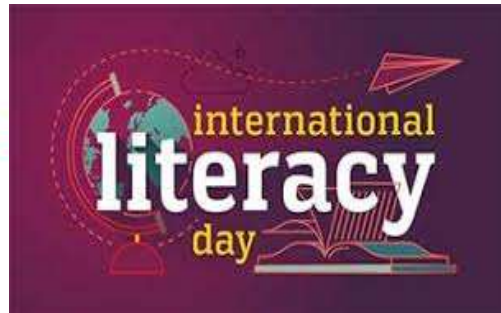
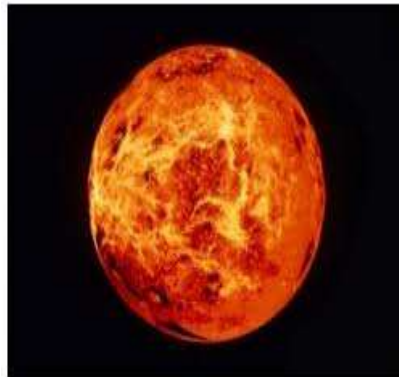


FundaMakers

SEPTEMBER 2020 CURRENT AFFAIR



Important Days

Date	Day	Extra Info
September 1-7	National Nutrition Week	
September 2	World Coconut Day	Theme- Invest in Coconut to save the world
September 5	National Teachers Day	The birthday of the second president Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
September 5	International Day of Charity	

September 7	First International Day of Clean Air for blue skies	
September 8	International Literacy Day	Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond
September 9	Himalayan Day	Theme- The Himalaya and Nature
September 9	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	Theme- Protect Education, Save a Generation
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)	Theme- Working Together to Prevent Suicide
September 12 (Second Saturday of September)	World First Aid Day	
September 12	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	Theme- Pathways toward the SDGs through South-South solidarity beyond COVID-19
September 14	Hindi Diwas	
September 15	International Day of Democracy	Theme - COVID-19: A Spotlight on Democracy
September 15	Engineers' Day	to mark the Birth Anniversary of the renowned Indian engineer Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visveswaraya
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Theme - Ozone for life: 35 years of ozone layer protection
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Theme- Health Worker Safety: A priority for patient safety
September 18	World Bamboo Day	Theme- BAMBOO NOW
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	Theme- Building back a better future of work by ensuring pay equity
September 18	World Water Monitoring Day	Theme- Solve Water
September 19(3rd Saturday of September)	International Coastal Cleanup Day	Theme- Achieving a trash free Coastline
September 21	International Day of Peace	Theme- Shaping Peace Together.
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Theme- Let's talk about dementia
September 22	World Car Free Day	
September 22	World Rhinoceros Day	Theme- Five Rhino Species Forever
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	Theme- Sign Languages Are for Everyone!
September 24(Last Thursday of Sept.)	World Maritime Day	Theme- Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet
September 25	World Pharmacist Day	Theme- Transforming global health
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	Theme- Kaushal Se Kal Badlenge
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
September 26	World Environmental Health day	Theme- Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention
September 26	World Contraception Day	

September 27	World Tourism Day (WTD)	Theme- Tourism and Rural Development
September 27	World Maritime Day	Theme - Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet
September 27(Fourth Sunday of September)	World Rivers Day	Theme- Day of action for rivers
September 28	International Day for the Universal Access to Information	Theme- Access to Information – Saving lives, Building Trust, Bringing Hope!
September 28	World Rabies Day	Theme- End Rabies: Collaborate, Vaccinate
September 29	World Deaf Day	Theme- Reaffirming Deaf People's Human Rights
September 29	World Heart Day	Theme- Use Heart To Beat Cardiovascular Disease
September 29	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	Theme- Stop food loss and waste. For the people. For the planet.
September 30	International Translation Day	Theme- Finding the words for a world in crisis

MOU/Agreement Countries

- India-Japan-Australia decided to launch an initiative to build a resilient supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India, Israel and the United States have begun collaboration in developmental area, and in next generation of emerging technologies, including a transparent, open, reliable and secure 5G communication network.
- To further the objectives of National IPR Policy and become a major player in global innovation, India entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Denmark in the field of Intellectual Property (IP) Cooperation.

MOU Industry/States/Others

- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, in collaboration with scientists from the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic, is working towards developing indigenous algorithms that can protect the Nation's digital data from cyber-attacks by advanced computers.
- Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IIT) to establish a bulk drug park in the state.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maharashtra Government to develop the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) ecosystem in the state.
- National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee for collaboration in areas of universal design principles and inclusive development in the backdrop of 'Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities' (BASIIIC) program.
- Rajasthan government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shri Vallabh Pittie (SVP) International Group for development of facilities related to aviation, defence and textile sectors.
- The first ever cannabis medicine project will soon be set up at Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) in Jammu with Canadian collaboration.
- Andhra Pradesh State government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Netherlands government and seven companies in food processing, marketing and technologies, to benefit the horticulture and aquaculture farmers across the State.
- Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with

North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) to work in cohesion in support of Bank Linkage of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Producer Groups/ Enterprises under ASRLM.

- Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with Transnet Port Terminals in South Africa to help the latter develop an integrated online marketplace platform by bringing together cargo owners, shipping lines, clearing and forwarding agents, and road/rail haulers.
- Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank signed \$82 million loan for the implementation of Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project which will strengthen transport and road safety institutions of Himachal Pradesh by improving the condition, safety, resilience, and engineering standards of state road network.
- Uttar Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with United Nation World Food Programme for manufacturing and distribution of take-home ration with the help of Self Help Groups.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has signed a pact for a USD 15-million debt financing through the subscription of non-convertible debentures for Suguna Foods, to help sustain poultry farming operations, rural livelihoods and food security in India during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and France's ENGIE group have signed a long-term loan of up to ₹ 466 crore for setting up a 200-MW solar power project in Gujarat.
- An MoU has been signed between the Government of Odisha and the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) at Krushi Bhawan for the promotion and management of Farmer Producer Organisation(FPO) .
- Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar to generate frontier technologies and produce quality manpower in the field of agricultural research and education for addressing the challenges faced by the rural communities and improving their quality of life.
- International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) and India Gold Policy Centre (IGPC) –IIMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IFSCA, GIFT City Gandhinagar, Gujarat for providing consulting to facilitate the establishment of International Bullion Exchange in India.
- Rajasthan's Department of Industries and Sidbi will work together to provide financial, technical, marketing and export support to MSMEs in the state.
- In Gujarat, Industry Department and the Small Industries Development Bank of India- SIDBI entered into a MoU to encourage the MSME sector in the State.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) joined hands to promote adventure sports activities at Tehri Lake.
- UK India Business Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC), the premier nodal agency of West Bengal's Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department focused on accelerating industrial development in the state.
- Gujarat Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding -MoU with Denmark in the water sector.

Appointments and Resignations

Name	Post	Other Info
Narendra Singh Tomar	Union Minister of Food Processing Industries	Succeeded Harsimrat Kaur Badal
Harivansh	Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	
H D Deve Gowda	Member of the Rajya Sabha	

Kshatrapati Shivaji	Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)	
Anand Kumar	Secretary, National Commission for Backward Classes, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.	
S Aparna	Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	
Apurva Chandra	Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment	
Raghvendra Singh	Culture Secretary	
Rajiv Kumar	Election Commissioner of India	
Pankaj Saran	Deputy National Security Adviser	
Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman	Chairman of Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	
VK Yadav	Railway Board's first ever CEO	
M Veeralakshmi	First-ever Woman Ambulance Driver	By TamilNadu
Aveek Sarkar	Chairman of Press Trust of India	
S Krishnan	Managing Director and CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank	will replace S. Harishankar
Murali Ramakrishnan	Managing Director and CEO of South Indian Bank	
Kumar Ashish	Head of Emerging Entrepreneurs Business vertical in Bandhan Bank	
AK Dixit	New Administrator of PMC Bank	will replace JB Bhoria
Uday Kotak	Chairman of IL&FS	
Hemant Khatri	CMD of Hindustan Shipyard	
K Padmakar	CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation	
MV Raja Sekhar	Director (R&D), BEL	
LC Goyal	Chairman and Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organisation	
Subhash Kamath	Chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)	
Anil Jain	President of All India Tennis Association (AITA)	
Rajat Sud	Managing Director of EESL	
Anil Dhupar	Secretary-General at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Federation	
Vinkesh Gulati	35 th President of Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations(FADA)	
Dr P. D. Vaghela	Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India-TRAI	
Pramod Chandra Mody	CBDT Chairman	
Anil Dhasmana	Chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)	
Charu Sinha	first woman IG to lead CRPF in Kashmir	
S R Sarma	Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy	
S S Deswal	DG of National Security Guard (NSG)	
L Adimoolam	President of Indian Newspaper Society	
Paresh Rawal	Chairman of the National School of Drama	
Shekhar Kapur	President of Film and Television Institute of India, FTII Society and Chairman of Governing Council of FTII	
Sunil Sethi	Advisor of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)	
Sonu Sood	Brand ambassador of Acer India	

Kiara Advani	Brand Ambassador for Myntra	
Ayushmann Khurrana	Brand Ambassador of Bajaj Allianz Life	
Ayushmann Khurrana	UNICEF celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign	
Udit Singh	UN 2020 Class of Young Leaders for SDGs	
Suresh Raina	Brand Ambassador of 9stacks	
Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Smriti Mandhana	Brand Ambassadors of Playerzpot	
Aamir Khan	Brand ambassador of CEAT Tyres	
Aamir Khan	brand ambassador of tutoring company Vedantu	
Khushi Chindaliya	Regional Ambassador for India for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza Eco-Generation	17-year-old girl from Surat
Simanchala Dash	Advisor to Executive Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)	
Rajesh Khullar	Executive Director at World Bank	
Sameer Kumar Khare	Executive Director at ADB	
Dwayne Bravo	Brand Ambassador of Sbotop	
Matthew Hayden and Lisa Singh	Trade Envoy to India	
Jane Fraser	CEO of Citigroup	
Kenichi Ayukawa	President of Society of India Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM)	
Mustapha Adib	Prime Minister of Lebanon	
Mohamed Hussein Roble	PM of Somalia	
Moctar Ouane	Prime Minister of Mali	
Bah Ndaw	Mali's interim president	
Aleksandr G. Lukashenko	President of Belarus	
Ishmael Toroama	President of Bougainville	

Resignations

IDFC First Bank's Part-Time Non-Executive Chairman Rajiv B Lall has resigned from the lender's board.

Lebanon's prime minister-designate Mustapha Adib has announced his resignation

- World Health Organisation's (WHO) independent panel for pandemic preparedness and response appointed former health secretary Preeti Sudan as one of its 11 panel lists from across the world.
- Reserve Bank has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters.

Awards and Recognitions

<i>Award Name</i>	<i>Person/Institution</i>	<i>Extra Knowledge</i>
CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award	Hyderabad International Airport	
Biju Patnaik Sports Award	Jayanti Behera and Deep Grace Ekka	for outstanding performance in sports and games

SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP)	Sonu Sood	
2020 Asia Game Changer Award	Vikas Khanna	for feeding millions across India amid the COVID-19 pandemic through a massive food distribution drive
All India Football Federation (AIFF) Footballer of the Year awards for the 2019-20 season	Gurpreet Singh Sandhu(Men) and Sanju Yadav(Women)	
Assam's Srimanta Sankaradeva Award 2017	Sattria Basishta Deva Sarma	
James Dyson India Award 2020	Shashank Nimkar	
Lata Mangeshkar Award for 2020-21	Usha Mangeshkar	
AIMA-Chanakya National Management Games 2020	Team NTPC Vallur from Tamil Nadu	
PATA Grand Award 2020 for Marketing	Kerala Tourism's internationally-acclaimed 'Human by Nature' campaign	
Kerala	UN Award On Prevention, Control Of Non-communicable Diseases	
Odisha's Krushi Bhawan	AZ Awards-2020 in the Social Good Category	
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2020	Air Force Sports Control Board	
The COVID-19 5-Star Airport Rating	Fiumicino Airport in Rome, Italy	
Best Screenplay award at Venice International Film Festival	The Disciple	Director- Chaitanya Tamhane
World Summit on the Information Society(W SIS) award 2020	West Bengal Govt	For Sabuj Sathi Project
TiE50 Award	Agnikul Cosmos	
Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019	Sir David Attenborough	
2019-20 Kia NBA Rookie of the Year	Ja Morant	
2020 Dayton Literary Peace Prize	Margaret Atwood	
Golden Pen of Freedom award by the World Association of News Publishers (Wan-Ifra)	Jineth Bedoya Lima	Colombian journalist

Recognitions

British magazine Prospect has named Kerala health minister K. K Shailaja as the 'top thinker 2020' in the world. K.K Shailaja is followed by New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern at the second position in the Prospect list.

In 2020, PM Modi became the second Indian Prime Minister to get the Ig Noble award for "using the COVID-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists can".

The GMR Group-led Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has been granted the Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) by ACI, a worldwide association for the air transport industry, for the safety measures being taken

at the aerodrome.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been featured in TIME Magazine's annual list of the world's 100 most influential people for the fourth time since he took office in 2014.

Filmmaker Sreehari Dharman's "Aavruthi" (Fence) won the best film trophy at the closing ceremony of IFFT-Orange Short and Documentary Film Festival which is jointly organised by the Orange Academy and the IFFT from Thrissur, Kerala.

Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is set to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft.

Conference and Summits

Summit	Place	Extra Knowledge
227th Meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund		Chaired by Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar
First World Solar Technology Summit	International Solar Alliance (ISA)	
Shanghai Cooperation Organization Defence Ministers' Meet	Russia	
SCO Foreign Ministers meeting	Moscow, Russia	
5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meet	Russia	
G20 Foreign Ministers' Extraordinary Meeting	Saudi Arabia	
SCO council of heads of government	India	
36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC) of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2022	Bangladesh	
35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific 2020	Bhutan	
National Tribal Research Conclave		inaugurated by the Conclave Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda

- Education Ministry is organising a two-day conclave on School Education in 21st Century under Shikshak Parv through online medium.
- As part of the Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 10th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative, DTTI Group Meeting was held virtually.

International News

- Togo has received validation from the World Health Organization (WHO) for having eliminated human African trypanosomiasis or "sleeping sickness" as a public health problem, becoming the first country in Africa to reach this milestone.
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a new publication, "The Little Book of Green Nudges", which aims to inspire up to 200 million students around the globe to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- China is set to unveil a bronze statue of Indian doctor Dwarkanath Kotnis, one of five Indian physicians dispatched to China for medical assistance during the second Sino-Japanese war in 1938.
- Donald Trump announced Wilmington in southern US state North Carolina as the first World War II Heritage City at a ceremony held to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.
- Germany has launched its Indo-Pacific strategy with India that is expected to play a key role in Berlin's outreach in the region where China's aggressive foreign policy has rattled countries.
- A parachutist completed the world's first jump from a solar-powered aircraft after the plane soared to

a height of 1,520 metres (nearly 5,000 ft) over western Switzerland.

- A powerful typhoon Haishen damaged buildings, flooded roads and knocked out power to thousands of homes in South Korea after battering islands in southern Japan and injuring dozens of people.
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has announced that it will be leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine in order to ensure that all the countries have safe, equitable, and fast access to the initial doses when they are available.
- India's child mortality rate has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019 according to UN.
- An American commercial cargo spacecraft Northrop Grumman, bound for the International Space Station has been named after fallen NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla.
- The government of Bangladesh has launched a campaign named 'Asol Chini' or 'real-sugar' to fight fake information and rumour spreading on social media.
- India has been elected as the member of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- Liberian President George Weah has declared rape a national emergency and ordered new measures to tackle the problem after a recent spike of cases in the West African state.
- India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment, DCOC/JA, as Observer.
- India welcomed the signing of the Abraham Accords by the US, Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and reiterated its call for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians for a "two-state solution."
- Researchers at Helmholtz Zentrum München and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) have developed the world's smallest ultrasound detector.
- The first ever Cargo Ferry Service between India and the Maldives was jointly launched opening a new chapter in connectivity initiatives in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping said that his country will aim to stop pumping additional carbon dioxide, the main global warming gas, into the atmosphere by 2060.
- India and Nepal have launched a website – "www.goicbrinepal.com" dedicated to provide information about the 2015 post-earthquake reconstruction projects funded by New Delhi in the Himalayan nation's education sector.
- Israel's Start-Up National Central and Ahmedabad-based iCreate inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for starting a programme to bring together Israeli and Indian entrepreneurs as well as startups to collaborate on innovative projects.
- The city of Tel Aviv in Israel, is working on creating wireless electric roads to charge and power public transportation in the city.

National News

- Cycling Federation of India (CFI) is all set to host the first-ever Cycling Summit in 2021, with an aim to promote the culture of cycling in the country.
- Rajnath Singh launched a life insurance scheme Chhavni Covid: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana that will provide a cover of Rs five lakhs each to more than 10,000 employees working in cantonment areas across India.
- Government gave its nod to 27 projects under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana for development of integrated cold chains and value addition infrastructure in the country.
- Uttarakhand and Karnataka are paired under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme to promote national integration through mutual understanding.
- Under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Goa is paired with Jharkhand.
- Sikkim is paired with Delhi under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- Madhya Pradesh has been paired with Manipur and Nagaland for implementing the Centre's ambitious scheme Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan.
- The e Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its nod to Mission Karmayogi –
- National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building.

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare ministry has approved four crore rupees for up-gradation of Soil Testing labs across the Kashmir valley.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conferencing.
- More than 42 crore people have received Rs 68,820-crore financial assistance under the government's Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) to protect poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19 crisis.
- Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will be shortly establishing two new Centres for Skilling and Technical Support- CSTS at Bhagalpur (Bihar) and Varanasi (UP).
- STEP app (Student Talent Enhancement Program Application) has received a mandate from the Indian Ministry of Tribal Affairs to implement its gamified learning app across all Tribal Schools in India in a landmark development.
- NITI Aayog has constituted a Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC). The MPICC is chaired by Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (SDG).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). He also inaugurated the e-Gopala app that will provide farmers marketplace for livestock.
- The Centre launched the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges programme to support MSMEs and start-ups for making India innovative, resilient, tech-driven, and research and development (R&D)-oriented.
- Road, Transport and Highways Ministry has released over ten thousand crore rupees during the COVID-19 period under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.
- Under the Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat programme, Telangana and Haryana States have achieved synergy and artists, students and literary personalities learnt arts, language and culture of each other's to a large extent.
- EPFO has decided to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20.
- The first-ever 'Kisan Rail' of South India chugged off from Anantapur Railway Station carrying 322 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge' in a virtual event.
- The government released Rs 6,195.08 crore to 14 states as the sixth equated monthly instalment of the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved a proposal to construct the 120 kilometre Munger-Bhagalpur-Tirpety-Kahalgaon concrete road on national highway 80 in Bihar.
- Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) Mansukh Mandaviya launched 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes – Ports) through a virtual ceremony in New Delhi to sort out a dispute in the Maritime Sector.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the website of Aero India 2021, <https://aeroindia.gov.in> in Delhi.
- Department of Posts has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- Union Home Ministry has granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to the famous Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple, in Amritsar.
- India is the second-fastest-growing freelance market in the world with a massive increase in the number of freelancers this year, according to a report on 'Freelancing in 2020: An Abundance of Opportunities' by Payoneer.
- Road Transport and Highways Ministry is in the process of implementing Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD) which will be applicable across the country.
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, has developed a device for the prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).

- Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first General Aviation Terminal at Delhi airport.
- Union Government has allocated more than Rs. 818 crore to promote online learning to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna- Manesar- Kharkhauda.
- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Engineers Day took a major step towards the development of an indigenously-built CBTC (Communication Based Train Control) based signalling technology for metro railway with the launch of the i-ATS, which is an important sub-system of the signalling system.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the historical Kosi Rail Mega Bridge to the nation and also inaugurated 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities to benefit the people of Bihar in Bihar via video-conferencing.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of nine highway projects worth 14,258 crore rupees in Bihar through video conferencing.
- The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 108 crore under UDAN scheme for upgradation of three Chhattisgarh Airports.
- India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world with population in the range of 3000 animals in Assam, West Bengal and UP.
- India has handed over two modern trains to Nepal that would run between Jaynagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Dhanusa district from mid-December, marking the beginning of the first broad-gauge railway service in the Himalayan nation.
- Government of India has approved a total outlay of Rs.600.00 crores for the PM SVANidhi scheme.
- The government has sanctioned 670 electric buses and 241 charging stations to boost the electric mobility in the country.
- National Medical Commission (NMC), in place of the Medical Council of India (MCI), as the country's apex regulator of medical education and profession has come into existence.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a grant assistance of USD 15 million for the promotion of Buddhist ties between India and Sri Lanka to further enhance bilateral cultural links.
- The government unveiled the first look of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train which can attain a top speed of 180 kilometres per hour and whose design is inspired by Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple. It will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.
- Union Home Ministry has sanctioned three new NIA branches at Imphal, Chennai and Ranchi.
- Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic leaving around four lakh global seafarers, including thousands of Indians, stranded on ships, India's oldest union of merchant navy officers MUI has collaborated with the United Nations to assist these sailors.
- Planning Board has sanctioned over Rs 15,000 crore loan for projects worth Rs 31,000 crore.

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh, which is among the few States that have chosen to have their own crop insurance schemes, is in the process of establishing AP General Insurance Company (APGIC) to run the scheme.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched two new schemes 'YSR Sampoorna Poshana and YSR Sampoorna' for pregnant women.

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'YSR Aasara' programme aimed at "empowering women economically and socially".
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched AP Police Seva App, a mobile application offering 87 types of citizen services.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the YSR Jala Kala Scheme under which free borewells will be drilled for the needy farmers in the state.

Assam

- Assam's first Newspaper for Kids 'The Young Minds' has been launched.
- Assam government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM).
- Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Mukhyamantrir Grammya Paribahan Achoni of the state transport department.
- Assam government has developed a mobile app through which air passengers can download forms, fill it up, and show it at airports to avoid delay in completing formalities for COVID-19 tests.
- Sarbananda Sonowal announced a new scheme 'Paryatan Sanjeevani Scheme' under which loan up to ₹20 lakh with interest subsidy would be provided to entrepreneurs to revive the tourism industry, the worst- affected sector by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bihar

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched nine highway projects and Ghar tak Fiber scheme in Bihar.

Delhi

- Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the second edition of its "10 Hafte-10 Baje-10 Minute" (10 weeks, 10 o' clock, 10 minutes) campaign against dengue and other vector-borne diseases such as malaria and chikungunya.

Gujarat

- Seaplane service to provide air connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Gujarat is scheduled to start from October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced an assistance scheme to encourage use of battery-operated two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the state.
- Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana (MMUY), a scheme of providing interest-free loans to women's groups in the state.
- Gujarat government approved a letter of intent (LOI) for the world's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal at Bhavnagar port with a proposed investment of Rs 1,900 crore.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has announced an assistance scheme to encourage use of battery-operated two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the state.

Haryana

- All urban areas in Haryana have been certified as open defecation free (ODF).
- Haryana has launched chatbot "Apka Mitra" for admission-related queries and online admission platform for UG courses.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur virtually inaugurated the "Swachhata Cafe" at

Nalagarh in Solan district on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Shimla.

Jammu & Kashmir

- An amount of Rs 601,12 crore annual plan has been approved for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in J & K for the year 2020-21.
- Union Cabinet approved a bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and English, will be the official languages in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system for Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service officers, at Raj Bhavan.
- An awareness cum sensitization programme for newly proposed Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) was organized by NABARD in coordination with District Administration in Anantnag, J & K.
- Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha has announced Jammu and Kashmir health scheme intended to provide universal health insurance cover to all residents of the Union Territory at the likely annual cost of Rs 123 crore.
- The Union Minister of State, Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh along with Youth Affairs & Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid the foundation stone for the construction of Arun Jaitley Memorial Sports Complex at Hiranagar, in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir through video conferencing.
- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced an economic package of Rs 1350 crore for Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to boost the business and the other ailing sectors that have suffered huge losses for several years in the newly formed Union Territory.
- Suresh Raina would set up a cricket academy in Jammu and Kashmir to train aspiring cricketers, particularly youngsters from remote areas of the union territory
- Union Minister for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik and Union Minister of State PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh jointly laid e-foundation of Post-Harvest Management Centre for Medicinal Plants at Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kerala

- Department of Post-Harvest Technology, Kerala Agricultural University has introduced Jeevani, a health drink in the market.
- Kerala will soon house one of the first medical device parks in the country, focusing on the high- risk medical device sector to provide a full range of services for the medical devices industry like Research and Development (R and D) support, testing, and evaluation.

Karnataka

- India's first toy manufacturing cluster to come up at Koppal, Karnataka, has the potential to create 40,000 jobs in five years and attract over Rs 5,000 crore investment.
- Karnataka is set to implement a ₹600-crore project for brining 10 lakh hectares of parched land in 10 districts under watershed development with World Bank assistance.
- Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa inaugurated the 'Veer Savarkar' flyover in Bengaluru.
- Hubballi Railway Station in Karnataka is to be renamed after Sri Siddharoodha Swami .
- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched the "Arthika Spandana" programme of disbursing loans to the tune of ₹ 39,300 crore through various cooperative institutions.
- India's first Coast Guard academy will be established at Mangaluru.

Madhya Pradesh

- A massive 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign was launched by the Madhya Pradesh, State Government.
- A Research lab of DRDO at a cost of 2 thousand crore rupees will be opened in Kailaras-Jaura region of Morena district in Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Bhopal is the first power Distribution Company in India in which e-office system is operated from corporate office to local circle offices level.

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched a 'Poshan Sarkar' program to ensure participation and leadership of local bodies-Gram Panchayats and Urban Bodies in the nutrition campaign.
- Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is being started in Madhya Pradesh on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Maharashtra

- Mumbai International airport has put in place a QR code-enabled contactless check-in mechanism for the passengers.
- Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray launched a state-wide campaign, 'My Family, My Responsibility', to tackle the coronavirus pandemic amid further relaxation of lockdown curbs.
- Maharashtra government launched a scheme 'Late Balasaheb Thackeray Road Accident Insurance Scheme' to provide financial and medical help, at the government cost, to road accident victims.
- Maharashtra government's e- peek pahani mobile application will reduce hardships of farmers and help them get the right price and good market for their produce.
- Maharashtra Minister Uday Samant announced that a world-class government music college will be set up in the name of renowned musician the late Deenanath Mangeshkar.
- Maharashtra government has banned the sale of loose cigarettes and beedis, making it the first Indian state to do so.

Manipur

- Central government has given approval for setting up a Medical college in Mon district of Nagaland.

Meghalaya

- India's largest piggery mission worth Rs 209 crores, was launched in Meghalaya by the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Kailash Choudhary.

Nagaland

- In a step towards making health and wellness services closer to the community, Nagaland received its first Naga Tele health, a telemedicine platform.
- Nagaland government launched a programme "Livelihood Generation Programme for Returned Migrant Workers" to provide skill development training to migrant workers who have returned to the state from other parts of the country due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Odisha

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched two citizen-centric mobile phone applications- AMA SAHAR and SWACHHA SAHAR ODISHA at the Lok Seva Bhawan on the occasion of Local Self Government Day.
- Odisha government launched a statewide welfare scheme "GARIMA" for sanitation workers to ensure their safety and dignity.
- Centre has sanctioned 8.2 crore rupees as collateral-free loans for the street vendors in Odisha under the PM SVANidhi Yojana.

Punjab

- To further strengthen its drive to preserve and maintain the environment in Punjab and make people stakeholders in the process, the State Forest Department launched 'I Rakhwali' application to help netizens to become 'Greenery Saviours'.

Sikkim

- Pang Lhabsol Festival of Sikkim was celebrated.

Tamil Nadu

- Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, which houses a large number of small and medium enterprises, especially in the fire crackers and allied sectors, has been selected by the Central Government as the state's first Fully Digital Economy district.
- Nutrition park to be set up in Chandra sekharapuram, Namakkal soon.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy launched 3401 mobile public distribution outlets in the state.
- Tamil Nadu became first state in the country to come out with policies on Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cyber security policies.

Telangana

- Telangana IT and Industries Minister KT Rama Rao (KTR) launched the Primary Agricultural Co-Operative Society (PACS), Pothgal web portal www.pacspothgal.com. The website is available in Telugu and English.
- Union MoS for Home G Kishan Reddy and Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao inaugurated the World's longest span concrete deck extra-dosed cable-stayed bridge at Durgam Cheruvu of Hyderabad.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) is all set to create a dedicated body, on the lines of Udyog Bandhu, to assist enterprising farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in investing in projects for post-harvest infrastructure management and community farming assets with the help of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district of state to address the problem of frequent cases of power theft.
- Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Organic India Pvt Ltd's plant at Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh that has been set up at a cost of Rs 55 crore.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced to set up the country's "biggest" film city in the state's Gautam Buddha Nagar.
- Uttar Pradesh government has launched a unified portal called 'U-Rise' to guide students in learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state. Uttar Pradesh was the first state to launch a unified portal along with the implementation of NEP.
- Uttar Pradesh's first vulture conservation and breeding centre is set to be established at Bhari Baisi village in Farendia range of Gorakhpur forest division.

West Bengal

- CSIR's Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute have developed world's largest 'solar tree' which is installed at its residential complex in Durgapur in West Bengal.

Finance and Banking News

- RBI announced a host of steps, including term repo operations totalling Rs 1 lakh crore in mid-September to ease pressure on the liquidity and maintain congenial financial conditions with a view to ensuring sustainable recovery of economic growth.
- Vedanta Ltd has tied up with State Bank of India for a long-term syndicated loan facility worth Rs 10,000 crore.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has introduced its customer service chatbot 'LiGo' on 'Google Assistant'.
- Federal Bank and Innoviti Payment Solutions have joined hands to offer convenient and affordable options of Federal Bank Debit Cards through Innoviti POS terminals.

- ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition that digitally showcases real estate projects by renowned developers from key cities across the country.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released revised priority sector lending (PSL) guidelines to augment funding for COVID-19 impacted companies.
- LazyPay launched a unique digital credit card that combines UPI and the Buy-Now-Pay- Later concept called LazyUPI.
- RBL Bank has launched cardless cash withdrawal facility from ATMs, leveraging the Instant Money Transfer (IMT) system.
- Banks in West Bengal have sanctioned Rs 5,350 crore of loans till the last week of August to businesses to tide over liquidity woes amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act.
- Mahindra Finance is set to enter the business of online insurance broking giving digital services to the customers of its insurance brokerage subsidiary, Mahindra Insurance Brokers, through a soon- to-be launched portal called PayBima.
- On the occasion of Bank of India (BoI)'s 115th Foundation Day, BoI has launched an international contactless debit card, "Signature Visa Debit Card" for high net worth individuals who are maintaining an average quarterly balance of Rs 10 lakhs and above.
- Bank of Baroda has topped the EASE Banking Reforms Index 2.0.
- State Bank of India is planning to launch a loan product, SAFAL, primarily focused on organic cotton growers who don't have any credit history.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance joined hands with NSDL Payments Bank to provide its products to customers of payments bank.
- Mastercard announced the launch of a proprietary virtual testing environment for central banks to evaluate Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) use cases.
- ICICI Bank announced the launch of a programme for startups, 'iStartup2.0', to take care of aspects such as regulatory assistance, analytics, staffing, accounting, customer acquisition and digital outreach to customers, among others.
- Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has increased the maximum assurance benefit under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance scheme to up to ₹7 lakh from ₹6 lakh.
- Union Cabinet approved a policy for raising the cap on foreign direct investment (FDI) through automatic approval in the defence sector to 74% from 49%.
- ACI Worldwide, a global provider of real-time digital payment software and solutions, has modernized payments infrastructure for ATM and point-of-sale (POS) at State Bank of India (SBI).
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd said it has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with Yes Bank for selling its insurance products.
- ICICI Home Finance has launched a new loan scheme named 'Apna Ghar Dreamz', with credit amount in the range of Rs 2 lakh to 50 lakh, for skilled workers employed in the informal sector in Delhi.
- To provide its services to customers irrespective of where they reside, public sector lender Canara Bank has launched lead management system (LMS) – i-Lead 2.0 (Inspiring Leads System version 2.0).
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has launched a special gold loan scheme Vikas Laghu Suvarna with a reduced interest rate of 7.25 per cent.
- State-run banks are poised to get ₹20,000 crore through recapitalization bonds this financial year, at a time the coronavirus crisis threatens to bump up bad loans across the banking system.
- Mastercard Incorporated MA and SBM Bank India have collaborated to launch SBM World Debit Card, a premium and exclusive card.
- Titan Company Ltd, in collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI), introduced 'Titan Pay', powered by YONO SBI.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development NABARD will be implementing a new loan scheme for women's self help groups to start production of value added food products like chips,

pickles, jams etc from the next Gandhi Jayanthi day on October 2nd.

- Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) said that the mutual due diligence relating to the proposed amalgamation of the Clix Group with the Bank is substantially complete, and the parties are in discussions on the next steps.
- State Bank of India(SBI) has decided to extend OTP-based cash withdrawal of ₹10,000 and above throughout the day across all its ATMs.
- IDFC Mutual Fund has launched a new campaign called SIFI or 'SIP in Fixed Income' to make investors more aware about the benefits of investing in fixed income products via Systematic Investment Plans.
- Google Pay will enable safe and secure omni-channel experiences to help consumers use NFC capable Android devices/phones to make contactless payments at over 2.5 million Visa merchant locations, scan and pay at more than 1.5 million Bharat QR-enabled merchants and pay bills and recharges from within their Google Pay app using their card.
- Visa has announced the launch of a grant program in India to support women entrepreneurs with its partner, IFundWomen.
- SBI Card announced a collaboration with Google to enable customers to use their cards on Google Pay platform.
- SBI Life Insurance has signed bancassurance agreement with Yes Bank to offer a comprehensive bouquet of life insurance solutions to the bank's customers across the country.
- To accelerate SHG finance in the Bank in a mission mode, State Bank of India (SBI) started a programme by the name "Mahila Atmanirbharshil Aachani" (Women Self-Reliance programme) .
- HDFC Life has entered into a partnership with YES Bank to sell policies to the bank's customers.
- HDFC Bank has been ranked India's Most Valuable Brand for the 7th consecutive year in a row in 2020.
- IDFC First Bank is set to launch SafePay, a digital facility that allows contactless debit card payments by simply waving one's smartphone against a Near Field Communication (NFC)-enabled POS terminal.
- Reserve Bank of India has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the 'positive pay system' for cheque, under which re-confirmation of key details may be needed for payments beyond Rs 50,000.
- IRDAI has identified LIC, GIC and New India Assurance as domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) and subsequently decided to subject them to enhanced regulatory supervision.
- BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda has selected RegTech firm Signzy, in a bid to digitize its customer verification through 'Video KYC'.
- Fino Payments Bank along with fintech partners has introduced NFC-based contactless payments solution for mass transit systems, especially state bus transport services in India.
- Vakrangee Ltd said the Reserve Bank has granted in-principle approval to set up Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 to handle payment services related to bills.
- Bayer has partnered with private sector lender Axis Bank for its better life farming (BLF) initiative in India to provide enhanced and holistic financial solutions to smallholder farmers and rural farming communities.
- SBI Card announced the launch of its new brand campaign, Contactless Connections that spreads the message that love and care can be shared even during this difficult period where social distancing is the norm.
- HDFC Bank launched India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App.
- Amnesty International has decided to halt its operations in India after a successful eight-year run alleging that its bank accounts were frozen as part of government's "witch-hunt".
- IDBI Bank has become the first bank in India to have implemented the new feature of document embedding facility with 'Letter of Credit' (LC) or 'Bank Guarantee' (BG) messages over the Structured Financial Messaging System(SFMS) platform of IFTAS which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
- BSE has signed a pact with private sector lender Yes Bank to empower the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) listed on the platform.

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD is embarking on a Sanitation Literacy Campaign in Karnataka to create awareness on good hygiene and sanitation practices among rural masses.

Business News

- Adani group has acquired a 74 per cent stake in Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), a joint venture between the Airports Authority of India and GVK Industries.
- India's government has approved Brookfield Asset Management Inc.'s proposal to acquire a 252 billion rupees (\$3.4 billion) stake in a trust that manages the wireless infrastructure of the nation's biggest mobile-phone service provider Reliance Jio Infratel Pvt. through Tower Infrastructure Trust.
- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has become the world's largest solar power generation asset owner in terms of operating, under construction and awarded solar projects, according to the latest rankings of global solar companies by Mercom Capital.
- Infosys acquires US-based product design and development firm, Kaleidoscope Innovation, for \$42 million.
- WhatsApp has partnered Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF) to create awareness on cyber safety among students.
- IndiGrid has completed the acquisition of Gurgaon Palwal Transmission Limited (GPTL) from Sterlite Power for ₹1,080 crore.
- Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) has rebranded its services as 'Vi' (read as 'we'), as it starts afresh in a highly competitive telecom market.
- WE HUB, an incubator to foster and promote women entrepreneurship, has announced its partnership with NutriHub, a first of its kind incubator to cater start-ups needs in the Nutricereals sector.
- UiPath, an enterprise Robotic Process Automation (RPA) software company, has partnered with Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC), as part of its Academic Alliance Programme.
- Microsoft in collaboration with Nasscom's Future Skills will launch a nation-wide initiative in India to skill students in Artificial Intelligence.
- National Skill Development Corporation and professional network LinkedIn have joined hands to provide access to free LinkedIn Learning resources for imparting digital skills to youth for enhancing employability.
- In a bid to rescue MSMEs and improve their cash flows, Razorpay has launched a collateral free line of credit called Cash Advance.
- HCL Technologies (HCL) announced it has joined NVIDIA Partner Network (NPN), the US-based technology company's partner program, with plans to pursue expanded opportunities in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) space.
- Liberty General Insurance has partnered with SpiceJet to offer Liberty Secure Travel' an insurance policy to consumers who book airline travel through SpiceJet's website and mobile site.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries Limited.
- BHEL announced its tie up with Swiss Rapide AG to bring Maglev trains (magnetic levitation) to India.
- Infosys has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Guide Vision, an enterprise service management consultancy specialised in offering strategic advisory, consulting, implementations, training and support on the ServiceNow platform.
- Amazon India has set up an all-women delivery station in Kadi, Gujarat – its second such facility in the country.
- Ashok Leyland and Hindustan Zinc have (separately) joined hands with IIT-Madras in the technology institute's endeavour to develop a Zinc air battery.
- Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, HOCL, a PSU under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

has been granted Bureau of Indian Standards, BIS certification for all its products.

- HCL Technologies has announced the acquisition of Australian IT firm DWS Ltd for \$115.8 million in a bid to further expand its digital offerings especially in Australia and New Zealand.
- HCL Technologies and Google Cloud announced the expansion of their strategic partnership to bring HCL's Actian portfolio, starting with Actian Avalanche, to Google Cloud.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed combination of Medlife and API Holdings.
- Microsoft will buy ZeniMax Media, the company that owns well-known video game publisher Bethesda, for \$7.5 billion in cash.
- Keeping the upcoming festive season and growing online frauds in mind, Flipkart announced a partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company to offer 'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance for customers in the country.

Economy News

- India's GDP contracted 23.9% in the quarter to June from a year ago.
- Real GDP for FY21 is expected to shrink by 10.9 per cent, according to State Bank of India's research report – Ecwrap.
- Fitch revised India GDP forecast for FY21 to -10.5% from -5% earlier.
- India Ratings and Research revised the country's FY21 GDP growth forecast to (-) 11.8 per cent from (-) 5.3 per cent earlier.
- Goldman Sachs expects Indian economy to undergo a deeper recession in FY21 with a contraction of 14.8% against its earlier estimate of 11.8% dip in economic activity.
- According to the CARE Ratings report, the employment growth rate declined to 3.5 per cent in FY20 from 3.8 per cent in the previous fiscal year, but the total number of jobs increased to 50.02 lakh from 48.32 lakh.
- Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth projection for the current fiscal to (-) 11.5 per cent, from (-) 4 per cent estimated earlier.
- CRISIL expects India's GDP to contract 9% in FY21.
- CARE Ratings said that the country's economy is likely to see a sharper contraction of 8-8.2 per cent in the current financial year compared to a decline of 6.4 per cent it had projected earlier.
- S&P Global Ratings slashed its growth forecast for India to (-) 9 per cent in the current fiscal, from (-) 5 per cent estimated earlier.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) forecast a deeper contraction of 10.2% for India in the current fiscal.
- Swiss brokerage UBS Securities, sees India's real GDP contracting 8.6 per cent this fiscal.
- Finance ministry has estimated that India's nominal GDP will grow by 19 per cent in nominal terms in financial year 2021-22.
- The global economy is expected to contract by 4.3 per cent this year as per UNCTAD report.
- Trade and Development Report 2020 by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) says, India's economy is forecast to contract by 5.9% in 2020 and recover to 3.9% next year.
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected the GDP growth for the Indian economy at -12.6% for 2020-21 (FY21).
- ICRA revised downwards its forecast for the contraction in the gross domestic product (GDP) for 2020-21 to 11% from 9.5% earlier with fresh Covid-19 infections remaining elevated at the end of the second quarter of the year.

Science & Technology

- Indian Railways has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
- UAE has launched Agriota, a new technology-driven agri-commodity trading and sourcing e-market

platform that will bridge the gap between millions of rural farmers in India and the Gulf nation's food industry.

- Five students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, have designed a web portal to help candidates appearing for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) find transport to their test centres.
- Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement. India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- SpiceJet introduced a portable ventilator for patients with mild-to-moderate breathing issues. Dubbed as 'SpiceOxy', the compact ventilator was designed by engineers of SpiceJet Technic, a subsidiary of SpiceJet.
- Government has blocked 118 mobile apps including PUBG, Livik, PUBG MOBILE LITE, WeChat Work, WeChat reading, Cyber Hunter, LifeAfter and Warpath which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, Defence of India, Security of State and Public Order.
- In series on Atmanirbhar Bharat, IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks.
- Union Minister R K Singh launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for electricity, a move that will lead to an increase in the participants in the renewable energy sector.
- Union Minister of Education Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', launched 'EnglishPro', a free mobile app developed by the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad.
- IIT Bombay has launched an alternative to CamScanner, a Chinese app mainly used for scanning documents, that was banned by the Government of India.
- SpaceX has successfully sent 60 Starlink internet satellites aboard the Falcon 9 which is lifted off from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- India successfully flight-tested the indigenously-developed hypersonic technology demonstration vehicle (HSTDV).
- Fynd has launched a new hyper-casual game titled 'Social Doori' to encourage social distancing amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- DRDO has developed P-7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para dropping military stores up to seven-tonne weight class from IL- 76 aircraft.
- IIIT Bhubaneswar students developed a new low-cost device 'Swasner' to aid COVID-19 patients.
- Chennai Division of Southern Railways (SR) has launched an in-house mobile application – Freight Seva – to serve customers better.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested an indigenously-developed unmanned aerial vehicle, Abhyas, that can be used as target for evaluation of various missile systems.
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers has successfully booted up MOUSHIK, an indigenously-made Microprocessor.

Defence News

- Defence ministry sealed a deal with two leading domestic defence majors Tata Power Company Ltd (TPCL) and engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) to procure Pinaka rocket launchers for six Army regiments at a cost of Rs 2,580 crore.
- The Indian and Russian navies began a two-day mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal to further consolidate their interoperability in dealing with various security challenges.
- Navies of India and Australia will carry out a two-day mega exercise in the Indian Ocean Region that will involve a range of complex naval manoeuvres, anti-aircraft drills and helicopter operations.
- Indian and Japanese navies to begin their three-day-long maritime military exercise begin in the North Arabian Sea. This is the fourth edition of Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX).

Sports News

Tournament	Winner	Other news
US Open Tennis Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka	Beat Victoria Azarenka
US Open Tennis Men's Singles	Dominic Thiem	Beat Alexander Zverev
Italian Open Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic	beat Diego Schwartzman
Belgian Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton	
Italian Grand Prix	Pierre Gasly	
F1 Tuscan Grand Prix 2020	Lewis Hamilton	
Russian Grand Prix 2020	Valtteri Bottas	
48th annual world open chess tournament	P. Inian	
Brookwater Golf Club women's championship	Ashleigh Barty	

Sports

- Sumit Nagal stormed into the second round of the ongoing US Open Tennis. Nagal defeated Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament.. With this Sumit Nagal becomes 1st Indian to win grand slam singles main draw match in 7 years.
- Alyssa Healy has broken MS Dhoni's record for the most number of dismissals by a wicketkeeper in T20 internationals.
- Indian Wushu stalwart Poonam Khatri has claimed World Championship status after her silver medal at the Wushu World Championship last year has been upgraded to a Gold medal.
- Olympic ski champion Viktoria Rebensburg retired from the sport.
- Former stylish batsman Ian Bell announced he will retire from all forms of cricket at the end of the 2020 domestic season.
- The Fed Cup is all set to change its name to Billie Jean King Cup.

Committee

Head of Committee	Purpose
Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar	on enhancing the military's combat potential and rebalancing defence expenditure.
Lt. Gen. Shekatkar	to review the effective utilisation of the Armed Forces Headquarters Civil Services (AFHQ CS) cadre.
Dinesh Pant(By IRDAI)	to study index-linked products for life insurance companies
K.V. Kamath(By RBI)	the financial parameters to be considered in the restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic
Rajiv Mehrishi	to assist in assessment of relief to bank borrowers
Rajnath Singh	to oversee and guide the entire process of the corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)
Rajesh Pant	to examine alleged Chinese snooping on politicians
Ajay Tirkey	to prepare roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in agri sector
Harsh Kumar Bhanwala(By SEBI)	on social stock exchange to develop a framework for onboarding non-profit organisations and for-profit enterprises as well as prescribe disclosure requirements on financials and governance
Meeta Makhan(By RBI)	to run the day-to-day functioning of cash-strapped Lakshmi Vilas Bank

Rankings

Index	India's Rank	Other Information
Global Innovation Index	48th	Top- Switzerland
Global Economic Freedom Index 2020	105 th	Top- Hong Kong

Human Capital Index	116 th	Top- Singapore
World Risk Report 2020	89 th	Vanuatu- Highest disaster risk Central African Republic- Most vulnerable

- Data Security Council of India and PayPal India, today released a study report on Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments. The e-commerce market in India is expected to grow to USD 200 bn by 2026 from USD 50 bn in 2018. UPI transactions in India have crossed 1.49 bn in volume and USD 41bn in transaction value, in July 2020.
- Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children, according to a report brought out by non-governmental organisation Mobile Creches and launched by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.

Loans from Banks/Countries

From	To	Amount	Purpose
Japan	India	Rs 3,500 Cr	to fight COVID-19
European Investment Bank (EIB)	India	€650 Million	For the construction of Kanpur's first city metro line
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	500 million US dollar	for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor
International Finance Corporation	India	2 trillion dollars	to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$500 million	For Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation's (BMRL) line linking Central Silk Board Junction to Kempegowda International Airport – ORR-Airport Metro – Phase-2A and 2B.
World Bank	India	50 Million US\$	for strengthening of Healthcare Institutions in JK
India	Maldives	250 million	to help it mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
ADB	India	\$570 Million	for Urban Projects in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh
India	Sri Lanka	USD 100 million	or three solar projects

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned micro irrigation projects worth Rs 3,805.67 crore so far.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development aims to disburse Rs 1.20 lakh crore crop loan to farmers for meeting production expenses this fiscal.
- The fourth edition of the Global Ayurveda Summit, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held virtually with the theme 'Ayurveda For Immunity'.

Deadlines/ Important Dates

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified draft notification to seek comments and suggestions from the stakeholders on making FASTag mandatory for old vehicles sold before 1st December, 2017. The amended provision in Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 is proposed to be put in force with effect from 1st January 2021.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence that India will increase its existing clean energy capacity of 134 GW to 220 GW by 2022.
- WHO has called for eliminating industrially produced Trans Fats by 2023.
- Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda has said that India will be self-reliant in the production of fertilizers by 2023.

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade issued notification extending the date of implementation of Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020 as 1st January 2021 in place of 1st September 2020.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19 has been extended for another six months.
- The ministry of corporate affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year to September 2021.
- Railways has planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023 .
- Reserve Bank has decided to extend by six months the enhanced borrowing facility provided to banks to meet liquidity shortage till March 31, 2021.

Rankings (Persons, Cities, Organisations and Others)

- India has just two universities among the world's top 400, as per World University Rankings
- 2021 released by the UK-based Times Higher Education (THE). Among Indian institutions, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc in Bengaluru) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar, are the two in the world's top 400.
- Andhra Pradesh retained its top position in ease of doing business ranking 2019, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, as per the State Business Reform Action Plan Ranking released by the commerce and industry ministry.
- Kerala emerged as the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) survey.
- Hyderabad is one of the top five cities in the country to offer jobs in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), a latest report by job portal site Indeed has revealed.
- Bengaluru tops the list of destinations for a career in AI, followed by Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, and Chennai.
- Karnataka and Kerala have emerged as the top performers, while Gujarat was ranked as the best performer in second edition of States' Startup Ranking 2019, as per the results announced by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- Four Indian cities – New Delhi(86), Mumbai(93), Hyderabad(85), and Bengaluru(95) – witnessed a significant drop in their rankings in the global listing of smart cities. The 2020 Smart City Index (SCI) was topped by Singapore.
- IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore, country's top management institutions, have been ranked in the top 50 management institutes in the world for the MBA programme as per the QS Global MBA Rankings 2021. Overall, HES Paris School of Management and London Business School are leading the QS Global MBA Rankings 2021.

Books

Book	Author	Other Info
The Big Thoughts of Little Luv	Karan Johar	
The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Human kind	Ramachandra Guha	
The One and Only Sparkella	Channing Tatum	
Let Us Dream	Pope Francis	
Invertonomics	Goonmeet Singh Chauhan'	
Nothing To Lose	Manbeena Sandhu	
My Story in My Own Words	Will be published by Penguin Random House	This is Ma Anand Sheela's memoir.
Breaking The Cocoon @ 40	Radha Nair	
Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction	Arundhati Roy	

A Promised Land	Barack Obama	This is first volume of former President Barack Obama's memoir
The End of an Era; India Exits Tibet	Claude Arpi	
Kitchens of Gratitude	Vikas Khanna	
Voices of Dissent	Romila Thapar	
Fauja Singh Keeps Going	Simran Jeet Singh	
Sach Kahun Toh	Neena Gupta	
The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales	Anand Neelakantan	
A bouquet of flowers	Dr Krishan Saksena	

Name	Profession
Narendra Swain	Senior BJD leader and former Rajya Sabha MP
Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	Former Union minister
Balli Durga Prasad Rao	Tirupati Lok Sabha MP
Ramakant Tiwari	Former Madhya Pradesh minister
Naznin Faruque	Former Rajya Sabha MP from Assam
Ashok Gasti	Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka
Shyama Sharma	Former Himachal Pradesh minister
Sardar Tara Singh	Veteran BJP leader and former Mulund legislator
Roza Deshpande	Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member
Suresh Angadi	Minister of State for Railways and Karnataka BJP MP
Jaswant Singh	Former Union Minister
Syeda Anwara Taimur	The first and only woman Chief Minister of Assam
Amitabha Ghosh	Former Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Governor
Isher Judge Ahluwalia	Eminent economist
Babu Sivan	Veteran Tamil Director
Johnny Bakshi	Veteran producer-director
Jayaprakash Reddy	Veteran Telugu stage and film actor
Ashalata Wabgaonkar	Noted Marathi actress
Bhupesh Kumar Pandya	Actor
Rockline Sudhakar	Popular Kannada actor
Bibhuranjan Choudhury	Renowned music composer
SP Balasubramaniam	Veteran playback singer
Abhilash	Veteran lyricist songwriter
Swami Kesavananda Bharati	The head of the Edneer Mutt in Kasargod
Kapila Vatsyayan	Scholar, author and connoisseur of the arts
Dr G S Amur	Eminent Critic, Writer
Purba Dam	Veteran Rabindra Sangeet exponent
PR Krishnakumar	Prominent Ayurveda physician
Dr. Sekhar Basu	Veteran atomic scientist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission
Ang Rita Sherpa	Nepal's legendary mountaineer
Swami Agnivesh	Arya Samaj leader and social activist
Ram J Shahaney	Former Chairman of Ashok Leyland
Akshay Kumar	Founder and Director of Ice Hockey India
Sachin Deshmukh	Former Mumbai cricketer
Dr. Govind Swarup	Father of India's Radio Astronomy
Jaffer Bhai Mansuri	Biryani king of Mumbai
Allama Zameer Akhtar Naqvi	Renowned Pakistani Shia scholar

Ziauddin Tariq Ali	Liberation war fighter and a prominent public figure of Bangladesh
Joe Ruby	Animator and Scooby Doo co-creator
Tom Seaver	Hall of Fame pitcher
Diana Rigg	'Game of Thrones' & Bond star
Jiri Menzel	Oscar-winning Czech director
Helen Reddy	Singer
Winston Groom	Author of 'Forrest Gump'
David Capel	Former England all-rounder
Dean Jones	Former Australia cricketer and renowned commentator
Moussa Traore	Mali's former president
John Turner	Former Canadian Prime Minister



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