



Current Affairs July 2020

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National

Government bans 59 Chinese mobile apps prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), invoking its power under section 69A of the Information Technology Act read with the relevant provisions of the **Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009** has decided to ban 59 apps due to their activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.

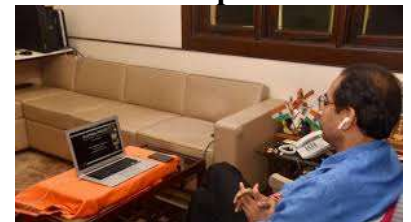
- It should be noted that all of the blocked apps are **Chinese** including popular ones such as TikTok, Helo, WeChat, UC Browser, Shareit and CamScanner.
- This move comes at a time of rising tensions between India and China following clashes at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- This decision also followed the exhaustive recommendations of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for blocking these malicious apps.

Maharashtra CM Launches 'Platina', World's Largest Convalescent Plasma Therapy-Cum-Trial Project

i. Maharashtra Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** launched the **world's largest convalescent plasma therapy-cum-trial** project, '**Platina**' to treat COVID-19 patients, through video conference at Nagpur's government medical college.

ii. The project will benefit 500 lives of critically ill COVID-19 patients in the state and Rs 16.65 crore is allocated for this project from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund

iii. He also inaugurated 4 other services namely; plasma donation, plasma bank, plasma trial, and emergency authorisation at the college.



Arvind Kejriwal Launched India's First Plasma Bank for COVID-19 Treatment

i. Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal launched India's first Plasma Bank for the treatment of the patients tested positive for coronavirus.

ii. The Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (**ILBS**) will house the plasma bank.

iii. The plasma bank will start its operation by 2nd July 2020.



PM announced extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till November, 2020

i. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) has been extended from July, 2020 till the end of November 2020, with an outlay of more than Rs 90,000 crore.

ii. In this regard, more than 80 crore people will be provided 5 kg free wheat or rice per month along with 1 kg free whole chana (pulses) to each family per month.

iii. Centre has provided a total of **116.34 lakh metric tonne** (LMT) food grains for the April-June period. Notably, Government of India is bearing 100% financial burden of approximately Rs. 46,000 crores for food grains and approximately Rs 5,000 crore for pulses under PMGKAY.

Government to release commemorative stamp to honour former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao

Government announced that it will release **commemorative stamp** to honour former Prime Minister **PV Narasimha Rao** after celebrating his 100th birth anniversary on June 28, 2020. He is regarded as the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms'. He was born on June 28, 1921 in Warangal.

Key info about PV Narasimha Rao

i. PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996.

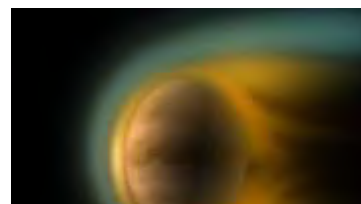
ii. He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister. He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India.

What is a commemorative stamp?

It is a limited-issue postal stamp to commemorate a place, event, person, or object of historical importance. This stamp is owned by collectors and sold privately through auctions and online

Swedish Institute of Space Physics to Explore Venus for 2nd time via Indian Space Mission Shukrayaan-1

The Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF) will explore Venus for the second time through the India's 1st Venus Mission Shukrayaan-1. The Shukrayaan-1 is scheduled for launch at the end of 2023 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



Key Points:-

- i) Venusian Neutrals Analyzer (VNA), the satellite instrument of IRF will study the interaction between the charged particles of the sun and the atmosphere and exosphere of the planet.
- ii) Plasma properties around Venus are measured intimately through the satellite tv for pc instruments.
- iii) The primary technology SARA was launched on Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan-1 that explored the Moon in 2008-2009.

Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu Virtually Releases a Book "Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends"

Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** virtually released a book, "**Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends**". The book is authored by **CA V Pattabhi Ram**, a Public Speaker, author and Teacher. The Virtual event was hosted by ICT Academy.

Essence of the book

i. The book covers the new norms in the key areas of higher education such as Student-Teacher relationship, Learning methods, Laboratories & Examinations among others which has taken a paradigm shift during this

COVID pandemic.

ii. The book is based on a survey of about 5000 educators across India who were part of ICT Academy's "SkyCampus" Digital Knowledge Series.

"COPAL-19" app to track plasma donors launched

AIIMS (All India Institute Of Medical Science) doctor along with a team of IIT-Delhi students have developed an app "COPAL-19" which enables users to track willing plasma donors who have recovered from Covid-19.

Intel Capital to buy 0.39% stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 1,894.50 crore

i. US based Electronic chip maker Intel's investment arm, **Intel Capital** to buy **0.39%** stake in Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)'s Jio Platforms for **Rs 1,894.50 crore**.

ii. This is the **12th deal** of Jio Platforms. With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised **Rs 1,17,588.45 crore** from global investors since April 22.

iii. With this investment, RIL holds 74.91% stake in Jio and 25.09% by the investors.

About Intel:

Headquarters- California, U.S.

Indian Railways Sets up Solar Plant in Bina, MP & Becomes the 1st Organization in the World to Directly Supply Power to Railway Overhead Line

For the **1st time in the world**, **Indian Railways** will directly supply power to Overhead Traction System of train. To achieve this feat, Indian Railways has recently set up **1.7 MWp** (mega watt power) at **Bina (Madhya Pradesh)** which shall be connected directly to Overhead Traction System.

i. Indian Railways has partnered with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme for the first of its kind project in the world.

ii. Target – Indian Railways will transform itself as 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Mass Transportation Network by 2030.



Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel Authored a Book Titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'

i. Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor **Urjit Patel** has authored a book titled '**Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver**', which focuses on the issue of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) that has affected Indian banking in recent years and also its causes.

ii. The book will be published by **HarperCollins India** and will be released by the end of July.

iii. The book highlights Urjit Patel's efforts as the RBI governor in dealing with it, where he has explained the problem and how it exploded and also about how he would have resolved the issue if he had not been prevented.

“Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India” authored by R C Bhargava, Chairman of Maruti Suzuki on Industrialising India

RC Bhargava, the Chairman of Maruti Suzuki authored the book **“Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India”** from his experience of around 60 years as a policymaker and a leading industrialist. The book published by HarperCollins India, provides practical suggestions to make India a competitive industrialised country.

About the book:

- i.**The book speaks about the necessities of building trust with the political system, governments, judiciary and industrial leaders.
- ii.**The author suggests that the policies related to the socialistic industry should be replaced with the policies that promote competitive manufacturing and the western management culture should be replaced by the Eastern culture to build trust with the citizens and partnered industrialists and the government.
- iii.**More attention towards building a strong supply chain and attracting global component manufacturers are important to become a competitive manufacturing nation.
- iv.**The book focuses on bringing out the national acceptance that manufacturing competitiveness as the first priority.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state with 100% LPG Connections

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country where 100% households have liquefied petroleum gas(LPG) connections, announced by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur while interacting with the beneficiaries of ‘Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana’ through video conferencing.



Maharashtra CM, Uddhav Thackeray E-Inaugurates NM1, Yotta Data Centre Near Mumbai – World’s 2nd Largest & Asia’s Largest Data Centre

Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications, Electronics and informational technology (Meity) inaugurated the **World’s 2nd Largest & Asia’s Largest Data Center, ‘Yotta NM1 Data Center’** of Yotta Infrastructure of Hiranandani Group at Panvel data centre park, Mumbai over a virtual platform. How I feel to have a friend like you. Thank you for being my best friend in life.

A Book Titled ‘Mahaveer: The Soldier Who Never Died’ Authored by A.K. Srikumar & Rupa Srikumar Released

The book, titled **‘Mahaveer: The Soldier who never died’** is authored by award winning author A.K. Srikumar and his wife, Rupa Srikumar. The book is a patriotic story about the courage and selfless love of Jaswant Singh Rawat who is one of the legendary



Garhwali soldiers fought in Indo-Chinese battle of Nuranang in 1962 . The book is published by Rupa Publications and represented by The Book Bakers.

Essence of the book

- i. The book also portrays a love story about two Monpa girls (Sela and Noora), and their devotion to the Indian soldier, whose devotion in turn is for the motherland.
- ii. It is a jam packed story of love, action, adventure, motivation, emotion and suspense.
- iii. It educates people about the soldier who was with a lion's heart and chose to make sacrifices for the sake of the nation.

Key Info about the book

The book was launched before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the lockdown period, e-book sales have been growing extensively.

Tamil Nadu Tops Market Borrowings Among States in India With a Collection of ₹30,500 crore for 2020-21 : RBI

According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Tamil Nadu (TN)** has topped **market borrowings** among States in India with a collection of **Rs.30,500 crore** in the fiscal 2020-21 (FY 21).

- i. TN accounted for 17% of the borrowings through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans) & has been followed by Maharashtra ₹25,500 crore (14%), Andhra Pradesh ₹17,000 crore (9%), Rajasthan ₹17,000 crore (9%).

Venkaiah Naidu Launched 'Elyments', India's First Social Media Super App developed by Sumeru Software Solutions

Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu launched India's first social media super application '**Elyments**' virtually on 5th July 2020. The app was developed by **Sumeru Software Solutions** & provides free audio/video calls, and private/ group chats through vibrant feed.

Key Points:

- Around 1,000 IT professionals worked to create a homegrown application, which is a massive boost to 'Make in India' initiative.
- The app is available in eight Indian languages including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and English.
- The data of the users will be stored in India and will not be shared without permission of user.

PM Modi Inaugurates Asia's Largest Solar Power Project – Rewa Solar Project in Madhya Pradesh

Asia's largest Solar Power project: Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Project in Madhya Pradesh is inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, through video conferencing. It reduces emission equivalent to 15 lakh tonne of carbon dioxide per year.



- i. The 750 MW ultra-solar power plant spread over 1,590 acres.

ii. It comprises three solar generating units of 250MW each located on 500 hectare land inside the 1500 hectare solar plant.

iii. It is a renewable energy project to supply energy to customers outside the state.

Chhattisgarh organises India's first E-Lok Adalat

Chhattisgarh State Legal Service Authority and the high Court organised India's first e-Lok Adalat to ensure the administration of justice and to solve the financial crisis of the parties and lawyers amid COVID-19 pandemic. The high court Chief Justice P R Ramchandra Menon inaugurated the e-Lok Adalat through video conferencing.



What is Lok Adalat?

Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute grievance mechanisms or a forum where pending cases or disputes in the court of law are settled or compromised whereas e-Lok Adalat will be handled virtually.

E-Lok Adalat:

- i. Lok Adalat is moved to a virtual platform as e-Lok Adalat to handle the pending cases amid COVID-19.
- ii. The virtual hearing will be conducted over a virtual platform through video conferencing.
- iii. This is aimed to settle over 3000 pending cases through more than 200 benches in various districts across Chhattisgarh including the Bilaspur high court.
- iv. The parties and lawyers can present their cases through WhatsApp video call in case of any difficulties in counting through video conferencing.

A Book Titled 'A Song of India' Authored by Ruskin Bond to be Released

The book titled 'A Song of India' authored by Ruskin Bond to be released on July 20, 2020, which will mark the 70th year of the author's literary career. The book is the 4th instalment in his memoir series (a written record of a person's own life and experiences). The book portrays his unknown life before he became a successful author. It is published by Puffin Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House India.

Gist about the Book

- i. The book is about the 16 year old Ruskin Bond and about his struggles to start the writing journey.
- ii. The book also tells how he longed for familiarity and about the joys of receiving his first money order, publishing his stories and finding new friends.

Memoir Series

His memoir series are, "Looking for the Rainbow" (2017), "Till the Clouds Roll By" (2017) and "Coming Round the Mountain" (2019).

Google Launches \$10 Billion Digitization Fund in India: Google for India 2020

Alphabet Inc. & Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai had announced an investment of \$10 billion (Rs 75,000 crore) in India through the "Google for India Digitisation Fund" at the 6th Annual, Google

for India Event 2020 and also a First virtual event of Google in India. This will be utilised in another five to seven years to digitize the Indian Economy. The fund will build India-first products and services.

Key Points:

- The fund will be used to accelerate Google's effort through a mix of Investments, partnerships, operations, infrastructure, and ecosystem investments.
- Google will partner with CBSE and provide new initiatives to digitize classrooms.
- It partners with Prasar Bharti, a public broadcasting agency for edutainment series for small and medium-sized business in the country.
- Google Pay ,one of the familiar global product and Google's AI-powered reading tutor app **Bolo** (now called Read Along) is currently running in 180 countries.

A new book titled "If It Bleeds" authored by Stephen King released in India

A new book titled "If It Bleeds", a collection of four stories, authored by Stephen King has been released in India on July 10, 2020. The book published by Hachette India has centered on a bomb at Albert Macready Middle School. It is a sequel to his bestselling work, The Outsider.

About Stephen King:

King is one of the most distinguished contemporary authors. He has been the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts. He was also awarded with the 2003 National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. He was in the news recently for voicing his support for the transgender community.

Anji Khad bridge: India's 1st cable-stayed rail bridge by Indian Railways to connect Katra and Reasi in J&K

i.The Minister of Railways, Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, has announced that the India's first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge namely "Anji Khad Bridge" being developed by **Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL)**, a Government of India undertaking, is all set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) & crosses Chenab River.



ii.The cable-stayed railway bridge is a part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** project, which passes through the Young Himalayas.

iii.Notably, the USBRL project also involves the Chenab river bridge. The Chenab Bridge once completed, will become the world's highest rail bridge.

Google to Buy 7.73% Stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 33,737 Crores

i.Alphabet Inc's **Google** to buy **7.73% stake** in Reliance Industries Limited(RIL)'s Jio Platforms for **Rs 33,737 crores**.

ii.For this purpose they have signed a binding partnership and an investment agreement.

iii. This investment values Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.36 lakh crore

iv. With this deal, RIL holds 67.03% stake in Jio Platforms, while other investors hold 32.97% stake.

Indian teenager Soham Mukherjee in UAE makes Guinness World Record title

Indian teenager Soham Mukherjee in UAE (United Arab Emirates), has made a Guinness World Record title with 101 One-Leg Hops over a Ruler, who managed to break the previous Guinness World Records title of 96 hops in 30 seconds.

15th India-EU (Virtual) Summit held virtually; co-chaired by Narendra Modi, Charles Michel & Ursula von der Leyen

i. The 15th summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held virtually where India was represented by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, the EU was represented by **Charles Michel**, President of the European Council, and **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission.



ii. During the meet India and the European Union were stated as “natural partners” and encouraged cultural exchanges and educational cooperation between India and the EU.

- India, EU adopted declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy
- India-EU endorsed Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025
- High-level dialogue set up Piyush Goyal and Phil Hogan to address trade issues
- COVID-19: India, EU to enhance cooperation on health security, pandemic crisis response

Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ E-Launched “Corosure” – World’s Most Affordable COVID-19 Diagnostic Kit Developed by IIT Delhi

i. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development (MoHRD) E-launched the world’s most affordable Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) based COVID-19 diagnostic kit, “Corosure Kit”. It is developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

ii. The kit was approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

iii. This is the **first probe-free** COVID-19 diagnostic kit approved by ICMR.

Indian Railways to launch 1st set of private trains by 2023, all 151 by 2027

i. In accordance with the initial timeline drawn by the railways, it has planned to roll out 151 private train services by 2027 on 109 pairs of routes across the country. In this regard, Indian Railways is ready to introduce 12 trains in 2022-23, 45 in 2023-2024, 50 in 2025-26 and 44 more in the next fiscal, taking the total number of trains to 151 by the end of FY 2026-2027.

- ii. There would be **Rs 30,000 crore private sector investment** in this project.
- iii. The operation and maintenance of these trains would be governed by standards and specifications specified by Indian Railways.
- iv. Also, these trains will be operated by the driver and guard of Indian Railways.

Sahitya Akademi Awardee Baldev Singh Sadaknama Authored a book 'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (sun never dies)

Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Baldev Singh Sadaknama** has authored a book '**Suraj Kade Marda Nahi**' (sun never dies). The book portrays many aspects of freedom fighter Udham Singh. The book is published by Unistarbooks.

- The book has been released and will be formally launched on July 31, 2020 through a webinar, which will be attended by some writers and historians from London.

Note– Udham Singh 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31, 2020.

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into force; Replaces Consumer Protection Act 1986

i. The Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 2019, which has replaced old **Consumer Protection Act 1986** has come into force w.e.f. July 20, 2020 aiming to enforce and protect the rights of consumers, and provide an effective mechanism to address consumer grievances. The act was briefed by Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution **Ram Vilas Paswan** through video conference with media.



- ii. Notably, the rules for prevention of unfair trade practice by e-commerce platforms will also be covered under this Act.
- iii. There will be no fee for filing cases upto **Rs 5 lakh** as per Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Rules.
- iv. A product manufacturer and seller will be penalized with up to 6 months in jail or a fine of up to **Rs 1 lakh** if the consumers do not suffer any injuries.

Background:

The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Upper House of Parliament by the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan, on July 8, 2019. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 30, 2019 and Rajya Sabha on August 6, 2019. The Bill was then signed into law by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 9, 2019.

Delhi Cabinet Approved Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana, doorstep delivery of ration scheme

i. The Delhi Cabinet has approved '**Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana**' to deliver ration directly

to the homes of beneficiaries. This scheme and Centre's 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme will be implemented on the same day in Delhi.

ii. After the completion of the tendering process and other formalities, the doorstep delivery of ration scheme will be implemented. This will take around 6 to 7 months.

RIL becomes the 1st Indian company to reach Market Cap of Rs 13 lakh crore; Becomes 48th largest company in market cap globally

As stock market data, Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) becomes the 1st Indian company to reach Market Capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs 13 lakh crore. It becomes the world's **48th largest company** by m-cap, ahead of Abbott Labs, Oracle, Chevron and Unilever. It also crossed the stock price of Rs 2000 for the 1st time.

- Globally, Saudi Aramco is the company with the highest market cap of \$1.7 trillion, followed by Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, and Alphabet.
- Reliance is the 10th highest m-cap company in Asia. China's Alibaba Group is ranked 7th globally.
- The **United States** listed **Reliance Jio** among the companies that are becoming "Clean Telcos" (who reject doing business with tools of the Chinese Communist Party's surveillance state, like Huawei)

Key Info:

i. RIL is India's most valuable listed company, the second-placed TCS has a market capitalisation of Rs 8.2 lakh crore, followed by HDFC Bank at Rs 6.2 lakh crore.

APSEZ Becomes the 1st Indian Port and 7th Port Globally to Sign Up for the Science-Based Targets initiative

i. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (**APSEZ**) becomes the **1st Indian port** and **7th Port** globally to sign up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (**SBTi**).

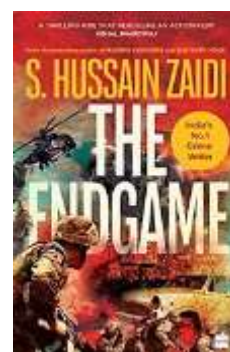
ii. By signing the commitment letter to SBTi, APSEZ is committed to set science-based emissions reduction targets (across their entire value chain) that keep global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

iii. APSEZ has also signed a commitment as a supporter to the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure (**TCFD**).

A book titled "The Endgame" authored by Hussain Zaidi

S Hussain Zaidi, a well known crime writer has recently written a novel named "The Endgame". It was published by the HarperCollins India. The book speaks about the politics, betrayal, and unimaginable terror.

"Black Friday", "Mafia Queens of Mumbai", "Dongri to Dubai" and "Byculla to Bangkok" are other notable books written by him. He was the associate producer of "Terror in Mumbai", a famous HBO documentary based on 26/11 terror attacks.



Pravasi Rojgar app to help migrants find job opportunities: Sonu Sood

Actor Sonu Sood has launched an app “Pravasi Rojgar” to offer support to workers in finding right job opportunities in various sectors across the country. This initiative will be supported by community outreach in the villages to find the right employment opportunities for migrant workers in different parts of the country.

First in the World: India builds electrified rail tunnel capable to run double-stack containers

India builds one kilometer long World’s first electrified rail tunnel that fits double stack containers. It cuts through Aravali mountain on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) near Sohna, Haryana.

The project is implemented by the DFCCIL (Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited).

The tunnel Breaking was completed on 24, July 2020. The project is expected to complete by the next 12 months.



RIL becomes world’s second most valuable energy company, overtaking ExxonMobil

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the world’s second most valuable energy company, overtaking American oil giant ExxonMobil after its market capitalisation (m-cap) reached over Rs 14 lakh crore (14.1 trillion or USD 189.3 billion). Aramco tops the list. ExxonMobil has an m-cap of USD 184.7 billion.

- It is to be noted that no Indian company has ever crossed the m-cap of Rs 14 trillion.

Reason Behind

Reliance’s Rs 13.6 trillion m-cap and Rs 54,262 crore m-cap of its partly-paid shares that were issued in the recent rights issue, put the company’s consolidated market value at Rs 14.1 trillion

Key Info

- As per the stock market data, RIL is now ranked 46th globally on m-cap. China’s Alibaba Group is ranked 7th globally.
- Globally, Saudi Aramco has the highest market cap of USD 1.75 trillion, followed by Apple (USD 1.6 trillion), Microsoft (USD 1.5 trillion), Amazon (USD 1.48 trillion), and Alphabet (USD 1.03 trillion).
- RIL is the 10th highest m-cap company in Asia.
- RIL has a higher m-cap than Chevron Oracle, Unilever, Bank of China, BHP Group, Royal Dutch Shell and SoftBank Group.
- It is just below PepsiCo which has an m-cap of USD 189.8 billion.

A new book “The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World” authored by External Affairs Minister Dr.S Jaishankar was published by HarperCollins, India

The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World, a book authored by **External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar**, argues about the standards of India in the global order. The book was published under the **HarperCollins** India publications.

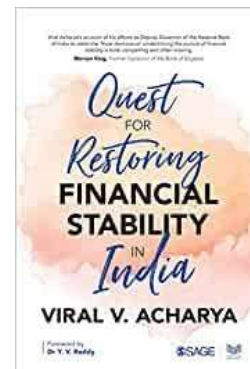
He insisted that India should not only visualise its interest but also try to communicate effectively.

About the book:

i. The book centers about the **three burdens** that India's foreign policy carries. Three burdens were partition, delayed economic reforms and prolonged exercise of the nuclear option were listed in the book.

A new book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" authored by former RBI deputy governor Viral V. Acharya

The book titled "**Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India**" authored by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Viral V. Acharya. The book portrays his quest to restore financial stability in India and offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement. The book is published by SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd.



Essence of the Book:

i. The book is a compilation of his speeches, research and comments as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee, mostly concerned with central banking.

ii. He shares a feasible plan to address the recapitalization needs of public sector banks, providing solutions on how to improve credit allocation by credit intermediaries and establish potential and efficient capital markets.

iii. The book also mentions the implicit pressure on the monetary policy committee to cut rates.

Note:

He served as the deputy governor RBI (23rd Jan 2017 to 23rd July 2019)

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, launched a free website portal named 'Rozgaar Bazaar' for job seekers, employers

i. The Delhi chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal launched a free website <http://jobs.delhi.gov.in> named 'Rozgaar Bazaar 2020' via video conference. The portal connects the job seekers and the recruiters on one platform.



ii. The objective of the portal is to boost the economy and employment in Delhi.

iii. These measures are finalized by a 12-member committee headed by the vice chairman of Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC), Jasmine Shah.

Chhattisgarh's Bijapur tops Niti Aayog's delta ranking of Aspirational districts for Feb-June 2020

i. In accordance with the delta rankings for aspirational districts by government think-tank Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh has topped the list of aspirational districts in Overall Delta Ranking for the February-June 2020 period.

ii. Bijapur has been followed by **Ri-Bhoi** (Meghalaya) and **Bahraich** (Uttar Pradesh) at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

Indian Origin Author Avni Doshi's 'Burnt Sugar' on 2020 Booker Prize

A debut novel 'Burnt Sugar' authored by **Avni Doshi** has been published in the United Kingdom (UK) and it was one among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize. A version of the same novel has been published in India under the title **Girl in White Cotton**.

About the Book

The Book narrates the story about a woman, Tara who abandoned her loveless marriage to join ashram and ended as a beggar. She passes her years as a homeless artist with her daughter Antara. The daughter tends to care for her mother who least cared for her in her childhood.

–Indian Origin Author Avni Doshi's 'Burnt Sugar' on 2020 Booker Prize

i. Avni Doshi is on the 2020 Booker Prize longlist for her debut novel 'Burnt Sugar'. The Book, 'Burnt Sugar' was also shortlisted for the Tata First Book Prize in 2019.

About the 'Booker Prize'

- i. The award is based on a novel of the year written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- ii. The Booker prize award for the year 2019 for Fiction was won jointly by '**The Testaments**' by Margaret Atwood and '**Girl, Woman, Other**' by Bernardine Evaristo.

Cabinet approved National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by replacing NEP, 1986; HRD ministry renamed as Ministry of Education

- i. Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the first education policy of the 21st century i.e. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 which has replaced 34 years old **NEP, 1986**. This was announced by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting **Prakash Keshav Javadekar**.
- ii. With this, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) will officially be renamed the **Ministry of Education** (MoE).
- iii. It should be noted that from now onwards the education sector will get allocation of 6% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as compared to 1.7% previously.
- iv. This new policy, which aligned to the **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-4** of 2030 Agenda is aimed at **Universalization of Education** from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
- v. GER in higher education is to be raised to 50 % by 2030 from 26.8% in 2018 with the addition of 3.5 crore seats.
- vi. Curriculum and pedagogy to be transformed by 2022 to promote skill based learning. Revision of NCF(National Curriculum Framework) for school education and NCF for teacher education 2009 by 2021.

India Ranked 117th in SDG Index 2020, Sweden Tops: Sustainable Development Report 2020

- i. In accordance with the "**Sustainable Development Report 2020- The Sustainable Development Goals and Covid-19**", comprising of SDG index 2020, there will be severe negative impacts on most of the United Nations (UN)-mandated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) due to COVID-19 pandemic. India, which has ranked at 117th position with a score of **61.92** is also facing major challenges in 10 of the 17 SDGs including zero hunger, good health, gender inequality among others.
- ii. The index has been topped by Sweden with a score of 84.72.
- iii. The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020.

International

UNGA President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande Launched 'Alliance for Poverty Eradication'; India Joins as Founding Member

India became a founding member of the United Nation(UN)'s 'Alliance for Poverty eradication' launched by Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th United Nation's General Assembly(UNGA).

Objective: – It aims to focus on efforts to boost the global economy and eradicate poverty after COVID 19 pandemic.



Key Points:-

- Over 271 million people of India have moved out of poverty between 2006 to 2016, according to the United Nations Development programme.
- Approximately 2.1 billion people are classified as poor across the globe, among which 767 million are living in extreme poverty.

77.9% Russians Grant Putin Right to Extend His Rule Until 2036

i.The 78% Russian electorate have voted in favour of constitutional amendments that will allow 67 years old President Vladimir Putin to stay in power until **2036** i.e. until the age of 83.

ii.His current term of 6 years will end in 2024. Means now, he will be re-elected twice under the constitutional amendments.

iii.He is already the longest-serving leader in modern Russian history.

Record 53.6 mt of E-waste Dumped Globally in 2019; India Positioned 3rd, China Tops: UN Global E-waste Monitor 2020 Report

i.In accordance with “3rd edition of The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 report-Quantities, flows, and the circular economy potential” report, the world dumped a record 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste in 2019, an increase of 21% in 5 years.

ii.**China** is the biggest contributor to e-waste with 10.1 million tonnes (mt)

followed by the **United States** (US) with 6.9 mt and **India** with 3.2 mt at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.

iii.This report is jointly prepared by the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership (GESP), formed by UN University (UNU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), in close collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).



Static Points:

–**India** is the only country in South Asia to draft legislation for e-waste.

ICMR-NIV in Collaboration with Bharat Biotech Develops India's First COVID-19 Vaccine – COVAXIN

Bharat Biotech India Ltd(**BBIL**) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research(**ICMR**) – National Institute of Virology(**NIV**) developed India's first COVID-19 vaccine – Covaxin (BBV152 COVID vaccine). The vaccine is developed and manufactured by the BSL-3(Bio Safety Level- 3) high containment facility of BBIL.



About ICMR:

ICMR is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world.

Director General– Balram Bhargava

US formally notified UN of its Decision to Withdraw from WHO; Serves Notice Period till July 6, 2021

- i. The United States of America (USA), as a depositary of the 1946 Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), has formally notified the United Nations (UN) of its decision of withdrawal from the global health body, WHO .
- ii. The US, which has been a party to the WHO Constitution since June 21, 1948 is the **largest funder** to the WHO, contributing more than USD 450 million per annum.
- iii. Notably, the US has to serve a **12-month notice period** i.e. till July 6, 2021 and also needs to clear the current and past dues which currently owe the WHO around **\$200 million**.

Maldives & Sri Lanka are the 1st two countries in South-East Asia to eliminate Rubella and measles ahead of 2023 target: WHO

According to the **World Health Organisation's (WHO)** South East Asian Region (SEAR) office, **Maldives and Sri Lanka** were verified to eliminate both **measles and rubella**, making them the first two countries in the WHO South-East Asia region to achieve beyond their 2023 target. It is to be noted that, a country is considered to have eliminated measles and rubella when there is no evidence of endemic transmission of the viruses for more than three years and there is a better surveillance system.

Germany to Become First Major Economy to Phase out of Coal, Nuclear Power

Germany became the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy, both the houses of the German parliament approved the bill for shutting down the coal fired power plant by 2038 and to provide around 45 billion USD (40 billion Euro) for the affected regions.

Key Points:

- i. This phase out is a part of Germany's "energy transition" to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to support the use of renewable resources.
- ii. Germany closed its last black coal mine in 2018 and committed to close its nuclear power plants by 2022.
- iii. GreenPeace and other environmental groups protest against this plan advocating that this won't speed up



the process to achieve the targets of the Paris climate accord by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

iv. Germany utilises a great amount of coal which could affect the upcoming generation with 18 years worth of carbon dioxide.

WHO sets up Independent Panel Co-chaired by Helen Elizabeth Clark & Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for evaluation of global COVID-19 response

i. World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated an Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR) to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



ii. The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand **Helen Elizabeth Clark** and former President of Liberia **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**.

iii. While Helen Clark served as an administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the other hand, Ellen Sirleaf is a recipient of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize.

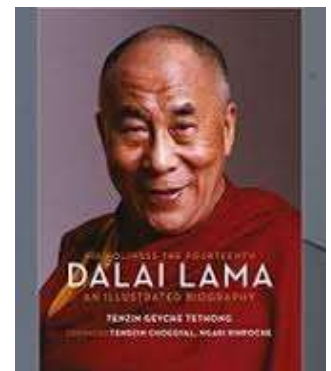
ISRO to Launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 Earth Observation Satellite on PSLV

i. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the Amazonia – 1 onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) as a primary payload by August 2020. Amazonia -1 is Brazil's first satellite for Earth observation – designed, assembled and tested in Brazil.

ii. Amazonia – 1 will help in observing and monitoring the deforestation in the region of Amazon through the satellite images.

A book titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography' Authored by Tenzin Geyche Tethong to be Released

A book titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography' is authored by one of the Dalai Lama's closest aides and advisors of over 40 years, **Tenzin Geyche Tethong**. The biography is a memorable portrait of the 14th Dalai Lama, **Tenzin Gyatso**. The book is to be released in October 2020 and is published by **Roli Books**.



- On the 85th birth anniversary of the Dalai Lama, the cover of the book was announced by the publisher.
- The book's foreword was written by Tenzin Choegyal, younger brother of him and Ngari Rinpoche

About the Book

- i. The book comprises nearly 400 unseen photographs and unpublished documents, archival material and also memories of those close to him so as to portray a composite picture of his exile, his sympathetic mannerism and the present troubled relationship with his homeland, Tibet.
- ii. The book gives a glance of an important part of the history before he was forced to flee to India in March 1959.

India Moves up a Rank, Becomes the 2nd Largest Foreign Investor in UK for the year 2019-20; US tops

According to the United Kingdom's government's figures released on 10 July 2020, India has become the second largest Foreign Direct Investor in the United Kingdom (UK) after the United States in 2019, by investing in 120 projects and creating 5,429 new jobs in the UK.

- i. The United States of America remains in top, followed by India, Germany, France, China and Hong Kong.
- ii. From the FDI report, the number of jobs safeguarded by FDI has increased by 29 per cent.

Loyal Textile Mills in Collaboration with RIL and HeiQ Launched world's 1st Reusable PPE with Triple Viral Shield Technology

i. **Loyal Textile Mills Limited** in collaboration with Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) and **HeiQ** has launched the world's first **reusable** Personal Protective Equipment (**PPE**) with Triple Viral Shield Technology that has passed the Viral Penetration Test, Synthetic Blood Penetration Test, and the Systolic Blood Pressure Recovery (SBPR) Test at a webinar.

ii. Along with this, other triple viral shield products like **masks** (SS 95 medical respiratory type Mask) and protective antiviral **fashion wear range** were also launched.



About Loyal Textile Mills Limited:

Headquarters– Chennai, Tamilnadu

Chairperson– Valli M. Ramaswami

US remain India's top trading partner in 2019-20 with USD 88.75 billion bilateral trade

i. In accordance with the data of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the United States (US) remained India's top trading partner for the second consecutive fiscal in 2019-20 as bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 88.75 billion as against USD 87.96 billion in 2018-19.

ii. The trade gap between the countries has also increased to USD 17.42 billion in 2019-20 from USD 16.86 billion in 2018-19.

iii. On the other hand, the bilateral trade between India and China has dropped to USD 81.87 billion in 2019-20 from USD 87.08 billion in 2018-19.



Google relaunched Google Plus as Google Currents

Google, an Internet search giant has relaunched Google plus(shutdown on april 2019) as **Google Currents**, it helps to exchange documents and have meaningful discussion by enabling leaders and workers to exchange ideas across the organization and collect valuable feedback & input from other people.

Global Skills Index 2020 Report: India Ranked 34th in Business Domain, 51st in Data Science Domain & 40th in Technology Domain

The report of **Global Skills Index 2020**, an in depth view at the state of the skills across the world prepared by “Coursera”, World’s largest online learning platform shows that India Surges ahead of the peers in the business and technology skill sets because of the growing young population.

About Coursera:

Headquarters– Mountain View, California, United States of America

PM Modi delivers keynote address virtually at High-Level Segment of UN’s ECOSOC held at in New York, US

i. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at 2020’s High-Level Segment (HLS) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session held at the United Nations in New York, United States (US). The theme of this 2020 ECOSOC HLS was “**Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary**”.



ii. This was the first address by PM to the UN membership since India elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the term 2021-22.

iii. The first president of ECOSOC, i.e. in 1946, was an Indian named **Ramaswami Mudaliar**.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting virtually

i. As a part of **Finance Track for the G20 Leaders Summit 2020**, which is to be hosted by Saudi Arabia at the end of 2020, the 3rd G20 (Group of Twenty) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting was held virtually on July 18, 2020. It was organized under the Saudi Arabian Presidency where Indian side was represented by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

ii. The objective of the meet was to discuss the global economic outlook amid evolving COVID-19 pandemic crisis along with other G20 Finance Track priorities for the year 2020.

About G-20 or Group of Twenty:

Composition– 19 countries and the European Union (EU)

2020 Presidency– Saudi Arabia

2020 theme– Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century For All

Chairman– Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (2020)

Hope Mission: UAE became 1st West Asian & Arab Nation to Launch Space Mission to Mars; Took off from Japan

- i.** the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the first West Asian and Arab nation to embark on a first-ever interplanetary space mission to Mars (Red Planet) namely “**Hope Probe mission**” from Tanegashima Space Centre, off the coast of Kyushu, Japan atop a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries H-IIA rocket.
- ii.** Also known as **Al-Amal** or **Emirates Mars Mission**, this **\$200 million** mission will be the first to study both Martian climate viz. diurnal (daily) and seasonal cycles.
- iii.** Notably, the mission arrival, which is expected to reach Mars’s orbit by February 2021 (7 months from now), is designed to mark the **50th anniversary** of the unification of the UAE, an alliance of seven emirates.
- iv.** It will orbit Mars for one full Martian year of **687 days** or nearly two Earth years to provide the first truly global picture of the Martian atmosphere.

India ranked among 10 worst countries for working people: ITUC Global Rights Index 2020

- i.** In accordance with the 7th edition of “**International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index 2020-The World’s Worst Countries for Workers**”, India became the new entrant in the 10 worst countries for working people in the world, with a rating of 5 that states “No guarantee of rights”. The index ranked 144 countries on the basis of respect for workers’ rights.
- ii.** The other countries among the worst ten are- Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, , Kazakhstan, Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe along with Egypt & Honduras being other two new entrants apart from India.
- iii.** On the region front, **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** is the worst region with 4.44 rating followed by Asia-Pacific with 4.09 in the world for working people for seven years (2014-2020).

Nicaragua becomes the 87th Country to sign the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement

- i.** The Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance(**ISA**) Framework Agreement, an initiative to promote sustainable energy, led by India.
- ii.** H. E. Jaime Hermida Castillo, Permanent Representative to the UN of the Republic of Nicaragua, signed the Agreement at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York.



About International Solar Alliance(ISA):

Director General– Upendra Tripathy

Headquarters– Gurugram, Haryana

China Launches Tianwen-1: China's First Rover Mission to Mars

i. The Tianwen-1, China's first fully homegrown Mars Mission, was launched by **Long March 5 Rocket** from the Wenchang Satellite Launch Center in Hainan Island at 12:41 a.m. EDT (0441 GMT).

ii. The Tianwen-1 is carrying the duo of an orbiter and a lander or rover; this combination of craft was never launched towards Mars.



The book titled "The Pandemic Century", by British Medical Historian Mark Honigsbaum

"**The Pandemic Century**, A History of Global Contagion from the Spanish Flu to Covid-19", by the British medical historian **Mark Honigsbaum** covers 10 outbreaks in the past 100 years, dating from the Spanish Flu (1918) to the present day Coronavirus (2019). The book is published by **Penguin Publishers**.

About "The Pandemic Century":

- The book combines science history, medical sociology and front-line reportage in expressing the history of Global Contagion.
- **Other Outbreaks in the Book:** Pneumonic plague, Parrot fever, SARS, Ebola, Zika.
- The book has won: A Financial Times best book of the year.

Hyderabad Ranked 16th in World's most Surveilled Cities 2020 & Taiyuan, China tops: Comparitech

i. As per the new analysis by **Comparitech** on the World's Most Surveilled Cities 2020, in **150 major cities** across the globe, **Hyderabad** has positioned in **16th rank** among the list of **top 20 cities** with the maximum number of Closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance cameras.

ii. It has most CCTV surveillance in India. The List was topped by **Taiyuan, China**.

iii. Chennai (21st rank) and Delhi (33rd rank) made into the top 50 list. Delhi ranked 2nd & Tokyo tops in the 20 most populated cities in the world.

iv. The research is based on the number of cameras per 1,000 people.

India ranked 3rd in gaining forest area in world; global employment in forestry led by India: FAO

i. In accordance with the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 brought out by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), India has ranked 3rd among the top 10 countries that have gained in forest areas during 2010-2020.

ii. FRA 2020 examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990-2020.

iii. India reported **0.38%** annual gain in forest, or 266,000 ha of forest increase every year at an average. Its naturally regenerating forest rate was also 0.38% in 2010-20.

iv. Globally, 12.5 million people were employed in the forestry sector. Out of this, India accounted for 6.23 million, or nearly 50%.



5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB held virtually; Jin Liqun Re-elected President of AIIB

- i. The 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held virtually from Beijing, China, was originally planned to be held in-person there, on the theme “**Connecting for Tomorrow**”.
- ii. The meet saw the re-election of Jin Liqun as AIIB President, and a roundtable discussion on the theme “**AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia’s Development over the Next Decade**”. Notably, India’s Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman was the **Lead Speaker** at the roundtable discussion.
- iii. During the meet it was also decided that the **sixth Annual Meeting** will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Oct. 27-28, 2021 which will be the first annual meeting in the Middle East.
- iv. AIIB’s Membership grew to 103 as Liberia joined.

Narendra Modi & Pravind Jugnauth virtually inaugurated Supreme Court building in Port Louis, Mauritius

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court building of Mauritius in Port Louis through video conference.
- ii. The Supreme Court building has been constructed with Indian grant assistance of **US\$ 30 million** and is the first India-assisted infrastructure project within the capital city of Port Louis
- iii. The newly inaugurated building is one of the five projects being implemented under the ‘Special Economic Package’ of \$353 million extended by India to Mauritius in 2016.

SABIC in Spain to Become World’s First Large Scale Chemical Production Plant to Completely Run on Renewable Energy

The Polycarbonate facility of SABIC in Spain, is set to become the World’s first large scale industry to completely run on renewable power on signing a major agreement with Iberdrola, an electricity utility company to secure power from solar power projects.

- The Facility is expected to become fully operational by 2024 and support SABIC to achieve its clean energy target by 2025.
- This new plant will contribute 80,000 tonne annual reduction in the indirect emission of carbon dioxide supporting the climate change initiatives like EU 2030.



DEFENCE

Indian Navy Completes “Operation Samudra Setu” by repatriating 3992 Indian from 3 countries

i. Indian Navy has successfully completed its **55 days** and 23,000 kilometers long ‘Operation Samudra Setu’, which was launched on May 5, 2020 as a part of the national effort to repatriate (bring back) Indian citizens from 3 countries of **Maldives, Iran, and Sri Lanka** during the COVID-19 pandemic.



ii. Under this operation 3,992 Indian citizens brought back to India, which was conducted by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Jalashwa (Landing Platform Dock), and Airavat, Shardul and Magar (Landing Ship Tanks).

iii. This operation was undertaken by the Indian Navy in close coordination with Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and various other agencies of the Government of India (GoI) and State Governments.

ARAD and CARMEL – New Israeli Assault Rifles Are Set to Manufacture in India under Make in India Initiative

i. The latest Israeli Assault Rifles, **Arad and Carmel**, will be manufactured under the Make in India initiative in the **PLR Systems Private Limited**, established by Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) in 2017 as a joint venture with Punj Lloyd in Madhya Pradesh, India.



ii. PLR Systems is the **first private sector company** that has a license for manufacturing Small Arms and Ammunition.

DRDO Test Fires ‘Made in India’ Anti Tank guided Nag Missile named “Dhruvastra”

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) test fired the Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) named “**Dhruvastra**” (Formerly known as Helicopter launched Nag Missile, “HELINA”) without Helicopter at the Interim Test Range (ITR) in Balasore, Odisha.



The flight trials were conducted in direct and top attack mode.

The Navy's largest Solar plant was inaugurated at the INA, Ezhimala

The Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawal, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief, Southern Naval Command (SNC), virtually employed the 3 MegaWatt (MW) largest Solar Power Plant at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala.

The project is a part of the Indian Government's initiative of **National Solar Mission**, to achieve 100 GigaWatt (GW) of solar Power by 2022.



-2 MegaWatt Solar Power Plant Inaugurated at Naval Station Karanja, Uran

Indian Navy Vice Admiral, Flag Officer Commanding – in – Chief of Western Naval Command, Ajith Kumar virtually inaugurated the first 2 MegaWatt Solar Capacity Solar Power Plant.

The Power Plant was set up at the Western Naval Station, Karanja in Maharashtra's Uran.

1st five of 36 French Rafale fighter jets landed at Haryana's Ambala Airbase

i. Forty-six months after the €7.87 bn (Rs 59,000 crore) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), that was signed between India and France in September 2016, the first five of 36 Rafale fighter jets, from France were landed in Ambala in Haryana after covering a distance of nearly 8500 km to join the Indian Air Force (IAF).



ii. The five aircraft include two twin seater trainer aircraft and three single seat fighter aircraft.

iii. These fighter jets are manufactured with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE), by **Dassault Aviation**, a french company.

IAF Received Last 5 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from US Aerospace company Boeing

i. United States (US) based Aerospace Company **Boeing**, has delivered the last **5 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to Indian Air Force (IAF)** at the Air Force Station, **Hindan, Uttar Pradesh**. These Apaches were deployed at the Leh air base amid stand-off with China in Ladakh.

ii. This final 5 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters were part of a deal that was signed by Indian Government & Boeing in the year 2015 to deliver 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters .

iii. In September 2015, India signed a \$3 billion deal with Boeing for 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and 15 Chinook helicopters through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government.

About Boeing:

Headquarter – Chicago, United States (U.S.)

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – David L. Calhoun (since Jan 2020).

Appointments or Resign/Retired

KK Venugopal Reappointed as Attorney General of India for a Year & Tushar Mehta as Solicitor General for 3 Years

- i. The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet has approved the re-appointment of senior advocate **K.K. Venugopal** as **Attorney General of India** for a year, whose 3 year tenure ends in June 2020.
- ii. Senior advocate **Tushar Mehta** as **Solicitor General** for a period of three years. K.K. Venugopal succeeded Mukul Rohatgi on June 30, 2017. He is the 15th Attorney General of India.



About Appointment Committee:

Members of the committee– Prime Minister(PM) of India, Narendra Modi (who is the Chairman) and the Union Home Affairs minister, Amit Shah

Ravinder Bhakar Assumes Charge as CEO of Central Board of Films Certification

- i. Ravinder Bhakar, a 1999 batch officer of Indian Railway Stores Service(IRSS), assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification(CBFC). He succeeds Anurag Srivastava.
- ii. Prior to this appointment Ravinder Bhakar served as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways. He also served as an Indian Engineering Services officer.

About CBFC:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairperson– Prasoona Joshi

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya Assumes Charge as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation

Shrikant Madhav(S M) Vaidya assumed charge as the chairman of Indian Oil Corporation(IOC). He succeeds Sanjiv Singh who has superannuated.

About Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

Other additional post

- i. In addition to the post, he will serve as the Chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, refining subsidiary of IndianOil, and Indian Oiltanking Ltd, a joint venture.
- ii. He will also be on the Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd board, a joint venture setting up fertiliser plants.
- iii. He is on the board of Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd, will take over as its Chairman. He will also be a Director on the Board of Petronet LNG Limited.



Shashank Manohar Steps Down as ICC Chairman, Imran Khwaja Takes Charge as Interim Chairman

i. Shashank Manohar stepped down as International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman after his two 2 year tenure (4 years). He is the first independent chairman.

ii. His tenure ended on July 1, 2020. Deputy Chairman **Imran Khwaja** will take charge as **interim chairman** until the next chairman is elected.

iii. Shashank Manohar was elected as ICC's first independent Chairman in May 2016. Imran Khwaja was elected as ICC's deputy chairman in 2017.



About ICC:

Headquarters– Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Chief Executive Officer– Manu Sawhney

Agricultural Experts Prof. Rattan Lal & Dr. Uma Lele from India Named by UN Chief to Scientific Group for 2021 Food Summit

Antonio Guterres, Chief of United Nations, named Prof. Rattan Lal and Dr. Uma Lele (Agricultural experts) from India as members of International Scientific group to offer foremost scientific evidence for sustainable food systems for global food summit 2021.

- i)** It aims to raise awareness about the food system challenges to be solved by the nations and to change food systems to provide safe and nutritious food around the globe.
- ii)** The stakeholder Advisory Committee will provide guidance and feedback on Food Summit's overall development and implementation.

Indra Mani Pandey appointed as Permanent Representative of India to UN and Others Organisations in Geneva

Indra Mani Pandey, Indian Foreign Services (IFS) Officer of 1990 and Additional Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was appointed as India's Permanent Representative/Ambassador to the United Nations and the other International Organisations in Geneva, succeeding Rajiv Kumar Chander, IFS Officer of 1983 batch.

French President Macron Appoints Jean Castex as new Prime Minister

French President Emmanuel Macron appointed a public Servant, **Jean Castex** (55) as the new Prime Minister of government reshuffle, replacing Edouard Philippe.

Jean Castex:



- He is known for his role in drafting the strategy to lift lockdown measures in the country in the French Media.
- He is known as Mr Deconfinement of French Media.
- He has worked as an advisor to former French President Nicolas Sarkozy.
- He has several years of work experience in the health Ministry of France.

Govt Appoints Injeti Srinivas as the 1st Chairman of IFSCA

- Government appointed former corporate affairs secretary and IAS officer, **Injeti Srinivas** as the **1st chairman** of the International Financial Services Centre Authority(IFSCA) for a 3 years term.
- In addition to the chairman, IFSCA has other members who have been nominated from the Reserve Bank of India(RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI), The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India(Irdai), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and two members from the Centre.

Jayant Krishna is Appointed as the First India Based CEO of UKIBC

UK India Business Council(UKIBC) announced that Jayant Krishna has accepted the Invitation of UKIBC to become the Group's new Chief Executive Officer(CEO) and became the first India based CEO of UKIBC. He will assume office from 3rd August 2020 succeeding the current CEO Richard Heald.

- Richard Heald will take charge as the chairman of the Group from 1st September 2020 succeeding Lord Davies of Abersoch, the current Chair.
- Lord Davies of Abersoch will assume the position of President of UKIBC's new Senior Leadership Council.

About Jayant Krishna:

- He was the CEO of the Skill India Mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and led various initiative programmes.
- He was the Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC).
- He played a major role in the Tata Consultancy Services(TCS) during his association with Tata Groups for more than 20 years.

Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam Named as officiating president of Hockey India, Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad Resigns

The **Hockey India(HI)** in its Executive Board meeting named Manipur's **Gyanendro Ningombam**, who was senior vice-president in the federation, as **officiating president** till the end of September 2022 after **Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad** resigned on July 07, 2020 due to personal and family commitments.

- His resignation comes after the sports ministry's order to resign from the post as his 2018 election was a violation of the 2011 National Sports Code's tenure guidelines.

About Gyanendro Ningombam

- Gyanendro Ningombam has served as the Editor of Meeyam, an evening daily newspaper in Manipur.
- After which he was elected as Vice President of Manipur Hockey from 2014 – 2018.

Lee Hsien Loong becomes the third Prime Minister of Singapore, ruling PAP won the General Election 2020

The Results of Singapore's General Election 2020 were announced and the ruling Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's People's Action Party (PAP) won the election by winning 83 seats out of 93 contested and Lee Hsien Loong was reinstated as the third Prime Minister of Singapore.



Lee Hsien Loong:

- 68 year old Lee Hsien Loong held the office of Prime Minister since 2004 and winning the 2020 General Election retains his position.
- He is the son of Singapore's founding Leader, Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore who transformed the nation in his 31 year rule.

People's Action Party:

The People's Action Party (PAP) has held the power, winning all the elections since independence in 1965. PAP is the only party in Singapore which has candidates contesting in all the 93 constituencies.

Hemang Amin, Appointed as the Interim CEO of BCCI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the appointment of Hemang Amin, the current Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Indian Premier League (IPL) as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following the resignation of Rahul Johri on 9th July 2020.

- Amin joined the operations team of IPL in 2010 and became the COO in November 2015 following the resignation of Sundar Raman, who was the COO of IPL.
- Amin takes over BCCI while BCCI is being forced to adopt the Supreme Court-directed administrative reforms.
- Amin will be handling the roles of CEO in the interim period until the appointment of the new CEO.
- The BCCI hired Korn Ferry, consulting agency to hire the first ever CEO and this time the organisation will decide on the appointment of a new CEO in the meeting on 17th July 2020 through video conferencing.

ADB Appoints Election Commissioner of India, Ashok Lavasa as its New Vice-President

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed **Ashok Lavasa** as its **Vice-President** for Private Sector Operations and Public-Private Partnerships, who is currently serving as one of the Election Commissioners of India (since January 2018).
- He will succeed **Diwakar Gupta**, whose term will end on 31 August, 2020.
- He is a retired 1980 batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre. He was born on 21st October 1957.

SportsAdda signs former Australian cricketer Brett Lee as Brand Ambassador

SportsAdda, news and information website for Cricket, Football and Kabaddi announced that they signed Former Australian cricketer **Brett Lee** as its **Brand ambassador**.

- As the brand ambassador of SportsAdda, Lee conducts activities like quizzes, bowling masterclasses, Q&A's and giveaways featured exclusively on the SportsAdda's app, social media and website.

Brett Lee:

- i. Brett Lee, the 43 years old fast bowler debuted in 1999 and retired from Tests in 2008.
- ii. He was a part of the ICC Cricket World Cup winning Australian team in 2003 and 2007.
- iii. He took over 700 wickets during his international career and retired from international cricket in 2013.
- iv. After the Big Bash League (**BBL** – Australian Twenty20 cricket league) season in 2014 to 2015 he retired from all forms of cricket.
- v. He starred in the movie, UNindian, an Australian movie in 2015..

South American country Suriname elects Indian-origin 'Chan' Santokhi as President

Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi (61), an Indian-origin former police chief has been elected as the president of Suriname, a country in South America. Santokhi leads the Progressive Reform Party of the country. Santokhi will be sworn in as the President from 16, July 2020. Santokhi Succeeds Desi Bouterse. Ronnie Brunswijk will serve as the vice-president.

- Santokhi won Desi Bouterse, former military strongman of National Party of Suriname (NPS) in the general elections held in May.

About Chan Santokhi:

- He was born in Suriname, a former Dutch colony, and studied in Police academy, Netherlands.
- He was a police inspector in Suriname from 1991 and was named chief of Police.
- He served as the Minister of Justice from 2005 to 2010.

Roshni Nadar Becomes 1st Woman to Chair Listed Indian IT firm after taking over as HCL Tech Chairperson

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, India's richest woman becomes the **1st woman to head a listed Indian IT company** as she took over as the **Chairperson** of **HCL Technologies** from her father and billionaire Shiv Nadar (Founder & chairman).



- Shiv Nadar will continue to be the Managing Director of the company with designation as Chief Strategy Officer.
- In addition to the post of Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra will also continue to be the CEO of HCL Corporation.

Note- The company's Board of Directors has appointed her as the new chairperson with immediate effect.

About Roshni Nadar Malhotra

i. Prior to joining the HCL Corporation in 2009 she worked with Sky News UK and CNN America as a news producer.

ii. Within a year of her joining HCL, she was elevated as executive director and CEO of HCL Corporation

iii. Apart from this, she is also a trained classical musician

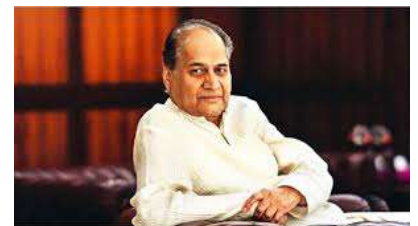
Few Honours

i. According to the latest Hurun Rich List, Roshni is India's richest woman with a net worth of Rs 36,800 crore.

ii. She featured in 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women' list compiled and released by Forbes in 2017, 2018, and 2019, consecutively.

Rahul Bajaj to Step Down as Bajaj Finance Chairman; Sanjiv Bajaj to succeed

Rahul Bajaj, the present non-executive chairman of Bajaj Finance has decided to step down on July 31, 2020 and he will be replaced by his son Sanjiv Bajaj (the present Vice Chairman of the company) from August 1.



- Rahul Bajaj will continue to serve as a non-executive non independent director of the company.

About Sanjiv Bajaj:

- Sanjiv Bajaj has been the Managing Director & CEO of Bajaj Finserv Ltd. since 2008.
- He has been the Managing Director of Bajaj Holdings & Investments since 2012.
- He has been the Vice Chairman of Bajaj Finance Ltd. since 2013.

DG of RPF, Shri Arun Kumar, nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the UIC, security platform

i. The DG of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) **Shri Arun Kumar**, (IPS Officer) has been nominated as the **Vice -Chairman of the Security platform** of the Paris – based Union UIC from **July 2020 to July 2022**.

ii. This was intimated by the DG (Director General) of UIC (Union Internationale Des Chemins/International Union of Railways) Mr. Francois Davenne, to the Chairman of Railway Board, Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav.

iii. The decision was taken during the **96th** UIC General Assembly.

iv. Arun Kumar will take over the Chairman of Security Platform from July 2022 to July 2024, after two years of tenure as Vice Chairman.

Honours/ Awards

Former RBI Governor Chakravarthi Rangarajan Receives the First Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis Award on National Statistics Day

i. On account of National Statistics Day The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) presented the **first Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award** in Official Statistics'2020 to **Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan**, Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India for his contribution to the National Statistical System(NSS).



ii. Prof. P. V. Sukhatme National Award in Statistics 2020 is jointly presented to, Dr Arvind Pandey and Dr. Akhilesh Chandra Kulshreshtha.

All Rounder Ravindra Jadeja Named the Most Valuable Player of India by Wisden

Spin bowling all rounder, 31 years old Ravindra Jadeja, was named **India's Most Valuable Player(MVP)** of the 21st century by Wisden for his contribution in both batting and fielding.

Jadeja's MVP rating is around **97.3** which is second only to Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka making him the **world's second most Valuable Test Player** of the 12th Century.

About Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI):

President– Sourav Ganguly

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Pulitzer Prize Winner Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty Named among '2020 Great Immigrants' Honourees

i. Carnegie Corporation of New York has named 2 renowned Indian-Americans, **Siddhartha Mukherjee**, a Pulitzer prize winner and **Raj Chetty**, Economics Professor at Harvard University among '**2020 Great Immigrants'** honourees.

ii. Siddhartha Mukherjee has educated the public about the coronavirus through essays and through various modes of social media.

iii. Raj Chetty has helped to launch a resource to monitor the real-time economic impact of COVID-19 on people, businesses, and communities across the United States

Freya Thakral, Delhi School Girl named among 2020's Diana Award roll of Honours

i. On 1st July 2020, the birth anniversary of Princess Diana, Freya Thakral, a 13 year old student of the British School New Delhi received the 2020 Diana Award for her humanitarian work towards the ragpickers of Delhi.

ii. She developed a mobile application and started a door to door recycling business to support the financial difficulties faced by the ragpickers.



Nadaun Police Station of Himachal Pradesh declared as one of the best in India

Amit Shah, The Union Minister of Home Affairs announced the Annual Ranking of Police Stations for 2019 prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in the Director General of Police's (DGP's) conference. Nadaun Police Station of Hamirpur District in Himachal Pradesh is ranked as one of the best Police Stations of India.

Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs presented the Certification of Excellence to Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh during the ceremony on 9th July 2020 which was handed to Sanjay Kundu, IPS, the Director General of Police (DGP), Himachal Pradesh.

Annual Police station ranking:

- i. The ranking system of Police Stations was introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2018.
- ii. The ranking is made through data analysis, direct observation and public feedback.
- iii. The best performing police station is based on the addressing of Property offence, crime against women and weaker sections.

India's 2018 Tiger Census – Largest Camera Trap Wildlife Survey sets Guinness Record

- i. 4th edition of India's 2018 Tiger census sets new Guinness World Record for being largest camera trap wildlife survey because the census had installed more cameras to monitor the tigers as compared to other countries.
- ii. As per the census, In 2018, India had doubled the tiger population before 4 years of the target year, 2022 through the Sankalp Se Siddhi programme.
- iii. According to the latest survey conducted in 2018 it is estimated that India has around 2967 tigers out of which the survey captured the individual photos of 2461 tigers, as of now 75 per cent of the global tiger population are in India.

IAA named ISRO Chief K Sivan As the Recipient of 2020 Von Karman Award

i. The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) has announced Dr. Kailasavadivoo Sivan, Chief of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award, the highest distinction of the IAA.

ii. The award will be presented to Dr. K. Sivan in March 2021 at Paris.



About International Academy of Astronautics (IAA):

President- Peter Jankowitsch (Austria)

Headquarters– Paris, France

Sachin Awasthi is honoured as the Top Publicist in Global Humanitarian Award 2020 – London

i. Sachin Awasthi, the president of National Media Club and Founder of Shri Ram Seva Mission was

honoured with the “Top Publicist” award in the Global Humanitarian Awards 2020 held as a webinar over a virtual platform in London.

ii. The Global Humanitarian Award 2020 is instituted as a part of the “Honoring the Honorable” initiative of the World Humanitarian Drive(WHD).

iii. He inaugurated the Swachh Bharat – Sundar Bharat Mission in 2014 and released a first toll free number for cleanliness in India.

Legendary Hockey Player Ashok Kumar, Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award of Mohun Bagan Football Club

The 70 years old Legendary Hockey Player **Ashok Kumar**, key player of the 1975 World Cup winning Indian Hockey team was honoured with the **Lifetime achievement award** by the Kolkata base football club – **Mohun Bagan Athletic Club** on its foundation day over the virtual ceremony.

About Mohun Bagan Athletic Club:

President– Swapan Sadhan Bose

Headquarters– Kolkata, West Bengal

Founded– 1889

Tata’s N Chandrasekaran and Lockheed Martin’s Jim Taiclet Receives USIBC Global Leadership Award 2020

i. Tata group chairman, Natarajan(N) **Chandrasekaran** and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) and president of Lockheed Martin **Jim Taiclet** to receive the US-India Business Council(USIBC) **Global Leadership Award 2020**.

ii. They also serve as a co-chair of the US-India CEO Forum.

About USIBC Global Leadership Award

The USIBC Global Leadership Award has been presented annually since 2007.

About USIBC:

Headquarters- Washington, D.C., United States

President– Nisha Biswal



Committee to Protect Journalists Announced 2020 International Press Freedom Awards

i. The Committee to Protect Journalists(CPJ) has announced that 4 Journalists, **Shahidul Alam** from **Bangladesh**, **Mohammad Mosaed** from **Iran**, **Dapo Olorunyomi** from **Nigeria** and **Svetlana Prokopyeva** from **Russia** will be honoured with the 2020 International Press Freedom Awards for their courageous act.

ii. In addition to them lawyer Amal Clooney will be honoured with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.

iii. The award will be conferred to them on November 19, 2020, at CPJ's annual benefit gala which will be virtually held.

Oscar Winner Kate Winslet will Receive 2020 TIFF Tribute Actor Award on 45th Edition of TIFF

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), announced that Kate Winslet will be receiving the 2020 TIFF Tribute Actor Award at the virtual event of the 45th edition of TIFF.

Kate will receive the honour in the virtual gala on 15th September 2020, following her film, Francis Lee's *Ammonite* in which she played a fossil hunter Mary Anning.



About Kate Winslet:

- i. Kate Winslet debuted in the film *Heavenly Creatures* directed by Peter Jackson.
- ii. She was known for her role as Rose DeWitt in James Cameron's *Titanic* (1997).
- iii. She won the Oscar for the best actress for the film *The Reader*.

45th edition of TIFF:

- i. The festival will commence on 10th September 2020 and run till 19th September 2020.
- ii. For the first time in TIFF history, TIFF will launch a digital platform for the 45th edition this year to connect the audience amid the global pandemic situation.
- iii. The festival plans to screen around 50 films in the first 5 days in theaters through social distanced screening.
- iv. The TIFF Tribute Actor Award is presented to a leading performer in their field for their outstanding contribution to cinema.

UN announced the Laureates of 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize: Marianna Vardinoyannis & Morissana Kouyaté

i. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, The President of United Nations General Assembly announced that Marianna Vardinoyannis, of Greece, and Doctor Morissana Kouyaté, of Guinea will receive the 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize. They will be recognised in the virtual ceremony on 20th July 2020.



ii. The award will be presented to them in an in-person award ceremony at a later date at the United Nations (UN) headquarters, New York, United States of America.

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg won 1st edition Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity

i. A 17 years old climate activist from Sweden namely **Greta Tintin Eleonora**



Ernman Thunberg became the first recipient of the inaugural (1st edition) Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, awarded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

ii. The award in the amount 1 million euro (\$1.15 million) recognized her ability to mobilize younger generations for the cause of climate change.

iii. The entire prize amount would be donated by Greta Thunberg to the project and organisations who are working to help people on the front lines affected by the climate crisis and ecological crisis.

Mukesh Ambani, fifth-richest Man in the World with Net Worth \$75 billion: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Chairman & CEO Mukesh Ambani (63), became the world's **fifth-richest man** in the world with an estimated wealth of 75 billion USD, according to the real-time ranking of billionaires by **Forbes**.

- Mukesh Ambani is just behind Mark Zuckerberg net worth of 88.3 billion USD.
- He sustains as the **wealthiest Indian**
- He is the **only Asian Tycoon** in the elite list of the world's top 10 richest people as of July 2020.

Late Arnab Chaudhry honored by Legend of Animation Award 2020: TMG

Arnab Chaudhuri posthumously awarded with The 'Legend of Animation' award, 2020. This award is instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG) as a part of the Animation Masters Summit (AMS), 2020 – Digital Edition.

- The award was accepted by his wife, Ashuma Chaudhuri at the inaugural session.
- The award is presented for his contribution towards the animation and entertainment industry of India.

Facts about AMS

i. It is the first animation industry event held in Asia. A non-profit event organized by TMG.

ii. Previously known as 'Week with Masters' and organized by Toonz Animation.

Indian-origin nurse Kala Narayanasamy in Singapore conferred with President's Award

Indian-origin nurse Kala Narayanasamy (59) in Singapore has conferred with the President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic, who was among the five nurses (Tay Yee Kian, Patricia Yong Yueh Li, Alice Chua Foong Sin, Chin Soh Mun).

Note: A trophy, a certificate signed by President Halimah Yacob and SGD 10,000 (USD 7,228) was awarded.

Sports

Nitin Menon Becomes the 3rd Indian & Youngest Umpire to Enter ICC Elite Panel

i. **Nitin Menon** (36 years old) from India became the **youngest** member of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) **Elite Panel of Umpires**.

ii. He replaces Nigel Llong (England) for the upcoming 2020-21 season.

iii. He becomes the **3rd Indian umpire** to be included in the ICC's after former captain Srinivas Venkataraghavan and Sundaram Ravi.



Liverpool wins the top-flight title in 2020 Premier League Championship defeating Manchester City

Liverpool won its 19th top-flight title in the **28th edition of Premier League Championship**

2020 football tournament after waiting for 30 years by defeating Manchester City by 2-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Key Points:

i. Between 1973 and 1990 Liverpool won 11 Premier league championships and this is Liverpool's first title since 1989-90.

ii. On 24th June 2020, At Anfield, Liverpool won against Crystal Palace 4-0 moving within 2 points towards the title.

iii. Liverpool won the 19th title with the record of seven games left to play after Manchester City was defeated with a difference of 23 points.

Lt Col Bharat Pannu Becomes First Indian To Secures Podium Position In International Ultracycling Race: Finished 3rd In 1st Edition VRAAM 2020

Lt Col Bharat Pannu, Indian Army officer, secured the 3rd position on the leaderboard at the first edition of the Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM) 2020 held from 16th June to 28th June 2020 and became the first ever Indian to secure a podium position in the international ultracycling race.

Lt Col Pannu finished with a total distance of 4086km in 12 days and a total elevation gain of 71,000 meters in a stationary bicycle in Pimple Nilakh, Pune.

China's Badminton Player and 2 Time Olympic Champion Lin Dan Announces Retirement

i. **China's Badminton** player and **2 time Olympic Champion, Lin Dan** announced his **retirement** due to his physical capabilities and injuries. He won gold at the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympics.

ii. As per the Chinese Badminton Association, he had submitted a formal retirement letter a few days ago.

iii. He is nicknamed as "**Super Dan**" by world badminton fans. He became the 1st and only player to complete the "**Super Grand Slam**".



Chess Player,G.Akash from Chennai,TN Becomes India's 66th Grandmaster

The 23 year-old G. Akash from Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) become the country's 66th Grandmaster with rating of 2495. The title was confirmed at the recent meeting of International Chess Federation (FIDE) Council

- i.He has won the national title in 2012.
- ii.He is coached by K. Visweswaran, a former National Champion.

Indian boxer Amit Panghal secures top spot in AIBA World Men's Ranking 2020 in 52kg category; Manju world's second best boxer in Women's ranking

The **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** has released the **world rankings 2020** for women's and men's boxing, as per which Indian amateur boxer & World championships silver medallist **Amit Panghal** has been ranked first in the world ranking of main elites of **52 kg** weight category with a total of 1300 points. At the same time, **Manju Rani** has got the second place in women's rankings in **48 kg** with 1175 points.

Mercedes Valtteri Bottas Won the Formula One Season-Opening Austrian Grand Prix

20 year old Finland driver Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes won the Formula One (F1) season-opening Austrian Grand Prix (GP) , surpassing his Mercedes team mate and defending Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton.



Key Points:

- i.Charles Leclerc took second place for Ferrari and Lando Norris third for McLaren.
- ii.The race was interrupted 3 times and 9 of the 20 drivers including Red Bulls of Max Verstappen and Alexander Albon abandoned the race.
- iii.Hamilton the only black driver in F1, due to the 5 second penalty for causing a collision he was dropped from second to fourth position.
- iv.The podium position winners held up a black t-shirt with “**End Racism**” captioned on it.

Lewis Hamilton Won the Styrian Grand Prix in Spielberg

Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes Driver won the Styrian Grand Prix(GP) in Spielberg, Austria with this win Hamilton has won at least one race of his 14-year career on the circuit.

Key Points:

- i.This is the 85th career win of Hamilton and he moves within six of Formula one (F1) record of Michael Schumacher.
- ii.He finished the race 13.7 seconds and 3.7 seconds ahead of Valtteri Vottas of Mercedes and Max Verstappen of Red Bull respectively.
- iii.His record-extending 89th career pole on a rain-drenched track was one of his best in extreme conditions.

iv. The trophies of the winners were delivered through a remote controlled device to maintain social distancing amid COVID-19 pandemic.

v. Bottas leads in points 43-37 challenging Hamilton for the F1 title.

Former Chelsea Forward and World Cup Winner Andre Schurrle Retires at 29

Andre Schurrle (29), Former Chelsea attacker and Borussia Dortmund forward and 2014 FIFA World cup winner(Germany), announces his retirement on July 17, 2020. He is a German former professional footballer who played as a forward. He represented the German national team from 2010 to 2017.

About Andre Schurrle:

- He played for Chelsea from 2013-15.
- He has won a Premier league winner medal in 2015.
- He has made 33 appearances in two seasons.
- The World Cup winner won 57 caps for his country, scoring 22 times and feature for Chelsea and Wolfsburg prior to joining the Bundesliga club in 2016.

FIFA World Cup 2022: to be held in Qatar at Al Bayt Stadium

The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) informed that the 2022 World cup tournament is to be held in Qatar at Al Bayt Stadium (or) Al Khor Stadium. Men's 2022 FIFA World Cup is scheduled to be the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup. Host country will be Qatar.



Tournament likely to be held between November 21- December 18, 2022 & the final match will be held at Lusail Stadium.

Few Facts about Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup

- i. The first men's FIFA World Cup to be staged in the Middle East, is also the first edition to be held in the November-December window.
- ii. The World Cup is being hosted by an Asian nation for the second time. The first one was hosted by Japan and South Korea hosted together in 2002.
- iii. The world cup involves 32 teams usually which are set to be increased to 48 teams in the year 2026 tournament.

Formula One Champion, Mercedes Lewis Hamilton Won the Hungarian Grand Prix 2020; won this Title for 8th Time

Formula One Champion Mercedes **Lewis Hamilton**(British) won the **Hungarian Grand Prix(GP) 2020** held at the Hungaroring in Mogyoród, Hungary. This is his **8th time** to win this title. With this victory he equalled **Michael Schumacher**'s single-venue record, ie., winning a grand prix eight times.

Key Info

- i. Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** (Dutch) came second and was awarded 'drive of the day'. Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas finished third and Racing Point's Lance Stroll finished in fourth spot.
- ii. With this victory, Lewis Hamilton won 86 GP & remained behind the German great Schumacher's F1 record of 91.
- iii. He also won the Styrian Grand Prix 2020 and is a six-time Formula One World Champion.
- iv. Michael Schumacher won the French GP 8 times at Magny-Cours.

T20 World Cup 2020 in Australia postponed due to COVID-19: ICC

The International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed that the Men's T20 World Cup, 2020 scheduled to be played in Australia in October – November, has been postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Windows for the forthcoming three ICC Men's T20 World Cup has been rescheduled.



- i. ICC T20 World Cup 2021 is rescheduled on October – November 2021 with final on 14 November 2021.
- ii. The ICC T20 World Cup 2022 is rescheduled in October – November 2022 with the final on 13 November 2022.
- iii. The ICC World Cup (50 over) is 2023 rescheduled in October – November 2023 with the final on 26 November 2023 in India.

Also, the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 will be held in February of 2021 at New Zealand.

ICC ODI World Cup in India Shifted to October-November 2023

Following the ICC Men's World Cup reschedule, the finale of 2023 ODI (One Day International), to be held in India for the first time is rescheduled from February-March to October-November, 2023, with the final on 26 November 2023 in India.

ISL becomes 1st league in South Asia and 7th in Asia to join the World Leagues Forum

The Hero Indian Super League (ISL) joins the World Leagues Forum (WLF), the association of Professional football leagues. It is the first league from South Asia and seventh in Asia to join the WLF.

The Premier League, La Liga and Bundesliga are also part of the association of Professional football leagues and also the most supported leagues by the people.



Highlights:

- i. In 2014, when ISL began, India has been raising its standard to achieve world class standard, claimed by The Founder and chairperson of Football Sports Development limited (FSDL), **Mrs. Nita Ambani**

ii. Jerome Perlemuter, the General Secretary of the World Leagues Forum welcomed the joining of ISL to WLF.

India's 2018 Asian Games mixed relay medal upgraded to gold after Bahrain's disqualification

Indian 4x400m mixed relay team's silver medal in the **2018 Asian Games** has been upgraded to gold. This decision has been taken after the disqualification of original winners Bahrain due to doping ban.

- **Anu Ragavan's fourth place** in the women's 400m hurdles has been upgraded to **Bronze** medal after this.
- Now, India's medal count increased to 20 which includes 8 gold and 9 silver in 2018 Asian Games.
- Kazakhstan claim silver & China will get Bronze.

NOTE: Celebrating the news Hima Das, dedicated her gold medal to the workers against COVID-19.

Reason behind:

i. The 4x400 mixed relay final, was topped by Bahrain.

ii. One of the winners from Bahrain, **Kemi Adekoya** was handed a **four-year ban** from the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for failing a dope test.

India at the 2018 Asian Games

i. Bahrain clocked **3:11:89** in 4X400m, received Gold medal. The Indian quartet of Mohammed Anas, MR Poovamma, Hima Das and Arokia Rajiv, clocked **3:15:71** grabs silver medals.

ii. Anu Raghavan clocked **56.92** in hurdles and stands fourth in the final race in Jakarta.

iii. After the change in medals, the 4x400m has **2 golds and 1 silver**.

About Asian Games

Last event – 2018, Jakarta, Palembang, Indonesia.

Haryana to host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2021

i. The Minister of State of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Kiren Rijju** and Haryana Chief Minister, **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced that Haryana will host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in 2021 through video conference.

ii. The Games will be held in Panchkula in Haryana.

iii. Star Sports will be the Official Broadcast Partner like the previous year.

iv. The games will take place after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.



England Won the Final Wisden Trophy against West Indies by 2-1

England won the third and **final Wisden Trophy** test match against the West Indies by 269 runs and won the series by 2-1. After this final series, The Wisden trophy will be retired and displayed at the Museum at Lord's. It will be replaced by the Richards-Botham Trophy. The series started on 8th July 2020.

Obituaries

National Awardee & Veteran Bollywood Choreographer Saroj Khan Passes Away

Veteran Bollywood Choreographer, Saroj Khan (71) died of Cardiac arrest at Gurunanak Hospital, Bandra, Maharashtra where she was admitted before one week with complaint of breathing issues. She was born in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



i) She was a three-time National Award winner, who choreographed most memorable songs of Hindi cinema.

ii) She has choreographed for more than 2000 songs in her career of 40 years. Her last choreograph was made for 'Kalank' starring Madhuri Dixit in 2019.

Veteran Actor-Comedian Jagdeep passed away at 81

Veteran Bollywood actor-comedian Jagdeep passed away at 81 in his Bandra residence, Mumbai. His real name is Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri. He is recognised for his role as Soorma Bhopali in the film "Sholay" and for his expression 'khambha ukhadke'. He was born on March 29, 1939 in Datia, Madhya Pradesh(MP).

Gist about Jagdeep

Debut- Jagdeep debuted in cinema as a child artist in Afsana(1951), which is also the directorial debut of filmmaker B.R. Chopra.

Well known- He is famous for his comic timing in films.

Total films- In his career span he has worked in more than 400 films which include, 'Ab Dilli Door Nahin', K. A. Abbas's 'Munna', Guru Dutt's 'Aar Paar', Bimal Roy's 'Do Bigha Zamin' and AVM's 'Hum Panchi Ek Dal Ke' among others.

Two Times Oscar Winner, Ennio Morricone, Italian Composer Passed Away at 91

Two times Oscar winner, Ennio Morricone, Italian Composer passed away at the age of 91 in Campus Bio-Medico, a clinic in Rome, Italy, where he was admitted due to a broken femur. He was born on 10th November 1928 in Rome, Italy.

Maharashtra's First Woman SEC Neela Satyanarayanan Dies

Neela Satyanarayanan (72), first woman State Election Commissioner (SEC) of Maharashtra and a praised Marathi author died of COVID-19 on July 16, 2020. She died at Seven Hills Hospital at Marol in Andheri (East), Mumbai where she was undergoing treatment for COVID-19.



About Neela Satyanarayanan

- Neela Satyanarayanan was born on 5 February 1948 in Mumbai.

- She is a 1972- batch IAS officer from Maharashtra.
- She worked as the chief secretary (Revenue) and retired in 2009.
- She was appointed as the First women election commissioner by Congress-NCP government in 2009 and she served till 2014.

Civil Rights Veteran Rev. C.T. Vivian Dead at 95

The Rev. Cordy Tindell Vivian (95), a civil rights veteran died out of natural causes at his residence in Atlanta, United States on July 17, 2020. He has served as head of the organisation co-founded by the civil rights icon.

About Cordy Tindell Vivian:

- Cordy Tindell Vivian was born on 28 July 1924 in Howard County, U.S state of Maryland.
- His first victory was in 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- He was an American minister and an author.

Honors

- Vivian was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2013.
- “Challenge and Change: The Story of Civil Rights Activist C.T. Vivian” by Lydia Walker is a biography of C.T. Vivian.

CS Seshadri, Padma Bhushan Awardee & Renowned Mathematician Passed Away at 88

Padma Bhushan Awardee & Renowned Mathematician, Conjeevaram Srirangachari(C.S.) **Seshadri** passed away at **88** in Chennai, TamilNadu. He was the founder of the Chennai Mathematical Institute(CMI). He is known for his work in **algebraic geometry**. He was born on February 29th, 1932, in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu.



- He was also a director-emeritus(a former member of a company’s board of directors, who completed his service as director but continues as an adviser) of CMI till his demise.
- The Seshadri constant is named after him.

About C S Seshadri:

Work

i.He worked in the School of Mathematics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research(TIFR) in Bombay from 1953 to 1984.

ii.He worked in The Institute of Mathematical Sciences(IMSc) in Chennai from 1984 to 1989. He served as the founding director of CMI from 1989 to 2010.

iii.He was also a visiting professor at the University of Paris, Harvard University among others..

Few Honours

Fellowship– He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1988 among others

Award– He received Padma Bhushan in 2009. He has received Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award and Srinivasa Ramanujan Me dal from the Indian Academy of Sciences.

John Lewis, Civil Rights Movement Pioneer and Longtime Congressman of U.S, Dies at 80

The US lawmaker John Lewis (80), civil rights movement pioneer and long-time member of the US House of Representatives died of advanced pancreatic cancer in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S. John Lewis is one of the nation's most powerful voices of justice and equality.

About John Lewis:

- John Lewis was born on February 21, 1940 in Troy, Alabama, United States.
- He was the youngest and last survivor of the Big Six Civil rights activists, led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
- He is well known for leading 600 protestors in the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Posts held:

- Lewis served for 17 terms in the US House of Representatives, for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020.
- He served as Chairman of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee(SNCC) from 1963 – 1966

Awards and Honours:

- John Lewis was honored by President Barack Obama with the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor.
- He is also the recipient of numerous awards like Golden Plate award, Preservation Hero award, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, the President's Medal of Georgetown University, the 'profile in courage award' a lifetime achievement award etc.

Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon dies at 85

Madhya Pradesh (MP) Governor Shri Lal ji Tandon, who was admitted in Medanta hospital, in Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, had passed away at the age of 85. He was diagnosed to have chronic liver disease and breathing problems and put on severe medical ailment. He was born on 12, April 1935, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



Mr. Ashutash Tandan, son of Mr. Lalji Tandon and the Minister of Urban Development, Uttar Pradesh, announced his death.

About Lal Ji Tandon:

- He served as the 28th Governor of Bihar between 23rd August 2018 to 28th July 2019.
- He took charge as the 22nd Governor of Madhya Pradesh on July 20, 2019.
- He was elected to the 15th Lok Sabha from the Lucknow constituency in May, 2009
- He remained the Leader of the Opposition Party from 2003 to 2007.

Two time Oscar winner and actress, Olivia de Havilland passed away at the age of 104 in Paris, France

Olivia de Havilland, two time Oscar Winner died at the age of 104 in Paris, France.

She was known as a doe-eyed actress. She was born on 1st July 1916, in Tokyo, Japan. She served as the last surviving lead of the movie 'Gone with the Wind'.

Veteran Bollywood Actor Kumkum Passed Away at 86 in Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood Actor Kumkum due to age related ailments passed away at the age of 86 in her residence in Bandra, Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born as Zaibunnissa on 22nd April 1934 in Sheikhpura district, Bihar.

Career:

i. She was casted for an uncredited role in 'Aar Paar' and featured in small roles in films like 'Pyaasa'.

ii. She was popularly known for the songs featuring her like 'Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re' from Kohinoor (1960) and "Kabhi Aar Kabhi Paar" from Aar Paar(1954).

iii. She featured in the movies like "Mr. X in Bombay", "Mother India", "Ujala", "Raja Aur Runk", "Lalkaar", "Geet" and "Naya Daur".

iv. She starred in "Ganga Maiyya Tohe Piyari Chadhaibo" the first Bhojpuri film in 1963.



President of West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee & Lok Sabha MP, Somendra Nath Mitra passed away at 78

President of West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee & Lok Sabha MP, **Somendra Nath Mitra** died at the age of 78 in Bellevue Hospital, Kolkata due to Kidney and heart ailments. He was born on **31st December 1941**, Katorah, Jessore, Bangladesh.

About Somendranath Mitra

i. Served as the President of West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee between **1992 – 1998** & between the year **2018 – 2020**.

ii. He became the Member of Legislative Assembly (**MLA**) in the year **1972** from Sealdah Assembly seat at the age of 26.

iii. In July 2008, he left the Indian National Congress and formed a new party, named Pragatisheel Indira Congress.

iv. He served as the member of the 15th Lok Sabha, elected from the Diamond Harbour constituency in West Bengal state in 2009 as a Trinamool Congress candidate. Later rejoined the congress party in 2014.

Important Days with theme

International Day of Parliamentarism 2020: June 30

i. United Nations (UN) **International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed annually on **June 30** to celebrate parliaments.

ii. The day highlights the ways in which parliamentary systems of government improve the daily lives of people around the world. The year 2020 marks the **3rd edition** of the day.

iii. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution **A/RES/72/278** adopted the day

About IPU:

Headquarters– Vienna, Austria



National Doctors Day 2020 – July 1

i. India Celebrates July 1st as the National Doctors Day to honour the doctors and physicians and to recognise their 24×7 service to the society and to express gratitude towards the professionals of the medical sector for their service.

ii. Indian Medical Association (IMA) observed the first National Doctors Day on 1st July 1991.

iii. The theme of 2020 Doctors Day is “**Lessen the Mortality of COVID-19**”

Malala Day 2020 – July 12

i. The United Nations (UN) designated 12th July of every year as Malala Day, to commemorate the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, Pakistani activist and the youngest recipient of the Nobel prize for peace. In 2013 first “Malala Day: An Education for All Children” was celebrated.

ii. The Former Secretary General of United Nations Ban Ki Moon addressed Malala’s 16th Birthday as Malala Day.

iii. The Publishers of HarperCollins India announced that a book documenting the struggles and fights against the social norms of 25 brave girls for their right to education.



Day of International Criminal Justice 2020 – July 17

i. Day of International Criminal Justice is annually observed on 17th July to recognise the importance of the international criminal justice system in prevailing the justice for the victims of the crimes, wars and genocide and to promote their rights.

ii. Day of International Criminal Justice is also called as international criminal justice day and World Day for International Justice.

About International Criminal Court (ICC):

President- Chile Eboe-Osuji (Judge)

Permanent Premises– Hague, Netherlands.

Nelson Mandela International Day 2020 – July 18

i. The United Nations' (UN) Nelson Mandela International Day is annually celebrated on **July 18th**, the birth anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, to recognise his contribution in creating a democratic South Africa.

ii. The theme of Nelson Mandela International Day is “**Take action, inspire change**”

iii. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/64/13 on 10th November 2009, declaring July 18th as Nelson Mandela International Day



About Republic of South Africa:

President– Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

Capital– Pretoria (executive), Bloemfontein (Judicial), Cape town (legislative)

1st World Chess Day celebrated on July 20, 2020

i. United Nations' (UN) **First World Chess Day** is celebrated on 20th July, 2020 all over the world to acknowledge the importance of chess in building harmony among countries, breaking the racial, political and social barriers.

ii. This day also marks the **96th Anniversary** of the International Chess Federation (**FIDE** – Fédération Internationale des Échecs).

iii. The United Nation General Assembly (UNGA), passed a resolution on 12th December 2019, proclaiming 20th July as World Chess day.

National Broadcasting Day 2020 – July 23

i. 23rd July of every year is observed as the National Broadcasting Day across India to commemorate the first ever radio broadcast aired in India on 23rd July 1927 from the Bombay Station of a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.

ii. The first broadcast in India in June 1923, by the Bombay Radio Club, the Calcutta Radio Club was established.



Pi approximation day 2020: July 22

Pi approximation day is observed annually on **July 22**. It is dedicated to the mathematical constant pi (π). The day is also called Casual Pi Day. Pi denotes the relationship between a circle's circumference and its diameter and is denoted by the fraction $22/7$ which calculates approximately to 3.14.

Why is this date and month celebrated?

In the fraction 22/7, the numerator 22 symbolizes the date and denominator 7 indicates the month(July).

Related Days

Pi day – Also known as International Day of Mathematics is observed on March 14 every year. The date has been selected because the first three digits of the date(March 14 (3/14 or 3-14)) and also correspond to the first three digits of **Pi** – **3.14**.

Two Pi Day– It is also known as Tau Day for the mathematical constant tau (τ), is observed on June 28.

82nd CRPF Raising Day: July 27

i.The Central Reserve Police Forces(**CRPF**)’s **raising day** is observed annually on July 27. This year marks the **82nd** year of its existence.

ii.The CRPF came into existence as Crown Representative’s Police on 27th July 1939.

iii.It was renamed as CRPF on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949 by the country’s 1st home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

21st Kargil Vijay Diwas 2020 – July 26

26th July 2020 is celebrated as the **21st Kargil Vijay Diwas** which marks the 21st anniversary of India’s victory against Pakistan under **Operation Vijay**, launched to recapture the Indian Territories captured by the Intruders of Pakistani army in the Kargil Drass sector in 1999.



Income Tax Day 2020 – July 24

24th July 2020 is marked as the 160th Income Tax day or **Aaykar Diwas** by the Income Tax Department. The Income Tax Day has been celebrated in India on 24th July since 2010.

In 2010, The Income Tax Department declared July 24th as the annual Income Tax Day to mark the 150th year of this levy, the income tax was first imposed as a duty and came into force on 24th July 1860.

History:

Income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson on 24th July 1860, to compensate for the losses of the British government due to the First war of Independence in 1857

International Tiger Day 2020 – July 29

i.29th July is annually celebrated as International Tiger Day or the Global Tiger Day to create awareness among the general public on the importance of tiger conservation and protection of their natural habitat and to promote the resolution of the tiger range countries to double the tiger population by 2022. The **first** Global Tiger Day was celebrated on 29th July 2011.



ii.The Global Tiger Day slogan for 2018,2019 and 2020 is **“Their Survival is in Our Hands”**

iii.Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**) released the report of “Status of Tigers Copredators and Prey in India 2018”, fourth All India Tiger Estimation 2018.

International Day of Friendship: July 30

i.The United Nations(UN) **International Day of Friendship** is observed annually on **July 30** to cherish the bond of friendship which will ultimately help to develop love and peace among human beings. The day is also called Friendship Day.

ii.Idea behind the day– Friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

Friendship Day in India

Many countries including India, celebrate the 1st Sunday of August as the day, this year(2020) it falls on August 2.

