Tamilnadu)	to examine fiscal challenges facing the state owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and suggest the way forward to improve its fiscal position.
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	to consider pleas seeking restoration of 4G internet services in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Neeraj Kumar Prasad	to probe into the causes behind the leakage of styrene gas from the LG Polymer plant at RR Venkatapuram in Visakhapatnam
Rajesh Bhushan	to recommend reforms in India's drug regulatory system so that approval processes can be fast-tracked

## Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
Open Budget Survey by International Budget Partnership (IBP)	53rd	Top- New Zealand
ICC Test rankings	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Top- Australia
A survey on Research and Development Statistics Indicators 2019-20 conducted by NSTMIS (National Science and Technology Management Information System)	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Top- USA
WEF's global energy transition index	74 <sup>th</sup>	Top-- Sweden

- India has become the world's second largest manufacturer of personal protective equipment (PPE) body coveralls within a short time span of two months. China is the world's leading producer of PPE body coveralls.

## Loans from Banks

From	To	Amount	Purpose
USAID	India	\$3 million	to support India's efforts to combat COVID-19
World Bank (WB)	India	USD 400 million	to improve and safeguard its coastal and marine resources
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	India	USD 500 million	to support India's fight against COVID-19
New Development Bank	India	USD 1 billion	to fight against COVID-19
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	India	\$3.6 million	to assist Indian government's fight against COVID-19
World Bank	India	USD 1 billion	to support India's fight against Covid-19
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Punjab	Rs 1,500 crore	to ensure credit flow to farmers
World Bank	100 developing countries	\$160 billion	to fight the deadly Corona virus
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Maharashtra	US \$ 177 million	to upgrade 450 kms of state highways and major district roads in Maharashtra
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	West Bengal	Rs 1,050 crore	for benefit of farmers and poor people in rural areas.

## Deadlines/ Important Dates

- Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir government have geared up to provide tap water connections to all the rural households in the area by December 2022
- The Reserve Bank said a scheme providing interest subsidy for post and pre-shipment export credit has been extended by a year till March 31, 2021.

Name	Profession	Other Info
AK Tripathi	Lokpal member	
Ramesh Datta	Veteran Delhi Congress leader	
Dalit Ezhilmalai	Former Union Minister	
Juvvadi Ratnakar Rao	Congress veteran and former minister	
Naipal Singh	Former Uttar Pradesh minister	
Ajit Jogi	Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister	
Bijay Mishra	Eminent Odia dramatist lyricist and screenwriter	
Gopa Majumdar	Renowned Bengali fiction translator	
Ratnakar Matkari	Veteran Marathi writer and playwright	
K S Nissar Ahmed	Noted Kannada poet and Padma Shri awardee	Known as "Nityotsava Kavi"
Shyamala G Bhawe	Renowned vocalist	
Mujtaba Hussain	Celebrated Urdu author, humorist and satirist	
Yogesh Gaur	Veteran lyricist	
Shafique Ansari	Crime Patrol actor	
Sai Gundewar	Film actor	
Mohit Baghel	Bollywood actor	
Debesh Roy	Veteran Bengali author	
Hema Bharali	Freedom fighter and Gandhian	
Bhabani Charan Pattnaik	Freedom fighter	
Hari Shankar Vasudevan	Eminent historian	
Bejan Daruwalla	Renowned astrologer	
Dr Jitendra Nath Pande	Eminent pulmonologist	
Ratan Khatri	Famous for his 'Matka King' sobriquet	
Chuni Goswami	Former Indian footballer	
Balbir Singh Sr	Three-time Olympic gold medal- winning hockey legend	
R. Shanmugam	Former Tamil Nadu footballer and coach	
Manmeet Singh Walia	Former national table tennis champion	
Ashley Cooper	Four-time Grand Slam singles champion	
Hana Kimura	Japanese Wrestler and Star of Netflix Series	
Gigi Simoni	Former Inter Milan manager	
Denis Goldberg	Veteran anti-apartheid activist	
Anisuzzaman	Padma Bhushan recipient and Bangladesh's National Professor	
Ronald Vivian Smith	Eminent author and columnist	
Little Richard	Founding father of rock & roll	
Betty Wright	Iconic soul and R&B singer	
Fred Willard	Veteran actor-comedian	best known for his performance in Everybody Loves Raymond and Modern Family
Adam Henein	Acclaimed Egyptian artist	
Jerry Stiller	Actor and comedian	
Kazempour Ardebili	Iran's OPEC governor	

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said the state will provide 100 per cent potable piped water connections to all rural households by 2022.
- The Union Cabinet extended the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a social security scheme for senior citizens, for three years till March, 2023.

### Rankings (Persons,Cities,Organisations and Others)

- According to data released by the Union Rural Development Ministry, Chhattisgarh has topped the list of states in providing employment to over 18 lakh unskilled labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- India installed 7.3 GW of solar capacity in 2019 and secured its spot as the world's third-largest solar market in the world.
- For the first time, India has more internet users in rural areas than in urban cities. The latest report by the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Nielsen showed rural India had 227 million active internet users, 10% more than urban India's about 205 million, as of November 2019.
- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) said it has been ranked among the Top 50 global schools, for the second year in succession, in the Financial Times Executive Education 2020 Rankings.

### Books

Book	Author	Other Info
The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir	John Bolton	
Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City	Fang Fang	This book is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19.
Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes	Ruskin Bond	The book narrates some of his memorable travel adventures on boats, trains and planes from his childhood.

- On the occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist Professor B. B. Lal, Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel released an e-book "Prof. B. B. Lal -India Rediscovered" in New Delhi.
- J.K. Rowling published the first chapters of a fairy tale about a monster known as the Ickabog, an allegory about truth and abuse of power that is free online so that children can read it during coronavirus lockdown.