

FundaMakers

December 2020

Current Affair



Important Days

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Extra Info</i>
December 1	World AIDS Day	Theme- ‘Ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic: Resilience and Impact’
December 2	World Computer Literacy Day	
December 2	National Pollution Control Day	
December 2	International Day For The Abolition Of Slavery	Theme- “Confronting Slavery’s Legacy of Racism Together”
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Theme- ‘Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post Covid-19 World’.
December 4	International Day of Banks	
December 4	Indian Navy Day	Theme- Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive
December 5	World Soil Day (WSD)	Theme- Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity
December 5	International Volunteer Day	Theme- Together We Can Through Volunteering
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme- Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day	
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme- Recover with Integrity
December 10	Human Rights Day	Theme- Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights
December 11	International Mountain Day	Theme- Mountain biodiversity
December 11	UNICEF Foundation Day	
December 12	International Day of Neutrality	
December 12	Universal Health Coverage Day	Theme- Health for all: protect everyone
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	
December 15	International Tea Day	
December 16	Vijay Diwas	
December 18	International Migrants Day	Theme- Reimagining Human Mobility
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	Theme- “Solidarity is humanity. Solidarity is survival”
December 22	National Mathematics Day	to commemorate the birth anniversary of India’s mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan
December 23	Kisan Diwas or National Farmers’ Day	It is the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh , the fifth prime minister of India.
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day	On this day in the year 1986, the Consumer Protection Act 1986 came into force.
December 25	National Good Governance Day	It is the birth anniversary of India’s former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	

MOU Industry/States/Others

- Karnataka regional office of NABARD and State Bank of India have signed an MoU to extend concessional refinance facility to the beneficiaries of watershed development and tribal development projects.
- Ministry of AYUSH and AIIMS have decided to initiate work on setting up a Department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS.
- Andhra Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Survey of India in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for the implementation of the ‘YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana’, scheduled for launch on December 21.
- WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and IFRC Secretary-General Mr Jagan Chapagain signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on implementing the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) initiative
- At the 17th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Global SME Business Summit, Amazon.in and CII signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bring the benefits of ecommerce to micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in 10 states across India.

- Ola has inked an agreement with the Tamil Nadu government to invest Rs 2,400 crore for setting up its first electric scooter factory in the state.
- Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research has signed an MoU with cGanga, a think-tank of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for development of sludge management framework in India.
- IBM and the Telangana government have entered into a collaboration to provide curated online courses for the states students that will enhance their technical and professional skills.
- Gujarat government signed a pact with Cerestra Managers Pvt Ltd to set up the Gujarat-Special Education Region (G-SER) at the Dholera Special Investment Region.
- Kerala government and UN Women have collaborated to establish India's first Gender Data Hub. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Government of Telangana signed an MoU with SAP India to digitize and empower MSMEs in the state by equipping them with digital skilling and technologies.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and Rajasthan government have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a data-driven system approach to road safety.
- Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the ministry of skills development and entrepreneurship, has joined hands with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation to provide digital learning content for students at industrial training institutes (ITIs).

Appointments and Resignations

<i>Name</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>Other Info</i>
Varsha Joshi	Chairperson of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	
Utpal Kumar Singh	Secretary General of the Lok Sabha	will succeed incumbent Snehlata Shrivastava
K Sivan	Secretary of Department of Space till 2022	
Rajnish Kumar Jenaw	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)	
Uday Kotak	Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank	
Uday Shankar	FICCI President for 2020-21	
Prasanth Prabhakaran	YES Securities MD, CEO	
AR Rahman	Ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts' (BAFTA) 'Breakthrough Initiative'	
Kuldeep Handoo	Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Fit India' Ambassador.	
Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)	
Arya Rajendran	Country's Youngest Mayor from Kerala's Capital Thiruvananthapuram	
Sandeep Kataria	CEO of BATA Brand	
Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary	Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	
SM Vaidya	First Vice President of the World LPG Association (WLPGA)	He is currently the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation
Vineet Agarwal	President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)	
Shashi Shekhar Vempati	Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU)	
Anil Soni	CEO for WHO Foundation	
Debendranath Sarangi	Vice-President of the Asia Squash Federation	
Raja Chari	Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission	
Harsh Vardhan	Member of the Board of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation	
Annika Sorenstam	President of the International Golf Federation	
Zena Wooldridge	President of World Squash Federation	Will replace Jacques Fontaine

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah	Prime Minister of Kuwait	
Florin Citu	Next Prime Minister of Romania	
Nana Akufo-Addo	President of Ghana	
Sabrina Filzmoser and Flavio Canto	International Judo Federation (IJF) Climate Ambassadors	
<u>Resignations</u>		
Romanian Prime Minister Ludovic Orban announced his resignation.		

Awards and Recognitions

<i>Award Name</i>	<i>Person/Institution</i>	<i>Extra Knowledge</i>
Global Teacher Prize 2020	Ranjitsinh Disale	for Promoting Girls' Education
3rd Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize	Raj Kamal Jha	for his novel, "The City and The Sea"
Time Magazine's first-ever Kid of the Year	Gitanjali Rao	
Social Entrepreneur of the Year award	Ashraf Patel	
PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize for History 2020	'The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj' book	Written by Anita Anand
Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors	Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	
"Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize	Vidyut Mohan	
'ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award'	Ratan Tata	
"Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace" Award by the Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce (FIICC)	Ratan Tata	
DRDO's 'Scientist of the Year Award'	Hemant Kumar Pandey	for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin meant for treatment of leucoderma
Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2020	V.K. Yadav	He is the Chairman & CEO, Railway Board,
Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Memorial Award	K. Veeramani	
Goldman Environmental Prize 2020 for Asia	Paul Sein Twa, Myanmar	in recognition of his efforts in promoting the self-determination of the Karen people in managing their natural resources
King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020	Indian Council of Agricultural	
Award by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)	Research-Indian Institute of Soil Science (ICAR-IISS), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	
United Nations Investment Promotion Award for 2020	Invest India	
2020-UNESCO Asia-Pacific award for cultural heritage conservation	Amar Singh College Srinagar	
Winners Of UK's Icon Awards	Shankar Mahadevan, Raghavendra Rathore	
Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020	Dr. Carolina Araujo	for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry
'Legion of Merit' award by US President	Narendra Modi	
Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize	Mobilizing the Marginalised: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements by Amit Ahuja and	

	Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon by Jairam Ramesh	
CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain	NTPC	
Time magazine's 2020 "Person of the Year"	Joe Biden and Kamala Harris	
2020 World Athletes of the Year(Male)	Mondo Duplantis of Sweden	
2020 World Athletes of the Year(Female)	Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela	
Recognitions		
With a net wealth of ₹54,850 crore, HCL Tech chairperson Roshni Nadar ranked first in the Kotak Wealth Hurun wealthy women list 2020.		
Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India, is among six people named "Asians of the Year" by Singapore's leading daily, The Straits Times for their work in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.		
Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga have been named by Fortune among the Businessperson of the Year 2020, a list topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk. The Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year is Musk for a second time.		
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, US Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and HCL Enterprise CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra have been named among the world's 100 most powerful women by Forbes. German Chancellor Angela Merkel tops the Forbes 2020 list, followed by European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde and US Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris, who has made her debut on the list at No.3.		
Tokyo Olympics-bound athletes, wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valarivan bagged the top honours at the FICCI India Sports Awards 2020 held virtually this year on the back of the prestigious 10th Global Sports Summit: FICCI TURF 2020.		
Sonu Sood has overtaken Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Bahubali actor Prabhas to become the number one South Asian celebrity on the Eastern Eye's 50 Asian celebrities in the World list published by UK based Eastern Eye newspaper.		
American media personality and reality TV star Kylie Jenner has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes.		
Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, with its standard working procedures, has acquired ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification from ASCB, UK.		
Singapore's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres, open air food courts popularised by celebrity chefs and hit films such as 'Crazy Rich Asians', has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance.		
The Union Minister of Communications and Electronics & IT, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad presented the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom Skill Excellence Awards for the year 2018. First Prize presented to Shri. Sreenivas Karanam of Bangalore – Rs 50,000 and Second Prize presented to Prof. Subrat Kar of New Delhi –Rs 30,000.		
A 12-year-old Indian boy Siddhant Gumber in the UAE has entered into the Guinness Book of World Records by identifying the most aeroplane tails in a minute.		
Bihar government's initiative to transfer financial assistance directly to the accounts of beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic has made its departments winners of the Digital India Awards, instituted by the central government, this year for innovative steps in e- governance. The Chief Minister Secretariat, the Disaster Management Department besides the National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the state have jointly been chosen as winners in the "pandemic category" Digital India Awards 2020.		

- UNESCO has decided to launch an international prize in the field of 'creative economy' in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

World Athletics Awards 2020

- Member Federations Award: Polish Athletics Association
- COVID Inspiration Award: Ultimate Garden Clash
- President's Award: Tommie Smith, Peter Norman and John Carlos
- Coaching Achievement Award: Helena and Greg Duplantis
- Athletes Community Award: Athletics Clubs
- World Athletics Photograph of the Year: Michael Steele's photograph of young children competing at the Discovery Cross Country Championships in Eldoret, Kenya.

List of winners of 2020 Champions of the Earth Award:

- Policy Leadership – Frank Bainimarama, the Prime Minister of Fiji
- Inspiration and Action – Yacouba Sawadogo, a farmer from Burkina Faso
- Inspiration and Action – Nemonte Nenquimo, an Ecuadorian female green campaigner
- Science and Innovation – Fabian Leendertz, a German scientist
- Entrepreneur Vision – Mindy Lubber, an American social entrepreneur
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Robert D. Bullard, an American scholar

ICC Awards of the Decade

- Virat Kohli wins the Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade
- Ellyse Perry wins the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade
- Steve Smith is ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Decade
- Virat Kohli is ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade
- Ellyse Perry is ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade
- Rashid Khan is ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade
- Ellyse Perry is ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Decade
- Kyle Coetzer is ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Decade
- Kathryn Bryce is ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Decade
- MS Dhoni wins ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade.

Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice

Harmony Foundation hosted the Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice. The Awards, in its 16th year, is the only award endorsed by Sister Prema, the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity, the organization started by Mother Teresa.

Theme- **Celebrating Compassion In Times Of Covid.** Among the awardees this year are:

- Dr. Anthony Fauci (US)
- Fr. Fabio Stevenazzi (Milan, Italy)
- Dr. Pradeep Kumar (Chennai)
- Cristian Fracassi and Alessandro Romaioli (Italy)
- Sanjay Pandey, IPS (DG Home Guards, Maharashtra)
- Vikas Khanna (Manhattan, US)
- KK Shailaja (Minister of Health, Kerala)

Conference and Summits

<i>Summit</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Extra Knowledge</i>
The Second Cancer Genome Atlas Conference	New Delhi	
9th edition of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	
International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II) 2021	Kozhikode, Kerala	<i>Theme- Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment</i>
World Economic Forum 2021	Singapore	
G-7 Summit 2021	UK	
Second Bangladesh-India Cotton Fest 2020	Dhaka, Bangladesh	
Global Media and Film Summit 2021	India	

International News

- Two major dictionary publishers Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com have chosen pandemic as the 2020 word of the year.
- Singapore has granted San Francisco start-up Eat Just regulatory approval to sell its laboratory-grown chicken in the city-state, the world's first government to allow the sale of cultured meat.
- New Zealand promised its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025 as it declared a climate emergency, a symbolic move that critics said needed to be backed with greater actions to reduce emissions.
- Britain has become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine.
- India contributed another USD 2 million to the UN Palestine refugee agency, fulfilling its commitment of USD five million in aid annually to support its programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services for Palestinian refugees.
- Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said that the 'Swadhinata Sarak' between Bangladesh and India will be opened on 26 March next year.
- India has pledged USD one million to the World Anti-Doping Agency's scientific research budget, the "highest among contributions made by other world governments.
- India and Bangladesh will reopen the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link after nearly 55 years.
- France was accepted as 23rd member state of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- UNICEF has launched an interactive tool to help track the developments in the "rapidly evolving" Covid-19 vaccine market as the designated procurement coordinator and procurement agent for COVAX.
- An Indian Navy warship undertook a "passage exercise" with the Vietnamese Navy in the South China Sea as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries.

National News

- The Centre has announced the third stimulus package of Rs 900 crore for the Mission COVID Suraksha- The Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development Mission.
- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first indigenously developed 100 Octane premium petrol through video conferencing.
- India has invited U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson as chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2021.
- Venkaiah Naidu virtually released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of late Prime Minister IK Gujral to mark his 101st birth anniversary.
- Ministry of AYUSH announced to develop a new campus of National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) campus in Pune.
- Centre released Rs 6,195 crore to 14 states as monthly instalment of post devolution revenue deficit grant.
- Union Cabinet approved Rs 22,810 crore outlay for the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) that aims at encouraging businesses to do fresh hiring amid the pandemic.
- Addressing the 10th Global Sports Summit, TURF 2020, organized by FICCI, Mr. Rijiju said, that we are also starting 1000 Khelo India small centres across the country that will help retired sports persons get employment or some role in shaping the sports culture of the country.
- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal for setting up public WiFi hotspots across the country via public data offices or PDOs, which could even be a kirana shop or a paan shop.
- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the three lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar through Video Conferencing. A sum of 266 crore rupees has been spent on the bridge.
- Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment at the CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet near Hyderabad.
- The Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme was notified by the Ministry of Finance under which various infrastructure projects will be selected for financial support to provide a boost to the sector.
- Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy has inaugurated the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment at the CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet near Hyderabad.
- Ministry of AYUSH has approved 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in almora district of Uttarakhand under centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lit the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial, marking the beginning of the 50th anniversary year celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan in 1971.
- Government said that 278 lakh households have been provided tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved assistance of 3500 crore rupees for sugarcane

farmers.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted the invitation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to be part of the G7 meeting chaired by the UK in 2021.
- An Expert Group was constituted by the Prime Minister for enhancing employment opportunity among youths of J&K and Ladakh and formulate job opportunities in public and private sectors.
- Subsequently, Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) is being implemented by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi.
- Centre has approved of Rs 90.60 crore for land acquisition for the Integrated Check Post (ICP) in Sabroom subdivision of south Tripura.
- The country's first Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) is set to take concrete shape by next year.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility at Hyderabad, making India the third country after the US and Russia to have such a facility.
- In a first of its kind initiative, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), headquartered in Kochi, has launched a multilingual call centre for aquafarmers at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Cabinet approved revision in guidelines for providing direct to home (DTH) services in the country under which licenses would be issued for 20 years. The change in guidelines would also allow 100 per cent FDI in the DTH sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- As part of India's efforts to further expand the coastal radar chain network meant to enable real-time monitoring of the high seas for threats, efforts are in advanced stages to set up coastal radar stations in the Indian Ocean littoral states of Maldives, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has also approved Rs. 59,048 Crore post matric scholarship scheme for more than four Crore Scheduled Castes students in 5 years.
- Indian Railways has operationalised its first 12,000 hp electric locomotive manufactured locally by French rolling stock manufacturer Alstom. India has become the 6th country in the world to join the club of countries producing high horsepower locomotives indigenously with these powerful e-locomotives being manufactured within the nation.
- FASTags will be mandatory for vehicles from January 1, 2021.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will establish a Regional Academic Centre for Space at IIT (BHU) to facilitate short and long term projects at the institute.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched E-Sampada, a new web portal and mobile app on Good Governance Day.
- A mobile application named "Swachhata Abhiyan" to identify and geotag insanitary latrines and manual scavengers was launched by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot.
- East Coast Railway (ECoR) has commissioned End of Train Telemetry (EOTT) system to run trains without guards. It is the first railway zone in the country to use the cutting edge technology for operation of trains without brake van and guards.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY) SEHAT scheme via video-conferencing to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.
- An American financial corporation has announced to invest \$54 million in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 100th "Kisan Rail" from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal via video-conferencing.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the country's first ever driverless train on the Magenta Line of Delhi Metro along with the fully operational National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) service on Airport Express Line virtually.
- Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV.
- A total of one crore 83 lakh Sukanya Samriddhi Accounts have been opened across the country in the name of girl-child with deposits amounting to over 58 thousand 222 crore rupees.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rajkot in Gujarat through video conferencing.
- Union Cabinet approved the export of indigenously-developed Akash missile system and set up a panel to ensure faster approvals for export of India-made military equipment.
- Indian Railways completed successful speed trials of the new design Vistadome Tourist Coaches made by Integral Coach Factory (ICF).

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually launched 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme, under which 2.49 lakh units of sheep and goats will be distributed to women in a phased manner at a cost of ₹1,869 crore.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy has launched the 'YSR Free Crop Insurance' scheme for the benefit of farmers in the state.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the flagship programme of Navaratnalu 'Pedalandariki Illu,' (housing for poor) at Komaragiri layout of Pithapuram Assembly constituency in East Godavari district.

Assam

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowalon launched the biggest-ever Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme called 'Orunodoi', aiming to cover 22 lakh families in the state.
- An Assam reserve forest, ravaged by militancy, is set to become the state's sixth national park.
- Assam cabinet approved the Assam Official Language Amendment Bill for making Bodo (in Devanagari script) an associate official language of the state.

Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh government signed a contract execution (MoU) for the country's first ethanol plant to be set up in the state under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

Goa

- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched a one-time settlement scheme for power consumers.

Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park in Gujarat's Kutch.
- A new mechanism for approval and renewal of fire safety certifications for buildings has been put in place in Gujarat by bringing the entire process online through a portal called Fire Safety COP, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said. Gujarat will be the first State to do this.
- India's first Lithium refinery is soon going to be set up in Gujarat.

Haryana

- Skill India has established first Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Power Sector in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana.

Kerala

- Kerala government said that the Gender Park in partnership with UN Women will organise the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II) at Kozhikode in February 2021.

Karnataka

- Karnataka government has unveiled the Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS), an e-governance portal, to create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details on a single platform.

Ladakh

- People in Ladakh region are celebrating Ladakhi New Year, Losar.
- India has added Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh as its 42nd Ramsar site, which is a second one in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Lakshadweep

- The Ministry of Agriculture has declared Lakshadweep as India's first Union Territory to become 100 per cent organic.

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh aims to completely eliminate AIDS by 2030.
- Gwalior and Orchha of Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of World Heritage City by UNESCO under its urban landscape city programme .
- The country's first hot air balloon wildlife safari in a tiger reserve was launched in the world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve by Madhya Pradesh Forest Minister Vijay Shah. It is the first in any tiger reserve in the country.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020.

Maharashtra

- The city's first "child-friendly" police station was inaugurated at the cantonment police station in Pune, premises by Abhay Karandikar, director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).
- Kanhalgaon, spread over 270sqkm in Chandrapur district, is the latest to be declared a wildlife sanctuary. It will be the 50th wildlife sanctuary of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra Cabinet approved the introduction of two draft bills pertaining to the prevention of incidents of violence and atrocities against women and children in the state.
- In a bid to provide basic amenities and conducive atmosphere to new entrepreneurs, a world class incubation centre is in the offing in Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra's Department of Social Justice is all set to launch an ambitious scheme for distribution of assistive devices to lakhs of persons with disabilities through MahaSharad Digital Platform to coincide with NCP chief Sharad Pawar's 80th birthday. It will be available on Play Store by March 2021.
- In a bid to boost the ailing real estate sector, the Uddhav Thackeray-led state government is all set to implement uniform land and building development rules across Maharashtra. T

Meghalaya

- In Meghalaya, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed with a formal function held at Yojna Bhawan Auditorium, Shillong. The theme this year is building back better towards a disability inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-Covid 19 world. During the function the Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, unveiled the State Disability Logo. The second edition of the Meghalaya Sign Bank App was also launched by the Chief Minister.

Mizoram

- Mizoram government has launched a project to assist the migrant workers, who lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic, find suitable employment.

Odisha

- Odisha's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched PARESHRAM portal along with 22 online services of Labour and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) department.
- Odisha government in collaboration with UNICEF has launched a 'Career Portal' for secondary and higher secondary students.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the construction of a new world class hockey stadium in Rourkela.

Punjab

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a tech-based loan management solution called 'LenS-The Lending Solution', to speed up and maintain accuracy in online loan processing and sanctioning of credit proposals.
- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched Mobile Application and web portal called 'PR Insight' to improve the delivery of citizen centric services, based upon the feedback of its citizens on government policies.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the country's first memorial for organ donors in Jaipur on the Indian Organ Donation Day.

Tamilnadu

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami inaugurated the newly-formed Mayiladuthurai district through video conferencing from the Secretariat in Chennai. The 38th district in the state has been carved out of

Nagapattinam district.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched COVID-19 testing centre detection app named the Mera Covid Kendra app .
- Dandupur railway station situated between Pratapgarh and Badshahpur on Lucknow-Varanasi rail section will now be named Maa Barahi Devi Dham.
- Uttar Pradesh government has recently launched a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic Tharu tribe across the world. The scheme's intention is to place these tribal villages on the tourism map.
- Uttar Pradesh government will launch a special program to double the income of farmers. The program named as Kisan Kalyan Mission will cover all assembly constituencies of the state.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved the design, name and logo of the international airport to be constructed in Noida's Jewar.
- Uttar Pradesh government has launched special campaign 'Varasat' to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas.
- A mega leather park will come up in Ramaipur village of Kanpur with an investment of Rs 5,850 crores.
- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to launch blockchain-enabled solar power trading in India and South Asia in a project led by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) with Australian technology company Power Ledger.

Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the Suryadhar lake at Doiwala in Dehradun.
- Union Minister of State for Communication Sanjay Dhotre launched five star village postal scheme to ensure the universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in Dehradun for rural areas of Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand forest department dedicated the newly built Pollinator Park to the public, claiming it to be the country's first such park, spread over 4 acres in Haldwani in Nainital district.

West Bengal

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee named the newly-built Majerhat bridge in Kolkata as "Jai Hind" bridge to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Mamata Banerjee recently extended the Swasthya Sathi health insurance scheme to cover the entire population of the state, starting December 1, 2020.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that the state cabinet has approved the construction of a deep sea port in Tajpur.
- West Bengal found a place in the oil map of India as Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan dedicated an oil and gas producing field in North 24 Parganas district to the nation.

Finance and Banking News

- Union Bank of India has completed the IT integration after which all the branches of erstwhile Corporation Bank have come fully under its fold as part of the amalgamation exercise.
- State Bank of India has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Japan's JCB International Co for unveiling new 'SBI RuPay JCB Platinum Contactless Debit Card' on the RuPay network.
- Yes Bank has re-energised YES Premia, unveiling a premium banking program that offers personalized solutions focused on the particular needs of key consumer segments – from small business owners to salaried professionals and senior citizens.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched an asset restructuring web module, <https://arm-msme.in>, to help MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) get benefit from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) MSME restructuring guideline.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep repo rate unchanged at 4%, reverse repo maintained at 3.35%. Meanwhile, Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to contract 7.5 percent in 2020-21.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has completed private placement of 4.63% of its equity shares worth ₹81.64 crores, allowing small finance and payment banks, as well as fintechs to be shareholders in the organisation.
- Paytm has announced its partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to empower MSMEs with instant digital loans.
- ICICI Bank opened its representative office in Nepal's capital Kathmandu.

- Finin, a fintech company, has launched itself as a 'neobank', in partnership with SBM Bank, a wholly- owned subsidiary of State Bank of Mauritius in India.
- Reserve Bank announced a slew of measures including enhancing the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 and making RTGS transaction facility available round the clock from December 14.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB), has launched an overdraft (OD) facility for farmers.
- PayNearby, India's largest hyperlocal fintech startup has partnered with YES Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch PayNearby Shopping Card, enabling its retail partners to derive maximum benefits of digital commerce in the mass market category.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed regional rural banks (RRBs) to access the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF), marginal standing facility (MSF) and call or notice money market.
- ICICI Bank has launched 'iMobile Pay' – a mobile banking app that provides payments and banking services to customers of any bank.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the licence of Karad Janata Sahakari Bank to conduct banking business citing that the bank does not have adequate finance.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has introduced a new channel Money Mitra to make banking services accessible to customers in their neighbourhood.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the Atmanirbhar Women Scheme as part of its Baroda Gold Loan.
- Federal Bank has entered into a tie-up with OrbitRemit Limited to facilitate money transfer from New Zealand to India.
- ICICI Bank has won the mandate to be the designated bank for all financial transactions under National Health Mission (NHM) in West Bengal.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a USD 9 billion vaccine initiative that will offer support to its developing member economies to procure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd, (SFB) has launched a 3-in-1 account, which allows its customers to invest in wide variety of financial product using a single platform.
- DBS Bank India has joined hands with social enterprise Haqdarshak to enable recovery of Indian businesses through its newly launched platform, which offers access to MSME-focused government- assisted schemes across the country.
- With a view to effectively deal with increasing circulation of banknotes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes.
- SBI General Insurance has partnered with IntrCity RailYatri, a multi-modal intercity mobility platform, to offer domestic travel insurance.
- Canara Bank announced the launch of its new tech product "FX 4 U".
- Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI), India's first cloud-native insurer, has launched a first of its kind, Open API (Application Programming Interface) Gateway, to facilitate complete digital collaboration with its business partners.
- Ewire Softtech, under Kerala Startup Mission, has launched a prepaid card in association with YES Bank, enabling the next-generation payment platform provider chart an all-India presence.
- Central Bank of India has launched a unique variant of a contactless debit card under the name 'RuPay Select', in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd. and Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL) have led the pack in November among the top remitter banks, initiating close to half or 1.1 billion of the total Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions processed in November, according to latest data released by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- HDFC has signed an MoU with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to promote green buildings in the country.
- SBI Life Insurance has acquired 8.99 per cent stake in Paisalo Digital.
- HDFC Bank has emerged as the top player among the 100 Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) companies in the country. In the wallet and UPI segment, Google Pay emerged as the number one mover and shaker, followed by Phone Pe.
- Central Bank of India will exit housing finance joint venture by selling its entire stake of over 64 per cent to Centrum Housing Finance for Rs 160 crore.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, cancelled the banking licence issued to Subhadra Local Area Bank Ltd., Kolhapur, Maharashtra under Section 22 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on banking business in India.

- Government has spent Rs 22,086.54 crore as interest payment towards the recapitalisation bonds for the public sector banks (PSB) in the last two financial years.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB), introduced PNB e-Credit Card, a digital replica of a physical Credit Card.
- Businesses with monthly turnover of over Rs 50 lakh will have to mandatorily pay at least 1% of their Goods and Services Tax liability in cash.
- Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) has granted the go-ahead to small lender Suryoday Small Finance Bank to float its Initial Public Offering (IPO).
- Fintech firm Cashaa and United Multistate Credit Cooperative Society launched a crypto bank that allows users to transact in cryptocurrency and fiat from one account.
- AU Small Finance Bank (AU Bank) aims to deliver paperless life insurance solutions to its more than 18 lakh customers through digital platform with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.
- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) recently signed an MoU with UNDP India to co- create India's first Social Impact Bond (SIB).
- DBS Bank India announced that it has introduced 'Travel Now', a one-stop travel marketplace within the digibank app.
- YES BANK has entered into collaboration with Salesforce, a leader in customer relationship management, to build a next generation technology platform to power the retail lending business.

Business News

- U.S. has emerged as the second biggest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India after Singapore, replacing Mauritius, during the first half of the current financial year, according to data of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.
- Razorpay has partnered with global digital payments platform PayPal to facilitate international payments for small businesses and freelancers.
- Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City regulator International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has obtained membership of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).
- In support of Mumbai's Dabbawalas, HDFC Life in association with Ketto India has initiated #PromisewalaDabba, a nationwide crowdfunding campaign.
- Axis Bank has partnered with fintech lending platform Rupifi to offer a business credit card powered by Visa.
- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has launched of Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds, which is India's first diversified Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) Mutual Fund.
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance has tied up with Plum, an employee health insurance startup, to co- create technologically backed group health insurance products.
- Mastercard, the National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have partnered to launch Digital Saksham, a capacity building initiative to drive awareness around digitization for MSMEs in the country.
- RBL Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance have entered into a bancassurance partnership.
- Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. announced the launch of 'Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider' along with 'Max Fit' — a comprehensive wellness programme.
- SBI General Insurance has partnered with Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd (MIBL) to raise its penetration in tier-II and III cities.
- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched its new digital campaign- 'heroes of my city' celebrating real life heroes and their acts of generosity during the ongoing pandemic.
- BSNL in partnership with Skylotech India announced a breakthrough in satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things).
- Byju's has inked an agreement with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to support the skilling of teachers and trainers.
- BSE has launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities – "BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)" – through its subsidiary BSE Investments.
- Aimed at enabling withdrawal of money from a bank account from the comfort of home, Aceware, a fintech company based in Infopark, has launched Ace Money Micro ATM service in Kochi.
- SEBI has set up a specialised department to tackle cases of diversion of funds, bank loans and resources by company promoters.
- The Department of Posts and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) unveiled a new digital payment application "DakPay" as part of its ongoing efforts to provide digital financial inclusion at the last mile across the country.

- To support young and emerging talent in Hindustani music, National Centre for the Performing Arts, in partnership with Citi India, is back with their scholarship program for advanced training in vocal and instrumental fields.
- BSE Ebix Insurance Broking, a joint venture of BSE and Ebix Fincorp Exchange, announced the beta launch of term insurance products on its platform. For this, BSE Ebix Insurance Broking has tied up with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co.
- SBI Card announced launch of 'BPCL SBI Card Octane' in association with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), offering maximum savings to consumers who spend a significant amount on fuel.
- Coming out with corrected Doing Business rankings following review of data irregularities, the World Bank said that China's ranking would have been lower by seven notches in the index for 2018. Besides China, the World Bank has corrected the Doing Business rankings of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan.
- The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said it along with Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) has tied up with Google India to bridge the digital skills gap in the country's auto dealerships and build their capacity in this critical growth driver.
- In partnership with VISA as a payment processor, YES BANK has launched a new line of debit cards – E- series.
- PayU has collaborated with Google Pay to introduce tokenised payments flow for merchants in India.
- Indian Army and Bank of Baroda have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU for Baroda Military Salary Package.
- ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched a open-ended equity scheme Business Cycle Fund, which will invest in equity and equity-related securities, with a focus on riding business cycles through dynamic allocation across sectors and stocks.
- IIFL Home Finance Ltd has tied up with ICICI Bank to provide affordable housing and MSME loans.
- ICICI Bank has launched a new online platform for foreign firms looking to set up or expand their business in India.
- In a major fillip to the call for greater ease of doing business in the nation, the government is set to launch the proposed Centralised "Investment Clearance Cell" by 15 April next year.
- Maintaining 4 per cent inflation is appropriate for India as targeting a lower rate could impart deflationary bias to the monetary policy, said a Reserve Bank paper.
- Banks' gross non-performing assets (NPAs) and net NPAs are expected to rise to 10.1-10.6 per cent and 3.1-3.2 per cent, respectively from 7.9 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively by March 2021, Icra said. The agency also expects net NPA to decline to 2.4-2.6 per cent by March 2022.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched its Digital Lending Platform (DLP), which will allow prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a paperless process.
- ICICI Bank has announced a partnership with Google which will allow users to issue FASTag using Google Pay.
- Common Services Centers (CSCs), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D) to establish a Design and Innovation Lab for conducting research on design-led innovations related to leveraging livelihood and enhancing their all-round entrepreneurial outlook.

Economy News

- S&P Global Ratings retained its forecast of 9 per cent contraction in the Indian economy for the current fiscal.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has marginally raised its GDP forecast for India to a contraction of 9.9% in 2020-21 (FY21) from its earlier projection of (-)10.2% in September 2020.
- Reserve Bank of India said that retail inflation is likely to remain elevated and pegged it at 6.8 per cent for the third quarter of the current fiscal.
- India's economy is likely to contract by around 10 per cent in the current fiscal.
- The fiscal deficit for April-October touched a massive Rs 9.53 lakh crore, accounting for 119.7% of the full year's budgeted target as tax collections remained under pressure because of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Fitch Ratings raised India's GDP forecast to -9.4 per cent in the current fiscal year to March 2021 from a previously projected contraction of 10.5 per cent
- Nomura projects India to be the fastest growing Asian economy in 2021.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8% contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9% estimated earlier.
- Crisil revised upwards its FY21 GDP contraction estimate to 7.7 per cent from the earlier expectation of 9 per cent, and termed lower government spending as a "constraint" for growth.
- India's GDP growth is expected to be at (-) 7.4 per cent in FY21 according to SBI Report.

- S&P Global Ratings raised India's growth projection for the current fiscal to (-) 7.7 per cent from (-) 9 per cent estimated earlier.
- Domestic rating agency ICRA Ratings expects the technical recession in the country's economy to end in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal, limiting the contraction in the GDP to 7.8% in the financial year 2021.
- The defence ministry approved procurement of weapons and military equipment worth Rs 28,000 crore for the three services.
- National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has revised upward its gross domestic product (GDP) projection for FY21 to 7.3% contraction from the 12.6% dip estimated in September.
- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) revised its expectation for India's FY21 gross domestic product (GDP) growth to negative 7.8 per cent from negative 11.8 per cent

Science & Technology

- Pixxel has signed an agreement with state-run NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch the country's first private remote-sensing satellite on an ISRO PSLV rocket in early 2021.
- Over 50 years after the United States planted the first human flag on the moon, China has become the second country to leave a flag on the lunar surface.
- Union Health Ministry has developed a digital platform Co-WIN including a mobile application, for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery, recording data and to enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination.
- The first GRSE-built Project 17A stealth frigate 'Himgiri' was launched.
- Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) launched the fifth and final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) out of an order of five such vessels it is constructing for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The vessel has been named ICGS Saksham.
- An indigenously built interceptor boat C-454 was handed over to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at an event at Hazira in Surat district. The vessel will operate from Gujarat under the control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (North-West) of the ICG.
- The Indian Coast Guard ship "Sujit", the second in the series of 105 metres off-shore patrol vessels, was commissioned in Goa.
- Russia successfully test-launched its heavy lift Angara A5 space rocket for the second time, from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwest Russia.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its 42nd communication satellite CMS- 01 from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- Bharti Global and UK government said that their joint venture OneWeb, a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite communications operator launched 36 satellites from the Vostochny cosmodrome in Russia.
- ISRO set up dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness AWS at Peenya.
- China's new medium-lift carrier rocket Long March-8 made its maiden flight sending five satellites successfully into planned orbit from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan.
- DRDO conducted the successful trial of the Medium Range Surface to Air MR-SAM missile from Chandipur off the Odisha coast.
- Niti Aayog has launched a cloud storage service called DiggiBoxx as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- China has successfully launched a new remote sensing satellite Yaogan-33 into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- US President Donald Trump has issued a new Space Policy Directive (SPD) which will allow NASA to set up a nuclear reactor on the surface of the moon by 2026 in collaboration with US Department of Energy.
- INS Sindhuvir was commissioned as UMS Minye Theinkhathu and inducted on the 73rd anniversary of the Myanmar Navy.
- Skyroot Aerospace announced a successful test-firing of its solid propulsion rocket stage named Kalam-5.
- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan, virtually inaugurated India's highest Meteorological Centre in Leh.
- INCOIS, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has launched a a web based application Digital Ocean to share information on marine data and forecast services.
- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)-developed eye cancer therapy has been successfully used for the first time for the treatment of patients with ocular tumours in AIIMS-Delhi and the results of using Ruthenium 106 plaque for treatment of a patient with choroidal hemangioma (benign tumour in blood vessels) have been found to be satisfactory.
- Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has launched the country's first remote monitoring system for oil refineries' turbines.

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved another milestone in quantum technology by successfully developing a Quantum Random Number Generator (QRNG).
- DRDO along with Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of SAHAYAK-NG India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft of Indian Navy off the coast of Goa.
- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan launched the Global Pravasi Rishta portal and mobile App, to connect with Indian Diaspora across the world.

Environment

- Nepal and China jointly announced that the revised height of the world's highest peak Mount Everest is 8,848.86 metres, about 86 centimetres more than the previous measurement done by India in 1954.
- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has come up with a unique initiative — a “firefly bird diverter” for overhead power lines in areas where Great Indian Bustard (GIB) populations are found in the wild.

Defence News

- Indian Navy (IN) is undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from 4 to 5 December 2020.
- The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was held.

Sports News

<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Other news</i>
10m air rifle event at the 6th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC)	Yash Vardhan	
2020 Bahrain Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton	
2020 Sakhir F1 GP	Sergio Perez	
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix	Max Verstappen	

Sports

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Minister of AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga and Naturopathy Unani Sidda Homoeopathy) Shripad Yesso Naik formally promoted yogasana as a competitive sport.
- Jehan Daruvala created history when he became the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix.
- Ankita Raina won her third doubles title of the pandemic-hit 2020 season, clinching the Al Habtoor challenge with Ekaterine Gorgodze
- Young Anshu Malik was the lone Indian woman wrestler to win a medal at the individual World Cup, grabbing a silver in the 57kg category.
- Indian pugilists bagged nine medals including three gold, two silver and four bronze at the Cologne Boxing World Cup held in Cologne, Germany. Amit Panghal won gold in men's category while Manisha
- Moun and Simranjit Kaur won gold in Women's category.
- Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four indigenous Games to be a part of Khelo India Youth Games 2021, scheduled to take place in Haryana. The games include, Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta and Mallakhamba.
- Virat Kohli became the fastest player to score 12,000 runs in ODI cricket.
- Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Parthiv Patel announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Former Tamil Nadu and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) seamer Vijaykumar Yo Mahesh has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- New Zealand all-rounder, Corey Anderson(29), has called time on his international career and signed a three-year Major League Cricket (MLC) T20 in the United States of America (USA).
- Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Amir has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- England's Dawid Malan has attained the highest-ever rating points for batsmen in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20I Player Rankings.

- Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Frances Tiafoe were among the winners of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) top awards for 2020.
- Japan was chosen to host a traditional, seven-team Club World Cup in December 2021.
- The Asia Cup 2020 had to be postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Pakistan was scheduled to host the Asia Cup but the PCB CEO Wasim Khan said the tournament will be hosted by Sri Lanka in 2021 while Pakistan will play host of it in 2022.
- Bureau of the FIFA Council canceled the 2021 editions of men's U-20 and U-17 World Cup due to the ongoing pandemic and decided to give the hosting rights to Indonesia and Peru for the 2023 editions.
- International Olympic Committee has decided to take breakdancing out for a spin with its upcoming Paris 2024 games.
- The 2023 Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG), will take place in Madagascar, instead of Maldives.
- Zimbabwe will host the qualifiers of the 2023 ODI World Cup between June 18 and July 9, according to a revised schedule announced by the ICC due to the postponements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Qatar's capital city Doha will host the 2030 Asian Games and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital, has been awarded the 2034 edition.
- Russian doubles badminton player Nikita Khakimov has received a five-year ban after being found guilty of offences relating to "betting, wagering and irregular match results."

FIFA Players of the year Awards:

- Best Player of the Year award- Robert Lewandowski and Lucy Bronze
- Men's coach of the Year- Jurgen Klopp
- Puskas Award for best goal - Son Heung-min

BBC Sports Awards 2020

- BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2020- Lewis Hamilton
- Helen Rollason Award: Captain Sir Tom Moore
- Expert Special Panel Award: Marcus Rashford
- Coach of the Year: Jurgen Klopp (Football)
- Team of the Year: Liverpool FC
- Unsung Hero: Sgt Matt Ratana
- Captain Tom Young Unsung Hero: Tobias Weller
- Young Sports Personality of the Year: Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix (British diver).

Committee

<i>Head of Committee</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Amit Khare	for preparing a roadmap on imparting technical education in Mother Tongue
Amit Shah	to decide on activities for a year-long commemoration of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary

- Environment Ministry has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) under the chairmanship of the secretary of the ministry.

Rankings

<i>Index</i>	<i>India's Rank</i>	<i>Other Information</i>
Global Terrorism Index of 2020	8 th	Top- Afghanistan
Climate Change Performance Index	10 th	
Global spam call tally	9 th	Top- Brazil
Bloomberg New Energy Finance's (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey	2 nd	Top- Chile
Human Development Index 2020	131 st	Top- Norway
Personal Freedom Index	111 th	Top- New Zealand
International Hockey Federation (FIH) Rankings Mens	4 th	Top- Belgium
International Hockey Federation (FIH) Rankings Womens	9 th	Top- Netherlands

- Pakistan's cultural capital Lahore has once again topped the list of world's most polluted cities, according to air pollution data released by the US Air Quality Index.
- Within India, Gujarat received the most spam calls in 2020.
- North-eastern states have topped the list of states in managing Covid-19 followed by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, according to a study conducted by SBI Research.

Loans from Banks/Countries

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$132.8 million	to strengthen and modernize the distribution network and improve the quality of power supplied to households, industries, and businesses in India's northeastern state of Meghalaya
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$50 million	to boost West Bengal's digital platforms for public finance reforms
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	USD 430 million	to improve power supply in Uttar Pradesh
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	USD 190 million (over Rs 1,400 crore)	for modernisation and upgradation of power distribution system in Karnataka's capital city of Bengaluru
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	USD 2.5 million (about Rs 18 crore)	technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	4.21 million dollar	Project Readiness Financing (PRF) facility for the preparation of infrastructure development projects to improve urban amenities and develop tourism infrastructure in Tripura.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$300 million	to upgrade rural power distribution networks to provide reliable electricity supply to consumers in the state of Uttar Pradesh
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	\$231million	for the construction of the Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power (LKHEP) plant in Central Assam, India
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Northern Arc Capital Limited (NACL)	\$40 million	to support the livelihoods of microfinance borrowers and MSMEs in India
Export-Import Bank of India(EXIM Bank)	Uzbekistan	\$448 million	for financing various projects in the Roads & Transport, Water and Technology & Communication sectors in Uzbekistan
New Development Bank	India	1 Thousand Million Dollar	to provide support to Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan through MGNREG Scheme
World Bank	India	400 million dollar	to protect India's poor and vulnerable from the impact of COVID-19
World Bank	India	USD 800 million	to support development initiatives
World Bank	India	USD 500 million	to build safe and green national highway corridors in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh

Deadlines/ Important Dates

- In India, 5G subscriptions will surpass 350 million, accounting for 27 per cent of all mobile subscriptions in 2026, Swedish gear maker Ericsson said in a report titled "Ericsson Mobility Report."
- World's tallest rail bridge on the Chenab in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is expected to be completed by 2021.

- India, which appears to have been pushed back to being the world's sixth biggest economy in 2020, will again overtake the UK to become the fifth largest in 2025 and race to the third spot by 2030, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) said in an annual report.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that a multi-model logistics park will be constructed in Silchar and the Balacherra-Harengajao section of the Silchar-Saurashtra Highway will be completed in March 2022.

Rankings (Persons,Cities,Organisations and Others)

- Amul, a brand of dairy cooperative major Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), is ranked 8th in the list of top 20 global dairy processors released by the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN).
- Reliance Industries Ltd topped the Fortune 500 list of Indian companies.
- Nongpok Sekmai police station in Manipur's Thoubal district has been chosen as best performing Police Station in the country.
- National University of Singapore topped QS World University Rankings 2021. Top 3 university are National University of Singapore (NUS), Tsinghua University and Nanyang Technological University (NTU).
- IIT-Bombay researchers have come up with an urban quality of life index tailored to the reality of life in India. And, for the first time, they have factored in gender parity. Chennai, it turns out, is the most women-friendly and Patna the least. Overall, Mumbai tops the list of 14, followed closely by Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.

Books

<i>Book</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Other Info</i>
Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield	Amrit Raj	
40-Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories	Sivathanu Pillai	
Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind	Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	
Romancing Targets	Nidhi Vadhera	
Dharma: Decoding the Epics for A Meaningful Life	Amish Tripathi	
Reporting India	Prem Prakash	
Oh Mizoram	P S Sreedharan Pillai'	
Ayodhya	Madhav Bhandari	
Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan	Kailash Satyarthi	published by Prabhat Prakashan
In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography	Rajindar Sachar	
Sutranivednachi sutra- ek anbv	Dr Roopa Chari	
Element of Quantitative Genetics	Dr. Stuti Sharma	
Vahana Masterclass	Alfredo Covelli	

- Maharashtra Social Justice Minister Dhananjay Munde unveiled a Braille version of the Indian Constitution at an event in Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had released a book called 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume', to mark the 96th birth anniversary of the former prime minister.
- Manav Kaul presented his first novel Antima to Ruskin Bond.

Obituaries

<i>Name</i>	<i>Profession</i>
Abhay Bhardwaj	Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat
Ram Lal Rahi	Veteran Congress leader and former Union minister
Satya Dev Singh	Senior BJP leader and former Gonda MP
Madhav Govind Vaidya	Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue and the organisation's first spokesperson
MR Kadambur Janarthanan	Former Tirunelveli MP and senior AIADMK leader
Radhika Ranjan Pramanik	Veteran politician and five-time MP
Madan Lal Sharma	Veteran Congress leader and former minister

Motilal Vora	Veteran Congress leader
Dharampal Gulati	Owner of MDH Spices
Manu Mukherjee	Veteran Bengali actor
Ravi Patwardhan	Veteran actor
Divya Bhatnagar	Popular TV actress
Ishwar Bidri	Veteran Cinematographer
Shantanu Mohapatra	Legendary Odia music director
Astad Deboo	Dance Pioneer And Padma Shri Awardee
Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan	Delhi Gharana Maestro
Sunil Kothari	Eminent dance scholar and critic
Narendra Bhide	Noted Marathi Musician
Madhukar Gangadhar	Veteran Hindi writer
Manglesh Dabral	Eminent Hindi poet and journalist
Rahman Faruqi	Renowned Urdu poet and critic
UA Khader	Well-known writer
Sugathakumari	Renowned Malayalam poet
Vidyavachaspati Bannanje Govindacharya	Renowned Sanskrit scholar
Dineshwar Sharma	Lakshwadweep's Administrator and former Intelligence Bureau chief
Vice Admiral Srikan	Indian Navy's senior most submariner
Roddam Narasimha	A renowned aerospace scientist and Padma Vibhushan recipient
S Ramakrishnan	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre's former director
Narinder Singh Kapany	Father Of Fibre Optics
Hariram Dhaka	105-year-old Freedom Fighter
D Ethiraj	1962 Asian Games gold medalist
Nikhil Nandy	A member of 1956 Olympics fourth-place finishing Indian football squad
Mir Sajjad Ali	Former Indian footballer
Shripati Khanchnale	Noted wrestler
Eric Freeman	Former Australia Test all-rounder
Robin Jackman	Former England and Surrey bowler
John Edrich	Former England opening batsman
Papa Bouba Diop	Former Senegal Footballer
Dennis Ralston	Hall of Fame tennis player
Jon Huber	Wrestler
Gerard Houllier	Former Liverpool, Paris Saint-Germain and France coach
Mahboobullah Mohebi	Kabul's Deputy Governor
Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali	Former Pakistan prime minister
Ambrose Dlamini	Eswatini Prime Minister
Valery Giscard d'Estaing	Former French President
Tabare Vazquez	Former Uruguayan President
Firdous Begum	Pakistani Actress
Charley Pride	Country Music Legend
Rafer Johnson	Olympian and James Bond actor
Kim Ki-duk	Renowned South Korean filmmaker
Paolo Rossi	Italy's 1982 World Cup hero
Charles Elwood "Chuck" Yeager	US test pilot of World War II who was the first pilot to break the sound barrier

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