



Current Affairs May 2020

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CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	20
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	27
Honours/ Awards.....	33
Sports.....	36
Obituaries.....	37
Important Days with theme.....	41

National

Chhattisgarh tops among other states in providing employment under MGNREGS

i. According to an official statement by the **Rural Development Ministry, Chhattisgarh** is **1st** state to provide **employment** to over 18(18.51) lakh unskilled labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(MGNREGS).

ii. Rajasthan(2nd) to 10.79 lakh workers & Uttar Pradesh(3rd) to around 9.06 lakh workers.



About MGNREGS:

It is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household who willingly does unskilled manual work.

India installs 7.3 GW of solar power in CY 2019 & secures world's 3rd largest solar market: Mercom

i. According to Mercom India Research's '**India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020**' report India has installed **7.3 Giga Watt (GW)** of solar power in CY 2019 which consolidates its position as the **3rd largest** solar market in the world after China and U.S.

ii. India has total solar installations of approximately 35.7 GW by the end of December 2019.

About Mercom India:

Headquarters– Bangalore, Karnataka

Managing Director (MD)– Priya Sanjay

Founder– Raj Prabhu(CEO and co-founder of Mercom Capital Group)

Manipur black rice, Gorakhpur terracotta & Kovilpatti kadalai mittai gets GI tag

Chak-Hao, the black rice of Manipur which is glutinous rice cultivated in Manipur & is characterised by its special aroma; the **terracotta** work of **Gorakhpur & Kovilpatti kadalai mittai**(a peanut candy)has been granted with the Geographical Indication(**GI**) tag.

About GI Tag:

It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In India, GI registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of **Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from September 2003.



COVID-19: Glenmark Pharma becomes the first company to get Nod from DCGI for clinical trials of Favipiravir tablets

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals became the first pharma company in India to receive approval from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct clinical trials of Favipiravir antiviral tablets on mild to moderate COVID-19 patients.

About Glenmark Pharmaceuticals:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Chairman & Managing Director (MD)– Gleen Saldanha..

A new book “Shivaji in South Block: The Unwritten History of a Proud People” by Girish Kuber

A New book named” Shivaji in South Block: The Unwritten History of a Proud People” written by journalist Girish Kuber talks about Maharashtra’s evolution from the past to the modern times and its contribution to the tapestry of the country’s culture, politics, history and society. The book is scheduled to be released in October.



About HarperCollins:

HarperCollins Publishers is the second-largest consumer book publisher in the world operating in 17 countries.

Established in India– 1992

Headquarters– New Delhi

Kashmir saffron gets GI tag

i.The **Kashmir saffron** cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir gets Geographical Indication(GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.

ii.It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 metre(m) to 1,800 m Above Mean Sea Level.

About GI tag:

Darjeeling Tea(2004) is the 1st indian product to get a GI tag.

Other Indian products with GI tag– Tirupati Laddu, Madhubani Paintings, Nagpur Orange, Kashmir Pashmina, Rajasthani Kathputlis, and Lucknow Chikan Crafts among others....

Maharashtra the first state government to announces free and cashless insurance to the people

After the events of Maharashtra Day The Health Minister of Maharashtra Rajesh Tope announced that Maharashtra will be the first state to provide free and cashless insurance protection to the people and the covered under the state governments health scheme and for the treatment of COVID-19 patients at the private hospitals in Pune and Mumbai the government has signed a MoU with the General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA).



About MJPJAY:

Implemented under the name of Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana (RGJAY) on 1st April 2017

throughout Maharashtra in a phase manner for 4 years period. On 13th April 2017 the name of the scheme is changed to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana (MJJAY).

India ranked 3rd among countries in scientific publication in 2018; expenditure on R&D tripled: NSTMIS

i. India occupies 3rd rank in terms of number of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)'s awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) after USA (39,710 in 2016) and China (34,440 in 2015).

ii. The **Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD)** in the country has nearly tripled from Rs. 39,437.77 crore in 2007- 08 to Rs. 1,13,825.03 crore in 2017-18.

iii. During 2017-18 a total of **47,854 patents** were filed in India. Out of which, 15,550 (32%) patents were filed by Indian residents.

About NSTMIS:

Advisor and Head– Dr. Parveen Arora

Location– New Delhi

US private equity firm Silver Lake buys 1.15% stake in Reliance Jio platforms for Rs 5655.75 cr

US based private equity company **Silver Lake partners** has bought a 1.15% stake in **Jio Platforms Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for **Rs 5,655.75 crore** (\$750 million).

i. The deal came a days after Facebook bought a 9.99 % stake in Reliance Jio for Rs 43,574 crore (\$ 5.7 billion).

About Silver Lake partners:

Headquarters– California, United States

Co-CEO and Managing Partner– Egon Durban

Aarogya Setu Mitr launched in private public partnership initiative

AarogyaSetuMitr launched in a new private-public partnership(**PPP**) initiative will be available in the AarogyaSetu app offering consultation regarding COVID-19 from the Tata group, Tech Mahindra and Swasth, a collaboration of other related entities. This initiative was facilitated by the offices of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister and NitiAayog.

About Aarogya Setu:

Developed by– National Informatics Centre(**NIC**)

Launched on– 2nd April 2020

Headquarters– New Delhi

Operating system– Android and iOS

A book titled as Vidyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil War Hero authored by Colonel VN Thapar and Neha Dwivedi

The book titled as ‘**Vidyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero**’ authored by Vidyant’s father Colonel VN Thapar and writer Neha Dwivedi, a martyr’s daughter. Its e-book will be released on May 15. It is published by Penguin Random House.

MP becomes the first state in country to provide Mid-Day Meal ration

The Central Government appreciated that Madhya Pradesh (MP) has become the first state in the country to provide a mid-day meal ration. Manoj Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development, informed that this information has been given in the review meeting conducted by the Central Government.



India’s unemployment rate shoots up to 27.11% amid COVID-19 crisis: CMIE

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) the country’s unemployment rate rose to 27.11% for the week ended May 3 due to the COVID-19 crisis, up from the under 7% level before the start of the pandemic in mid-March.

About CMIE:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– S A Dave

India for the 1st time has more internet users in rural areas than urban: IAMAI report

According to ‘Digital in India’ report by the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) & Nielsen shows that for the 1st time has more internet users in rural areas than urban, where rural India had 227 million active internet users, 10% more than urban India’s about 205 million, as of November 2019.

About IAMAI:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– Amit Agarwal

Nitin Gadkari sets road construction target for next 2 years at Rs 15 lakh crore during virtual meet of MoRTH & SIAM

i. The objective of the meet was to discuss challenges being faced by the auto industry affected by COVID-19 pandemic along with few suggestions and requested support from the government to keep the smooth working of the sector.

ii. A focus on enhancing liquidity in auto business is required by exploring cheaper credits including foreign capital.

iii. During the meeting it was also informed that MoRTH officials are finalizing the scrappage policy for old vehicles as early as possible that will help in cost reduction.

Minister of State– Pratap Chandra Sarangi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates 80 km link road for Kailash Mansarovar through VC

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated **80km** strategically crucial road link connecting **Lipulekh pass (China Border)** with **Dharchula in Uttarakhand** through video conferencing (VC).



i. It will help pilgrims visiting Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet as it is around 90 kms from the Lipulekh pass.

SC Ruling: Cooperative banks come under SARFAESI Act, 2002; Parliament can prescribe recovery process for cooperative banks

i. Section 2(1)(c) of SARFAESI Act of 2002 empowers the cooperative banks with recovery procedures including seize and sell defaulters' assets. The recovery procedure u/s (under section) 13 of the Act is also applicable to such banks.

ii. **Constitution Bench:** This 159-page unanimous judgement has been passed by a constitution bench headed by **Justice Arun Mishra** which also included justices Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran, Mukesh kumar Rasikbhai Shah and Aniruddha Bose.

About SARFAESI Act, 2002:

The Act prescribes a procedure for faster recovery of dues. It allows secured creditors to take possession of the assets of a borrower who fails to pay dues within 60 days of demanding repayment.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves abolition of 9,304 posts in Military Engineering Service

i. On the recommendation of the Committee of Experts (CoE), headed by **Lt General DB Shekatkar**, Raksha Mantri (Minister of Defence) Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal of Engineer-in-Chief of Military Engineering Services (MES), **Lt Gen Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava**, for abolition of 9,304 posts in MES.

ii. The recommendations by the committee, if implemented over the next five years, can result in savings of up to Rs 25,000 crore in defence expenditure.

About MES:

The MES, which is a part of the Indian Army, provides rear line engineering support to the Armed Forces. It is one of largest construction and maintenance agencies in India.

US-based Vista Equity Partners to buy 2.32% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 crore

The US-based private equity firm **Vista Equity Partners** to buy **2.32%** stake in Reliance's **Jio Platforms**, for **Rs 11,367 crore** which will make Vista the largest investor in Jio Platforms after Reliance Industries and Facebook.

About Vista Equity Partners:

Founder, Chairman & CEO– Robert F. Smith

UP passes ordinance to suspend most Labour Laws for 3 years

The Uttar Pradesh(UP) **government** has passed an **ordinance** ‘Uttar Pradesh Temporary Exemption from Certain Labour Laws Ordinance, 2020’, to suspend most of the **labour laws** for **3 years**, where all factories & manufacturing establishments will be exempt from existing labour laws except few....Click here to Read More

Government hikes its market borrowing to Rs 12 lakh crore from Rs 7.80 lakh crore for FY 21: COVID-19 impact

The Government has hiked its estimated gross market borrowing to **Rs 12 lakh crore**(additional **Rs 4.2 lakh crore**) from **Rs 7.80 lakh crore** for Financial Year(FY) **2020-21** as per the Budget Estimates(BE) so as to tackle the expected shortfall in revenue due to the impact of COVID-19 crisis on the economy.

About Finance Ministry:

Union Minister– Nirmala Sitharaman(Constituency- Karnataka)

Minister of State– Anurag Singh Thakur(Constituency- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)

“Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of a Modern Royal Family” by Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand set to release in August

Biography of Britain’s Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle “Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of A Modern Royal Family” by royal reporters OmidScobie and Carolyn Durand scheduled to release on 11th August tops the pre order charts as it went online in Amazon.

Indian Navy’s ‘Samudra Setu’ to bring stranded Indian citizens from Maldives; Air India will evacuate from other 12 nations

i.Indian Navy has sent two India Naval Ships (INS) viz. **Jalashwa**and **Magaron** May 5, 2020 to Maldives capital Male to commence the first phase of the evacuation operations of Indians stranded abroad from May 8, 2020.

ii.For a period of 1 week, Air India (AI) is set to operate 64 flights from May 7 to May 13 to bring back around 15,000 Indian nationals stranded in 12 countries including Middle East, UK, US, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Bangladesh.

INS Jalashwa (L41):

Procured in 2005 from United States (US), it was commissioned in Indian Navy in 2007. Formerly known as USS Trenton, is an amphibious landing dock capable of carrying over 1,000 people.

INS Magar (L20):

Commissioned in 1987, INS Magar is the lead ship of Magar-class amphibious warfare vessels of the Indian Navy.She was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata, West Bengal.

About Maldives:

President– Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

ICMR-NIV develops 1st indigenous antibody detection kit “COVID KAVACH ELISA” for COVID-19

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan informed that Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR)-National Institute of Virology(NIV) has developed the **1st** indigenous anti-Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2(SARS-CoV-2) human Immunoglobulin G(IgG) enzyme-linked immuno sorbent assay (ELISA) test kit, “COVID KAVACH ELISA” for antibody detection of COVID-19.

About NIV:

Headquarters– Pune, Maharashtra

Director– Priya Abraham

About Zydus Cadila:

Headquarters– Ahmedabad, Gujarat

DRDO lab develops DRUVS, an automated UV systems to sanitise electronic gadgets, papers & currency notes

Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad based Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) premier lab, developed an automated contactless Ultraviolet C (UVC) sanitisation cabinet called **Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)**. It has been designed to sanitise mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leafs, challans, passbooks, paper, envelopes, etc.



ICMR ties up with BBIL to develop the 1st fully indigenous COVID-19 vaccine

Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) announced its tie-up with Bharat Biotech International Ltd(BBIL) to develop the **1st fully indigenous COVID-19 vaccine** by using the virus strain isolated at the National Institute of Virology(NIV), Pune. The strain has been successfully transferred from NIV to BBIL.

About BBIL:

Founder & Chairman– Krishna M. Ella

Registered office– Hyderabad, Telangana

Vadhan authors a new book titled “Fear of God” deals with corruption, vigilantism & law

Bomma Devara Sai Chandravadhan writes under the Pen Name, Vadhan, has authored his third book titled “**Fear of God**”. The book was published by TreeShade publications. The Book was released by author and Producer Anirban Bhattacharya. The story weaves law, corruption, vigilantism and courtroom drama to follow the three central characters who are looking to achieve the same thing but through different means.

SRS Bulletin released: National infant mortality rate at 32, MP worst performer; Kerala achieved SDG target

i. India's infant mortality rate (IMR) has improved very marginally from 33 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 32 in 2018. In 2009-2018 it has declined from 50 to **32**.

ii. Kerala is one of the states with an IMR in single digits at 7. It is also the only state which has now achieved the United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target for IMR reduction, set at eight for the year 2020.

iii. The death rate of India has witnessed a significant decline over the last four decades from 14.9 in 1971 to 6.2 in 2018.

About Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (ORGI)

Works under– Ministry of Home Affairs

Registrar General & Census Commissioner– Dr Vivek Joshi

MP becomes 1st in the country to launch 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana'

Madhya Pradesh(MP) Home Minister **Narottam Mishra** launched the country's 1st 'First Information Report(**FIR**) **Aapke Dwar Yojana**' (FIR at your doorstep) at the new Police Control Room, Bhopal to enable people to file FIRs from their homes instead of visiting police stations.

Gujarat based Macpower produces India's 1st indigenous Seam Sealing Machine for PPEs

Macpower CNC Machines Ltd, a Rajkot (Gujarat) based manufacturer of CNC (Computerized Numerical Control), has made India's 1st indigenous **hot air seam sealing machine** used to manufacture **personal protective equipment (PPE) kits**.

The make in India machine, manufactured with the guidance of doctors at Indian Medical Association (IMA), was launched by Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani.



SC orders to set up high-powered committee headed by Secretary of MHA to restore 4G internet services in J&K

Supreme Court(SC) orders to set up a high-powered committee to look into the demands by petitioners who seek **restoration of 4G internet services** in the Union Territory(UT) Jammu and Kashmir(**J&K**). It is headed by the **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA).

About J&K:

Capital– Srinagar (summer), Jammu (winter).

Lieutenant Governor(LG)– Girish Chandra Murmu.

68.2% of under-5 deaths in India due to child, maternal malnutrition; UP topped: Global Burden of Disease Study 2000–17

- i. Child and maternal malnutrition was the predominant risk factor in India as it attributed to 68.2% of under-5 deaths while low birth weight and short gestation led to 83.0% of neonatal deaths in 2017.
- ii. Highest number of under-five and neonatal deaths in 2017 were reported in Uttar Pradesh (UP) followed by Bihar.
- iii. If the U5MR trends estimated up to 2017 were to continue, the projected U5MR for India would be 29.8 per 1000 livebirths in 2025.

PM Modi announces Rs 20 lakh cr special economic package and Lockdown 4.0

- i. This package is the sum of earlier announcements by the government during covid-19 crisis and decisions taken by RBI viz. liquidity measures and rate cuts.
- ii. The details of the plan are dubbed as “**Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan**” (self-reliant India) which is to be provided by Nirmala Sitharaman on the eve of May 13, 2020.
- iii. There will be a special economic package for labourers, farmers, honest taxpayers, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), middle class, and cottage industry. It will focus on the well-being of migrant workers too.

4 new products from three states receive Geographical Indication (GI) tag

Geographical Indications Registry headquartered in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag for 4 new products from three states.

Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting (a traditional and ritualistic mural art), **Telangana's Telia Rumal cloth** (an intricate handmade work with cotton loom) and **Thanjavur Netti Works** (pith works) and **Arambavur Wood Carvings** from the state of Tamil Nadu (TN) are the latest addition in the GI list.



In a 1st, PoK's Gilgit-Baltistan & Muzaffarabad included in the meteorological forecast list of IMD

The Regional Meteorological Centre of the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)**, has included the areas of **Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad**, which are parts of PoK (Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir) in its weather forecasting for the 1st time.

The department taken this decision as it says that it is a part of India and the country always maintains its position that PoK belongs to India.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-1: MSME focused package detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman; EPF contribution reduced

Measures taken in the package are focused on “**Getting back to work**” which enables employees, employers, and businesses to get back to production and workers back to gainful employment.

- Rs 3 lakh crore Emergency Working Capital Facility for Businesses, including MSMEs for 4 years
- Rs 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs; Max upto Rs 75 lakhs
- Rs 50,000 crores equity infusion for MSMEs through Rs 10,000 cr Fund of Funds
- Global tenders to be disallowed upto Rs 200 crores in government procurement
- 2500 crore Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Support for Business & Workers for 3 more months
- EPF contribution reduced for Business & Workers for 3 months- Rs 6750 crores Liquidity Support
- Rs 30,000 crores Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFC/HFC/MFIs
- Rs 45,000 crores Partial credit guarantee Scheme 2.0 for Liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs
- Rs 90,000 crore Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs by PFC & REC
- Reduction in Rates of ‘Tax Deduction at Source’ and ‘Tax Collected at Source’ by 25% for the remaining period of FY 20-21

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-2: Package for Poor, including migrants and farmers detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman

The Part 2 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is focused on providing relief to poor including migrant labours, street vendors, migrant urban poor, small traders, self-employed people, small farmers, housing and members of tribal community.

- Free food grains supply to migrants for 2 months; Rs 3500 cr allocated
- One Ration Card fully rolled out by March 2021
- Scheme for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes under PMAY for Migrant Workers and Urban Poor to be launched
- 2% Interest Subvention for 12 months for Shishu MUDRA loanees- Relief of Rs. 1,500 crore
- Rs 5,000 crore Credit facility for Street Vendors; Rs 10,000 working capital support
- Rs 70,000 crore boost to housing sector and middle income group through
- Rs 6000 crore employment push using CAMPA funds
- Rs 30,000 crore Additional Emergency Working Capital for farmers through NABARD
- Rs 2 lakh crore credit boost to 2.5 crore farmers under Kisan Credit Card Scheme

Delhi Police gets India’s first ‘Thermal Corona Combat Headgear’ to enhance social distancing

Delhi Police launched India’s first ‘**Thermal Corona Combat Headgear**’ to ensure the safety of frontline warriors and enforce



social distancing. The initiative has been launched by the Delhi police in collaboration with Indian Robotics Solution. This equipment helps police personnel to detect the temperature of a large number of people from a distance of 10-15 metres.

India's CO2 emissions falls for the 1st time in four decades: Carbon Brief

According to an analysis by the environmental website, Carbon Brief, India's **Carbon Dioxide (CO2)** emissions fell by 30metric tonnes(1.4%) in the fiscal year ending March, which is the first annual **decline** in **four decades**. Furthermore, emission fell by **15%** during the month of **March** and is likely to fall by **30%** in **April**.

About Carbon Brief:

Headquarters– London, UK

Director & editor– Leo Hickman

COVID-19 may cost global economy loss of up to \$ 8.8 trillion: ADB report

According to a report “**Updated Assessment of the Potential Economic Impact of COVID-19**” released by **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, **global economy** is expected to lose between **\$ 5.8 trillion to \$ 8.8 trillion** (equal to 6.4 % to 9.7 % of global gross domestic product (GDP)) due to the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

i.In the People's Republic of China (PRC), this loss can range from 1.1 trillion to 1.6 trillion dollars.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

Headquarters– Manila, Philippines

Membership– 68 countries

President– Masatsugu Asakawa

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-3: Package for agriculture Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman

The Part 3 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is consisted of **11 measures**. 8 measures are for improving agricultural infrastructure and 3 measures are for administrative and governance reforms, including removing restrictions on sale and stock limits of farm produce.

- NABARD anchored Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund for farm-gate infrastructure for farmers
- Rs 10,000 crore scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE)
- 20,000 crore allocated for fisherman through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)
- Rs. 13,343 cr National Animal Disease Control Programme launched
- Rs. 15,000 cr Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund to be formulated
- Rs. 4,000 cr allocated to promote Herbal Cultivation
- Rs 500 cr allocated towards Beekeeping initiatives
- “Operation Greens” extended with Rs 500 cr

- Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable better price realisation for farmers

A Book titled “Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City” authored by Fang Fang

The book titled as “**Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City**” authored by Chinese literary writer **Fang Fang** is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19. The book was released in **India** in an **ebook format** on May 15, 2020, published by **HarperNonFiction**, the audio will follow on May 26.

AP govt forms 5-member panel headed by Neerabh Kumar Prasad to probe Vizag gas leak

The **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** government has formed a 5-member high-powered committee led by **Neerabh Kumar Prasad** to probe into the causes behind the leakage of **styrene gas** from the **LG Polymers India Ltd** located at RR Venkatapuram in Visakhapatnam. The panel required to submit its final report within one month.

i. The gas leak had claimed 12 lives and left more than 200 people ill after they inhaled the styrene gas.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-4: New Horizons of Growth detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman

The Part 4 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is consisted of structural reforms in the eight sectors of Coal, Minerals, Defence production, Civil Aviation, Power Sector, Social Infrastructure, Space and Atomic energy. The aim is to boost economic growth, and create jobs.

- Coal Sector: Rs 50,000 cr infused for building evacuation infrastructure
- Mineral sector: Mineral Index for different minerals to be developed
- Defence sector: FDI to be raised from 49% to 74%
- Civil Aviation sector
- Power sector; Privatization of PDCs in UTs
- Boosting Private Sector investment with Rs. 8,100 crore
- Boosting private participation in space sectors
- Atomic Energy Sector

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-5: Government reforms detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman

The Part 5 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is focused on seven areas viz. MNREGA, Health and Education, Business during Covid, Decriminalisation of Company Act, Ease of doing business, Policy related to Public Sector Units, State government and resources related to it.

- Rs 40,000 crores increase in allocation for MGNREGS to provide employment boost
- Health Reforms & Initiatives
- Technology Driven Education with Equity post-COVID by launching PM eVIDYA

- Enhancement of Ease of Doing business through IBC related measures
- Decriminalisation of Companies Act defaults
- Ease of Doing Business for Corporates
- Public Sector Enterprise Policy for a New, Self-reliant India

General Atlantic buys 1.34% stake in Jio platforms for Rs 6,598.38 crores

Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) announced the sale of **1.34%** stake in its digital services subsidiary, **Jio Platforms** to global Private Equity (PE) firm General Atlantic for **Rs 6,598.38 crores**, to accelerate consumer business and cut debt.

About General Atlantic

Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- William E. Ford

Head of India & Southeast Asia

Army proposes 3-year stint for civilians under “Three-Year Short Service” Scheme

i.If this proposal gets approved, it will be a voluntary engagement and will not affect the current selection criteria.

ii.Initially, 100 officers and 1,000 men are being considered for recruitment.

iii.The proposal suggests several measures to incentivize this scheme like a tax-free income for 3 years.



Indian Railways operationalised its 1st 12,000 hp electric made in India Locomotive- WAG12 manufactured by MELPL

Indian Railways(IR) operationalised its **1st 12,000 horsepower(hp)** electric made in India Locomotive(loco), **WAG12**(with Number 60027). It is manufactured by Madhepura Electric Locomotive Pvt. Ltd.(MELPL) Factory, Bihar. India became the **6th country** to produce high hp loco indigenously.

About IR:

Chairman Railway Board– V. K. Yadav

Union Railway Minister– Piyush Goyal, Constituency- Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)

Kotak Mahindra becomes 1st bank in India to introduce video-KYC facility for SA customers

In view of the ongoing lockdown in the country due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has become the 1st bank in India to allow **video Know your customer (KYC)** facility for its customers opening savings account (SA) on **Kotak 811** platform.



About Kotak Mahindra Bank:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO- Uday Kotak

Tagline– Lets make money simple

ICRA sharply cuts India's GDP growth forecast for FY21 at -5%

ICRA Limited (formerly Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency) **has sharply reduced India's FY21 (Fiscal Year 2020-21) growth forecast to minus 5 % from 1 %,-2% growth predicted earlier, due to the multiple extension of lockdown and labour mismatches results in further delays in supply chain resumption.**

i.However, the agency predicted better growth of 2.1 % growth in Q3 and 5 % in Q4 of current FY 2021.

About ICRA Limited:

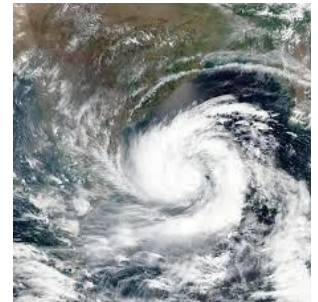
Headquarters– Gurugram, Haryana

Non-Executive chairman and independent director– Arun Duggal

Cyclone Amphan causes havoc in India and Bangladesh

A powerful super-cyclone **Amphan**, making landfall at 2.30 p.m. between Digha in West Bengal and Hatiya island in Bangladesh with winds of about 120mph (190km/h), has killed at least 22 people and destroying thousands of homes.

i.Super cyclone Amphan has arrived in India after 21 years as in the year 1999, a cyclone hit the coast of Odisha (Tropical Storm B 05 or Supercyclone, 1999).



Chhattisgarh Govt rolls out Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana for farmers

The state government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched its ambitious '**Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana**' on May 21, 2020 (29th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi) to encourage crop production in the state and to give the farmers the right price for their produce.

i.Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 5700 crore will be transferred directly to their accounts in four instalments to 19 lakh farmers of the state.



Overview of Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21 released by RBI

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released its **Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21** in Mumbai , Maharashtra. The three-day (May 20 to 22,2020) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) virtual meeting by the 6 members was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Highlights of the meet:

–All members of the MPC unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to 4.0 % from 4.40%.

– RBI extends moratorium on loans for another 3 months till August 2020

– India's 2020-21 GDP growth rate expected to be negative

— Industrial production decrease by 17 % in March with manufacturing activity down by 21 % : RBI

Deputy Governors– 4 (Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, one is yet to be appointed)

KKR buys 2.32% in Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 crores

Reliance Industries Limited(**RIL**) announced the sale of a **2.32 %** stake in its digital unit, Jio Platforms to US private equity giant **KKR** for **Rs 11,367 crores**, which is the **5th deal** of Jio since 22 April that will inject **Rs 78,562 crores** in RIL to cut debt.

About KKR:

Managing Director(**MD**), Private Equity, Mumbai- Rupen Jhaveri

Co-Chairman and **Co-CEO**– George Roberts

Former Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri inaugurates Indian Dispute Resolution Centre

Former Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri, International Judge, Singapore International Commercial Court inaugurates Indian Dispute Resolution Centre(**IDRC**), first of its kind Institutional Alternative Dispute Resolution(**ADR**) Centre to provide Offline and e-ADR facility through e-Arbitration, e-Mediation and e-Conciliation software portal.



Uttarakhand becomes the 1st state to release report on conservation of endemic, threatened floras

i.Uttarakhand became the **1st state** to release a **report** highlighting its **conservation efforts** to save over 1,100 rare plants from extinction.

ii.The report is one of the largest repositories of conserved plants & is carried out by the research wing of the state forest department.

Indian Navy made breathable PPE kit “NavRakshak”

Indian Navy made “NavRakshak” PPE kit made with innovative breathable fabric material, to provide comfort to healthcare workers working against COVID-19 pandemic wearing multi-layered coverall PPE treating patients in the hot and humid condition for more than 12 hours.

Mizoram becomes the 1st state to give industry status to sports

Mizoram sports minister **Robert Romawia Royte** informed that the state cabinet has cleared the proposal of the Sports and Youth Service department to grant **sports an industry status** to boost the sports sector & generate employment among others. It becomes the **1st state** to do so.

IIT Madras develops magnesium alloy to replace steel, aluminium in cars

The research team of Dr. Sushanta Kumar Panigrahi, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, Professor Rajiv Mishra, University of North Texas and K.Cho, the United States(US) Army Research Laboratory has engineered a magnesium alloy to replace the steel and aluminium in the automobile industry to reduce the carbon footprint and increase fuel efficiency.



UP govt to create migration commission to provide employment to migrant workers

The state government of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has decided to set up a '**Migration Commission**' to provide employment and social security to over 23 lakh migrant workers in the state.

i. A framework will be made for setting up of the commission to give employment to workers in the agriculture and dairy sector on a large scale based on the skill mapping.

Chardham Project: BRO constructs 440-meter long tunnel below Chamba town in Uttarakhand

In a big boost to "**Char Dham**" **project** to connect holy towns of Gangotri, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Badrinath, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a **440-meter-long tunnel** under the **Chamba town** on Rishikesh-Dharasu road Highway (NH 94) in **Uttarakhand** even during the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic.

i. The long tunnel, being constructed under the Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna using Austrian technology, will be ready for traffic by the month of October 2020, around 3 months ahead of its scheduled date of completion of January 2021.

A song titled 'Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam – Vasudev Kutumbakkam' penned by Prasoon Joshi

A song titled 'Jayatu Jayatu Bharatam – Vasudev Kutumbakkam' was released. The song lyrics penned by Prasoon Joshi and composed by Shankar Mahadevan, as many as 211 singers involved like legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar to increase the nation's will power and evoke the spirit of self-reliance in this difficult time (COVID-19 pandemic).

IAF operationalised its 2nd squadron No. 18 'Flying Bullets' with the indigenous LCA Tejas Mk-1

Final Operational Clearance

The Indian Air Force (IAF) operationalised its **2nd squadron (Sqn) No. 18 'Flying Bullet'** equipped with Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) **Tejas (Mk-1)** Final Operational Clearance (FOC) at its Sulur Air Force Station in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Karnataka to launch State Health Register, a first-of-its-kind in India

i. This decision to launch the standardized health repository of citizens has been taken after the COVID-19 crisis which needed urgent focus on better healthcare for all.

ii. Pilot project will be implemented in Chikkaballapur district, and **Dakshina Kannada** or Mangalore districts where the door-to-door survey will be carried out by teams comprising Primary Health Centre officials, revenue officials, education department staff and ASHA (**accredited social health activist**) workers.



Uttar Pradesh Government develops 800 Km roads as Herbal roads

The Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and PWD Minister of State Keshav Prasad Maurya, announced the development of 800 km herbal roads along the state and national highways through the state.

About UP-PWD:

PWD Minister- Keshav Prasad

One Sun One World One Grid: India initiated talks on West to SE Asia solar grid

i. The aim of One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) is to provide solar power to nations which lack sunlight, by building a common transmission system.

ii. For the implementation of proposed OSOWOG, the MNRE has invited proposals from consulting firms for making a long-term OSOWOG road map, and identify two or three cross-border projects that can be initiated within one or two years.

India's GDP growth slows to a 11-year low of 4.2%, Q4 slumps to 3.1 in 2019-20%: NSO

According to the Provisional Estimates of National Income for the financial year 2019-20 by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth has slowed to an 11-year low of **4.2%** in 2019-20 & in the final

quarter(Q4- January to March) the GDP's growth rate fell to **3.1%**, against 6.2% in the 2018-19, which reflects the impact of the first week of the COVID-19 lockdown which began on March 25.

Fiscal deficit widens to 4.6% (4.59) of GDP in 2019-20: CGA

According to the Controller General of Accounts(CGA) data, the fiscal deficit for 2019-20 which signifies the gap between government revenue and expenditure has widened to **4.59%**(4.6) of GDP, higher than the revised estimate of **3.8 %**.

Static:

NSO– It is responsible for conducting large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on an All India basis.

Controller General of Accounts– Soma Roy Burman

Indian Railways starts Shramik Special Trains

As per the guideline issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which has decided to run “Shramik Special” trains from “Labour Day”(May 1, 2020), to move migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places due to lock down. Indian railways have already run the first such train with 1,200 passengers from Hyderabad to Jharkhand.

International

China launches two satellites to test space-based communication technology

China launches two satellites **Xingyun-2 01 and 02** into the orbit by **Kuaizhou-1A(KZ-1A)** carrier rocket from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center** in the Northwest China at 9.16am(Beijing Time), to test the space-based Internet of Things(IoT) communication technology.



About CASIC:

i.In 1999 July, the China Aerospace Corporation was divided into two organizations, China Aerospace Machinery and Electronics

Corporation(**CAMEC**) and China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation(**CASC**)

ii.In 2002 CAMEC renamed as China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation(**CASIC**)

Chairman- Gao Hongwei

Location- Haidian District, Beijing, China

India's energy demand falls by 30% due to covid-19 lockdown: IEA-Global Energy Review 2020

- i. In India, energy demand would **decline for the first time**, following on from low demand growth in 2019.
- ii. The decline in electricity and transport demand in India is highest among the globe.
- iii. Globally, the report projects that energy demands will fall 6% in 2020, seven times the decline after the 2008 global financial crisis.

About IEA:

Headquarters location– Paris, France

Executive Director– Dr Fatih Birol

Iran approves currency denomination bill to slash 4 zeros from Rial and covert to Toman

The parliament of Iran has approved a bill on **national currency denomination**, which allows to cutting four zeros from its national currency **Rial** & to rename it as '**Toman**' which is equal to 10,000 rials. It has taken this major decision to prevent a major fall in currency due to US (United States) sanctions and to get its economy back on track.

About Iran:

Capital– Tehran

President– Hassan Rouhani

USAID announces 3 million USD to support India's efforts to combat COVID-19

The United States Agency of International Development (**USAID**), one of the leading aid agency of the government of United States has announced an additional grant of 3 million USD in addition to the 2.9 million USD announced on 6th April 2020 to help India to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and to fund the PAHAL project, an innovative financial platform.

About PAHAL:

Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity(**PAHAL**) is a USAID and IPE's flagship innovative platform to promote health financing models.

Project Director– LM Singh

Technical resource(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW)– Dr.Dinesh Agarwal

India ranks 53rd in budget transparency; New Zealand tops: IBP's Open Budget Survey 2019

According to the 7th edition of '**Open Budget Survey 2019**' conducted by **International Budget Partnership (IBP)**, India has been ranked at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and



accountability with the score of 49 out of 100. While New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87.

About International Budget Partnership (IBP):

Headquarters– Washington, D.C., United States (US)

Russia to launch its 1st satellite ‘Arktika-M’ to monitor Arctic climate & environment

Russia will launch its 1st remote-sensing and emergency communications satellite ‘Arktika-M’ by December 9, 2020, to monitor the Arctic climate and environment. It will be launched from Baikonur space center (Kazakhstan) using a **Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket** with a fregat booster.



i. This will help scientists to better study climate change, with permission to improve weather forecasts....

Narendra Modi participates in online Summit of NAM Contact Group

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** participates in the online summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group on the theme “**United against COVID-19**” hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of Republic of Azerbaijan HE Ilham Aliyev through videoconference to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

About NAM:

It was found in 1961 by initiatives of Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia & has 120 member states, 17 Observer Countries and 10 Observer organizations.

North Pole’s largest-ever ozone hole, 620,000 square miles, finally closes

i. This ozone hole became the largest one ever recorded in the Arctic region spanning an area of over **620,000 square miles** (or 997793.28 km).

ii. The last time such a strong chemical ozone depletion was observed in the Arctic occurred nearly a decade ago, in 2011.

About the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Secretary-General– Petteri Taalas

China successfully launches ‘Long March 5B’ rocket to space as it steps up Moon landing plans

China has successfully launched a powerful white-large cargo rocket ‘**Long March 5B**’ and prototype spacecraft towards the space from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on the coast of southern China’s island province of Hainan at 6 p.m. (Beijing Time).

i. It was China's ambitious major test to operate a permanent space station and send astronauts to the moon.

Britain's GlaxoSmithKline sells 5.7 % stake in Hindustan Unilever for \$3.35 billion

British firm **GlaxoSmithKline plc (GSK)** has sold its **5.7 % stake in Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** for **\$3.35 billion** (about 254.8 billion rupees) in the stock market through a largest ever block deal.



i. In another big transaction, French firm **Societe Generale S.A** has acquired 1.29 crore shares in **HUL** worth of **Rs 2,453.58 crore** from British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline Pte.

About GlaxoSmithKline plc:

Headquarters– Brentford, United Kingdom

Chief executive Officer– Emma Walmsley

India ranks 74th, Sweden tops: WEF's global Energy Transition index 2020

According to the World Economic Forum(WEF)'s global Energy Transition index(ETI) 2020, **India** has ranked **74th** with a score of **51.5%**, **Sweden(74.2%) tops** followed by Switzerland(73.4%) and Finland(72.4%).

- The scores of ETI are on a scale from **0% to 100%**.

About WEF:

Headquarters– Coligny/Geneva, Switzerland

BRICS' New Development Bank provides USD 1 billion loan to India to fight COVID-19

i. The 'Emergency Assistance Program Loan' to India was approved by the NDB Board of Directors on April 30, and it is aimed at supporting the Indian government to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to provide financial aid.



About NDB

The purpose of the bank is to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging economies and developing nations.

Establishment– 2014

Headquarter– Shanghai, China

About BRICS:

Establishment– 2009

Members– 5

Theme for 2020– "BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth".

Astronomers of the University of Canterbury discovered new one in a million Super-Earth

Team of Astronomers at the University of Canterbury(UC),New Zealand, led by Dr. Antonio Herrera Martin and Associate Professor Michael Albrow discovered a new rare new Super-Earth planet towards the centre of the galaxy which is one of the planets similar to the size and orbit compared to the Earth.

About UC:

Chairman- Professor Ian Wright(Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

Located in- Christchurch, New Zealand

Established in- 1873

International tourism to decline 60-80% in 2020: UNWTO report

According to the latest data of the United Nations World Tourism Organization(UNWTO) the international tourism could decline by **60-80%** in **2020** when compared with 2019 figures, due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

About UNWTO:

Headquarters– Madrid, Spain

Secretary General– Zurab Pololikashvili

Forest loss rate globally declined from 2015 to 2020: FRA 2020

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA), **2020** released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO), the **forest loss rate** in 2015-2020 has **declined** to an estimated 10 million hectares(mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015.

About FAO:

Headquarters– Rome, Italy

Director General– Qu Dongyu

Israel names street in Tel Aviv after Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary

Israel named a street in Tel Aviv after Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary to honor his valuable contributions in the field and to mankind.He was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta. In Bengal Rabindra Jayanti is celebrated on the 25th day of the Bengali month of Boishakh.

About Israel:

Israel is the only jewish nation in the modern period

Prime Minister- Benjamin Netanyahu

Capital- Jerusalem

Declaration of statehood- May 14,1948



Italy develops 'iFeel-You' bracelet for social distancing

The Genoa-based **Italian Institute of Technology** (IIT) has developed “**i-Feel you**”, an intelligent bracelet which will help users respect social distancing rules. The technology was launched at a video conference

which involved the participation of Liguria governor Giovanni Toti and IIT President Giorgia Metta.

About Italy:

Capital– Rome.

President– Sergio Mattarella.

Prime Minister (PM)– Giuseppe Conte.

Nepal approves new political map including India’s Kalapani, Lipulekh as its territory

Amidst the border dispute with India, **Nepal’s** cabinet has accepted a new political map showing **Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura** under its territory.

i.India and Nepal are at a dispute after the Indian side released its new political map on 2 November 2019, which covers above three areas in Indian territory.

73rd session of the WHA held virtually; Draft resolution on COVID-19 investigation adopted; Harsh Vardhan named as chairman of WHO Executive Board

i.From India, WHA73 was attended by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare.

ii.The draft called for a step-wise process of impartial, independent and comprehensive **evaluation of the WHO response** to the pandemic as well as the **identification of the zoonotic source** of the coronavirus.

iii.Dr Harsh Vardhan is set to take charge as the chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board at its 147th session.

iv.Keva Bain from Bahamas, country’s permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), has been elected to serve as president of the 73rd World Health Assembly.

Ruskin Bond’s new book ‘Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes’ released on his 86th birthday

Popular author **Ruskin Bond** has authored a book titled **‘Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes**. The e-book format was released on the occasion of his 86th birthday. The illustration of the new book has been done by Samrat Halder and published by Speaking Tiger’s children’s imprint Talking Cub.

Facebook acquires popular GIF database GIPHY

Facebook has acquired New York based GIF database GIPHY for \$400 million to integrate its GIF library into Instagram and other Facebook apps, Vishal Shah, Instagram’s VP of product.

US Navy successfully tests 1st solid state laser weapon system to destroy aircraft mid-flight

i.USS Portland (LPD-27) of the United States (US) Navy successfully destroyed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) with a solid-state laser, **“Laser Weapon System Demonstrator (LWSD)”** from Pacific.



ii. Lasers, also known as, directed energy weapons (DEW), are effective defenses against drones or armed small boats.

iii. LWSD was developed by Northrop Grumman.

About USS Portland:

USS Portland (LPD-27) is the 11th San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock warship of US Navy. It is the first ship to be named solely after the largest city in Oregon i.e. Portland.

Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma to resign from SoftBank's Board

Alibaba co-founder, e-commerce billionaire Jack Ma is set to resign from SoftBank's board of directors after 13 years, which is effective from June 25, 2020. SoftBank's board will propose three new appointments, including Lip-Bu Tan, Yoshimoto Goto, Yuko Kawamoto at its annual general meeting on June. The SoftBank Group is a Multinational conglomerate company in Minato city, Tokyo, Japan.

JK Rowling releases children's book 'The Ickabog' online for free

i. Harry Potter author JK Rowling released a new online Children's book named '**The Ickabog**' to entertain children during Coronavirus lockdown.

ii. The new story will be serialized with a couple of chapters released for free online and posted on "The Ickabog" website every weekday from May 26, 2020 to July 10, 2020 in instalments.



US left open skies surveillance treaty due to non-compliance of Russia towards treaty

i. US submitted a notice of its decision to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies to the Treaty Depositories i.e. Canada and Hungary, and to all other states party to the Treaty.

ii. It is a treaty of 34 nations while a 35th, Kyrgyzstan, has signed but not ratified it. It enables them to operate unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of its participants.

iii. It should be noted that **India is not a part of this treaty.**

672 million children will be trapped in to poverty by the end of 2020 due to COVID-19 Impact:

UNICEF report

According to the report "**Children in monetary poor households and COVID-19: Technical Note**" released jointly by the **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund) & **Save the Children**, the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic may increase the number of children living in poor households in low- and middle-income countries **by 86 million** (or an increase of 15%) to reach **672 million** by the end of 2020.

i. According to the report, 2/3 of these children falling in the poverty line live in all of Sahara Africa and South Asia.

NASA renames its WFIRST Telescope after 'Mother of Hubble' Nancy Grace Roman

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) renamed its Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), a next-generation space telescope as **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope** or Roman Space Telescope to honor Nancy Grace Roman ("Mother" of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope), NASA's **1st chief astronomer**, who paved way for space telescopes focused on the broader universe.

About NASA:

Headquarters– Washington, United States.

U.S. joins G7 artificial intelligence group to counter China

i. The aim of this panel is to counter the China's twisting technology in ways that threaten civil liberties.

ii. The involvement of US in this panel was important because of the large role that American tech firms play globally and its historic advocacy for human rights.



About G7:

The Group of Seven (G7) is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of the seven largest economies in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. European Union is an invitee to G7.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

T S Tirumurti appointed as Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to United Nations

T S Tirumurti an Indian Foreign Service officer (IFS) of 1985 currently serving as the Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs was appointed as the permanent representative of India to the United Nations at New York, succeeding Syed Akbaruddin following his retirement.



About Ministry of External Affairs:

External Affairs Minister– Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat)

Minister of State for External Affairs– V. Muraleedharan (Rajya Sabha – Maharashtra)

Headquarters– South Block, New Delhi

Indian-American lawyer Ashok Michael Pinto as US representative to World Bank's lending arm IBRD

United States President Donald Trump nominated Indian-American lawyer **Ashok Michael Pinto** as a representative to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the World Bank's lending arm. He was nominated as US Alternate Executive Director of IBRD for a period of 2 years.

Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj appointed as Director on RBI Central Board

The government-appointed Economic Affairs Secretary **Tarun Bajaj**, a 1988 batch Indian Administration Service(IAS) officer, as a director on the **central board** of the Reserve Bank of India(RBI). He replaces Atanu Chakraborty, who retired on April 30.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury reappointed as chairperson of Parliament's public Accounts Committee

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress Leader of Lok Sabha was reappointed as Chairperson of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee(PAC) by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. PAC is the oldest parliamentary committee first constituted in 1921.



About C&AG of India:

Comptroller and Auditor General– Rajiv Mehrishi

Headquarters– New Delhi

Constituted in– 1858

UNEP extends Bollywood actress Dia Mirza's term as Goodwill ambassador till 2022

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has extended the Bollywood actress & environmentalist **Dia Mirza**'s term as its **National Goodwill Ambassador** for another two years till the end of **2022**.

i. Dia Mirza from Hyderabad (Telangana), was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador in 2017. She is also a United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Advocate.

About United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

Headquarters– Nairobi, Kenya

Executive Director– Inger Andersen

Former intelligence chief Mustafa Al Kadhimi sworn in as 6th Prime Minister of Iraq

Mustafa al-Kadhimi (53), former head of **Iraq's** intelligence agency, was sworn in as the country's **6th Prime Minister (PM)** after Adel Abdul Mahdi, who had resigned in November 2019 due to massive anti-governmental protests.

i.The Iraq parliament also cleared Kadhimi's 15 cabinet ministers & rejected of 5 ministers.

Donald Trump Nominates senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as US envoy to OECD

United States President Donald Trump nominated senior Indian American diplomat Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the State department as his envoy to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development(**OECD**) with an Ambassador rank...

About OECD:

Established as the Organisation of European Economic Cooperation(OEEC) in 1948 and Canada and the US joined OEEC signing the new OECD Convention on 14th December 1960.

Headquarters– Paris, France

OECD official establishment– 30th September 1961

Members– 37 Countries

Edu-tech firm ELSA Corp appoints Indian cricketer Ajinkya as its brand ambassador for India, Middle East, ANZ & SAARC

ELSA Corp (English Language Speech Assistant Corporation) India, the education technology company based out of the US (United States), has appointed Indian Test team vice-captain **Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane** as its brand ambassador for India, Middle East, ANZ (Australia & New Zealand) and SAARC.

i.Now Rahane will work with company's mobile app 'ELSA Speak' to popularize it among Indian people who want to better their English pronunciation.

About ELSA Corp:

Headquarters– California, US

Co-Founder & CEO– Vu Van

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sworn-in for the 5th time

Benjamin Netanyahu has been sworn as the **Israel Prime Minister (PM)** for the 5th time after signing of power-sharing deal with rival-turned-partner Benny Gantz of Blue and White Party. He will now chair the post until 13 November 2021.

i.The new government, which according to the three-year coalition agreement, where Gantz was sworn in as defense minister and alternate prime minister & Netanyahu will step down after 18 months.

Narinder Batra to remain as FIH President until May 2021

The International Hockey Federation(**FIH**) announced that it has extended the terms of its president **Narinder Dhruv Batra** & the Executive Board(**EB**) members which is due to end in October 2020 has been extended until the 47th FIH Congress in May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About FIH:

Headquarters– Lausanne, Switzerland

Kumar Sangakkara set to serve second term as MCC President

Former Sri Lanka Skipper Kumar Sangakkara is to serve a second term as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) since the activities of the club are postponed. He is the first non-British President of the Club, he assumed office on 1st October 2019 and entered the list of people who served multiple terms.

About MCC:

President- K.C. Sangakkara

Founded- 1787

Headquarters- London, United Kingdom

Manoj Ahuja appointed as new CBSE chief and ASI gets V Vidyavati as Director General

As a part of bureaucratic reshuffle, Manoj Ahuja, senior IAS officer is appointed as the new Chief of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Anurag Jain as the Vice-Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and V Vidyavati as the Director General of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) effective from 12th May 2020.



About UPSC:

Chairman- Arvind Saxena

WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo to step down on August 31 before term expires

At the World Trade Organisation (WTO) members virtual meeting, the 6th Director-General **Roberto Azevedo** (62-year-old), a former Brazilian diplomat & 1st Latin American director announced that he will **step down** from the **7-year tenure** (since 2013) on **31st August** on personal grounds, cutting his second term in office short by exactly one year.



About WTO:

It was established on January 1st **1995** by Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94) & has **164 members** which represents 98% of world trade.

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Govinda Rajulu Chintala appointed as NABARD chairman, Shaji KV and PVS Suryakumar appointed as DMD of NABARD

The appointments committee of the union cabinet appointed **Govinda Rajulu Chintala** as Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). He was the successor of Harsh Kumar Bhanwala. Shaji K V and P.V.S Suryakumar have been appointed as Deputy Managing Directors (DMD) of NABARD.

About NABARD:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Indian Steel Association appoints Dilip Oommen as new president

Indian Steel Association (ISA) unanimously appointed Dilip Oommen, CEO of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India as the new President for the next two years with immediate effect after T V Narendran ,CEO of TATA Steel stepped down on May 1, before the end of his term in August. This was decided in the Extra Ordinary Boards Meeting of ISA held on May 19,2020

World Bank names Carmen Reinhart as chief economist and vice president

The **World Bank** named former Bear Stearns executive **Carmen Reinhart** as its new Vice President (VP) and chief economist, tapping an expert on financial crisis who also serves on the advisory board of the New York Federal Reserve. Reinhart's appointment is effective on June 15, 2020.

Jahnabi Phookan appointed as National President of FICCI FLO

Jahnabi Phookan was appointed as the 37th National President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry(**FICCI**) Ladies Organization (**FLO**). She took over the position from Harjinder Kaur Talwar at the 36th FLO session in the presence of Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker. She was the founder member and founder Vice Chairperson of FLO North East chapter in 2007.

About FLO:

President – Jahnabi Phookan

Sr. Vice-President – Ujjwala Singhania

Executive Director – Rashmi Sarita

Established in – 1983

Head Office – New Delhi

Abhas Jha appointed as Key position in South Asia by World Bank

Abhas Jha, Indian economist was appointed to a key position on Climate change and disaster management in South Asia by the World Bank. Previously He served as the Practice Manager for Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and Pacific region.



Key Points:

- i.**His appointment came during the Amphan Cyclone situation in Bangladesh, West Bengal and Odisha(Indian coastal states).
- ii.**His role is to encourage and support the South Asia region(**SAR**) in Disaster Management and Climate

Change team support and collaborate across the Global Practice boundaries.

iii. He is expected to provide response to the client demands and strengthen disaster risk management and climate actions in the SAR..

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen re-elected for second term; 2 Indian MPs sent congratulatory video messages

i. Under Tsai Ing-Wen presidency, Taiwan has **tackled the COVID-19 pandemic successfully** as the nation has confirmed just 440 cases and 7 deaths. It has recorded no new cases since May 7, 2020 and has not seen a locally transmitted case since April 12, 2020.

ii. Apart from video recordings, there was also a virtual ceremony which was attended by **Sohang Sen**, the acting director general of the India Taipei Association from India.

Brazil's Marcos Prado Troyjo elected as new President of NDB; SBI's Anil Kishora vice-prez

i. Marcos Prado Troyjo will succeed eminent Indian banker **Kundapur Vaman Kamath** who took over as the first president of the bank in 2015.

ii. Nirmala Sitharaman attended Special Board of Governors meeting of NDB for the appointment of President through video-conference .

About NDB:

Formation– July 2015

Headquarters– Shanghai, China

Membership– Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS)

- Recently, the bank has granted **USD one billion loan to India** under emergency assistance programme to fight COVID-19 in the country.
- Since its inception, NDB has approved 55 projects of member countries for an amount of \$16.6 billion, which is quite a remarkable achievement.

IOC appoints Narinder Batra as member of Olympic Channel Commission

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President **Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra**, 63 years old, was appointed as a member of the Olympic Channel Commission. Batra also heads the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

Headquarters– Lausanne, Switzerland.

President– Thomas Bach.

JP Morgan's Kalpana Morparia to retire & Leo Puri to take over

Leo Puri, the former Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UTI Mutual Fund, will take charge as the chairman of JP



Morgan, South and Southeast Asia after **Kalpana Morparia**(70 years old) retirement in 2021. She will stay in the company till Q1 of 2021.

About Kalpana Morparia

Kalpana Morparia is the latest among the senior-most women bankers to step down from their positions in the banking industry

About Leo Puri

Puri's previous roles include senior partner and co-head of Asia Financial Services at McKinsey & Company and managing director for Warburg Pincus, India, where he was responsible for building the firm's franchise in the country.

Zomato elevates food-delivery CEO Mohit Gupta as co-founder

Deepinder Goyal, Founder and (CEO) Chief Executive Officer of food ordering platform Zomato has virtually- appointed **Mohit Gupta**, the CEO- of its food delivery business as one of its co-founder.

About Zomato:

Headquarters– Gurugram, Haryana.

Founders– Deepinder Goyal and Pankaj Chaddah.

Thierry Delaporte, COO of Capgemini becomes the new CEO and MD of Wipro

Wipro appointed Thierry Delaporte, COO of Capgemini, as the new Chief Executive Officer(**CEO**) and Managing Director(**MD**) effective from **6th July 2020**. He will take over the position from Adidali Neemuchwala who will be stepping down from his position on **June 1**. The operation of Wipro until July 5th will be monitored by its chairman Rishad Premji. He will be based in Paris and report to Rishad Premji.

Honours/ Awards

Manipuri doctor Thangjam Dhabali Singh conferred 'Order of Rising Sun' by Japan

Thangjam Dhabali Singh, Manipuri allopathic doctor, was conferred with “**Order of Rising Sun- Gold and Silver Rays**” by the Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between 2 countries.

2020 Pulitzer Prizes announced: 3 photojournalists from Jammu & Kashmir won the feature photography

i. The three Indian photojournalists namely **Dar Yasin**, **Mukhtar Khan** and **ChanniAnand**from Jammu and Kashmir who work for Associated Press (AP) have won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature



photography for their striking images of life” in the valley.

ii. Colson Whitehead became the rare author to receive Pulitzers for consecutive books when his novel about a brutal Florida reform school during the Jim Crow era, ‘The Nickel Boys,’ was awarded the **fiction prize 2020**. In 2017, he won for his Civil War era novel ‘The Underground Railroad’.

iii. **Late Ida Bell Wells-Barnett**, who was an American investigative journalist, was honored for her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching. She died in 1931.

Vladimir Putin awards commemorative World War II medal to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un

The Russian embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea announced that the Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has awarded North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un a commemorative war medal marking the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

Nicholas C. Coops, Joseph J. Landsberg and Richard H. Waring shares the Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2020

Professors **Nicholas C. Coops** from Canada, **Richard H. Waring** from the United Nations of America(USA), **Joseph J. Landsberg** from Australia shares the ‘Marcus Wallenberg Prize(MWP) 2020’ for **3-PG** (Physiological Principles Predicting Growth), a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate.

About the MWP:

It was instituted by Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB at its annual meeting in 1980 to commemorate the services rendered by **Dr. Marcus Wallenberg** during his long term as member and chairman of the Board of Directors.

IIT-Bombay Professor Saurabh Lodha receives Young Career Award 2020 in Nano Science and Technology

Professor Saurabh Lodha of Electrical Engineering of IIT Bombay received Young Career Award 2020 in Nano Science and Technology given by the Department of Science and Technology(DST), Government of India to recognize his contribution for the development of two dimensional Van der Waals material based logic transistor technologies beyond silicon and nanoelectronic.



17 laureates conferred with DW Freedom of Speech Award 2020; Journalist Siddharth Varadarajan from India among them

i. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day 2020, i.e. on May 3, 2020, **17 journalists from 14 countries** have been named for Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020 who have disappeared or been arrested or threatened because of their reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indian Tennis ace Sania Mirza becomes 1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone

Indian professional tennis player Sania Mirza (33) has created new history by becoming the 1st Indian to win **Fed Cup Heart Award 2020** for **Asia/Oceania** zone. She decided to give a prize money of \$ 2000 to the Telangana Chief Minister Relief Fund to help battle against coronavirus.



i.Sania is one of 4 winners chosen by a public vote, alongside Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia (wins Qualifiers award), Mexico's Fernanda Contreras Gomez (Americas I zone) and Estonian Anett Kontaveit (Europe/Africa I zone).

About Fed Cup Heart Award:

It is a UK (United Kingdom) based International Tennis Federation (ITF) initiative established in 2009 to recognise players representing their countries in the Fed Cup by BNP Paribas.

World Airport Awards 2020: Bengaluru's Kempegowda honoured as best regional airport in India & Central Asia; Singapore Changi crowned as World's Best

The **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA)** in **Bengaluru (Karnataka)** has won the SKYTRAX Award 2020 for **Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia**. It ranks 68th in World's Top 100 Airports 2020 list, which was topped by Singapore Changi Airport.

Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar wins 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award from UK

The National Hydrographer to the Government of India, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar is honored with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award. The award was first presented in 2006 by the UK Ministry of Defence sponsored UK Hydrographic Office (**UKHO**) named after the first Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple.

About UKHO:

Headquarters- Taunton, Somerset, United Kingdom

Forbes: Tennis star Naomi Osaka becomes world's highest paid female athlete

Japanese tennis star **Naomi Osaka**, 22 years old, became the highest paid female athlete in the world, topping American great Serena Williams. Osaka has been ranked No.1 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). The complete Forbes



list, due to be released next week.

About Forbes:

Headquarters– Jersey City, New Jersey, US (United States).

CEO (Chief Executive Officer)– Mike Federle.

Indian Army Major Suman Gawani becomes the 1st Indian peacekeeper to receive UN Military Gender Advocate award 2019

i. Indian Army officer and woman peacekeeper **Suman Gawani** becomes the 1st Indian to receive **United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award(2019)**.

ii. Brazilian Naval Officer Commander **Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo** has also been selected for the prestigious award

About the award:

The award is underpinned by the principles outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution(UNSCR) 1325 and follow-on resolutions on women, peace and security.

Dr. Rajiv Joshi won the Inventor of the year Award, NYIPLA 2020

IBM Academy of Technology member Dr. Rajiv Joshi won The New York Intellectual Property Law Association(NYIPLA) 2020 Inventor of the Year Award, to honour for his work in advancing the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence(AI) capabilities. He received the award through an online interview.

Sports

FIFA launches #WeWillWin campaign for health workers

Fédération Internationale de Football Association(FIFA), Switzerland based international governing body, has launched a campaign called “#WeWillWin”, a special video to pay tribute to health workers and other professionals who ensure the society continues to function among COVID-19 pandemic. Former India football captain Bhaichung Bhutia who is also featured among 50 past and present football stars.



Australia deposes India for the first time since 2016 in Test ranking for men: ICC India slips to 3rd Position

India has lost its top spot & has slipped to the **3rd** position(114) for the first time since 2016 in the International Cricket Council (ICC) test rankings, **Australia**(116) **topped** the rank, followed by New Zealand(115).

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in India from 17 Feb 2021

The **All India Football Federation** (AIFF) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the **FIFA** (Federation Internationale de Football Association) **U-17 Women's World Cup** confirmed that the tournament will be held from February 17 till March 7, 2021.



About FIFA:

Headquarters– Zurich, Switzerland.

Motto– For the Game. For the World.

Para-athlete Shot-putter Deepa Malik announce retirement to head PCI

The 1st Indian woman to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games(silver ,F53 category in the 2016 Rio Paralympics) Shot-putter Para-athlete **Deepa Malik**(49-year-old) has announced retirement as per the national sports code so as to hold her post as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India(PCI).”

COVID-19 impact: ICC cricket committee led by Anil Kumble recommends ban on use of saliva to shine ball

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Cricket Committee, chaired by former Indian cricketer & commentator, **Anil Kumble** has recommended a ban on the use of saliva to make the ball shine due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. However, the committee considered ball-shining as safe from the use of sweat.

Obituaries

Veteran Bollywood actor Rishi Raj Kapoor passed away at the age of 67 in Mumbai, Maharashtra,

After a 2 year battle with leukaemia (blood cancer). He was born on September 4, 1952, in Mumbai, Maharashtra. **Key Points:**

i.About Rishi Kapoor: Rishi was the third generation actor, the second son of actor Raj Kapoor and a grandson of Prithviraj Kapoor.



ii. He recently announced his next project, a remake of Hollywood film *The Intern*, also featuring Deepika Padukone. Rishi had starred in more than 100 films.

iii. **Autobiography:** His autobiography *Khullam Khulla: Rishi Kapoor Uncensored...* was published by HarperCollins and launched at “The Hindu Lit for Life 2017”.

iv. **Awards & honours:** Rishi received the National Film Award for Best Child artist for his debut role in his father Raj Kapoor’s 1970 film *Mera Naam Joker*. He had his first lead role as an adult in the film *Bobby* (1973) and won the Filmfare Best Actor Award in 1974.

v. His performance in *Do Dooni Chaar* (2010), he won the Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor, and for his role in *Kapoor & Sons* (2016), he won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor. He was honoured with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

India’s football legend & Padma Shri awardee Chuni Goswami passed away at 82

Former India football captain Subimal Goswami, commonly known by his nickname **Chuni Goswami**, passed away at the age of 82 in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on January 15, 1938, in Kishoreganj, now Bangladesh. He was the captain of the 1962 Asian Games gold-medal winning team and had also represented Bengal in first-class cricket tournaments.

South African anti-apartheid activist Denis Goldberg passed away at 87

South-African anti-apartheid activist **Denis Theodore Goldberg** passed away at the age of 87 due to lung cancer and diabetes in Cape Town, South Africa. He was born on April 11, 1933, in Cape Town, South Africa (SA). Goldberg spent 22 years in prison for his involvement with the African National Congress’s (ANC’s) fight against apartheid, the racist system of oppression imposed by the white minority government.

Veteran Poet, Padma Shri K. S. Nissar Ahmed passed away at 84

Veteran Poet and Kannada writer Padma Shri K. S. Nissar Ahmed passed away in his residence at Bangalore at the age 84 due to various old age-related problems. He was born on 5th February 1936 in Devanahalli. He was the 73rd president of Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in the year 2007 held at Shivamogga.



Judicial Member, Lokpal of India, Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi passed away at 62

Lokpal member Justice **Ajay Kumar Tripathi** passed away at the age of 62 in AIIMS (All India Institutes of Medical Sciences), New Delhi due to Coronavirus. He was born on November 12, 1957. He was a judicial member of Lokpal and former Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court.

Former Union Minister Dalit Ezhilmalai passed away at 74

On 6th May 2020, Former Union Minister of State for Health passed away at 74 in his residence in Chennai, Tamil Nadu due to cardiac arrest. He was born on 24th July 1945 in Irumbedu village, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu. He served in the former Post & Telegraph Department between 1963 and 1987 and deputed to the Army for five years and took part in the Indo-Pak War of 1971 and received Sainik Sewa Medal for his meritorious service.

Famous historian Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away at 68

Eminent Historian Hari Shankar Vasudevan passed away at the age of 68 in a private hospital at Kolkata after testing positive for novel coronavirus on May 6th 2020.

Grammy winning-singer Betty Wright passes away at 66

Bessie Regina Norris, better known by her stage name Betty Wright, was an American Soul and R&B (Rhythm & blues) singer, songwriter and background vocalist passed away at the age of 66 in Miami, Florida, US (United States) due to cancer. Betty Wright received her first Grammy Award for the Best Song, “Where is the Love?”, at the age of 23..



Padma Bhushan awardee Professor Anisuzzaman passes away at 83

Padma Bhushan recipient and Bangladesh’s National Professor **Anisuzzaman** passed away at the age of 83 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He was born on February 18, 1937, in Calcutta, Bengal Presidency, British India and shifted to Bangladesh soon after the partition in 1947..

Dadasaheb Phalke Awardee and Veteran Marathi writer, playwright Ratnakar Matkari passed away at 81

Veteran Marathi writer, playwright, actor, director and Producer Ratnakar Matkari passed away at 81 in a hospital at suburban Marol, Mumbai. Last week he was tested positive to coronavirus. He was born on 17th November 1938 in Mumbai, India.

Former Australian tennis player & 4-times Grand Slam singles champion Ashley Cooper passed away at 83

Famous Australian Tennis player **Ashley John Cooper**, passed away at the age of 83 in Sydney, Australia. Cooper, the former Ranked No.1 player, won 8 Grand Slam titles- 4 Grand Slam singles and 4 Grand Slam doubles titles. He was born on September 15, 1936, in Melbourne, Australia.

Hockey Icon Padma Shri Balbir Singh Sr passed away at 96

Legendary hockey Player, three-time Olympic gold medalist and the best centre-forward, Balbir Singh Dosanjh passed away at the age of 96 at the Fortis Hospital, Chandigarh where he was admitted due to multiple organ failure and remained in ventilator support from 8th May 2020. He was born on 19th October, 1924 in Haripur, Jalandhar.



Padma Shri awardee, Noted Urdu satirist Mujtaba Hussain passes away at 84

Famous Urdu author, humorist and satirist **Mujtaba Hussain**, who returned his Padma Shri passed away at the age of 84, after a prolonged illness in Hyderabad, Telangana. Hussain was often described as the Mark Twain of Urdu. He was born on July 15, 1936, in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Hong Kong's "King of Gambling", Stanley Ho passed away at 98

Stanley Ho, one of the richest men in Asia, the head of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) holdings and famously known as the **Casino kingpin** of Gambling Capital Macau passed away at the age of 98 at the Kong Sanatorium and Hospital. He was born in 1921 in Hong Kong.

Chhattisgarh's First CM Ajit Jogi passed away at 74

i. Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) **Ajit Pramod Kumar Jogi**, passed away at the age of 74 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. He was born on April 29, 1946 in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

ii. In November 2000, when the new state of Chhattisgarh was carved from Madhya Pradesh (MP), Ajit Jogi, was chosen by Sonia Gandhi to serve as the first Chief Minister (CM) of the State.



Rajya Sabha member M.P. Veerendra Kumar passes away at 83

M.P. Veerendra Kumar, Rajya Sabha (RS) MP from Kerala and Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) Leader, writer and journalist, passed away at



the age of 83 due to cardiac arrest in Kozhikode, Kerala. He was born on July 22, 1936 at Kalpetta, Wayanad district, Kerala.

Important Days with theme

International Labour Day 2020, May 1

May 1st of every year is acknowledged as **International Labour Day**, an official public holiday in many countries all over the world as a tribute to the workers across the globe. It is also known as Workers day or May day. In India for the first time on May 1, 1923, the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan celebrated the May day in Madras(now Chennai).



About LKPH:

All the provincial organisations including the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan renamed as Workers and Peasants Party(WPP) by 1928 into an All India Party.

Founded– May 1, 1923

Headquarters– Chennai

World Press Freedom Day 2020: May 3rd

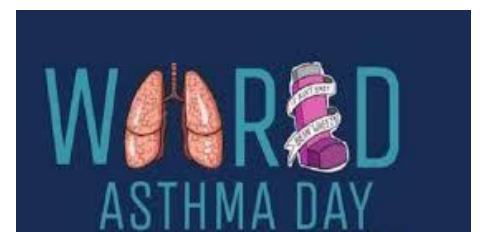
May 3rd of Every year is Observed as World Press Freedom Day by the United Nations(UN) General Assembly with the recommendation of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) all over the world since 1993 to commemorate the **Declaration of Windhoek** and to provide a broader public discussion of the challenges of press freedom and journalist's safety of the Journalists, civil society representatives, national authorities, academics. The theme of this year's World Press Freedom Conference is **Journalism without Fear or Favour**.

International Firefighters' Day 2020: May 4

On May 4, 2020, International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed every year to recognize and honor the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.

The day was instituted after a proposal was emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999, due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.

World Asthma Day 2020: May 5



World Asthma Day is observed annually on the first Tuesday of May and this year it was celebrated on May 5, 2020. The day is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world.

Theme for the year 2020: Enough Asthma Deaths.

About GINA:

GINA was launched in 1993 in collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health, USA, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

International Day of the Midwife 2020: May 5

The International Day of the Midwife is globally observed on 5th May of every year since 1992 to acknowledge the works of midwives and to raise awareness about their status. The First International Midwives Day was celebrated in 1991. The idea of this day was proposed in International Confederation of Midwives(ICM) Conference, the Netherlands in 1987. The theme of this year is “**Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is now**”. The World Health Organization (WHO) to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale** has designed the year 2020 as the “**Year of Nurse and Midwife**”.

World Athletics Day 2020: May 7

World Athletics Day (WAD) was introduced by the **IAAF** (International Association of Athletics Federation) to increase awareness about athletics and to encourage youth to take up sports. Although this day is celebrated in the month of May every year, in 2020, the IAAF marked May 7 as the World Athletics Day.

About World Athletics:

World Athletics, formerly known as the International Amateur Athletic Federation and International Association of Athletics Federations (**IAAF**).

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2020, May 8

Globally May 8th is celebrated as the **World Red Cross Day and Red Crescent Day** every year this day is to celebrate and acknowledge the volunteers who help the people in need and to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Henry Dunant** the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross(**ICRC**) born on 8 May 1828. The first Red Cross Day was adopted on May 8, 1948.

About ICRC:

Founder– Henry Dunant

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Created in– 1863



National technology day 2020, May 11

On May 11 2020, India celebrated National Technology Day to commemorate the success of the **Shakti-I** nuclear missile tested in Indian Army's Pokhran test range, Rajasthan on May 11, 1998 headed by Late President **Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** and also to commemorate the flight of the first indigenous aircraft **Hansa-3** developed by the National aerospace laboratories. This day has been named by the former Prime Minister AtalBihariBajpayee and celebrated since 1999. This year's focus is **"Rebooting the economy through science and technology"**.

International Nurses Day 2020: May 12

International Nurses Day (IND) is an international event observed every year on May 12 globally to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**. She was also known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. This year the day marks the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

Theme for the year 2020: Nurses: A voice to lead- Nursing the World to Health.

About International Council of Nurses (ICN):

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland.



International Day of Families 2020: May 15

International Day of Families is observed every year on May 15 globally. The day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.

Theme for the year 2020: "Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing + 25".

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020: May 17

World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated every year on May 17 to raise awareness about the importance of the internet and other means of information and communication in bringing the world closer.

Theme for the year 2020: "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

World Metrology Day 2020: May 20

World Metrology Day (WMD) is celebrated every year on May 20, celebrating the International Systems of Units. The term Metrology is a study of measurements. On this day, many nations internationally collaborate to create awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field.



Theme for the year 2020: Measurements for global trade..

International Tea Day 2020, May 21

The International Tea Day is annually celebrated by tea-growing countries like India and Sri Lanka since 2005 and in December 2019, the United Nation (UN) approved the proposal to celebrate the International Tea Day put forth by the Government of India in the session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea and designated May 21st as International Tea Day.

About Tea Board of India:

Chairman- Prabhat Kamal Bezhoruah

Headquarters- Kolkata

National Anti Terrorism Day 2020: May 21

National Anti Terrorism Day is observed every year on May 21 in order to raise awareness amongst people that terrorism has no religion, also to spread the message of peace, harmony, and brotherhood. The day commemorates the death anniversary of former India's youngest Prime Minister (PM) Rajiv Gandhi. He served the nation from 1984 to 1989.



International Day for Biological Diversity 2020: May 22

International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) is celebrated every year May 22 globally. The day was declared by the United Nations (UN) to raise awareness and increase understanding of biodiversity issues. Biological Diversity is not limited to nature alone, but also plants, animals, microorganisms and different ecosystems.

Theme for the year 2020: Our solutions are in nature.

World Hunger Day 2020: May 28

World Hunger Day (WHD) is observed every year on May 28 globally. The objective of this day is to raise awareness about more than 820 million people living in chronic hunger worldwide. The day seeks sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty and to inspire everyone to be a part of the solution.



About The Hunger Project:

Headquarters- New York, United States (US).

International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2020 May 29

The first UN Peacekeeping mission was established on 29th May 1948 to commemorate this day General Assembly of the United Nations designated May 29th as International Day of United National Peacekeepers in its resolution 57/129 on December 11, 2002 to acknowledge the women and men who serve as military, police and civilians in the UN Peacekeeping. In 2003 the first International Day of UN peacekeepers was observed.

World No Tobacco Day 2020: All you need to know

- i. World No Tobacco Day is observed on May 31 every year to highlight the risk associated with the use of tobacco. The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness to help reduce use and protect the health of the people.
- ii. The World Health Organization (WHO) promotes World No Tobacco Day each year to highlight the health risks of using tobacco and to encourage governments to put policies into action that help to reduce smoking and the use of other tobacco products.



World No Tobacco Day 2020: Theme

Every year World No Tobacco is observed with a different theme; this year, the theme of World no Tobacco Day is 'Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use'.