



Current Affairs June 2020

All India Career Counsellor Number

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Ravi Shankar Prasad launched India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal & launched "Responsible AI for Youth"

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology(IT), Law and Justice and Communications **Ravi Shankar Prasad** launched India's National Artificial Intelligence(AI) Portal called **www.ai.gov.in**

ii. Also launched a National Program for the youth, "Responsible AI for Youth" during the occasion of the first anniversary of the second tenure of the government.

iii. The portal was developed jointly by the National e-Governance Division of Ministry of Electronics and IT and NASSCOM from the IT industry .

Constituency of Ravi Shankar Prasad– Patna Sahib, Bihar.



Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram included in 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme

The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution **Ram Vilas Paswan** informed that **Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram** have joined the 'One Nation-One Ration Card' scheme on 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System'(IM-PDS) a total of 20 states/Union Territories(UTs) in the scheme.

Targets made

- All states will be added in the scheme & the scheme will be operational all over India by March 2021
- Three more States namely- Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Manipur will also be added to the national cluster by August 2020.

Indian Musician Shobha Sekhar receives "the Medal of the Order of Australia"

Indian Musician **Shobha Sekhar**, the founder of Kalakruthi a music organisation in Australia receives the Medal of the Order of Australia(OAM) in the **Queen's Birthday 2020** for her service to Indian music and dance.

Facebook to acquire 9.9% stake in Jio Platforms via Jaadhu Holdings

As per regulatory documents, Facebook will acquire 9.9 per cent stake in Jio Platforms via a new entity Jaadhu Holdings LLC, which was announced in April 2020 with an investment of \$ 5.7 billion (Rs 43,574 crore). Jaadhu is a newly incorporated company formed in March 2020 under the laws of the State of Delaware, US(United States) and is not engaged in any business in India or anywhere.

Rare 'first of its kind' Trojan asteroids called 2019 LD2 detected near Jupiter's Orbit by astronomers at the "ATLAS" Institute of Astronomy

- Astronomers at Institute for Astronomy at the **University of Hawaii's** discovered a **rare space object**.
- The rare asteroid called **2019 LD2** with a comet-like-tail among the Jupiter Trojans, moving in the same orbit as Jupiter.

About Project ATLAS

ATLAS is an asteroid impact early warning system being developed by the **University of Hawaii** and funded by **NASA**. It consists of two telescopes, 100 miles apart, which automatically scan the whole sky several times every night looking for moving objects.

Project Head– Dr John Tonry

ASI team discovers 1100-year-old Shiva lingam in Vietnam during temple excavation

A 4-member team of **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has discovered a 1100-year-old monolithic sandstone **Shiva lingam**, a representation of the Hindu deity Shiva, at the Cham Temple Complex located in My Son Sanctuary of Quang Nam Province, **Vietnam**.



About Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

Headquarters– New Delhi

Director General– Smt. V Vidyavathi

Kerala announces K-FON to provide free internet by December 2020, first state to declare internet as a fundamental right

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced on a Rs.1500 crore Kerala Fiber Optic Network(**K-FON**) project executed by the association of Bharat Electronics Limited(**BEL**), RailTel Corporation(Public sector companies) andSRIT and LS Cables(Private sector companies) to provide free internet access for the poor by December 2020 and become the **first state** to declare the internet as a fundamental right of the citizen.

Abu Dhabi's Mubadala to buy 1.85% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 9,093.6 crore

i.Mudabala,a Abu Dhabi based investor invests **Rs 9,093.6 crore to buy 1.85% stake** in Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

ii.With this investment, the platform has raised Rs 87,655.35 crore from leading global technology and growth investors including Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR and Mubadala in less than six weeks.

About Mubadala Investment Company:

It is the second-biggest state investor in Abu Dhabi after Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA),

- Managing Director and Group CEO- Khaldoon Al Mubarak

CCI gives nod to Peugeot and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles merger

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its nod to the proposed merger between French car maker **Peugeot S.A (PSA)** and **Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V (FCA)**, an Italian-American multinational corporation and is the world's eighth largest auto maker.

i. The merged entity will be the 4th largest original equipment manufacturer by volume and the third largest by revenue after Toyota, Volkswagen, and Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi.

About Peugeot S.A:

Headquarters– Rueil-Malmaison, France

PSA group manufactures the Peugeot, Citroen, Opel, and Vauxhall brands.

About Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V. (FCA):

Corporate Headquarter- Amsterdam, Netherlands

Financial Headquarter – London, United Kingdom

Chairman– John Elkann

India loses 750 tigers during 2012-2019; Madhya Pradesh topped: NTCA Data

i. Of the total tiger mortalities, 369 were due to natural causes, 168 due to poaching, 70 deaths are under scrutiny and 42 due to unnatural reasons, including accident or conflicts events.

ii. **Maharashtra** has reported second highest deaths, as it lost 125 big cats during this period followed by 111 in **Karnataka**, 88 in **Uttarakhand**, 54 each in **Tamil Nadu** and **Assam**, 35 each in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, 17 in Rajasthan, 11 in Bihar and West Bengal and 10 in Chhattisgarh.

Army Commanders Conference 2020 held in New Delhi

The Army Commanders' Conference, an apex level biannual event's First phase of the Conference was conducted at South Block, New Delhi from 27 to 29 May 2020, which facilitates conceptual level deliberations culminating in important policy decisions. The second phase of the conference scheduled from 24 to 27 June 2020.



AP Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launches India's 1st online waste management platform

i. Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** launched India's 1st "online waste management platform" of Andhra Pradesh Environment Management Corporation (APEMC) on the occasion of World Environment Day to ensure 100% safe disposal of industrial toxic wastes. The State Department of Environmental Management, APEMC, will take over responsibility of the online platform.

ii. APEMC has been set up as a government company to handle the industrial waste & will work in coordination with Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) with a strong regulatory framework.

FSSAI State food safety index for 2019-20 released during webinar; Gujarat, Goa, Chandigarh topped

i.It was announced during a webinar conducted on the occasion of “World Food Safety Day” on **June 7, 2020** on the theme “**Food Safety is everyone’s business**”.

ii.The State Food Safety Index ranks states on **five parameters** of food safety through a rigorous evaluation process every year.

iii.FSSAI also released an e-handbook on “**Eat Right during COVID-19**” for citizens.

About FSSAI:

Chairperson– **Ms Rita Teotia**

CEO – **Arun Singhal**



Dr. Jitendra Singh launched COVID BEEP, India’s first physiological parameters monitoring system for COVID-19 patients

i.“COVID BEEP”is an acronym for Continuous Oxygenation & Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod.

ii.It is a wireless physiological parameter monitoring system for Covid affected patients that can measure vital parameters like body temperature, blood oxygen saturation, heart rate, respiratory rate, ECG and blood pressure along with patient location.

About ECIL

It functions under the Department of Atomic Energy.

The Cabinet of Odisha gives state anthem status to “Bande Utkala Janani”

The Cabinet of Odisha chaired by Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha approved the proposal to give the status of State anthem to “Bande Utkala Janani”, a poem written by Katakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra in 1912.

India to set up first coal trading exchange

As India is the world’s second-largest producer of coal, it has decided to set up its first coal trading platform -a sort of ‘**Coal exchange**’, where a large number of sellers and buyers can get together to trade coal as a commodity.

It is to be noted that the coal ministry is likely to initiate auctions of about 50 coal blocks for commercial coal mining on June 11, 2020.



Scientists discover new star Kepler-160 & planet KOI-456 :‘mirror image’ of Earth and Sun

According to the research published in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics, a team of scientists led by the **Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS)** in Gottingen (**Germany**) have discovered a new **planet** named **KOI-456.04** & its host **star** called **Kepler-160** by using Kepler Space Telescope.

i. The pair are quite similar to the Sun and the Earth which makes the planet potentially habitable as conditions are right for liquid water to exist. Scientist have mentioned the newly discovered planet, KOI-456.4, and its host star Kepler-160 as “mirror image” of our own planet and sun.

Thane engineer develops world’s first ‘Internet-controlled’ robot ‘Coro-bot’ for COVID-19 hospitals

i. A 23-year old Thane engineer, **Pratik Tirodkar**, founder of a start-up PNT Solutions, Dombivali developed the **world’s 1st ‘Internet-controlled’ robot** named **‘Coro-bot’** to address the needs of the hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

ii. It is deployed for the 1st time in Holy Cross Hospital, Kalyan, Maharashtra.

iii. The company has created a special application to operate Coro-bot from any location in the world using Internet of Things (IoT) technology, the 1st time in the world that this technique is being deployed in the medical field.

Gairsain in Chamoli district declared as summer capital of Uttarakhand

i. Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya approved the declaration of **Bhararisen(Gairsain)** in Chamoli district as the state’s **summer capital** in compliance with the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of “the Constitution of India”.

ii. **Dehradun** (the largest city) will remain the **winter capital**.

iii. Uttarakhand’s CM made the announcement about Gairsain being made the summer capital of Uttarakhand during the budget session of the state assembly there on March 4.

Severe cyclonic storm “Nisarga”: India’s west coast

Cyclone Nisarga, which intensified into a severe cyclonic storm in the Arabian Sea, expected to hit the coasts of Gujarat, Maharashtra. Over coastal Maharashtra weakened into a Cyclonic Storm, dropped heavy rains and winds gusting up to 120km (75 miles) per hour as a category 4 cyclone near the coastal city of Alibag(Maharashtra). The name Nisarga was suggested by **Bangladesh**.



India to become President of United Nation Security Council for August 2021

India will serve as the **president** of the United Nation security Council (15-Member) for the month of **August 2021**, which has been elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for two

years(2021-22). Following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names, the presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month.

India becomes 2nd nation to have contact-free ATM cash withdrawals; Empays Payment Systems partners with Mastercard

- i.**This cardless ATM (automated teller machine) will enable the users to withdraw their money just by scanning a (Quick Response) code on the mobile phone, using their banking app.
- ii.**It should be noted that Empays is authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a **national payment system**.
- iii.**Earlier, **AGS Transact Technologies Limited (AGSTTL)** has developed 'touchless' (based on QR code) solution for cash withdrawals at ATMs.

UP govt. clears "Cow Slaughter Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020" to prevent cow slaughter

- i.**The ordinance has amended the **Uttar Pradesh cow slaughter act, 1955**.
- ii.**This proposed law provides a maximum rigorous imprisonment of 10 years and a fine up to Rs 5 lakh.
- iii.**In case of illegal transportation of cows and other bovines, the driver, operator and the owner of the vehicle shall be charged under the new Act. This has amended the **Section 5** of UP Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955.



India ranked 56th safest country in the world from Covid- 19:Report

As per the report of Deep Knowledge Group's safest country in the world from covid- 19, India ranked 56th position in a list of 200 countries, while Switzerland has been found to be the safest place on earth from the ongoing covid-19 pandemic followed by Germany and Israel. while South Sudan was ranked at 200th position.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal releases 5th edition of NIRF Rankings 2020; IIT Madras tops the list of 'overall category'

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has virtually released 5th edition of **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2020**, which accounted 5805 institutes for the ranking based on 10 categories namely- Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Dental Architecture, and Law.

- i.**The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras (Tamil Nadu) has topped the list of 'overall ranking'

category with a score of 85.31 followed by Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

Gir Sanctuary Gujarat's Asiatic Lion population risen to 29% in 5 years; "Poonam Avlokan" survey

i. The population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary in Gujarat was surveyed with the help of **Poonam Avlokan** exercise, which showed an increase in the Lion population to 29% in 2020 from 27% in 2015. Also, the distribution area of the lions was also increased to **36%** from 22,000sq Km in 2015 to 30,000 sq Km in 2020.

ii. The Asiatic lions are found in protected areas and agro-pastoral regions of Saurashtra covering about 9 districts in the Gir forest.

GROWING NUMBERS					
Year	Adult		Subadult	Cubs	Total
	Male	Female			
1990	99	95	27	63	284
1995	94	100	39	71	304
2001	101	114	57	55	327
2005	89	124	72	74	359
2010	97	162	75	77	411
2015	109	201	73	140	523
2020	159	262	115	138	674

Source: Gujarat state forest and environment department sources

About Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

The Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the **Junagadh district of Gujarat**. It is the largest compacted dry deciduous forest in the western region of India. It was declared a sanctuary in 1965.

Highest allocation of Rs 1,01,500 crore in MGNREGS for FY 2020-21

The highest ever allocation of funds worth Rs. 1,01,500 made under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the current Financial Year (FY) 2020-2021. A sum of Rs. 31,493 crore has already been released in 2020-21, which is more than 50 percent of budget estimation of current Financial Year 2020-21.

First in the world: Indian Railways runs Double-Stack Container Train in OHE electrified region

i. **Indian railways** created a benchmark by setting a new world history on the successful running of the first **Double-decker** Container Train with a contact wire of **7.57-metre** height.

ii. In the high rise Over Head Equipment (OHE) electrified territory on the western railway from **Palanpur** and **Botad** stations in **Gujarat**.



3 DST institutes among top 30 Indian Institutions in Nature Index 2020; CAS, China topped globally

i. In accordance with the Nature Index 2020 ratings, 3 autonomous institutions of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India ranked among top 30 Indian Institutes. The Nature Index 2020 ratings has been globally topped by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China while India's **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is on **160th position globally** but stood first among Indian institutions.

Top 3 Institutions (Global)

Rank	Institution
1	Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China
2	Harvard University, United States of America (USA)
3	Max Planck Society, Germany

About Nature Index 2020:

The Nature Index 2020 Annual Tables highlight the institutions and countries that dominated high quality research in the natural sciences based on the research published in the top journals. The 2020 tables are based on Nature Index data from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

“Lockdown Liaisons” Authored by Shobhaa De published by Simon & Schuster India

Writer and Columnist Shobhaa De’s new collection of stories titled “Lockdown Liaisons” a book reflecting the impacts of COVID-19 on human lives published by Simon & Schuster India and released on May 30, 2020.

They released the 1st ebook titled “**Leaving and Other Stories**” under Lockdown Liaisons on May 30, 2020. On the 2nd week they had released the ebook titled “**No Love lost and Other Stories**”. On the 3rd week they had released the ebook titled “**Wedding Cancelled and Other Stories**”.



About Lockdown Liaisons:

- i. Collection of short stories from different perspectives from men and women, young and old, brave and cowardly, cheerful and weighed down.
- ii. The book displays the shifting emotions of people during the pandemic and its effect on people and their struggle to adjust to the “**new normal**”.

Odisha becomes 1st state in India to receive ISO certification for tribal hostels

Odisha became the first State in India to receive prestigious **ISO** (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2015 certification for its 44 tribal hostels of Keonjhar (32 hostels) and Sambalpur (12 hostels) districts improving their overall infrastructure and standards under **Mission Suvidya**.

i. The certification is an example of the transformation targets set under the state's 5T (Technology, Transparency, Teamwork, Time and Transformation) framework.

RBI Proposes to Set Upper Age Limit of CEOs, Whole-Time Directors of Banks to 70 Years

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in its Discussion Paper on 'Governance in Commercial Banks in India' proposed to set the upper age limit of **Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and whole time directors (WTDs)** belonging to the promoter group of banks to **70 years** and maximum tenure of 10 years. This offer has been made to improve administration in the banking sector.

i. The tenure has been limited in order to strengthen the culture of consistent governance and to adopt the principle of separating management from ownership.

TPG, L Catterton bought 1.32% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 6441.3 crore

i. The United States (US) private equity firms TPG Capital and L Catterton have become the 8th and 9th investors respectively in the Jio Platforms, as the latter has sold **0.93%** stake in TPG for Rs 4,546.80 crore and **0.39%** stake sold to L Catterton for Rs 1,894.50 crore.

ii. With this Jio Platforms has sold a further 1.32% stake for **Rs 6441.3 crore**.

iii. Since April 22, 2020, through 10 investments, parent **Reliance Industries** has sold 22.38% stake in Jio and collected **Rs 104,326.95 crore** in the largest continuous fundraising by a company, anywhere in the world.

About TPG Capital:

It is a leading global alternative asset firm founded in 1992 with more than \$79 billion of assets under management across a wide range of asset classes, including private equity, growth equity, real estate and public equity

Co-chief executive officer (CEO)– James Coulter & Jon Winkelried

Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism Biography by Dinyar Patel

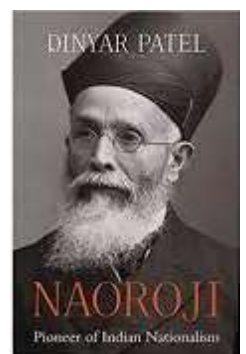
Historian Dinyar Patel's biography of Dadabhai Naoroji, "**Naoroji Pioneer of Indian Nationalism**" was published by the Harvard University Press in May 2020.

About Dinyar Patel:

i. Patel is an assistant professor at the Department of History at the University of South Carolina.

ii. He researched the life and career of Indian Nationalist Leader Dadabhai Naoroji.

iii. He focused on the Indian Nationalist Movements, the city of Bombay and the Parsi Zorostrain



community.

About the book:

- i. The book displays the life chapters of Dadabhai Naoroji, who had become the first Asian to be elected to the British parliament in 1892.
- ii. The book provides a detail on how Naoroji got the support of William Gladstone and Lord Ripon of Liberal party and Irish Home Rule activist respectively.
- iii. The book is more informative than the previous biographies.

Tamil Nadu legislator Anbazhagan passes away at 61

Three-time DMK MLA, J. Anbazhagan passed away at the age of 61 years after he tested positive for COVID-19 in Chennai, who represented the Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni constituency in the Assembly.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launched Nation's 1st "Indian Gas Exchange", an Online Delivery-Based Gas Trading Platform

i. "Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)" has been launched on the lines of Prime Minister's vision to provide clean, affordable, sustainable and equitable supply of energy to every citizen.

ii. Notably, IGX will work as a wholly owned subsidiary of the **India Energy Exchange (IEX)**, which is India's energy market platform.

Headquartered in New Delhi, IGX consists of 3 directors viz, Rajiv Srivastava, Rajesh Kumar Mediratta, Vineet Harlalka.



iii. Through IGX competitive price discovery will facilitate availability of gas at lower prices, without any government interference. However, the price of domestically produced natural gas is decided by the government. It will not be sold on the gas exchange.

Recently, Liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal owners, state-run Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL), have joined IGX.

India's foreign exchange reserves cross \$500 bn for the first time

In accordance with the weekly statistical data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign reserves crossed the \$500 billion mark as the nation had forex reserves of \$501.7 billion as of June 5, 2020 a rise of \$8.22 billion in a week.

- India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Key Points:

- The FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, increased by \$8.422 billion to \$463.630 billion.
- The value of India's gold reserves decreased by \$329 million to \$32.352 billion.

-SDR value climbed by \$10 million to \$1.442 billion, the reserve position of the country with the IMF rose by \$120 million to \$4.278 billion.

500 Year Old Temple Found Submerged in Mahanadi River of Odisha

Deepak Kumar Nayak, Project Assistant of Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) with **Rabindra Rana**, heritage enthusiast of Odisha located the 500-year-old submerged temple in the Mahanadi river near Baideswar in Padmavati area, Cuttack.



- i. The documentation project of a heritage site in the Mahanadi valley was launched by the INTACH Odisha in 2019.
- ii. This is a pilot project of INTACH and the first of its kind study on any river in India.

Infosys becomes 1st Indian Company to sign Climate Pledge with Amazon and Global Optimism to Become Net-Zero Carbon

Infosys partnered with Amazon and Global Optimism and signed the Climate Pledge, an initiative by Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and Christiana Figueres, founder of Global Optimism and former United Nations Climate chief to become net-zero carbon by 2040, ten years ahead of the Paris Agreement.

Indian Railways installs Automated Ticket Checking and Managing Access Machine, 1st of its Kind at Nagpur station

i. Indian Railways' Central Railway zone has installed Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine, 1st of its kind at Nagpur station.



- ii. The machine has been introduced at the station under the New, Innovative Non Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS) policy to prevent transmission of COVID-19.
- iii. This is an Innovative Earning Contract, implemented by Nagar (NGP) Central Railways (CR) for the prevention of COVID-19.

Nobel Laureate Kazuo Ishiguro's New Novel 'Klara and the Sun' to be Released in March 2021

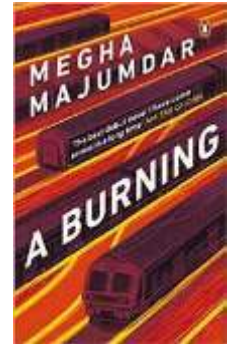
- i. Nobel Prize winner (2017) **Kazuo Ishiguro** (Japan born British author) will release his new novel '**Klara and the Sun**'.
- ii. It will be published by **Faber & Faber** in the United Kingdom, **Alfred A. Knopf** in the United States and **Knopf** in Canada on March 2, 2021.
- iii. This is the first novel by him since he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Penguin Hamish Hamilton released, “A Burning”, the Debut Novel of Megha Majumdar

The Penguin Hamish Hamilton released the “A Burning”, debut novel of Megha Majumdar. The 32-year-old New York’s writer who was born and raised in Kolkata.

A Burning:

- i. The book is about the lives of three characters, Tommy Orange, Yaa Gyasi and Jhumpa Lahiri who want to rise to the middle class, to political power, to gain fame in the film industry and how their lives changed in Indian society.
- ii. The book was published on 2nd June 2020 by Knopf Doubleday publishing Group.



About Megha Majumdar:

- i. She moved to the United States and studied at **Harvard University** where she was a Truab Scholar.

UP provided employment to 57 lakh 12975 migrant workers under MGNREGA; Highest in India

- i. In accordance with the official government data, on June 15, 2020, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has provided employment to 57 lakh 12975 workers in 56,981 village panchayats of the state under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee **Scheme (MGNREGS)**, making it the top Indian state to provide highest employment under MGNREGS.
- ii. UP is followed by **Rajasthan**, which has engaged 53.45 lakh workers, **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** with 36 lakh workers, **West Bengal (WB)** with 26 lakh and **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** with 23.95 lakh workers.

About MGNREGS:-

Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act 2005, later renamed as the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act”(MGNREGA) was passed in September 2005. It is an Indian labour law that aims to guarantee the ‘right to work’.

Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund Buys 2.32% Stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 Crores

- i. Jio Platforms stepped into 11th deal with Saudi Arabia’s **Public Investment Fund (PIF)**, who bought **2.32%** stake in Jio Platforms for **Rs 11,367 crores**.
- ii. With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised **Rs 115,693.95 crores (1.15 lakh crores)** from leading global investors since April 22, which is the largest continuous fund raised by a company in the world.
- iii. This investment estimates the equity value of Jio Platforms at Rs 4.91 lakh crore & its enterprise value at Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

SC on Writ Petition Concerning Rule of Law Index

The Supreme Court asked the government to treat a writ petition, for setting up expert panels to improve

India's performance in the Rule of Law Index, as a "representation" and to decide further action within 6 months' time.

- India was Ranked **69th** in the **WJP Rule of Law Index 2020**
- India has never been ranked even among top 50 in the Index, but successive governments did nothing to improve the international ranking of India.

PM Modi launched Rs 50,000 cr Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan to boost employment and livelihood for migrant workers

i. An employment -cum- rural public works Campaign for 67 lakh migrant workers titled "Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)" has been launched for 6 states viz. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



on the lines of the announcement made in Rs 20 Lakh crore Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

ii. The outlay of this campaign is **Rs 50,000 Crores** and **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** is the nodal Ministry for its implementation

iii. GKRA, the mission mode campaign of 125 days will cover 116 districts comprising more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers each across 6 states. Under this 25 public work areas have been identified for employment in villages.

RIL Becomes India's 1st Firm to Hit Rs 11 Tn Market Cap on June 11, 2020 after Valuing at Rs 11.15 tn; Mukesh Ambani became world's 9th richest

i. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to reach a market capitalisation of Rs 11 trillion, as the company was valued at **Rs 11.15 trillion**. With this, RIL accounts for nearly 9% of the country's total m-cap of Rs 138 trillion. Its stock on Bombay stock exchange (BSE) was record high at Rs 1,738.95. Notably the company's share doubled since mid-March 2020.

ii. Importantly, RIL is the **most valued firm** followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which is valued at Rs 7.7 trillion.

ISRO Receives Patent for Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment for Astronauts

The ISRO has initiated a 10,000 crore project- Gaganyaan to send humans to space by 2022, in accordance to which, ISRO has received a patent for its **Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment (LCHG)** for astronauts to use in



space for protection from hot and cold environments.

- It is a close fitting long garment and use as a single lightweight comfort inner wear over which the flight suit is worn.
- It is designed according to specification filed by the organisation with the Patent office in 2016.

Amish Tripathi Released the Book "Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India"

Best-selling author and the Director of Nehru Centre, London(since 2019) **Amish Tripathi** released his fiction book, "**Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India**". The book is published by **Westland Publications Pvt Ltd.**

Essence of the book:

The book is about the **Indian King Suheldev** who struggles to defend his homeland, makes tremendous personal sacrifices, shows glorious leadership & unites everyone in the country irrespective of their religion, caste, region, or status in society.

Idea behind the book– To bring national awareness about the ignored pages of Indian history.

About Amish Tripathi

i. Amish Tripathi is the 1st author in the Indian publishing history to hold his 6 fiction books in the top 10 of the HT-Nielsen Bookscan national bestseller list for 4 weeks in a row.

ii. His 1st book is '**The Immortals of Meluha**', which is also the 1st book of Shiva Trilogy.

1st Online Edition of Cannes Film Market 2020 Launched; Virtual India Pavilion Inaugurated by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar

i. The Cannes Film Festival launched the 5 days long first online edition of Marché du Film 2020 (Cannes Film Market) which will continue till June 26, 2020. Marché du Film is the business arm of Cannes Film Festival.

ii. The e-inauguration of the Virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Film Market 2020 was done by Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar.

iii. It should be noted that the two films sent for the prestigious CANNES festival's Marche' du Film section from India are Ananth Narayan Mahadevan's **MaiGhat: Crime No 103/2005** (Marathi) and Abhishek Shah's **Hellaro** (Gujarati). Both are National Film Award winning movies that are being screened in the Market.



India Retains its Position as 3rd-largest Economy on PPP basis for 2017; China Tops: World Bank Data

i. In accordance with the World Bank Data under the International Comparison Program (ICP), revealed by India's National Statistical Office (NSO) of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India has retained its position as the third-largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) for 2017 as it accounted for 6.7% or \$8,051 billion out of world total of \$119,547 billion of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ii. India has followed **China (16.4%)** and the **United States-US (16.3%)** which ranked 1st and 2nd respectively.

iii. Overall 19 economies, representing nearly 64% of the global population, contributed three-quarters of global GDP.

World's largest chariot festival Rath Yatra in Puri: Odisha

World's largest chariot festival Rath Yatra of Jagannath temple held in coastal district of Puri, Odisha under curfew, After Supreme Court had decided to allow it to be held with the coordination of the temple committee, State and Central government without compromising with the health issue pertaining to COVID-19.



Virtual conference of the Russia-India-China trilateral hosted by Moscow, Russia

The Russia-India-China (RIC) Foreign Minister-level virtual conference was held following the cross border clash between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15, 2020, where India lost 20 Army personnel. It was the biggest ever confrontation between the two sides after a gap of 45 years. The conference was hosted by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Moscow, Russia.

- From Indian side, External Affairs Minister **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** participated in the meet. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov were the other two participants of the conference.
- Russia has urged both the countries to resolve the border row through talks.

Notably on June 22, 2020 Defence Minister Rajnath Singh left for Russia on a three-day visit to attend a military parade in Moscow on June 24 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of victory of the Russian people in the Second World War.

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport becomes the 1st airport in India to get AWMS at both ends of the runway

- i.** Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (**KIAB/ BLR Airport**) becomes the **1st airport** in India to get an indigenously-developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (**AWMS**) at both ends of the runway.
- ii.** AWMS is set up by Bangalore International Airport (**BIAL**). The technology is developed by Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (**NAL**).
- iii.** In addition to AWMS, BIAL has also installed **4 Drishti Transmissometers** to measure the Runway Visibility Range (RVR).

India to be World's First Country to Use Drone Mounted ULV Sprayer for Locust Control

- i.** Under the **Make in India** initiative the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (**DAC&FW**) has initiated to develop a vehicle mounted ultra-low volume (**ULV**) sprayer for locust control to reduce the limitations of importing equipment.
- ii.** India is to be the first country in the world to control desert locusts using drones.

President Promulgates Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 amending Banking Regulation Act, 1949

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind in exercising the powers conferred under clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution has promulgated the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 which will amend **section 45, and 56** of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as applicable to Cooperative Banks.

The amendments will not apply to **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)** or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development, and which do not use the word "bank" or "banker" or "banking" and do not act as drawees of cheques.

PhonePe Partnered with ICICI Bank on UPI multi-bank model

- i.** Flipkart-owned **PhonePe** announced that it has partnered with **ICICI Bank** on the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) **multi-bank model**.
- ii.** To provide its users the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with ICICI Bank's "@ibl" handle and YES Bank's '@ybl' handle on the PhonePe app.
- iii.** Through this partnership ICICI Bank has become the second official UPI partner of PhonePe after Yes Bank.

IAS Officer Vini Mahajan Becomes Punjab's First Woman Chief Secretary

i. The **Punjab** government appointed 1987 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer **Vini Mahajan** as the Chief Secretary, by which she becomes the **1st woman** to hold this post.

ii. She will remain in the post until October 2024. She succeeded Karan Avtar Singh, who was due to retire in August 2020.

iii. Currently she is the only Punjab cadre officer in the state to hold a Secretary's post at the Centre.



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Swiz launches world's first app "SwissCovid" with Exposure Notification API of Apple and Google

i. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne – EPFL) and ETH Zurich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich) developed the "SwissCovid" based on a decentralized approach to track the spread of coronavirus.



ii. SwissCovid utilizes the Exposure Notification API (**Application Programming Interface**) of Apple and Google.

NASA astronauts fly SpaceX spacecraft 'Dragon' first private company to dock with ISS

NASA astronauts Robt Behnken and Douglas Hurley docked the SpaceX with the International Space Station (ISS) on 31st May 2020 at 10.16 am EDT (7.59 p.m India), over the border of China and Mongolia before the ISS started travelling above the Earth's night side.

SpaceX was launched on 30th May at 3.22 pm (1.50 am Sunday India).

About SpaceX:

SpaceX became the **first private company** to fly astronauts into orbit.

Founder & CEO- Elon Musk

Founded- 2002

Headquarters- Hawthorne, California, United States of America

India ranked 23rd for world's best startup ecosystems; US topped: StartupBlink Ecosystem Rankings 2020

i. The ranking has been topped by the United States (US), followed by the United Kingdom (UK), and Israel at 2nd and 3rd position.

ii. India's ranking is contrary to its annual Ease of Doing Business ranking, which continues to be on an improving path.

iii. Among the top 100 startup cities, only four India cities were named in "2020 Cities Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem".

WHO Launched 'COVID-19 Technology Access Pool' for equal access to Life-saving Tech

i. This was launched after 35 countries and multiple international partners and institutions have signed for this pool to support it.

ii. The countries who have signed this pool will have **collective ownership** of COVID-19 treatment which means that it will avoid the patent laws that act as a barrier in sharing the crucial supplies amid the outbreak.

US, UK proposed expansion of G7 grouping

The United States(US) and the United Kingdom(UK) have proposed the expansion of the G7 grouping. While the United States has proposed G7+4 ,which includes India, Australia, South Korea and Russia,the United Kingdom wants a G7+3, calling it '10 Democracies (D10)' which excludes Russia.

'Virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020' addressed by the Prime Minister Modi

i.The virtual Global Vaccine Summit hosted by UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson from London** was attended by more than 50 countries and their global leaders.

ii.The PM of India, Narendra Modi addressed the session on aspects of India's contribution and its long-standing view on global cooperation for immunization.

iii.India has **pledged to support 15 million USD** to GAVI during the Virtual Summit.



About GAVI:

GAVI was initiated with an aim to encourage manufacturing of low-cost vaccine for the poor countries, in return expecting a high volume and long-term demand.

CEO; Vaccine Alliance– Seth Berkley

IISC Bangalore ranked 36, 8 Indian Institutes entered top 100 in THE Asia University Ranking

In the Times Higher Education(**THE**) Asia University Ranking launched on **4th June 2020**, Indian became the Third most represented country with 8 institutes in the top 100. Indian Institute of Science(IISc) with **36th position** on the list retains its top position in India.



Key Points:

i.Six Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) are featured in the top 100 of list along with Institute of Chemical Technology(ICT)

ii. In India around **489** universities were qualified for this year's ranking with 72 additional institutes as compared to 2019.

iii. The most represented country was Japan with 110 institutes followed by China and India with 81 universities and 72 institutes respectively.

iv. **Tsinghua University**, China Tops the List following **Peking University**, China in **2nd** position and National University of Singapore, Singapore in **3rd** position.

v. The ranking is made based on the citations, industry income, international outlook, research and teaching.

US private equity firm Silver lake to invest ₹4,546.80 cr for 0.93% additional stake in Jio platforms

The US(United States) private equity company **Silver Lake partners** announced an investment of **Rs 4,546.80 crore** for an additional **0.93 %** stake in **Jio Platforms**, a subsidiary of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

- It is to be noted that, earlier on May 04, 2020, Silver Lake had invested Rs 5,655.75 crore (\$750 million) for a 1.15 % stake.

India ranks 168th in Environment Performance Index 2020; Denmark tops

According to the biennial **Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2020** released jointly by **Yale University and Columbia University**, **India** has ranked **168** out of 180 countries with a score of 27.6 out of 100. While the Denmark has been topped the list with a score of 82.5.

i. The EPI provides a quantitative basis for comparing, analyzing, and understanding environmental performance of the countries based on 32 key sustainability indicators across 11 categories.

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority invests Rs 5,683.50 cr for 1.16% stake in Jio Platforms

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) **has invested Rs 5,683.50 crore for a 1.16 % stake in Jio platforms, a subsidiary of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).**

i. **With this investment, a total of Rs 97,885.65 crore has been invested for 21.06% equity in Jio platforms through 8 investments (Facebook, Silver Lake (2 investments), Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR and Mubadala.**

About Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA):

Chairman – Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

India, China hold top military-level talks in Maldo, Ladakh amid May 2020 standoff

i. The meet was held to restore status quo as on April 2020 end, which was effected by border standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020.

ii. The Indian delegation was led by **Lieutenant General Harinder Singh**, Commander of 14 Corps, while the Chinese side was headed by the **Major General Liu Lin**, Commander of the Tibet Military District.

iii. Due to the standoff between Indian and Chinese forces, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has operationalised its newly sanctioned twin commands viz. western headquartered at Chandigarh and eastern at Guwahati.



QS 'World University Ranking 2021' 17th edition ; 3 Indian Institutes among top 200

i. QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) is a global education analyst that released the **17th edition** of the **QS World**

University Rankings 2021.

ii. This year only **3 Institutions** from India were among the **top two-hundred** ranks.

Indian Institutes Ranking in Top 200

- **IIT Bombay** grabbed the top spot at rank **172**
- **IISc Bengaluru** was at the **185th** spot
- **IIT Delhi** was ranked **193** in the globe.

About QS World University Ranking

QS World University ranking is the world's leading provider of services, analytics and insight to the global higher education sector it was inaugurated in 2004. It is the world's most consulted source of comparison on University performance. QS releases the World University Ranking of top 1000 universities every year.

Mercer's 26th Annual 'Cost of Living Survey 2020': Mumbai ranks 60th globally, 19th in Asia

Mercer released its 26th Annual Cost of Living Survey 2020. From India, **Mumbai** city has been ranked **60th** most **expensive** city globally and also **19th in Asia**. Mumbai is the only Indian city ranked in the top 100. **Hongkong** tops the list globally.



Mercer's 26th annual Cost of Living Survey will help employers navigate non-native packages, essential due to uncertainty from the COVID-19

pandemic and consider **alternate** forms of international assignments to sustain overseas operations.

- The survey includes over 400 cities throughout the world; this year's ranking includes 209 cities across five continents.
- It measures the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment.

Note: New York City is used as the base city for all comparisons and currency movements are measured against the US dollar.

India is 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019 with \$51 billion; US topped: UN-World Investment Report 2020

i. In accordance with the "**World Investment Report 2020**" by United Nation's (UN) trade body, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India has become the 9th largest recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019 after receiving \$51 billion last year, an increase of 20% from the 42 billion dollars of FDI received in 2018.

ii. India is the **largest South Asian recipient** of FDI in 2019.

iii. The global FDI flows are forecast to **decrease by up to 40%** in 2020, from their 2019 value of \$1.54 trillion.

About World Investment Report:

It has been published annually since 1991 focusing on trends FDI worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.

India ranked 6th as nuclear weapons increased since 2019; US tops: SIPRI's Yearbook 2020

i. In accordance with the “51st edition of SIPRI Yearbook 2020-Armaments, Disarmament and International Security” of Swedish think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI),

The number of nuclear warheads in the Indian arsenal pegged at 150 in comparison to the 2019 report (on the basis of 2018) when India had 130-140.

ii. Following table shows the number of warheads of top rankers (as of January 2020):

Rank	Country	Nuclear Warheads
1	US	5800*
2	Russia	6375
3	UK	215
6	India	150

*The deployed warheads of the US are more than Russia that is why the former has been placed at 1st rank.

India Stands at 43rd Position in IMD's Competitive Ranking 2020, Singapore Tops

According to the **World Competitiveness Index 2020**, prepared by Switzerland-based Institute for Management and Development (IMD)'s World Competitiveness Center (WCC), the **Indian** economy remained at **43rd** position. While Singapore continues to occupy the first place in the list.



It includes 235 indicators and ranks among 63 countries every year. IMD's World Competitiveness Index has marked its 30th anniversary in 2019.

India Joined GPAI, 1st of its kind AI initiative as founding member

i. India has joined the first-of-its-type initiative namely **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** as a founding member to support responsible and human-centric development and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

ii. With this, India became the **15th founding member** of GPAI which also include the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), European Union (EU), Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, and Singapore for launch of GPAI.

India elected for 8th term as non-permanent member of UN Security Council for 2021 & 2022; will hold presidency in August, 2021

i. India was elected unopposed for a 8th term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for two years (2021 & 2022) starting January 2021 by gaining 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly.

ii. India was the only candidate for the lone seat from the Asia-Pacific category & India will hold the **Presidency of the council in August 2021**.

iii. India has previously been elected as a non-permanent member of the Council for the years 1950 & 1951, 1967 & 1968, 1972 & 1973, 1977 & 1978, 1984 & 1985, 1991 & 1992 and most recently in 2011 & 2012.

NASA Scientists Observe Bose-Einstein Quantum “Fifth State of Matter” in Space For The First Time

According to the research published in the journal Nature, a team of scientists at NASA (**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**)’s Cold Atom Lab (CAL), have found for the first time in space the evidence of ‘**Fifth State of Matter**’ (also known as **Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC)**).

This special state of matter occurs when the atoms of some elements are cooled to absolute zero (0 Kelvin or -273.15 ° C).

- It is to be noted that, the existence of BEC was first predicted by great scientist Albert Einstein and Indian mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose, almost 100 years ago in early 1920.

Covid-19 to Push Additional 120 Million Children into Poverty in South Asian Region : UNICEF Report

The United Nations Children’s Fund (**UNICEF**) released its first report focusing on the South Asian region on the **impacts of COVID-19 on children** states that around 240 million children are classified as poor and the current COVID-19 situation will affect an additional **120 million** children, a total of 360 million children will be pushed into **poverty** and **food insecurity** in the next 6 months.

NASA Astronomers Discover 240-year-old Neutron Star ‘Swift J1818.0–1607’ After Recent X-ray Burst

According to the study published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters, Astronomers at the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) have discovered the youngest known magnetar (a type of neutron star) named “Swift J1818.0-1607” about 16,000 light years away from Earth.

- It was first discovered back on March 12 by NASA’s Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory when when a large amount of X-rays were emitted by it. The European Space Agency’s XMM-Newton observatory and NASA’s NuSTAR telescope, then studied this magnetar and found that it was the youngest 240-year old.



India Became 12th Largest Holder of US govt Securities with Holdings of \$157.4 bn in April end 2020; Japan tops

- In accordance with the data from the United States (US) Treasury Department, India became the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of April, 2020 with holdings of worth \$157.4 billion, which has increased marginally by \$0.9 billion in comparison to March month’s \$156.5 billion.
- The country with maximum exposure to US government securities is Japan at US\$1.266 trillion followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK) at the second and third positions, respectively at the end of April 2020.

About US govt Securities:

The US dollar/ Treasury Securities (Bills, Notes, Bonds, Inflation-Protected Securities) backed by the US treasury department are one of the safest asset class for any central bank with regards to investment, despite getting the lowest returns.

Pakistan remains in Financial Action Task Force’s Grey list

The Financial Action Task Force(FATF) in its 3rd and final plenary meeting under the Chinese Presidency of Xiangmin Liu over a virtual platform, retained Pakistan on the grey list till October 2020, for failing to prosecute and penalise terrorist financing in the country before the deadline fixed by FATF .

Note: Germany will take over the presidency of the FATF from July, 2020 for a year.

Key Points:

- In the FATF meeting in February 2020, Islamabad was told that all the deadlines have expired and if failed to prosecute and penalise terrorist financing by June 2020, the global terrorist financing watchdog will take action.
- In the Paris plenary FATF expressed their concern at Pakistan’s failure to complete its 27point action plan

before the deadline that ended in September 2019.

iii.If Pakistan fails to comply with FATF directive by **October 2020** the country will be put under “**Black List**”.

Grey List:

i.The countries on the grey list will have difficulties in getting financial aid from the IMF, World Bank, ADB and European Union.

ii.The inclusion in grey list servers as a warning that the country may enter black list

Black List:

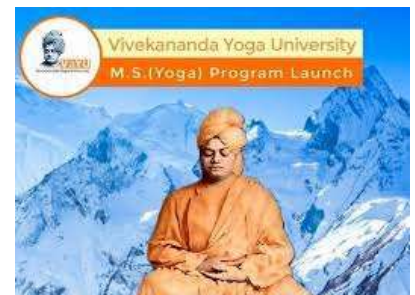
i.**Non-cooperative** countries or a Territories (NCCTs) are put in black list.

ii.Currently countries like North Korea and Iran are under black list

“Vivekananda Yoga University” World’s First Yoga University Outside India launched in Los Angeles

i.As a part of International Yoga day, on 23rd June

2020,The “**Vivekananda Yoga University**”(VaYU) **World’s First Yoga University** outside India was launched in Los Angeles, United States of America.



ii.Launched by **V Muraleedharan**, the Minister of State of External Affairs and **P P Chaudhary**, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, over the virtual event at the Consulate General of India in New York.

iii.The first chairman of the VaYU is Dr. H R Nagendra.

India Ranks 77th in Terms of Money Deposited in Swiss Banks, UK tops: SNB Statistics 2019

According to the ‘**Annual banking statistics, 2019**’ released by Switzerland’s central bank **Swiss National Bank (SNB)**, **India** is at the **77th** position in terms of money parked by its citizens and enterprises with Swiss banks at the end of the year 2019,compared to 74th the previous year (i.e 2018). Indians account for only 0.06 % of the money deposited by foreigners in Swiss banks.

While, **Britain** holds the first place in this list with a share of 27 % of the total deposits.

i.The deposits of Indian citizens and companies in Swiss banks declined by 5.8 % to 899 million Swiss francs (Rs 6,625 crore) in 2019.

Overview of Rajnath Singh 3-day Visit to Russia from 23- 25, 2020 to Attend 75th Victory Day Parade of World War II

i. Minister of Defence (Raksha Mantri) Rajnath Singh paid a 3-day visit to Russia from June 23- 25, 2020 on the invitation of Defence Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Shoigu to attend the 75th Anniversary of Victory Day Parade and to strengthen the longstanding special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia.

ii. A Tri-Service 75- Member Indian Military Contingent along with contingents of Russian Armed Forces and 17 other countries participated in the Victory Parade. The Indian marching contingent was led by a major rank officer of the gallant **Sikh Light Infantry Regiment**.

- Rajnath Singh met Russian Deputy PM Yury Borisov to review India-Russia defence cooperation.
- Rajnath Singh holds talks with Myanmar Military Chief.

At 26th position, Bengaluru Becomes India's Only City in Top 30 Global Startup Ecosystems Ranking 2020 Released by Startup Genome

According to the report, '**Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2020; the New Normal for the Global Startup Economy and the Impact of COVID-19**' released by **Startup Genome**, Bangalore has become the only city in the country to be included in the world's top-30 startup ecosystem ranking & placed **26th** position. At the same time, the nation's capital Delhi has been ranked 36th in the list.

i. Further, **Mumbai** ranked first in a parallel "**100 emerging ecosystem rankings 2020**" followed by Jakarta, Zurich.

Russia is Set to Take First Tourists on Space Walk in 2023

Russia's Space Corporation RSC Energia (S.P. Korolev RSC Energia) in contract with Space Adventures of US announced that it is set to take its first tourist on space walk in 2023.

Note: Roscosmos and RSC Energia in collaboration with Space Adventures took 8 tourists to ISS between 2001 and 2009.

Features of contract:

i. The contract between Energia and Space Adventures promises to take a tourist on space walk to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2023.

ii. With the Russian cosmonaut, the tourists will participate in the walk from the Russian Segment.

iii. Russia's Soyuz MS spacecraft will be used for the mission.

Other Tourism mission to Space:

i. NASA signed with Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic Space Tourism company to promote private



missions to ISS.

ii. In May 2020, SpaceX of Elon Musk announced space tourism for three tourists in 2021.

India named in Switzerland's top-3 partners for info exchange on tax matters: OECD's Global Forum study

i. In accordance with the latest study by **OECD's** (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) **Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes**, referring to the period from July 2015 to June 2018, India named among the top-three countries as EOI (Exchange of Information) partners along with **France** and **Germany**. Means, India is getting detailed information on request, from Switzerland about bank accounts and beneficiary ownership of entities established by its residents.

ii. India is also rated as 'largely compliant' by this OECD's review.

iii. To present itself as a clean global financial centre, Switzerland has entered into pacts with more than 100 countries, including India, for automatic exchange of information on tax matters.

NASA Renames Washington HQ after Mary Jackson, first black Engineer at NASA

The headquarter building of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) located at Washington D.C., has been renamed after Mary Winston Jackson (1921-2005), the first black female engineer at NASA. Administrator Jim Bridestone made the announcement on 24th June.

About Mary W Jackson:-

- Mary helps in opening opportunities for African Americans and women in the field of engineering and technology.
- In 2019, The Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act was signed by President Donald Trump and awarded to honour Mary.

36th ASEAN Summit chaired by Vietnam held via video conference; 1st session on Women Empowerment in the Digital Age held

i. The 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held via video conference on the theme "**Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN**".

ii. The summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc as Vietnam is ASEAN's chair in 2020.

iii. The focus of the meet was on COVID-19 response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Finance Ministry appoints PR Jaishankar as MD of IIFCL

i. The Ministry of Finance appointed **PR Jaishankar** as the MD (Managing Director) of the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) for 3 years.

ii. The appointment comes after the recommendation of PS Jaishankar by the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) on March 15, 2020.



About IIFCL:

IIFCL is a wholly-owned Government of India (GOI) company set up in 2006 to provide long term finance to viable infrastructure projects through the Scheme for Financing Viable Infrastructure Projects through a Special Purpose Vehicle called India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), broadly referred to as SIFTI.

Arun Singhal becomes new CEO of FSSAI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India (GoI), has approved the appointment of **Arun Singhal**, a 1987-batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service officer) of Uttar Pradesh cadre, as chief executive officer (CEO) of **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.

i. Mr Singhal, currently serving as Special Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare, will succeed **GSG Ayyangar** who was briefly appointed to the post.

About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

Headquarters– New Delhi

Chairperson– Rita Teotia

PM Modi appoints committee for MSME loan implementation headed by Rajnath Singh

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed a committee headed by Rajnath Singh to solve the difficulties in the implementation of **Rs.3 Lakh crore** collateral-free loan for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).

ii. Nitin Jairam Gadkari, MSME Minister suggested the revision in the definition of medium enterprises in terms of investment and turnovers to Rs 50 crore and Rs 250 crore respectively.



About MSME Ministry:

Minister- Nitin Jairam Gadkari

Minister of State- Pratap Chandra Sarangi

Uday Kotak Take over from Vikram Kirloskar as the new CII President

The Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) announced its new office bearers for 2020-2021. **Uday Kotak**, Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank succeeds **Vikram Kirloskar**, Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar System and vice chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor as the **new President of CII**.

About CII:

President- Uday Kotak

Vice President- Sanjiv Bajaj

Former Miss World Manushi Chhillar joins Rohit, Hima as brand ambassador of Adidas

The former Miss World

2017 **Manushi Chhillar** joined Rohit Sharma, Indian star Batsman, Hima Das Sprinter from Assam and Actor Ranveer Singh as the brand ambassador of Adidas.



Key Points:

- i. Chhillar becomes Adidas's forerunner in their mission to inspire women to embrace fitness and to create a beneficial social impact through sports.
- ii. She supports the **#HOMETEAMHERO** challenge of Adidas to stay physically and mentally fit in the lockdown due to COVID-19 and use sports as a platform to inspire and encourage the women and children to take up sports.
- iii. Adidas encourage the people around the world to participate in the **#HOMETEAMHERO** to support WHO's Covid-19 Response fund.
- iv. Adidas will donate 1 USD for every hour clocked in the adidas Running and Training apps till 7th June.

PMO officers Rajeev Topno to be senior advisor at World Bank, Brajendra Navnit India's permanent representative to WTO

- i. Cabinet's Appointment committee approved the appointments of **Rajeev Topno**, the private secretary to the prime minister as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director(ED), **World Bank**
- ii. **Brajendra Navnit**, the Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office(July 2014 -September 2019) as **Ambassador** and Permanent Representative of India(**PRI**) to the World Trade Organisation(**WTO**) & will be posted at the Permanent Mission of India(**PMI**) to the WTO, under the Department of Commerce. He replaced JS Deepak at the PMI whose two-year extended term ended on May 31.

About World Bank:

Headquarters– Washington, D.C., United States

President– David R. Malpass(13th president)

Rohit Sharma becomes 1st ever brand ambassador of IIFL Finance

Vice-Captain of Indian Cricket Team in limited-overs, Rohit Sharma became the **first brand ambassador of the IIFL Finance**. IIFL finance is one of the leading Non-Banking Finance Companies of India which manages over **Rs. 36,000 crore assets**.

About IIFL Finance:

Headquarter– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– V.K.Chopra

Krishnendu Majumdar, the 1st Indian origin from UK appointed as Chair of BAFTA

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts(**BAFTA**) appointed Emmy-winning television producer of 'Hoff The Record' **Krishnendu Majumdar** as its chairperson for the next 3 years. He becomes the **1st Indian origin Chair** from the United Kingdom(UK) in its 73 year-long history & is also the **youngest** chair in 35 years. He succeeds **Pippa Harris** who will continue as a deputy chairperson.

Note: Due to lack of diversity in this year's Film Awards nominations he will also chair BAFTA's Awards Review.

Gist about Krishnendu Majumdar

i. Krishnendu Majumdar was born in South Wales to Bengali parents.

ii. He has worked for 14 years in BAFTA & has been deputy chair of BAFTA for one year.

About BAFTA:

Headquarters– London, United Kingdom

President– Prince William, Duke of Cambridge

UNADAP appoints 13 year old Madurai girl Nethra as 'Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor'

The **United Nations Association for Development And Peace(UNADAP)** appointed 13 year old Madurai girl **Nethra** as its '**Goodwill Ambassador to the Poor**'.

Key Points

i. She was recognised for her role in feeding the poor during the COVID-19 lockdown by her father C. Mohan, a salon owner by convincing him to give Five Lakh rupees that he had been saving for her education since 2013.

ii. Nethra will speak at the United Nations(UN) conferences in New York and in Geneva addressing Civil Society forums and conferences. She was awarded a Dixon **Scholarship** amounting to Rs 1 Lakh.

iii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Mann ki Baat programme appreciated Nethra and her family.

About UNADAP:

It is an organisation run by former Diplomats, International civil servants, political ministers, and anti-corruption activists, championing world leaders to Integrity, Justice Peace for community capacity building

Executive Director– Dominic Dixon

Chair of Board of Governors– Xavier Fernandes

Gargo International presents its brand ambassador Sonu Sood in its TVC

The Gargo International, the delhi based lubricant company under the RG group appoints Sonu Sood as the brand ambassador in January 2020 & praised him now for his support works for the migrants and went live with their TVC starring Sonu Sood.

About Gargo International:

The Gargo international is experienced with a range of automotive and industrial lubricants, process oils, transformer oils, greases, etc.

MD of Gargo International– Rajan Goel

About RK Group:

RK Group is a professionally managed organisation which has the business of transmission rubber belts, conveyor belts and automotives and industrial lubricants.

Pankaj Tripathi becomes brand ambassador of Patna's Khadi Mall: Bihar Govt.

Pankaj Tripathi, Bollywood Actor, was appointed as the brand ambassador of Patna's Khadi Mall by the Government of Bihar. He will also promote the usage of Khadi product.



- i. The Khadi Mall in Patna is **India's first** ever Kadhi mall & it was inaugurated by Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar in November 2019.
- ii. Tripathi mentioned that he would not take any salary for this role.

Volkan Bozkir Becomes the 1st Turkish to be Elected as the President of 75th UN General Assembly

- i. **Volkan Bozkir**(69) from Turkey was elected as the **president** of the **75th United Nations(UN) General Assembly**. He is the **1st turkish** to hold this post.
- ii. He will hold the post for 1 year. Volkan Bozkir will succeed **Tijjani Muhammad-Bande** when the annual session opens on September 15, 2020.
- iii. He won unopposed with the support of 178 UN member states by secret ballot.

JSW Cement signs Sourav Ganguly & Sunil Chhetri as Brand Ambassadors

JSW Cement, a part of JSW Group, signed former Indian cricket captain & the current president of Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) **Sourav Ganguly** and **Sunil Chhetri**, captain of India's National

Football Team & Bengaluru FC as their **brand ambassadors** for their marketing campaign **Leaders Choice** in West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel Appointed as the Chairman of NIPFP

The former governor of Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) Urjit Patel was appointed as the Chairman of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (**NIPFP**). He will start his 4year tenure on 22nd June 2020 succeeding Vijay Laxman Kelkar, former chairman of NIPFP.



About NIPFP:

The centre undertakes research, policy advocacy and capacity building in areas related to public economics and the institute assists the central, state and local government in formulating policies by providing an analytical base.

Chairman– Vijay Laxman Kelkar (**Urjit Patel**, will take office on 22nd June 2020)

Headquarters– New Delhi

Priyanka Chopra & Anurag Kashyap Named Among 50 Ambassadors for 45th Edition of TIFF 2020

- i.** Actor **Priyanka Chopra** and Filmmaker **Anurag Kashyap** named among the 50 ambassadors for the **45th edition** of Toronto International Film Festival(**TIFF**) **2020**, which is to be held virtually.
- ii.** The festival will take place from September 10-19 with physical screenings and drive-ins, digital screenings, virtual red carpets, press conferences and industry talks.
- iii.** This is the **1st time** TIFF will launch a **digital platform** for the festival, offering new opportunities to connect with audiences beyond Toronto.

Former England Women Cricket Captain Clare Connor Becomes the 1st Female President of Marylebone Cricket Club in 233 years

Former England Women Cricket Captain **Clare Connor**(43 year old), an all-rounder, becomes the **1st female president** of Marylebone Cricket Club(**MCC**) in 233 years. Her tenure will begin on October 1, 2021, and will end on September 30, 2022. She will succeed **Kumar Sangakkara**.

- She is current head of women's cricket in the England and Wales Cricket Board (since 2007).

Key Points

- i.** The current MCC president, Kumar Sangakkara who is the 1st non-British MCC president, nominated Clare Connor through video link from his native Sri Lanka during an annual general meeting on June 24. He is a former Sri lankan cricketer.

ii. The tenure of MCC Presidents is for a year but Kumar Sangakkara's term is set to be extended by a further 12 months due to pandemic. He assumed the post in 2019.

About MCC:

Headquarters– London, United Kingdom.

NGT Forms Committee Headed by Justice BP Katakey to investigate Assam Gas Leak

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) formed a high level committee headed by Justice BP Katakey, former High Court judge of Gauhati, to investigate the blowout at Assam's Baghjan oil well of Oil India Limited(OIL).

About Baghjan oil field:

The field has been operating since 2003 and has a total of 22 oil producing wells comprising 18 crude and 4 gas.

Micheál Martin Elected as the New Prime Minister of Ireland; Succeeds Leo Varadkar

The voting at the special meeting of the Irish Parliament (**the Dáil**) at the Convention Centre, Dublin, Fianna Fail leader Micheál Martin was elected as the new (Taoiseach) Prime Minister of Ireland and he will take over the office from Leo Varadkar. The results were announced by the speaker of the lower house, Sean O Fearghail.

i. Due to COVID-19 situations to follow the social distancing rule the vote took place at the Convention Centre instead of Leinster House.

ii. Micheál Martin, will lead the government for the first two and a half years(until December 2022); the second half of the 5 year team will be led by Leo Varadkar, Indian Origin Leader of Fine Gael.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Virat Kohli, the only cricketer and Indian in the Forbes top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020 topped by Federer

i. Virat Kohli, Indian Cricket Team Captain becomes the only cricketer and the only Indian to feature in the Forbes' Top 100 highest paid athletes of 2020.

ii. Kohli ranked 66 with Forbes Magazine estimated earning of around 26 million USD (24 million from endorsements and 2 million from salary/winnings)

iii. Tennis player Roger Federer Tops the list for the first time with estimated earnings 106.3 million USD. He placed 5th in the 2019 list with the estimated earnings of 95 million USD



Indian writer Kritika Pandey wins regional award for Asia in 2020 Commonwealth short story prize

i. **Kritika Pandey**, a 29-year-old Indian Writer from Ranchi, was announced as the winner of regional award for Asia in 2020 Commonwealth short story prize for her story “The Great Indian Tee and Snakes”.

ii. The overall winner for the 2020 Commonwealth short story will be announced on June 30.

About Commonwealth Writers:

Headquarters- London, United Kingdom

SEEDS, an Indian NGO wins ‘World No Tobacco Day Award 2020’: WHO

i. The World Health Organization (WHO) has accorded the World No Tobacco Day Award 2020 to Socio-Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS), an Indian non-governmental organization (NGO).

ii. It is one among the 3 SouthEast Asian Region awardees, for its efforts to ban pan masala, gutkha, e-cigarettes and hookah in Bihar and Jharkhand.

iii. **Deepak Mishra**, executive director of the SEEDS has been nominated by the ministry as a member of the task force on the **de-addiction campaign**.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon named EY World Entrepreneur 2020 in a virtual ceremony

i. **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** (67 years old), **Executive Chairperson** of India-based **Biocon Limited** was named as **EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2020**

ii. She became the **3rd Indian** to win this award, after Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra Bank (2014) and Narayana Murthy of Infosys Technologies Limited (2005)



iii. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw became the **2nd woman** to hold the title, following Olivia Lum of Hyflux Limited from Singapore in 2011.

About EY Entrepreneur Of The Year:

EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year honors the innovative business leaders who have unstoppable vision and stop at nothing to achieve their ambition to make a difference.

About EY:

EY Global Chairman and CEO– Carmine Di Sibio

About Biocon:

Headquarters– Bangalore, India

Akshay Kumar ranked 52nd, the only Indian on the list, Kylie Jenner tops: Forbes 100 world's highest-paid celebrities 2020

i. According to the **Forbes 100 world's highest-paid celebrities 2020**, Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** (52 years old) ranked **52nd** with an estimated earnings of USD 48.5 million (M) & is the **only Indian** featured on the list.

ii. The list is topped by 22 years old **Kylie Jenner**, model who earned USD 590M & also topped in the women category.

Hyderabad International Airport receives Platinum Recognition in ACI Asia-Pacific Green Airports recognition 2020

World Environment Day, In **Asia-Pacific** Annual Green Airport Recognition 2020 Airports Council International (ACI) awarded the highest Platinum Recognition to **GMR** led Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport (RGHIA) for their effective water management under the **15-35 Million** Passengers per annum (MPPA) category.



Poet and writer Javed Akhtar becomes the first Indian to receive Richard Dawkins Award 2020

i. Javed Akhtar, renowned poet, lyricist and writer became the first Indian to receive the **Richard Dawkins Award 2020** for critical thinking, holding religious principles up to scrutiny, advancing human progress and humanist values.

ii. The award was created by **Margaret Downey**, Leader of Secular Community in **2003**.

About CFI:

President & CEO– Robyn E. Blumner

Headquarters– Amherst, New York, USA

About Richard Dawkins Foundation:

Founder– Richard Dawkins

Indian Entrepreneur Renjith Kumar honoured with “NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal”

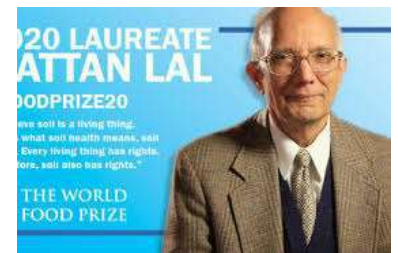
i. Renjith Kumar, Engineer from Kerala and Indian Entrepreneur based in Virginia is honoured with NASA’s highest form of recognition for a non-governmental individual “**NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal**” for his service to NASA through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence and customer satisfaction.



ii. RK Chetty Pandipati was the **First Indian** to win this award in 2002.

Indian-American Soil Scientist Dr. Rattan Lal Honoured as 2020 World Food Prize Laureate

76-year-old Indian-American Soil scientist, **Dr. Rattan Lal** received the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate (**250,000 USD – Rs. 1.89 crore**) for developing and mainstreaming a **soil centric approach** to increase food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. He was born in 1944 in Karyal, West Punjab, India.



World Food Prize is also referred as ‘Nobel Prize in the field of agriculture’ or “Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture.”

Former NASA Astronaut & Geologist Kathy Sullivan becomes 1st Woman to Reach Deepest Point of Ocean

The 68-year-old Kathy Sullivan, Former NASA astronaut and Geologist became the first woman to reach the Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the ocean.

Challenger Deep:

i. It is located in the Mariana Trench, 7 miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean which is 200 miles southwest of Guam.

ii. This is the deepest point known in the Ocean.

Kathy Sullivan:

i. She joined NASA in 1978 and flew three shuttle missions and in 1993 she left NASA and started exploring oceanography.

ii. She became the under-secretary of Commerce for oceans and atmosphere in the United States.

Achievements:

i. She was the first American Woman to walk in space in **1984**.

ii. In 2004 she was inducted into the Astronauts Hall of Fame.

iii. She was the 8th human to take the dive to Challenger Deep.

iv. She became the **first human** to visit both the space and the deepest known point in the Ocean.

Indian Startups Stellapps and Zestmoney are a Part of the World Economic Forum's List of Technology Pioneers of 2020

- i. Two Indian startups Stellapps and Zestmoney were featured in the List of Technology Pioneers of 2020, released by the World Economic Forum(WEF) which consist of pioneers addressing the global issues with advanced technologies.
- ii. More than **25 industries** in the list are **led by females** which is twice the industry average.

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen Wins 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade

Indian economist, philosopher and Nobel Laureate **Amartya Kumar Sen (86)** has been selected for **2020 Peace Prize** by the Board of Trustees of the Peace Prize of the **German Book Trade** for his decades-long work around issues of global justice.



- He will be presented with the award by German Publishers' and Booksellers' Association, Borsenverein in a ceremony that will take place on October 18, 2020, in Paulskirche, Germany.

Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist, Weightlifter K. Sanjita Chanu to get Arjuna Award 2018 after IWF clears doping charges

- i. Indian Weightlifting Federation(IWLF) Secretary Sahdev Yadav informed that 2 time Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist, Weightlifter **K. Sanjita Chanu** will get the **Arjuna award for 2018**.
- ii. This comes after the International Weightlifting Federation(IWF) cleared her doping charges.
- iii. The award is given to her as per the Delhi High Court order in 2018, where the selection committee was directed to consider her & keep the decision in a sealed cover until she was acquitted of the doping charges.

Himachal Pradesh panchayati raj department wins 1st prize under e-Panchayat Puraskars 2020 for effective use of e-applications

- i. **Himachal Pradesh panchayati raj department** wins **1st prize** under **e-Panchayat Puraskars 2020**.
- ii. For effective implementation of e-applications, developed by the central government & other applications developed by the state government. The prize will be given by Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- iii. All 3,226 panchayats of Himachal Pradesh were provided with internet facilities to help people access various services online like family registration, registration of birth, death and marriages.

Overview of 47th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards of NATAS

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences(NATAS) announced the winners of the 47th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards, the presentation was hosted by the Sharon Osbourne, Shery Underwood, Eve, Carrie Ann Inaba and Marie Osmond,the hosts of CBS' Daytime Emmy Award-winning show **THE TALK** which was broadcasted on the CBS Television Network.



About NATAS:

Headquarters– Los Angeles, California, United States of America

Founded– 1955

24-time Grammy winner Popstar Beyonce to receive Humanitarian Award at the virtual 20th edition of BET Awards 2020

i.24-time Grammy winner **Popstar Beyonce**(38 years old) to receive the **Humanitarian Award** at **20th edition of annual BET Awards 2020**, for her long standing philanthropic work, including her recent COVID-19 relief efforts.

ii.The event will be held virtually for the 1st time on June 28.

iii.The awards will honor 2 personalities namely, basketball legend Kobe Bryant & Little Richard.

About BET Awards:

The American award show was established in 2001 by the Black Entertainment Television network to celebrate African Americans and other minorities in music, acting, sports and other fields of entertainment over the past year.

SPORTS

India to host AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022

Asian Football Confederation(AFC) granted the hosting rights of the **AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022** to **India** for the **1st time since** 1979. The tournament is likely to be held in the 2nd half of the year. The event will serve as the final qualification tournament for the 2023 Federation Internationale de Football Association(FIFA) Women's World Cup.



- The tournament was hosted by India in **1980** in Kozhikode this was the **first** time the competition was held in **South Asia**.
- The tournament will feature 12 teams from an earlier slot of 8 teams.

Key Points

- i. India hosting the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2021 will boost the All India Football Federation(AIFF).
- ii. India has also hosted the AFC U-16 Championships in 2016 and the Fifa U-17 World Cup in 2017.

National Champion Niki Kalayanda Poonacha elected to ITF Men's Tennis Panel

The International Tennis Federation (**ITF**) announced, 25 years old Niki Kalyanda Poonacha, National Champion of India as a member of the ITF World Tennis Tour Men's Panel representing the Asia-Oceania zone with Ti Chen of Chinese Taipei.

Australia and New Zealand to Host The 2023 Women's Football World Cup

- i. The FIFA(Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Council voted over a video conference and handed the right to host the 2023 Women's World Cup Football tournament, the first 32-team women's championship to Australia and New Zealand.



- ii. This is the first Women's World Cup to be hosted in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Grandmaster P. Harikrishna becomes the 1st Indian to join the USD 150,000 Chessable Masters

Grandmaster P. Harikrishna debuted the **Magnus Carlsen Chess(MCC) Tour 2020** by joining the players in the USD 150,000 **Chessable Masters**. He is the 1st Indian in the tour.

- Harikrishna exited from the Chessable Masters with a final-round defeat to Alexander Grischuk

Key Info

MCC Tour is a 12-player field that includes the world's top 6- Magnus Carlsen, Norway; Fabiano Caruana, United States of America (USA); Ling Diren, China; Ian Nepomniachtchi, Russia; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, France and Alexander Grishcuk, Russia. They are on the classical format ranking list.

About the tour

- i. The Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour is an online series hosted by chess24.

OBITUARY

Bollywood Music Director Wajid Khan passes away at 42

Music Director **Wajid Khan**, of the popular duo Sajid-Wajid, known for his compositions for Salman Khan's popular movies such as 'Wanted', the 'Dabangg' and 'Ek Tha Tiger', passed away at the age of 42 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Wajid Khan was the brother of music director Sajid Khan.



J&K: Former Union Minister, Congress leader P Namgyal passes away at 83

P Namgyal, former Union Minister and three-time Congress MP (Member of Parliament) from Ladakh, passed away at the age of 83 in the Union Territory of Ladakh. He was born on December 17, 1937, in Nubra, Ladakh. .

Padma Shri Ved Prakash Marwah, former governor and Delhi police commissioner passed away at 87

Former Delhi police commissioner and former Governor of Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand, Ved Prakash Marwah, IPS, passed away at the age of 87 in a private hospital in Mapusa town in North Goa where he was admitted three weeks ago due to a fall. He was born on 15th September 1934 in Peshawar, British India.

Former Union Water Resources minister Arjun Charan Sethi passed away at 79

Former Union Water Resources Minister(2000 to 2004) **Arjun Charan Sethi** passed away at **79** due to his short illness in a private hospital at Bhubaneswar. He is an **8-time** member of parliament(**MP**) from Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency. He was born on 18 Sep 1941 & hails from Bhadrak, Odisha.

Arjun Charan Sethi's political journey

- i.** Arjun Charan Sethi was elected to the 5th Lok Sabha from Bhadrak constituency in Odisha as an Indian National Congress(INC) candidate & was re-elected to the Lok Sabha in 1980 from the same constituency as an INC candidate
- ii.** He was re-elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991 as a Janata Dal candidate from the same constituency & re-elected to the Lok Sabha in 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009 from the same constituency as a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate.

Pierre Nkurunziza, The President of Burundi passed away at 55

The President of Republic of Burundi, **Pierre Nkurunziza** passed away at the age of **55** due to cardiac arrest at the hospital in Karuzi, eastern Burundi. On 9th June 2020, The Government of Burundi entered the seven day of mourning. He was born on 18th December 1964 in Ngozi Province.



Key Points:

- i. He was a sports graduate and assistant lecturer at the University of Burundi and after the **Civil War** he became the **leader** of Forces for Defence of Democracy (**FDD**) in **2001**.
- ii. Pierre became the **Minister of Interior** in **2003** and in **2005** he was elected as the **President** at the age of 40 and he held the power for **15 years**. He won **7** International awards for his **peace building efforts**.
- iii. His unconstitutional announcement to run for the third term led to national chaos.
- iv. He announced he would step down in August and he was expected to receive a **540,000 USD** (around **Rs. 4 crore**) in retirement pay, luxury villa and named "**Supreme guide to patriotism**"

Olympic gymnast Kurt Billeaux Thomas, First American to bag gold in the Gymnastic World Championship passed away at 64

Kurt Billeaux Thomas, the first American to win the gold medal in the Gymnastic World Championship 1978 in floor exercise that held in Strasbourg, France passed away at the age of 64 after suffering from a stroke on 24th May 2020 in Texas. He was born on 29th March 1956 in Miami, Florida.

Awards:

- i. He competed in the **1976 Olympic Games** and couldn't compete in the 1980 Moscow Olympic games since the American team boycotted the game due to Soviet's invasion of Afghanistan.
- ii. He won **6 (2 medal, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze)** medals in **1979 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships** that held in Fort Worth including 2 gold medals in floor exercise event and horizontal bar event.
- iii. He couldn't clear the US trials for the 1992 Olympic Games when he tried a comeback at the age of 36.
- iv. In 2003 he was inducted in the Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Former Member of Planning Commission, A. Vaidyanathan, Passed Away at 88

The former member of the Planning Commission, advocate of data quality and economist, **Dr. A. Vaidyanathan** passed away at the age of 88 in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

- i. He worked as a professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies and the Centre for Development Studies. He joined the National Council of Applied Economic Research in 1956.
- ii. He worked at the Food and Agricultural Organisation at Rome and World Bank from 1972 to 1976. He a member of perspective planning division of the planning Commission from 1962-1972 and KN.Raj Committee on taxation of Agricultural Income from 1969-1970

India's oldest first-class cricketer Vasant Raiji passed away at 100

India's oldest first-class cricketer Vasant Raiji, a right-handed batsman passed away at 100 due to old-age at his residence in Walkeshwar in South Mumbai. He was born on January 26, 1920 in Vadodara (Baroda), Gujarat.

Vasant Raiji's career:



i.Cricket

Vasant Raiji is a former opening batsman who represented Bombay, Baroda, and Cricket Club of India (CCI) in first-class cricket between 1941 and 1950.

- Vasant Raiji made his first-class debut in 1939 for the CCI team that played against the Central Provinces and Berar in Nagpur.

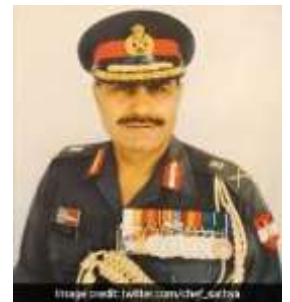
Sushant Singh Rajput, Bollywood actor passed away at 34

Sushant Singh Rajput, 34 year old actor committed suicide & found dead at his home in Bandra, Mumbai. He was born on 16th January 1986 in Patna, Bihar. He promoted the Women Entrepreneurship Platform of NITI Aayog which was launched on 8th March 2018.

i.He acted as M.S Dhoni in the film titled “MS Dhoni: The Untold Story” in 2016.

Maha Vir Chakra awardee & 1971 war hero Lt Gen Raj Mohan Vohra passed away at 88 due to COVID-19

Maha Vir Chakra(MVC) awardee, Lieutenant general (Lt Gen) **Raj Mohan Vohra** passed away at 88 due to COVID-19. He was born in 1932 in Shimla. He received the MVC in 1972 for his role in the Battle of Basantar(Part of 1971 India-Pakistan war). He also received the Param Vishisht Seva Medal.



About Raj Mohan Vohra:

i.Raj Mohan Vohra was Commissioned into the Army in 1952 & retired in 1990. He also fought in the Punjab sector during the Indo-Pak War of 1965..

About Maha Vir Chakra:

MVC is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air. It is the second highest military decoration in India, after the Param Vir Chakra.

Former Lok Sabha MP and Banker Madhavrao Patil passes away at 80

Madhavrao Balwant Patil, Former Lok Sabha Member and the founder of Janalaxmi Cooperative Bank passed away due to short illness at the age of 80 in Nashik, Maharashtra.He was born on 21st January 1940 in Nashik, Maharashtra.

About Madhavrao Patil:

i.He was an Agriculturalist, Management consultant, Industrialist and a Banker.

ii.He became a member of Congress in 1964.

iii.He was elected as a member of the 12th Lok Sabha from the Nashik constituency as the candidate of

Congress in 1998.

iv. He was a supporter of Sharad Pawar and joined his Nationalist Congress Party in 1999.

Padma Shri Awardee & Social Worker Vidyaben Shah Passed Away

i. **Padma Shri awardee** & National Awardee, Freedom fighter & **Social worker Vidyaben Shah** passed away around the age of 97 in her residence in New Delhi.



ii. She established India's 1st Bal Bhavan in Rajkot in the 1940s. She was born on November 7, 1922 in Gujarat.

iii. She was the **1st non-official head** of the New Delhi Municipal Council in the 1970s.

Rajinder Goel, Domestic cricket stalwart passes away at 77

The Domestic cricket stalwart, Legendary first-class spinner Rajinder Goel who represented Haryana, Punjab and Delhi passed away at the age of 77 due to old age related illness at his residence in Rohtak, Haryana, India. He was born on 20th September 1942 in Punjab, British India (today's Haryana).

Former MP & Journalist Vishwa Bandhu Gupta passed away

Former MP and a veteran journalist Vishwa Bandhu Gupta, who was nicknamed as Balloon Man around the age of 93 he passed away in Delhi. He was born in Bhingar, Bombay Province, British India.

Key Points:

i. He was associated with the National Congress party and became the Member of Parliament (**MP**) in April 1984.

ii. He represented Delhi in Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1990.

iii. He served as the Vice-President and District President of Delhi Congress.

iv. He was the chairman and chief editor of the Tej-Bandhu group of publications, The Weekly Sun, The North-East Sun, Treasure monthly and Flash newspaper.

v. He was the President of All India Newspaper Editors Conference (**AINEC**) and one of the founding members of the Press Club of India (**PCI**).

IMPORTANT DAYS

20th Anniversary of World Milk Day: June 1, 2020

- i. **World Milk Day** (WMD) is observed every year on June 1 globally, with the aim to raise awareness about milk and its importance as global food.
- ii. The day encourages to talk about the benefits of dairy with regards to health and nutrition, affordability and accessibility, the sector's passion and commitment to feeding our communities.



Theme for the year 2020: 20th Anniversary of World Milk Day.

International Everest Day May 29

- i. May 29th is observed as the International Everest Day to commemorate the first summit of Mt. Everest by **Sir Edmund Hillary** of New Zealand and **Tenzing Norgay** of Nepal in the year **1953**.
- ii. In 2008, the Government of Nepal made the decision to mark this day as the international Everest Day when Sir Edmund Hillary passed away.

About Mt. Everest:

Named after **George Everest**, former British Surveyor General of India.

Height- 8,850 meters (29,035 feet)

World Bicycle Day 2020 – June 3

- i. June 3rd of every year is celebrated as **World Bicycle Day** to promote the simple, affordable, reliable, clean and eco-friendly sustainable transportation.
- ii. The General Assembly of the United Nations declared **June 3rd** as the World Bicycle day in **April 2018**, to recognise the versatility and uniqueness and longevity of the bicycle.

World Environment Day 2020 – June 5

i. **June 5th** of every year is celebrated as the World Environment Day since **1974** in more than 100 countries. Theme of 2020 : “Biodiversity”. The UNEP declared the #Time for Nature campaign.

ii. This is a **United Nations flagship day** to promote and encourage the involvement of the government, businesses, celebrities and citizens to focus on environmental issues.

iii. The activities of World Environment Day 2020 will be hosted by **Colombia** in partnership with **Germany**



World oceans day 2020: June 8

- i. Every year on June 8 **World oceans day**, the United Nations(UN) day is celebrated across the world to inform the public about the impact of human activities on the ocean, create a global citizens' movement for the ocean, and mobilize & unite the world's population for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.
- ii. The theme of 2020 is **“Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean”**.

World Day Against Child Labour 2020 – June 12

June 12 of Every year is observed as the World Day Against Child Labour which was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in **2002** to focus on the global extent of child labour and the steps to be taken to eliminate it.



Theme of 2020: “COVID-19: Protect children from child labour, now more than ever”.

World Blood Donor Day 2020 – June 14

- i. 14th June of every year is celebrated as the World Blood Donor Day all over the world to create awareness about the need for safe blood and their importance in treatments and role in maternal and neonatal care. It was designated by the World Health Assembly(WHA) of the World Health Organisation(WHO).
- ii. The theme of World blood donor day 2020 is **“Safe Blood saves lives”**.
- iii. Slogan of the campaign is **“Give blood and make the world a healthier place”**.

About WHO:

World Health Assembly is the decision making body of the WHO which determines the policies of the organisation and appoints the Director General.

Director General– Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

World Refugee Day 2020 – June 20

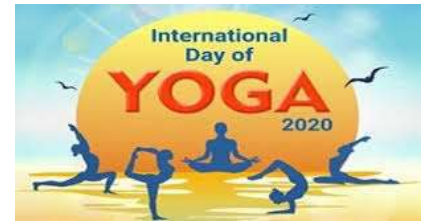
- i. 20th June of every year is observed as World Refugee Day to celebrate the strength and courage of the people who were forced to leave their homes and flee their country due to conflicts or persecution.
- ii. The United Nations General Assembly designated June 20 as the World Refugee Day in the resolution A/RES/55/76 adopted in December 2000.
- iii. The theme of this year is **“Every Action Counts”**

International Day of Yoga 2020 – June 21

i. 21st June 2020 marks the 6th annual United Nations (UN) International Day of Yoga (IDY) to raise awareness about the benefits of practicing yoga and to educate the public on the importance of choosing a healthy lifestyle to achieve good health.

ii. UN declared IDY 2020 theme as “Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home”.

- Ministry of AYUSH in India is promoting IDY 2020 with the theme as “Yoga at Home – Yoga with Family”



iii. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared June 21st as International day of yoga (IDY) by the resolution 69/131 on 11th December 2014.

World Music Day 2020: June 21

World Music Day (Fête de la Musique) is celebrated annually on June 21 around the world to honour amateur and professional musicians. The day aims to provide free music to everyone & to promote peace and spread goodwill through music.

Significance of the day:

- The day is different from a typical music festival as this festival is open to anyone who wants to take part.
- On this occasion, all kinds of musicians will come and share their music publicly in more than 1,000 cities in 120 countries.

World Music Day 2020

This year the outdoor celebrations seem to be highly unlikely. But, several organisations & companies are organising virtual concerts, dance classes and competitions to celebrate the day.

International Olympic Day 2020 June 23

i. 23rd June is marked as the International Olympic Day and observed all over the world by the Olympians, athletes and fans who participate in the sports activities.

ii. The **first Olympic Day** was hosted by the National Olympic Committees (NOC) of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Greece, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay, and Venezuela in their respective countries on **June 23, 1948**.

iii. World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) working together on this special day to promote the health through sport and physical activity.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – June 26

- i. United Nations International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on June 26th to create awareness to the general public on the global problems caused due to drug abuse and illicit trafficking.
- ii. The theme of 2020 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “**Better Knowledge for better care**”

National Statistics Day 2020 – June 29

- i. India celebrates June 29th as the National Statistics Day to recognise the contribution of statistics in daily life and to educate the general public on the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- ii. The first National Statistics Day was celebrated on 29th June 2007.
- iii. The theme of 2020 National Statistics Day is “**SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)**”.

