



Current Affairs August 2020

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National

AP Governor cleared three State-capital Bills and CRDA Repeal Bills 2020

i. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh (AP) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan gave his assent to the **Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions and Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Repeal Bills – 2020.**

ii. The clearance of the decentralisation Bill facilitates the development of Amaravati, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam as the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Capitals respectively.

iii. On the other hand, the repeal (revoke) of the CRDA paves the way for the formation of the Amaravati Metropolitan Region Development Authority.



Largest ever Online Hackathon in the World -4th edition of Smart India Hackathon 2020 Launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Virtually

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Grand Finale of 4th edition of Smart India Hackathon-SIH (Software) 2020, largest ever online Hackathon in the world and interacted with the participants through video conference.

ii. Union Minister for Education, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the Grand Finale virtually in New Delhi.

iii. The Grand Finale was conducted online from 1st to 3rd August, 2020 over a specially-built advanced platform.

iv. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' chaired a high-level meeting on Smart India Hackathon on July 27, 2020

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Released a Book Titled "Siyasat Mein Sadasyata" Authored by State Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary

Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** released a book titled, "**Siyasat Mein Sadasyata**" authored by Bihar Assembly Speaker **Vijay Kumar Choudhary**. The book is a compilation of the author's views, three dozen articles on different important issues and his life journey. The book was published by Bihar Assembly Secretariat.

- The book is compiled and edited by senior journalist Arvind Sharma and its preface has been written by another senior journalist Vinod Bandhu.

Essence of the Book

i. The book also reflects the different aspects of the author's personality.

ii. It mentions various developmental works in different sectors and welfare measures taken by the Nitish

Kumar government in Bihar.

iii. It states about the special bonding between the author and CM.

Uttarakhand to develop India's first snow leopard conservation centre in Uttarkashi forests

Chief minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat chaired a meeting along with State forest minister Harak Singh Rawat and other officials to look into the setting up of the conservation centre.

i. The conservation centre is set to come up at a place named **Lanka, near Bhaironghati bridge** in Uttarkashi district.

ii. It will be built by the Uttarakhand forest department along the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) as part of its six-year long project **Securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems (SECURE) Himalayas**.

iii. Dutch Conservation Architect Anne Feenstra shared the details of the conservation centre.

iv. The conservation centre is expected to create awareness of the Big Cat among the people.

Snow Leopard in Uttarkhand:-

i. According to several researches, Uttarakhand is home to 86 snow leopards at present.

ii. In Uttarakhand, snow leopards are found in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, Gangotri National Park, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary and other places of altitude between 3000-4500 meters.

CPCB Developed COVID19BWM App to Track Biomedical Waste: Recommended by SC

i. The **Supreme Court (SC)** has made it **mandatory** for all municipal corporations and state pollution control boards to use the '**COVID19BWM App**' to track biomedical waste on a daily basis.

ii. This ensures that the waste is collected, transported and sent to a registered common biomedical waste treatment facility.

iii. The app was developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (**CPCB**) in May 2020 following the directions from the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

About CPCB

CPCB functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Chairman- Shri Shiv Das Meena, IAS

FutureBrand Index 2020: Reliance Industries Ranked 2nd Biggest Brand; Apple Topped

FutureBrand Index 2020 was released, Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**), Oil and Gas Company ranked as the Second Biggest Brand for its recognition associated with its growth, innovative products and customer service after Apple which topped the index.

Reliance Industries Limited:

i. Reliance Industries Limited is owned by Mukesh Ambani is one of the companies of the future among Nextera Energy, ASML and other high tech, renewable and ethical



organisations.

ii. It is the only Indian Company in the Top 10 and Second Indian organisation on the ranking.

FutureBrand Index 2020:

i. Future Brand Index, the global perception study based on the assessment of the company's performance, reordered the PwC's Global Top 100 Companies which was based on the Market Capitalisations.

ii. Future Brand Index examines the leading firms all over the world and evaluates their growth over the years.

iii. In the Future Brand Index 2020 Samsung is ranked 3rd followed by Nvidia, Moutai, Nike, Microsoft, ASML, PayPal and Netflix in the top 10.

Yatish Yadav's new book 'RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations' offers a peek into the exploits of Indian spymasters

The famous Journalist and Author, **Yatish Yadav** wrote a new book titled, "**RAW (Research and Analysis Wing): A History of India's Covert Operations**", narrates the heroic operations carried out by the Indian external spy agency, RAW has been published by Westland Publications and is available in Amazon and other bookstores in India.

About the book:

i. The book narrates the operatives of the Spy agency, and its significant role on national security and long-term secret diplomacy.

ii. The book also gives details of the real spies and reveals the unknown aspects of their life, trauma and temptation, triumphs they faced during their mission.

About RAW

i. RAW was founded by the spymaster Rameshwar Nath Kao, which was established in 1968

ii. The main purpose of RAW is to satisfy the need for increased intelligence that was identified during the **Sino-Indian Border War in 1962** and during the **Indo-Pakistan War of 1965**.

India's first 'Kisan Rail' flagged off from Devlali Railway Station of Maharashtra

i. **Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Railways and **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare flagged off the India's **1st Kisan Rail**, a Special Parcel Train from Maharashtra's Devlali to Bihar's Danapur Railway station through video link.

ii. This is the **1st ever multi commodity train** of Indian Railways that carries fruits like Pomegranate, Banana, Grapes etc and vegetables like Capsicum, Cauliflower etc.

iii. The train will run on a **weekly basis**.



UNESCO Recognises Venkatraipur & Noliasahi of Odisha as ‘Tsunami Ready’; India Becomes 1st Country in Indian Ocean Region to Receive the Honour

- i. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) recognises the two coastal villages of **Odisha** as “**Tsunami Ready**” for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.
- ii. The two villages are **Venkatraipur** and **Noliasahi**.
- iii. Odisha became the **first state** in India and India became the **first country** in the Indian Ocean Region to achieve this status of “Tsunami ready” from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

‘Amazing Ayodhya’ – A new book to tell the history of Ayodhya

Neena Rai Authored the book titled “**Amazing Ayodhya**” will shed light on the history of Ayodhya. The book is set to give “authentic information” about the city of Ayodhya and will help in understanding the life and times of ancient Hindus.

Key Points:

- i. The book aims to gain knowledge of the architecture in Ayodhya, houses in Ayodhya, establishment of the city and animals which lived in Ayodhya.
- ii. According to the publishing house Bloomsbury, the book is well-researched and is replete with descriptions and draws out comparisons of earlier eras with our current life and culture.
- iii. The book will hit the stands in November.



India, Israel Collaborated to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds

- i. Experts from **India** and **Israel** have collaborated to develop **rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds** by merging the technological expertise of Israel with Indian development and production capabilities.
- ii. They have started to conduct trials at a special testing site at Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya (RML) Hospital on a large sample of patients for 4 different kinds of technologies namely, Voice test, Breath analyser test, Isothermal testing and Polyamino acid testing.



‘Greenlights’ the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey

‘**Greenlights**’ the debut book authored by Oscar-winning actor **Matthew McConaughey** published by **Crown Publishing Group** is set to be released on **20th October 2020**. The book was described as “not a traditional memoir but a playbook” based on the adventures and life experiences of McConaughey. McConaughey describes ‘Greenlights’ as an album, a record and the story of his life and he shared his anecdotes, poems and life lessons in this book.

PM Narendra Modi Launched Submarine Cable Connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI)

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicate to the Nation, submarine **Optical Fibre**

Cable (OFC) connecting Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) through video conferencing. This connectivity will enable delivery of faster mobile and landline telecom services to A&NI, at par with other parts of India. The Submarine OFC cable has been laid at a cost of about **Rs 1224 Crore**.



ii. The foundation stone for **2,312-kilometer Chennai – Andaman and Nicobar Islands (CANI)** was laid by PM Narendra Modi on 30th December 2018 at Port Blair.

iii. Airtel became the first mobile operator to launch ‘Ultra-Fast 4G’ services in the union territory (UT) of A&NI.

PCA to Name Mullanpur Stadium After Late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh

Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) is set to name its new stadium in **Mullanpur, New Chandigarh, Punjab** after the late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh.

- PCA President Rajinder Gupta proposed the idea to name the stadium and it had been approved.

About Maharaja Yadavindra Singh:

i. Maharaja Yadavindra Singh played a test match for India against England in 1934.

ii. Maharaja Yadavindra Singh was the father of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. He was the 9th and the last Maharaja of Patiala.

Books Titled ‘Corona Kavithakal’ ‘Republic Day 2020’ and ‘Thus Speaks the Governor’ Authored by Mizoram Governor Released

Books authored by Mizoram Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai titled ‘**Corona Kavithakal**’ was released by Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga. Meanwhile ‘**Republic Day 2020**’ and ‘**Thus Speaks the Governor**’ were released by Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajai Lamba through a video message. These books are part of his recently penned books(at least 13), which include collections of poems in English and Malayalam since March i.e., during the lockdown.

Key Info

i. Ten of his poems, including “Corona Kavithakal” in Malayalam, are related to COVID-19.

ii. His other poems include Vayojanam (Elderly), Wuhan, Mahamari (Pandemic) and Oh, Mizoram (a collection of poems in English- which will be included in the book Oh Mizoram) among others.

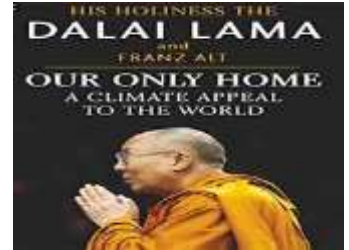
PS Sreedharan Pillai’s Writing Skills

He published his 1st book in 1986. He published 105 books before becoming governor.

Till now he has written at least 121 books of different categories, including poetry.

“Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World” – A Book by Dalai Lama to release in November

Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama is set to release his new book **“Our Only Home: A climate Appeal to the world”** on Climate change co-written by **German environmental Journalist Franz Alt** in November.



i. The book calls upon political decision makers to fight against deadlock and ignorance on the issue of climate change.

ii. He calls on the people to stand up for a different, climate-friendly world and asks the younger generation to assert their right to regain its future.

iii. The Dalai Lama has been a steadfast advocate for environmental conservation and has called for global cooperation on climate change and global warming.

Earlier Publications:

- The book follows his 2019 Publication “The Seed of Compassion: Lessons from the Life and Teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama” which was dedicated to children.
- In 2018, he released the book “Ecology, Ethics, and Interdependence: The Dalai Lama in Conversation with Leading Thinkers on Climate Change” where the interaction with leading scientists, academics and activists on urgent climate issues formed the basis of the book.

Mumbai becomes first city in India to have female icons on traffic signals

Mumbai’s Dadar has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage, which was installed by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) that display female icons sporting triangular frock, a shift from the default representation of men.

PM Narendra Modi Launched “Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest” platform of IT department

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a platform for “Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest” via video conferencing that provides faceless assessment and appeal and taxpayers’ charter, as a part of direct tax reforms.

ii. While the faceless assessment and taxpayers’ charter would be implemented from August 13 itself but the faceless appeal system would be available from September 25, 2020 i.e. on the birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Daughters have Equal Birthright to Inherit Property with Retrospective Effect: Supreme Court

i. In accordance with the landmark judgment passed by three-judge Bench of Supreme Court (SC) headed by **Justice Arun Mishra** and comprised of Justices **S Abdul Nazeer** and **Mukeshkumar Rasikbhai Shah**,

the daughters will have equal inheritance rights as of sons in the properties of fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers right from the codification of the law in 1956 i.e. it would have **retrospective effect**.

ii. The 121 page verdict has made it clear that whether the father was alive or not before **September 9, 2005** daughters could claim equal right in inheritance.

iii. A retrospective law is one that is to take effect, in point of time, before it was passed.

Odisha retains Top Position in Implementation of AMRUT Scheme

i. Odisha has retained top position in the implementation of **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** scheme. According to rankings released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Odisha regained its top position by securing a score of 85.67 percent, followed by Union Territory of Chandigarh (75.08) and Telangana (74.04).



ii. Out of the total 191 projects started under the AMRUT scheme, 148 projects have been implemented and other projects are expected to be completed before the deadline in March, 2021.

RBI's Central Board headed by Shaktikanta Das approved a dividend of Rs 57,128 crore to Central Govt

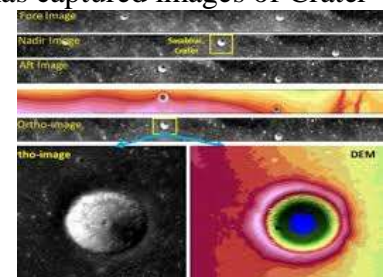
i. The 584th meeting of the **Central Board** of Reserve of Board (RBI) under the Chairmanship of Governor **Shaktikanta Das** approved the transfer of **Rs 57,128 crore** in surplus as **dividend** to the **Central government** for the accounting year **2019-20**.

ii. The board decided to maintain the **Contingency Risk Buffer** at **5.5%**.

iii. The Board reviewed the current economic situation, continued global and domestic challenges, and the monetary, regulatory and other measures taken by the RBI to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

ISRO's Chandryaan-2 Captured Images of Crater of Moon; one of the Craters Named 'Sarabhai Crater' after Vikram Sarabhai

i. Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) announced that Chandrayaan-2 has captured images of Crater of the Moon by Terrain Mapping Camera – 2 (TMC-2) and named one of the craters as '**Sarabhai Crater**' after Indian astrophysicist **Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai** who is regarded as the Father of Indian Space program, to celebrate his birth centenary



ii. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai's 100th birth century was observed on 12th of August, 2020.

iii. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Development of North Eastern Region

(DoNER),to pay tribute to him, announced that Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter has captured the Moon images of “Sarabhai” Crater.

PM Narendra Modi delivered 7th consecutive speech on 74th Independence Day; Announced Launch of New Projects

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi announced new projects in his 86 minutes speech (1 hour 26 minutes) during the 74th Independence Day from Red Fort, New Delhi. It was his 7th consecutive Independence Day speech and focused on the themes of “Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)”, “Vocal for local” and “Make in India to Make for World”. The announcements are as follows:

- PM announced launch of National Digital Health Mission; rolled out in 6 UTs
- PM Modi announces optical fibre link connecting Lakshadweep, mainland India
- PM announced project for conservation of Gangetic Dolphins
- Launch of Project Lion to conserve Asiatic Lion announced by PM
- Committee set up to reconsider minimum age of marriage for women
- Ladakh, Leh, Kargil to be India’s first large carbon neutral region

Indian Railways Constructing World’s Tallest Pier Bridge Across River Ijai in Manipur

i.As a part of 111 kilometre-long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal line project, Indian Railways’ **North East Frontier Railway zone** is constructing world’s tallest pier bridge, having height of **141 metres**, across river Ijai in Manipur with an outlay of Rs 280 crore. After completion, it will surpass the existing height record of 139 meters of the Mala – Rijeka Viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.



ii.The 703 meters long bridge is located at the hilly terrain of **Marangching village** in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal, Manipur.

iii.The project will be completed in March 2022.

President gives Nod for Renaming of HRD Ministry to Ministry of Education

i. In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, President Ram Nath Kovind amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 by **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty Sixth Amendment Rules, 2020**, thereby, changing the name of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) as Ministry of Education.

ii.This renaming of ministry was among the key recommendations of the draft new National Education Policy (NEP), which was also cleared by the Union Cabinet in July 2020.

India ranked 1st in number of organic farmers and 9th in terms of area under organic farming: MoA&FW

i. In accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), India ranked first in number of organic farmers and 9th in terms of area under organic farming. Notably, Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic and other states including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set targets to be on the same line.



ii. In 2015, two dedicated programs namely Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) were launched to encourage chemical free farming.

Jharkhand introduced new State Logo at Ranchi

Draupadi Murmu, governor of Jharkhand and Hemant Soren Chief Minister of Jharkhand introduced the New State emblem at the Aryabhata Auditorium, Ranchi. The Logo came into effect from 15th August 2020.



- The new circle shaped emblem incorporates and represents the progress of the state along with the traditions, cultural heritage and flora and fauna of the state.
- The logo represents reflects the real spirit of the state.

Key People:

Rabindra Nath Mahto, speaker of the assembly, Shibu Soren, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and other officials were present at the event.

The design of the new emblem:

i. The new logo holds the national emblem- Ashoka at the centre with 'Satyameva Jayate' etched below. It represents cooperative federalism which is encircled with green coloured rings representing the greenery of the state and symbolises happiness and prosperity.

ii. The inner circle exhibits the **motifs of dance** representing the cultural heritage, tradition, musical instruments, folklore and dance of the state.

iii. The second ring in the logo depicts white elephants, which symbolizes the natural wealth and prosperity of the state. The elephant is also Jharkhand's state animal.

iv. The third ring showcases state flower Palash, reflecting the beauty of Jharkhand. Besides, the red colour in the flower is also a symbol of revolution, which reflects the struggle of people of the state.

Dream11 wins IPL title sponsorship rights

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has awarded the title sponsorship rights of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 to fantasy cricket league platform **Dream11** with an average bid of Rs 234 crore per year (222 crore for the first year, Rs 240 crore & 240 crore for 2nd & 3rd year respectively) after Chinese

mobile manufacturer Vivo exit from Sponsorship. IPL 2020 is to be held in UAE(United Arab Emirates) from September 19 to November 10, 2020.

Punjab gets First Rank in Health, Welfare Centre Operationalisation: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

State of Punjab has secured first rank in the list of best performing states in operationalisation of Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare(MoHFW), Government of India. Punjab's State Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu had announced regarding this ranking on 13th August, 2020.

- i. Outpatient Department (OPD) services, preventive and curative clinical services for communicable and non-communicable diseases were being provided at the HWCs.
- ii. The 2042 HWCs in Punjab have recorded a footfall of 28.1 Lakh People from March to August, 2020.
- iii. Around 6.8 Lakh individuals have been screened and provided medicines at the HWCs for hypertension, diabetes and oral, breast or cervical cancer.

Cabinet Approvals on August 19, 2020

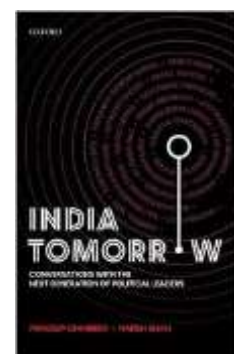
The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals:

- i. Cabinet approves setting up of National Recruitment Agency to conduct Common Eligibility Test; Rs. 1517.57 cr sanctioned
- ii. Cabinet approves proposal for leasing out three airports – Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram of AAI through PPP

Book titled “India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders” authored by Pradeep Chhibber & Harsh Shah released

The book will give a snapshot of contemporary Indian politics through interviews with 20 of the country's most prominent next-generation politicians. The book includes interviews of Politicians **below the age of 50 years only** and released in August, 2020.

- i. The book is written by American academicians **Pradeep Chhibber** and **Harsh Shah** and published by Oxford University Press (OUP).
- ii. The book will attempt to unravel the personalities, aspirations, ideologies, interests, passions and motivation of the next generation leaders.
- iii. It will include personalities of the likes of Rahul Gandhi, Smriti Zubin Irani, Varun Gandhi, Omar Abdullah and Akhilesh Yadav.



INOX Group to sponsor Team India for Tokyo Olympics: IOA

Indian Olympic Association (IOA), a governing body for the Olympic Movement in India and INOX Group has signed a sponsorship agreement to support Team India for Tokyo Olympics, which was rescheduled to be held from July 23 to August 8, 2021.

5th Swachh Survekshan 2020 Announced by Hardeep Singh Puri; Indore is India's Cleanest City 4th Time in a Row

i. During a virtual event of Swachh Mahotsav organized by, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (MoS)-Independent Charge (I/C) MoHUA announced the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness urban survey of India i.e."Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS2020)" conducted by MoHUA.

ii.A total of **129 awards** given away by the minister in which Madhya Pradesh's Indore emerged as India's cleanest city for the 4th consecutive time while Gujarat's Surat and Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai grabbed 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

iii.SS2020, the **28 days** long completely digitized and paperless nationwide survey is the world's largest cleanliness survey covering 1.87 crore citizens of 4,242 cities, 62 cantonment boards and 92 towns along the Ganga river.

Rank/Category	State
States with Less than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)	
1	Jharkhand
2	Haryana
1 (Fastest Mover State)	Assam
States with More than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)	
1	Chhattisgarh
2	Maharashtra
1 (Fastest Mover State)	Odisha

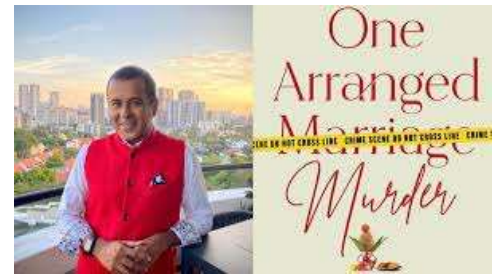
About Swachh Survekshan:

Launched in 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi its objective was to monitor the performance of

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which was launched on October 2, 2014, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

A Book Titled 'One Arranged Murder' Authored by Chetan Bhagat to be Released

A Book Titled '**One Arranged Murder**' authored by **Chetan Bhagat** will be released worldwide on September 28, 2020. The fiction book portrays a murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage. The book will be published by Westland Publications Ltd. It is the author's 9th novel and 11th book overall. **Essence of the book-** The book not only has an intense suspense but also is filled with humour, love and relatable Indian characters.



Key Info

i. He released the trailer of this book in which Actor Vikrant Massey appears (as the narrator) in the video as Keshav Rajpurohit.

ii. The author will reveal the cover of this book soon. The book is available for pre-order on Amazon.

Note– Chetan Bhagat's last release was The Girl in Room 105.

Author's Other Books Include

What Young India Wants (2012), Making India Awesome (2015), Five Point Someone (2004), One Night @ the Call Center (2005), The 3 Mistakes of My Life (2008), 2 States (2009), Revolution 2020 (2011), Half Girlfriend (2014) and One Indian Girl (2016).

India's Longest River Ropeway Inaugurated in Guwahati, Assam

The **Guwahati Passenger Ropeway Project** connecting the Northern and Southern banks of the Brahmaputra River was inaugurated by the Assam State Minister of Finance, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Guwahati Development Department (GDD) Minister, Siddhartha Bhattacharya. The ropeway service is **1.8 Kilometres long**, making it the longest ropeway distance over a river in the entire country.



The project is set to become operational by August 24, 2021 and has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 56 Crore.

Google Launches 'The Anywhere School' to Boost Online Learning

Google launched '**The Anywhere School**' initiative in more than 250 countries around the world. The initiative is expected to benefit millions of students who have switched to learning from home, due to the pandemic.

Key Points:

i. Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet,

Classroom, G Suite and other products.

- ii. Google will launch custom and blurred backgrounds in Google Meet to provide 'extra privacy' to the users.
- iii. Google Classroom will be available in 10 additional languages including Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi and Urdu in India. Globally the platform will provide support for over 54 languages.
- iv. Google is also bringing Assignments, an application for **learning management system (LMS)**, which will help the teachers to analyze, distribute and grade the work of students.

NITI Aayog Released Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020: Gujarat Tops the Overall Rankings

i. NITI Aayog in partnership with Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020, this is the first report to examine export preparedness and performance of the states of India. Gujarat was identified as the top performing state in the category of Coastal state and also topped the Overall rankings.



- ii. The landlocked states, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand had taken several measures to promote exports which can be implemented by the other states with similar socio-economic challenges.
- iii. This data driven effort identifies the core areas that are significant to promote the exports at sub national level.

'Cricket Drona' A Book on Renowned Coach Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe to be Released

'Cricket Drona' a book on one of India's most renowned cricket coaches, **Vasudev Jagannath Paranjpe** will be released on September 2, 2020. The Book is written by Vasudev Paranjpe's son and current national selector Jatin Paranjpe along with Cricket Journalist Anand Vasu and published by Penguin.

- i. The book talks about the impact of Paranjpe on shaping the careers of India's greatest cricketers like Gavaskar, Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma.
- ii. The book will be a first-hand chronicle of stories, life lessons and game-changing experiences written by people who have crossed paths with Vasudev Paranjpe at some point in their career.
- iii. The book also consists of essays written by Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sunil Gavaskar.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 41st GST Council Meeting to Discuss Compensation for Loss of Revenue to States

i. The 41st meeting of goods and services tax (GST) Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was held via video conferencing to discuss the issue of compensating states on account of revenue loss due to implementation of GST, and deficit in the compensation cess fund due to the fall in tax

collections.

ii. During the meet, Centre offered two borrowing options to states to overcome shortfall in GST compensation cess fund viz:

- States can either borrow the full compensation deficit of **Rs 2.35 lakh crore**, which includes revenue loss due to transition to GST and also the Covid-led slowdown, from the markets, facilitated by the Centre and the RBI, or
- The shortfall that's purely due to GST implementation of **Rs 97,000 crore** via the RBI special window.

About GST Council:

GST Council is an apex member committee to modify or to procure any law or regulation based on the context of goods and services tax in India. The council is headed by the union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman assisted with the finance minister of all the states of India.

- It was constituted on 15th September 2016 under Article 279A of the Constitution.

Kerala to set up India's First International Women's Trade Centre

Biju Prabhakar, IAS, Secretary, Department of Social Justice, Women & Child Development announced that **Kerala** will set up **India's First** International Women Trade Centre (IWTC) in accord with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) at Angamaly, Kochi, Kerala.

This announcement was made during the webinar on "Scaling up Opportunities for MSME women Entrepreneurs in Kerala" organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council.

IWTC:

Aim:

To accelerate women entrepreneurship and secure gender parity while providing them a safe place to start new businesses, set up or expand, and get their products marketed globally.



International

Michael Cohen's Book "Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump" is Set to Publish

Michael Cohen's memoir about President Donald Trump titled "**Disloyal: The True Story of the Former Personal Attorney to President Donald J. Trump**" published by **Skyhorse Publishing** is set to release on 8th September 2020.



- Skyhorse describes "Disloyal" as a devastating business and political horror story of the century.
- On 13th August 2020, Cohen released the foreword of the book with the writing of his former boss.

US conducted test flight of unarmed Minuteman 3 missile

i. The United States (US) Air Force conducted a scheduled test launch of an **LGM-30G Minuteman III**, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) carrying a load of three unarmed reentry vehicles, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, US to a target in the Pacific Ocean.

ii. Missile's three reentry vehicles traveled 4,200 miles (6,759 kilometers) to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands as part of a developmental test.

iii. Minuteman III, manufactured by Boeing is a long-range, solid-fuel, three-stage ICBM with the capability to carry single or multiple nuclear warheads.



UN's Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond: Around 23.8 Million Children May Drop Out of School Due to the Impacts of COVID-19

i. On 4th August 2020, António Guterres Secretary-General of United Nations (UN) **launched the** report titled "**Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond**" states that around 23.8 million additional children and youths may drop out or not have access to education in 2021 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

ii. The Policy brief was built on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s data and features recommendations on ways to avoid the emerging disaster.

iii. UNESCO led the drafting of the Policy Brief authored by António Guterres, Secretary-General, which contains the input of 15 organisations

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa registers landslide victory in Sri Lankan Parliamentary elections

i. Parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka were held on 5 August 2020 to elect 225 members to Sri Lanka's 16th Parliament.

ii. Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) headed by Prime



Minister **Mahinda Rajapaksa** has won 145 (plus five more seats from allies) in the elections, securing two-thirds majority in the parliament

- The **two-thirds supermajority** will give them powers to change the constitution.
- Samagi Jana balawega (SJB) led by Sajith Premadasa has emerged as the main opposition party with 54 seats.
- Former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremsinghe's United National Party (UNP) has got only a single seat.

iii. Sri Lanka is a democratic republic and unitary state, which is governed by a semi-presidential system, a mixture of parliamentary and presidential system.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi congratulated Mahinda Rajapaksa on the imminent victory of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP).

Bangladesh Decided to Construct a Monument for the Indian Soldiers Killed by Pakistan in the 1971

Mozammel Haque, Bangladesh War Liberation Minister announced the decision to construct a standalone monument for the Indian Soldiers who were killed by Pakistan in 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan.



About the Monument:

The construction of the monument will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh.

Site:

For the construction of the monument, 3.5 acres in Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria district which shares border with Tripura was selected by the Bangladesh Government for its historic significance in the 1971 war.

Bangladesh honours to Indian Soldiers:

- Bangladesh felicitated posthumous awards for the Indian Soldiers and veterans of the 1971 war along with former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and other Indians for their role in the 1971 Liberation War.
- Bangladesh has a National Memorial on the outskirts of Dhaka for all the Martyrs of 1971 war and the proposed memorial is solely for the Indian Soldiers.

Key Point:

India has requested Haque to initiate the translation of the book on the Liberation War in Hindi

Russia Becomes World's 1st Country to Register COVID-19 Vaccine, 'Sputnik V'

Russia becomes the World's **1st country** to officially **register** a coronavirus(**COVID-19**) **vaccine** and declare it ready for use. The vaccine will be marketed in foreign markets under the name '**Sputnik V**', after the world's first satellite Sputnik. The vaccine has been developed jointly by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Defence Ministry.

- It is expected that Russia will make the vaccine available to the public on Jan 1, 2021.

- India is among 20 countries which has expressed interest in obtaining the vaccine

Finances for Production of Vaccine

The production of the Sputnik V in Russia is financed by Russia Development Investment Fund or RDIF (Russia's sovereign wealth fund) on the basis of production capacities of its portfolio companies, R-Pharm and Binnopharm, a part of the Alium Group,

Key Info

- Phase-III clinical trials will be held in different countries, including India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Brazil and Philippines.
- This will be followed by mass production in other countries in collaboration with local financing institutions.

ILO-ADB Report: 41 Lakh Youths Lost Their Jobs in India Due to COVID-19

i. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) released the joint report titled “**Tackling the Covid-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific**”, which stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, around 41 lakh youths have lost their jobs in India.



ii. The report assesses the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the youth employment in Asia and Pacific regions and recommends critical policy responses.

iii. The report is based on the regional assessment of the “Global Survey on Youth and COVID-19” and the available unemployment data in different countries.

India Ranked 57th in Digital Quality of Life 2020, Denmark tops: DQL Index 2020 by SurfShark

i. In accordance with the 2nd edition of global research “Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index 2020” released by online privacy solutions provider SurfShark, India ranked 57th out of 85 countries in terms of overall category “Digital Quality of Life 2020” with 0.5 index points which has been topped by **Denmark** with 0.79 points.

ii. The DQL Index 2020 analyzes 85 countries around the world covering 6.3 billion people or 81% of the global population in terms of five core pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, e-infrastructure, e-security, and e-government, and results are premised on 12 different factors.

LS Speaker Om Birla Attends Inaugural Ceremony of 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

i. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the inaugural ceremony of the **5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP)** through virtual mode. This is the first time that an International Parliamentary Conference is being held in Virtual mode.

ii. The two-day conference on August 19 & 20 is being organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(IPU), Geneva and the Parliament of Austria with the support of the United Nations (UN).

About Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):

President – Gabriela Cuevas Barron

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Google launches Kormo Jobs app in India

Google has launched an android app called “**Kormo Jobs**” for job seekers in India, which aims to provide entry-level jobs and helps job seekers find and apply for positions across India. It was launched in Bangladesh in 2018 and subsequently in Indonesia.

WHO Urged Developed Nations to Join Covax Facility to Counter “Vaccine Nationalism”

i. In order to provide rapid, fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has invited countries to join its Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility by August 31, 2020. This facility is led by the WHO, along with the GAVI vaccine alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation), and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).



ii. Its aim is to deliver 2 billion doses of effective, approved COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021.

iii. Notably, COVAX is part of a broader program, called the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator that ensures the availability of vaccines, treatments, diagnostic tests and other healthcare resources to combat the pandemic.

India Ranked 72nd on Global List with Average Monthly Wage of Rs 32,800, Switzerland Tops:

Picodi.com

i. In accordance with the global ranking of average wages prepared by Picodi.com, India ranked 72nd among 106 countries with an average monthly wage of Rs 32,800 (USD 437). Picodi.com is an international e-commerce platform, headquartered in Poland, provides discount coupons.

ii. The ranking has been topped by Switzerland, where the average wage converted into rupees amounts to Rs 4,49,000 (USD 5,989).

iii. On the other hand the average monthly wage of **Cuba** is the lowest at Rs 2,700 (USD 36).

iv. Among Asian countries, India ranked **10th** out of 16.



Defence

World's Lightest Attack Helicopter -HAL's Two LCH Deployed for Operations at Leh, Ladakh

- i. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) manufactured two Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) have been deployed for operations at high altitude (Leh, Ladakh sector) to support Indian Air Force (IAF) missions amid prevailing situation on the India-China border.
- ii. Notably, the twin engine LCH is the lightest attack helicopter in the world designed and developed by HAL to meet the specific
- iii. LCH is capable of hitting any type of target by day or night with an ability to carry adequate weapon load at high altitudes under varied conditions.



About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL):

Headquarter– Bengaluru, Karnataka

Skyroot Aerospace, India's 1st Private Aerospace Company to Test Fire 1st of its Kind Upper Stage Rocket Engine Named "Raman"

- i. Skyroot Aerospace, Indian aerospace startup successfully test fired an upper stage rocket engine "Raman", India's first 100% 3D printed bi-propellant liquid rocket engine injector named after the Nobel laureate Sir CV Raman and became the first private aerospace company in India to test a rocket engine developed in India.
- ii. Raman is a lightweight 3D printed rocket engine featuring a fewer number of moving parts.
- iii. Raman can hurl a satellite of 250 to 700 kilograms into the lower orbits.

About Skyroot Aerospace:

Co-Founders, CEO & CTO– Pawan Kumar Chandana

Headquarters– Hyderabad, Telangana

First Rockets Produced by Private Sector Successfully Test Fired: Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)

- i. In a major boost for Make in India, the first ever Pinaka rockets fully manufactured by the private sector company "Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)" have been successfully test fired by the army at a firing range in Pokhran, Rajasthan. Six Pinaka rockets were test fired as part of the final developmental trials and are the **first munition of its kind** made by the private sector in India.
- ii. These rockets have been manufactured on the lines of the **transfer of technology** (ToT) agreement between Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private sector, five years ago.



About Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL):

EEL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Industries headed by Satyanarayan Nuwal.

Headquarter– Nagpur, Maharashtra

Iran Unveiled Locally Made Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile, Martyr Qassem Soleimani & Cruise Missile, Martyr Abu Mahdi

i. Iran(officially the Islamic Republic of Iran) has inaugurated a locally made **surface-to-surface ballistic missile**, called **Martyr Qassem Soleimani**, which has a range of 1,400 kilometers-km (870-mile) and a new **cruise missile**, called **Martyr Abu Mahdi** which has a range of over 1000 km(620-mile).

ii.The surface-to-surface ballistic missile is named after General Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Quds Force and new cruise missile is named after Iraqi militia commander Mujahideen Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd Appointed Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel as Additional & Independent Director

i. Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd announced that its board has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Urjit Patel** as an **additional** and **independent director** for a term of 5 years, effective from August 01, 2020.

ii. He was appointed as the Chairman of the Governing Body of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for a 4 year term on June 22, 2020.

iii. He has authored a book titled '**Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver**'. The book will be published by **HarperCollins India**.



RBI Approved Sashidhar Jagdishan as Next MD & CEO of HDFC Bank; will Succeed Aditya Puri

i. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved **Sashidhar Jagdishan** as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank for a period of 3 years, effective from October 27, 2020 under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

ii. He will succeed **Aditya Puri**, the bank's longest serving CEO (26 years- since September 1994).

iii. Aditya Puri will retire on October 26, 2020, on attaining the age of 70.

About HDFC Bank:

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Chairman– Deepak S. Parekh

Tagline– We understand your world

Manoj Sinha appointed as Lt Governor of J&K; Succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu

i. President of India, Ram Nath Kovind appointed **Manoj Sinha** (61 years old), former union minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Uttar Pradesh (UP) as Lieutenant (Lt) Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), effective from the date he assumes charge.

ii. He succeeds **Girish Chandra Murmu**, the 1st Lt governor of the Union Territory (UT) of J&K who resigned on August 5, 2020.



Former J&K Governor GC Murmu appointed as 14th CAG; Replaces Rajiv Mehrishi

Ram Nath Kovind, President of India as per the powers conferred on him by Section 1 of Article 148 of the Constitution of India has appointed Girish Chandra (GC) **Murmu** as 14th Comptroller and Auditor

General(CAG) of India, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office. He succeeds **Rajiv Mehrishi** who completes his term on August 8,2020 as he attains the age of 65.

- GC Murmu will take oath on August 8, 2020 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- He will have a tenure up to November 20, 2024.

About GC Murmu

- He is the 1985-batch Gujarat cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer
- He was appointed as the 1st Lt Governor of the UT on October 31, 2019 after its formation under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- He resigned from the post on August 5, 2020.
- He has held many important post including: Expenditure secretary in the Union finance ministry

About Rajiv Mehrishi

- He is a retired IAS officer of the 1978 batch belonging to the Rajasthan cadre.
- He assumed office as CAG of India on 25 September 2017.

About CAG Of India:

The CAG of India is an authority established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India which audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the State Governments, including bodies and officials substantially funded by the Government. CAG is appointed for a term of six year or till the person attains 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.

Prof. Pradeep Kumar Joshi appointed as UPSC chairman; Succeeds Arvind Saxena

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) appointed Professor Pradeep Kumar Joshi as its new Chairman. His tenure as the chairman of the UPSC will be till April 4, 2022.

He succeeds **Arvind Saxena** who retires as the UPSC chairman on 6th August 2020.



About Pradeep Kumar Joshi

- He joined as the UPSC member in May 12, 2015 and was the chairman of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commissions
- He also served as Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA).
- Prof.(Dr.) Joshi taught more than 28 years at postgraduate level and held many important positions in various policy making, academic and administrative bodies.

About Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

The commission conducts the civil services examination annually in three stages preliminary, mains and interview to select officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Foreign Service (IFS) among others.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab Government Steps Down

Hassan Diab, Lebanon(Republic of Lebanon) Prime Minister(PM) and his government **resigned** due to public outrage and the pressure from within his own Cabinet as his government was blamed for the August 4 **explosion in Beirut's port** which killed at least 160 people and injured about 6,000 others.

- **Michel Aoun, Lebanon President** accepted his resignation letter and asked him to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new cabinet was formed.

Note– About 9 members of parliament have resigned since the blasts with many more ministers wanting to resign.

About Hassan Diab

i.Hassan Diab formed his cabinet in January 2020 with support from the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah group and its allies. He succeeded Saad Hariri who stepped down under pressure from the protest movement.

ii.He has had a caretaker government since October 29, 2019 when Saad Hariri resigned

iii.Prior to his post as a PM he served as the Minister of Education from June 2011 to February 2014 under President Michel Suleiman.

Centre Formed committee for procurement, administration of COVID-19 vaccine; Headed by Dr VK Paul

i. The Central Government has formulated an expert committee namely “**National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration**” under the chairmanship of Dr VK Paul, a member (health) at the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog to consider the logistics, ethical aspects of procurement, and administration of COVID-19 vaccine in discussion with all state governments and vaccine manufacturers.



ii.Russia became the first country in the world to register a COVID-19 vaccine which is developed by **Gamaleya Research Institute** and the Russian defence ministry.

AAIB forms 5 Member Panel Headed by Captain S S Chahar to Investigate the Kozhikode Plane Crash

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau(**AAIB**) formed a 5-member panel headed **Captain S S Chahar** to investigate the circumstances of the Air India Express Dubai-Calicut flight IX 1344Crash at the Kozhikode airport, Kerala on 7th August 2020.

- The 5-member team will probe and determine the cause and contributory factors that led to the accident.
- The team will also make recommendations to avoid similar accidents in the future.
- Captain S S Chahar, the in charge of the investigation will submit his reports within next 5 months.

About the crash:

- i. The Air India Express flight departed from Dubai with over 190 people aboard, which skidded at a table top runway during landing.
- ii. The crash killed 18 people including both the pilots.

Satya Pal Malik Appointed as Governor of Meghalaya; Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari given Additional Charge of Goa

- i. Ram Nath Kovind, President of India appointed **Satya Pal Malik**, Goa Governor as the **Governor of Meghalaya**.
- ii. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** was given the **additional charge as Governor of Goa**.
- iii. Satya Pal Malik replaced Tathagata Roy who completed his 5 year term by serving as governor of Tripura for 3 years and remaining in Meghalaya.

Rakesh Asthana IPS, appointed as the Director General of the Border Security Force

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment of **Rakesh Asthana**, Gujarat cadre IPS officer of 1984 batch as the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF), along with the Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) till **31st July 2021**– the date of his superannuation. his superannuation date.



Cricketer Rohit Sharma Appointed Oakley's Brand Ambassador in India

Indian Limited-overs Team Vice-Captain Rohit Sharma has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Sports eyewear brand, Oakley for a period of two years in India

- i. With this partnership, Rohit Sharma will sport Oakley Sports eyewear on and off the pitch.
- ii. He has joined the likes of Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh and model Milind Soman who have endorsed the brand in the past
- iii. Ben Goss, Oakley global brand director announced the appointment of Rohit Sharma as Brand Ambassador through a press statement.

Ashwani Bhatia Appointed as Managing Director of SBI; Succeeds PK Gupta

- i. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed **Ashwani Bhatia**, Deputy Managing Director (DMD), State Bank of India (SBI) as the **Managing Director (MD)** of **SBI**, effective from his date of assumption upto the date of his superannuation (May 31, 2022) or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ii. He succeeds **PK Gupta**, who superannuated on March 31, 2020.
- iii. Ashwani Bhatia is currently serving as MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at SBI Mutual Fund.

Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar Appointed as New Election Commissioner

Retired IAS officer and Former Finance Secretary **Rajiv Kumar** was appointed as the Election Commissioner with effect from August 31, 2020. He succeeds Ashok Lavasa who resigned the position to join as Vice-President of Asia Development Bank. He will be working alongside other Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra.



About Rajiv Kumar:

- i. Rajiv Kumar is a **1984-batch IAS officer (retired)** of the **Jharkhand cadre**. He has been appointed for a tenure of five years and is likely to become the Chief Election Commissioner for the next Lok Sabha polls in 2024.
- ii. He is currently serving as chairperson of Public **Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** from 29 April, 2020 which was set to end on 28 April 2023.

Aerospace Scientist G Satheesh Reddy gets Two-Year Extension as Chairman of DRDO

Renowned Aerospace Scientist **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy** was given a two-year extension as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research & Development (DoDRD) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. G Satheesh Reddy was appointed to the post in August 2018 for a tenure of two years.



About Satheesh Reddy:

- i. Satheesh Reddy was born in Atmakuru, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh.
- ii. He was appointed as **Scientific advisor** to the Defence Minister of India in June, 2015.
- iii. Satheesh Reddy also heads Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, a Military Missile Research Centre in Hyderabad, India.

Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan Resigned Due to Health Issues

Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan announced his resignation owing to his worsening health condition due to ulcerative colitis. 65-year-old Shinzo Abe of Liberal Democratic Party (**LDP**) was the longest serving Prime Minister of Japan.

The elected new party leader will hold the post for the remaining 1-year term of Abe.

Note:

This is a 2nd time for Abe to resign with a year remaining in his stint.

Abe would be able to serve the rest of his term which end in September 2021

About Shinzo Abe:

- i.**He won his first Parliament seat in 1993.
- ii.**He was appointed to the cabinet for the first time as the Chief Cabinet Secretary in October 2005.
- iii.**He later became the Prime Minister of Japan in 2006.
- iv.**He was the Youngest Leader of Japan since World War II and he stepped down from his position due to ill health in 2007.
- v.**He was again elected and has been serving as the Prime Minister of Japan since December 2012.

Honours/ Awards

66th SKOCH Summit Awards: Ministry of Tribal Affairs receives SKOCH Gold Award for “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes”

The SKOCH Awards were presented over a virtual platform at the 66th SKOCH Summit at New Delhi. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was entitled as “India Responds to COVID Through Digital Governance” and the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs(MoTA)** participated in the “Digital India & E-Governance” 2020 competition.

ii.SKOCH Gold Award was presented to MoTA for its project of Scholarship Division – “**Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes**”.

About SKOCH:

Chairman– Sameer Kochhar

Head Office– Gurgaon, Haryana

‘Moothon’ and ‘Son Rise’ wins awards at 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival

i. Malayalam film ‘**Moothon**’ and National Award winning documentary ‘**Son Rise**’ won awards at the **20th edition** of New York Indian Film Festival(**NYIFF**) of Indo-American Arts Council (**IAAC**) which was conducted as a virtual event with the celebrities of the film industries and award winners participating from all across India and the United States.

ii.More than 45 feature length narratives, short and documentaries of India were showcased in the virtual edition of 20th NYIFF held from 24th July 2020 to 2nd August 2020.



Journalists Nitin Sethi and Shiv Sahay Singh Bagged Asian College of Journalism Award 2019

i.Asian College of Journalism(**ACJ**) **award 2019** was conferred upon Journalist **Nitin**

Sethi for **investigative journalism** and **K P Narayana Kumar**

Memorial Award 2019 for Social Impact Journalism is bestowed upon

Journalist **Shiv Sahay Singh**.

ii.The awards were presented in a virtual ceremony by Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organisation(**WHO**), at the inauguration of the Class of 2021.



Mukesh Ambani becomes 4th richest man in world;Jeff Bezos tops: Bloomberg Index

Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani has surpassed Bernard Arnault, chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton to become the world’s fourth-richest person.

- As per the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, Ambani's net worth is now at \$80.2 billion (approx Rs 6 lakh crore) after adding \$22 billion to his wealth in 2020.
- Mr Ambani was behind Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (net worth \$187 billion), Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (\$121 billion) and Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg (\$102 billion)
- The Reliance platform witnessed a massive surge in its stock after investments of Rs. 1,52,056 crores from companies such as Google, Facebook, Intel, Qualcomm, PIF, Silver Lake, L Catterton.
- Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian in the list of Top Ten Billionaires across the world.

Bloomberg Index:

- Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the World's richest people.
- The data for the ranking are taken from net worth analysis on each billionaire's profile page.
- The figures are updated at the close of every trading day in New York.

Akshay Kumar Ranked 6th, the only Indian Actor in the List, Dwayne Johnson tops: Forbes' list of 'The Highest-Paid Actors 2020'

As per the Forbes' list of **highest paid actors for the year 2020**, Bollywood Actor **Akshay Kumar** ranked **6th** with his estimated earnings of USD 48.5 million and is the only Indian features on the list comprising top 10 actors. The list is topped by Wrestler-turned-actor **Dwayne Johnson** for the consecutive second time, with an estimated net worth of USD 87.5 million followed by Ryan Reynolds(USD 71.5 million) and Mark Wahlberg(USD 58 million).

- Akshay kumar was in 4th spot in last year's(2019) same list.

Forbes List

Rank	Name	Earnings in million
6	Akshay Kumar	USD 48.5
1	Dwayne Johnson	USD 87.5
2	Ryan Reynolds	USD 71.5
3	Mark Wahlberg	USD 58

Other Actors in the list

i.The 4th rank was secured by Ben Affleck (USD 55 million) followed by Vin Diesel (USD 54 million).

Soumya Swaminathan honoured with Tamil Nadu CM's special award

Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation (WHO) has received Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's (CM's) special award on the 74th Independence Day celebration at Fort St George, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in recognition for her advisory role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the state, while the Chief Minister's Best Practices award was bagged by the Department of Treasuries.



National Sports Awards 2020 Announced; 73 Awardees in 7 Categories

- i. National Sports Awards 2020 were announced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The awards were recommended by the Selection Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) **Mukundakam Sharma** (former Judge of Supreme Court of India) and after due scrutiny, the Government has decided to confer awards upon the deserving sportspersons, coaches and entities under various categories:
- ii. The total of **73 awardees** in **7 categories** will receive their awards from the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind at a specially organized virtual function from Rashtrapati Bhawan on August, 29 2020 i.e. on National Sports Day.
- iii. Notably, this is the **first time** in the history of National Sports awards that 5 sportsperson named for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award and 27 athletes conferred with Arjuna Award.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Rohit Sharma	Cricket
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Para Athletics
Manika Batra	Table Tennis
Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling
Rani Rampal	Hockey

About Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports:

Minister of State-MoS (Independent Charge)– Kiren Rijiju

Anand Mahindra, Shantanu Narayen to Receive 2020 Leadership Awards from USISPF

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) announced that Mahindra Group Chairman, **Anand Mahindra** and Adobe Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), **Shantanu Narayen** will receive the **2020 Leadership Awards** for their exemplary vision and effort towards the promotion of US-India Bilateral Ties.

Kallis, Sthalekar and Zaheer Abbas inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

Former players Jacques Kallis (South Africa), Lisa Sthalekar (Australia) and Zaheer Abbas (Pakistan) were inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame of the class of 2020 in a virtual ceremony.

ICC Cricket Hall of Fame recognizes the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history.

Wabag Wins 2020 Global Water Award for Koyambedu TTRO Plant in Chennai

Water technology major Va Tech Wabag bagged the 2020 Global Water Award for its 45 million litres a day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRO) plant at Koyambedu in Chennai.

The plant bagged the distinction award under the 'Wastewater project of the year' category.



i. The TTRO plant in Koyambedu, Chennai is one of the largest and technologically most advanced Water Reuse Plants in India.

ii. The plant is designed and built by WABAG and IDE Technologies for Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB).

iii. The plant uses a multi-stage treatment scheme, including Rapid Gravity Sand Filters, Ultrafiltration, Reverse Osmosis, and Ozonation and is the first reuse facility in India to use Ozonation for disinfection.

The Global Water Awards were established in 2006 by Global Water Intelligence to reward initiatives in the water, wastewater and desalination sectors that are moving the industry forward through operating performance, innovative technology adoption and sustainable financial models.

Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash bags 1st ever Gold Medal for India in MCWC; Named 'World's Fastest Human Calculator' title

Twenty-Year old Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda of Hyderabad has bagged the **first ever Gold Medal** for India in **Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC)** held on August 15, 2020 by **Mind Sports Olympiad (MSO)**.

i. The MSO was held virtually with 30 participants, who were upto 57 years of age. The participants were

from 13 countries including the UK, Germany, UAE, France, Greece and Lebanon.

ii. Bhanu Prakash had secured the gold medal with a score of 167, Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal with a score 102 and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal with a score of 100 points.

iii. He has created a new **All Time Record** and has beaten the records of Math Maestros like Shakuntala Devi and Scott Flansburg.

iv. India's Aryan Shukla finished fourth with a score of 96.

About Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda:

Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash is a student of Mathematics (Honors) at Delhi University's St Stephen College and holds 4 World Records and 50 Limca records for being the fastest human calculator in the world.

About MSO:

The MSO is an international event with over 60 different board game competitions ranging from classics like Chess, Scrabble and 7 Wonders. It was first held in 1998.

NLCIL wins Swachhta Hi Seva 2019 award

NLCIL (Formerly known as **Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Ltd**) bagged the **Swachhta Hi Seva (Cleanliness is Service) 2019** award for transforming the **Neyveli Township** into a plastic-free, clean and green campus.



Key Points:

The Evaluation Committee of Ministry of Coal, Government of India carried out the assessment and gave marks to each unit of the NLCIL based on the performance.

ii. The awareness for the campaign were spread through Pictorial displays, and Street plays were staged at public places emphasizing on health, hygiene, the environment and ecology.

iii. School Students were sensitized on the importance of cleanliness and social media too played a major role to create awareness.

Noor Inayat Khan, Britain's World War II Spy Became the 1st Indian-origin woman to honoured with a Memorial Blue Plaque

i. **Noor Inayat Khan** (Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan or Nora Baker), Britain's World War II spy, who served in the Special Operations Executive (SOE) became the **1st Indian-origin woman** to be honoured with a memorial **Blue Plaque** at her former family home in London, United Kingdom (UK).

ii. She is **1st muslim war heroine** of Britain and **1st female wireless operator** sent from the UK into Nazi-occupied France to aid the French Resistance during World War II.

Sports

Mercedes Lewis Hamilton Won British Grand Prix 2020; Created Record by winning the British Grand Prix title for 7th Time

Formula One Champion Mercedes **Lewis Hamilton**(British) won **British Grand Prix(GP) 2020**(officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020) held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom(UK). By this win, he created record by winning the British Grand Prix title **7th time**. He is the only racer to **win most** in British GP.



- Lewis Hamilton won this title despite a puncture on his last lap. He is a six-time Formula One World Champion.
- With this victory, Lewis Hamilton won 87 GP and is 4 short of Ferrari Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91

Key Info

i.Red Bull's Max Verstappen(Dutch) came second and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished third followed by Renault's Daniel Ricciardo.

Central Government gave nod to Indian Premier League 2020 in UAE

The Central Government has given the go ahead for 13th edition of Indian Premier League to be rescheduled in the United Arab Emirates from **September 19 to November 10, 2020**. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has got "verbal clearance" from the Government and will receive the official letter in a day or two.

Key Points:

- The squad size of each franchise is capped at 24 players.
- **Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah** will be the three venues of the tournament. No spectators to be allowed in the initial phase of the tournament.
- Final will be held on November 10, 2020, which will be the first-ever weekday final in the history of the tournament.
- **Women's T20 Challenge (Challenger series)** to be held from November 1 to 10.
- No call on Chinese Sponsorships taken, the BCCI has decided to stick with the present sponsorships.

Spanish Footballer Iker Casillas announces retirement at 39

Spain's World Cup-winning Captain and Goalkeeper Iker Casillas announced his retirement. In 2014, Casillas became one of four players to represent Spain at four World Cups. Iker Casillas was born 20 May 1981 in Móstoles, Spain.



i.As Captain, he helped Spain lift the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and

win two successive European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

ii. With 167 International Caps, Casillas has the second most International appearances for Spain.

iii. Casillas has played for Real Madrid for 16 years, winning three champions league titles and five la liga crowns.

iv. He joined Portuguese club Porto in 2015 and made 156 appearances winning two Primeira Liga titles and one Portuguese Cup.

Iker Casillas hadn't played for Porto since May last year, after he had a heart attack during a practice session.

Honors:-

i. In 2008, Casillas finished fourth overall in the Ballon d'Or. He was named as the World's best Goalkeeper for a record 5 times by International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS).

ICC Retains India as the Host of 2021 Men's T20 Cricket World Cup & Australia to Host Men's T20 World Cup in 2022

i. International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed that India will host the Men's Twenty-20 (T20) Cricket World Cup 2021 (7th edition) between October – November 2021 as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) retained the hosting rights and Australia will host the 2020 Men's World Cup (8th edition), which was postponed due to the global pandemic in 2022.

ii. ICC also confirmed that the 2021 Women's One Day International (ODI) World cup in New Zealand scheduled for 6th February – 7th March 2021 has been postponed until February- March 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Max Verstappen Wins F1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020

Red Bull's 22 years old driver **Max Emilian Verstappen** from Netherland had won **F1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix** at the Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, United Kingdom and became the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in the 2020.



i. This race was officially called as **Emirates Formula 1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020**. The race was the fifth round of the rescheduled 2020 Formula One World Championship. Lewis Hamilton finished second and Valtteri Bottas finished third.

ii. **2020 British Grand Prix** (officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020) which held on Aug 2, 2020 was the fourth round of the **2020 Formula One World Championship**. It was the first of two serial Formula One races with the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix. Lewis Hamilton won 2020 British Grand Prix.

About Max Emilian Verstappen:

- Max Verstappen became the youngest race-winner in Formula 1 History when he won the Spanish Grand Prix in 2016 on debut for Red Bull Racing.
- He is also the First Dutch Driver to win a Formula One Grand Prix.

Indian Cricketers MS Dhoni, Suresh Raina retire from international cricket

Former India Skipper and Wicket-Keeper Mahendra Singh Pansingh Dhoni & Veteran middle-order Batsman Suresh Kumar Raina announced retirement from International Cricket on August 15, 2020.

i.MS Dhoni has represented India in 90 test matches, 350 One-Day Internationals (ODI) & 98 Twenty20 Internationals(T20I).

ii.The left-hander Suresh Raina has represented India in 18 Test Matches, 226 ODIs & 78 T20I.

iii.Dhoni made his debut for the Indian team in December 2004 versus Bangladesh while Suresh Raina made his debut in July 2005 versus Sri Lanka.

Lewis Hamilton Claims Record 156th Podium Finish with Win at Spanish GP

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton claimed his 156th Podium with a victory in Spanish Grand Prix. It is the Fourth race of the season at the Circuit de barcelona-Catalunya, Spain. Lewis Hamilton now holds the **record for most podium finishes in F1** history surpassing Former F1-Great Michael Schumacher's record.



i.The British driver Lewis Hamilton also claimed his 88th Formula One career victory with his podium finish at the Spanish Grand Prix.

ii.Red Bull Racing's Max Verstappen finished second while second Mercedes' driver Valtteri Bottas finished Third.

iii.This is Lewis Hamilton's fifth win in Spain in four consecutive years, with this victory he extended the lead in the World Championship table to 39 points.

Ronnie O'Sullivan Wins Sixth World Snooker Championship 2020 at Crucible

English Professional Snooker Player **Ronnie O'Sullivan** won the World Snooker Championship for the 6th time by winning the 2020 World Snooker Championship at **Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England**. He defeated England's Kyren Wilson 18-8 in the final of the **Betfred World Snooker Championship**.



i.He draws level with Ray Reardon and boyhood hero Steve Davis on world crowns, and surpasses Stephen Hendry on the all-time list of ranking event wins with a record 37 titles.

ii.O'Sullivan, 44, is the oldest champion since Reardon, who was 45 in 1978 & he is behind Stephen Hendry's modern-day record of seven successes in the World Championship.

iii.This was Ronnie O'Sullivan's first World title since 2013.

World Snooker Championship 2020:

i. The World Snooker Championship took place from 31 July 2020 to 16th August, 2020 at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, England.

ii. The event was organized by the **World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association** and **World Snooker Tour**.

Indian Table Tennis player Poulomi Ghatak retires at 37

One of the most successful Indian Table Tennis players Poulomi Ghatak announced her retirement from the sport at the age of 37. The Kolkata born Poulomi Ghatak is a seven-time National Champion. She Won the **Junior National Championship** thrice and the **Senior National Championship seven times**, held in between **1998** and **2016**.

Achievements:

i. She won the bronze medal at Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 and bagged the Silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2010 in New Delhi.

ii. She Represented India at the **2000 Sydney Olympics** at the age of 16.

England pacer James Anderson became 1st fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets

England pacer James Anderson, 38-year-old, has become the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets in his 156th test. He attained this feat during the third Test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton, England, who is only the fourth bowler in the test cricket to join the 600-Plus Club with the three legendary spinners Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Australian Shane Warne (708) and Indian Anil Kumble (619).



Note: The test match England Vs Pakistan (August 5-25, 2020) ended in a draw, England won the series 1-0, in the first test in Manchester followed by two drawn tests in Southampton.

West Indies Cricketer Dwayne Bravo becomes first bowler to scalp 500 wickets in T20s

West Indies All-Rounder Dwayne John Bravo became the first bowler in Cricket to scalp 500 wickets in Twenty20 (T20s). He achieved the feat in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2020 match between his team Trinbago Knight Riders and St Lucia Zouks.

Bravo took the wicket of Rahkeem Cornwall (18) to register his 500th wicket.

i. Dwayne Bravo achieved the feat in his 459th match in the shortest format.

ii. The pacer has taken wickets at an average of 24.62 and an economy rate of 8.25.

iii. Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga is the second-highest wicket-taker in T20 cricket with 389 scalps from 339 matches followed by Sunil Narine (383), Imran Tahir (374), and Sohail Tanvir (356).

Bayern Munich Won the UEFA Championship League 2019-20

Bayern Munich (**FC Bayern München**), German football club won their 6th Championship in the Union of European Football Associations(**UEFA**) Champions League 2019-20.

Bayern Munich became the champions of Europe by defeating the first time finalists Paris Saint Germain(**PSG**) 1- 0 at the finals held in Estadio da Luz, Lisbon, Portugal.



Key Points:

i.32 teams participated in the UEFA Championship league 2019-2020, the 65th season of Europe Premier Club Football Tournament organised by UEFA.

ii.The League began on 25th Jun 2019 and concluded on 23rd August 2020.

Highlights:

i.Bayern München made 11 out of 11 in the competitions this season and became the first team to do so.

ii.**Kingsley Coman**, French footballer, scored the 500th goal for FC Bayern München scored in UEFA Champions League and became the third third side to do so in the competition after Barcelona (517) and Real Madrid (567).

iii.Robert Lewandowski, striker of Bayern Munich became the top scorer of this season with 15 goals.

Obituaries

Former Taiwan president, Lee Teng-hui dubbed as “Mr. Democracy” passed away at the age of 97 in Taipei City, Taiwan

The former Taiwanese President, Mr. Lee Teng-hui died at the age of **97** at Beitou District, Taipei City, Taiwan due to infection, and heart ailments. He was born on **15th January 1923**, Sanzhi, Taiwan. He was popularly known as “Mr. Democracy” for eradicating the dictatorial rule in favour of unbiased pluralism in Taiwan.



About Lee Teng-hui

- He became the first democratically elected president in **March, 1996**.
- After the death of Chiang Kai-shek’s son, **Chiang Ching-kuo**, he became the **fourth** president of Taiwan in the year **1988**.
- He also served as the **2nd Chairman of the Kuomintang** between the year 1998 – 2000.
- In the year **2000**, Lee Teng lost the presidential election with former human rights lawyer **Chen Shui-bian**.

Former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Amar Singh dies at 64 in Singapore

Former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha **MP** (Member of Parliament) Amar Singh, had passed away at the age 64, in Singapore due to Kidney ailments. He was born on January 27, 1956 at Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh. He had gone through kidney transplant in the year 2011.

About Amar Singh:

Political Carrier

i. He was the general secretary of the Samajwadi Party and was later expelled from the party by its chief, **Mulayam Singh Yadav**, on 2nd February 2010.

ii. Amar Singh was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time from Uttar Pradesh in **1996**.

iii. He became a key-figure during Manmohan Singh’s 10-year government between **2004 and 2014**.

iv. From **5th July 2016 to 1st August 2020**, he was re-elected as the member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.

(**Constituency:** Uttar Pradesh) (**preceded** by Ambeth Rajan)

Minister of Technical Education of U.P, Kamal Rani Varun died at the age of 62

Minister of Technical Education of Uttar Pradesh, Kamala Rani Varun had passed away at the age of 62 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh due to the infection of COVID-19. She was born on 3 May, 1958 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. She had been admitted in the hospital on July 18, 2020 after testing positive on COVID-19 virus at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, Uttar



Pradesh. She belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Nobel Peace Prize Winner John Hume Passed Away at 83

The **Nobel Peace Prize winner** (1998) and prominent Northern Ireland politician **John Hume** passed away at **83** in a Londonderry nursing home due to a long period of illness on August 3, 2020. He was born on January 8, 1937 in Derry (Londonderry), Northern Ireland (a part of the United Kingdom- UK). He is the only person to receive the three major peace awards (Gandhi Peace Prize, Nobel Peace Prize & Martin Luther King Award).

Key Info about John Hume

i. John Hume was the founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.

ii. He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with **David Trimble** of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

iii. They played a major role to create the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which ended the violent conflict in Northern Ireland by bringing unionists and Irish republicans into a power-sharing government.

Few Honors- International Gandhi Peace Prize, 2001; Golden Doves for Peace Journalistic Prize, 1997; Martin Luther King Peace Award, 1999.

Padma Bhushan Awardee & Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Ram D Pradhan passes away

Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and Veteran Bureaucrat Ramachandra Dattatraya Pradhan (R.D. Pradhan) passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai. He was born on 27th June, 1928. He joined as IAS officer in the erstwhile Bombay State in 1952. He has served positions in Gujarat, Maharashtra also. He has held the position of Home Secretary & Chief Secretary of Maharashtra. He has authored several books and is a prolific writer. Some of his books are “**Working with Rajiv Gandhi**”, “**1965 War, the Inside Story: Defence Minister Y.B. Chavan’s Diary of India-Pakistan War**”

Former Maharashtra CM, Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar passed away at 88 in Pune

Senior Congressman and former Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) **Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar** passed away at the age of 88 in Pune, Maharashtra. He was born on 1 September 1931 in Nilanga, Hyderabad state (British India).

About Dr. Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar

i. He had served as the **10th Chief Minister of Maharashtra** for a year between 3rd June 1985 and 6th March 1986.

ii. He also served as the member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly several times in the constituency of Nilanga.



Father of Modern Indian theatre & Padma Awardee Ebrahim Alkazi Passed Away at 94

i. The Father of Modern Indian theatre, **Ebrahim Alkazi** passed away at the age of 94 in Escorts Hospital, New Delhi due to a massive heart attack. He was a **theatre director**, drama teacher, and the **longest-serving director** of the National School of Drama (NSD) i.e., from 1962 to 1977.

ii. He was credited for **revolutionising India theatre**. He was born on October 18, 1925 in Pune, Maharashtra.

iii. He won the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2010, **Padma Bhushan** in 1991, Padma Shri in 1966.

About Padma Awards

The award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

William English, co-creator of computer mouse, passes away aged 91

The co-creator of the mouse, **Mr. William English** died at the age of 91 in California due to respiratory failure. He was born in 1929, Kentucky and studied electrical engineering at university before joining the US Navy. He built the first mouse in 1963, with the help of the sketches made by **Doug Engelbart** while they were working on early computing.



Former MP & Senior Congress Leader, Nandi Yellaiah died due to COVID-19 at 78 in Telangana

Former Member of Parliament (MP) & Senior Congress Leader, Nandi Yellaiah had passed away due to COVID – 19 infection at 78 in Telangana. He was born on July 1, 1942, in Hyderabad, Telangana.

About Nandi Yellaiah

i. He was the six-term member of Lok Sabha.

ii. He was elected to the 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th Lok Sabha from Siddipet (S.C) parliamentary constituency.

iii. He was also elected to the 16th Lok Sabha from Nagarkurnool, Telangana succeeding **Manda Jagannatham**.

iv. He also represented the Rajya Sabha twice until **2014**.

Renowned Urdu Poet Rahat Indori passes away at 70

Urdu Poet & Lyricist, Rahat Indori who was being treated for COVID-19 died of Heart Attack at Aurobindo Hospital, Indore.

Key Points:

i. He was born as **Rahat Qureshi** on **1 January, 1950 in Indore**. He taught Urdu literature at Devi Ahilya University, and was awarded PhD from Bhoj University in Madhya Pradesh for his thesis titled 'Urdu Main Mushaira'.



- ii. Indori with a 50-year career in poetry was an **Urdu scholar** of great repute, he was one of the biggest mushaira (poetry symposiums) stars in the country.
- iii. Apart from being a Poet, he has also worked as a Lyricist in Hindi Film Industry including “Khuddar”, “Munna Bhai M.B.B.S” and “Murder”, he has also painted posters for many films.
- iv. His most powerful lines were “**Sabhi ka khoon hai shamil yahan ki mitti mein; Kisi ke baap ka Hindustan thodi hai** (Everybody’s blood mingles in the soil; Hindustan does not belong solely to one)”
- v. His poem “**Bulati hai magar jane ka nahi**” went viral on social media, making him a sensation among the youth during 2020 Valentine day.

Arjuna awardee, UP Cabinet Minister and Former Indian Cricketer Chetan Chauhan Passed Away at 73 Due to COVID-19

- i. **Former Indian cricketer** and **Uttar Pradesh (UP) Cabinet Minister** of Sainik Welfare, Home Guards, Prantiya Rakshak Dal and Civil Security **Chetan Chauhan** (Full Name- Chetan Pratap Singh Chauhan) passed away at 73 in Medanta hospital, Gurugram, Haryana due to COVID-19.
- ii. He belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He was honoured with the Arjuna award in 1981. He was born on July 21, 1947 in Bareilly, UP.

Hindustani Classical Vocalist & Padma Awardee Pandit Jasraj Passed Away at 90

Pandit Jasraj, an **Indian classical vocalist**, belonging to the **Mewati gharana** (a musical apprenticeship tribe of Hindustani classical music) passed away at 90 in his home in New Jersey, New York, United States (U.S.) due to cardiac arrest. He was born on January 28, 1930 in Pili Mandori, a village in the Hisar district of Haryana.



- He is a recipient of the **Padma Shri** (1975), **Padma Bhushan** (1990) and **Padma Vibhushan** (2000).

Key Info about Pandit Jasraj

Unique Style & Technique

i. Though he belonged to the Mewati gharana, he sang **khayals** with some flexibility, adding elements of lighter styles, including the **thumri**.

Inventor of Pixel & Computer Scientist, Russell Kirsch passed away at 91

Russel A. Kirsch, the computer scientist credited with inventing pixel passed away at the age of 91 at his home in Portland, Oregon, United States. Pixels, the **digital dots** used to display photos; video and computer screens were invented by Russell Kirsch in 1957. He scanned the **world’s first digital photograph**.

Invention of Pixel:

i. Kirsch created a small, 2-by-2-inch Black and White digital image of his son, Walden. It was among the

first images ever scanned into a computer, using a device created by his research team in the **U.S. National Bureau of Standards** (now known as National Institutes of Science and Technology)

ii.His invention helped NASA with its early space explorations, including Apollo Moon landings and paved the way for future imaging technologies such as satellite imagery, CT scan and others.

Filmmaker-actor Nishikant Kamat Passes Away at the Age of 50

Filmmaker-actor Nishikant Kamat passed away at the age of 50 due to multiple organ failure at the AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad. He was suffering from Liver Cirrhosis for the last two years.

i.Nishikant Kamat was born on 17th June, 1970 in Dadar, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

ii.He won the **National Award for Best Feature Film in Marathi** for **Dombivali Fast** in 2006.

iii.Kamat's Directorial work includes films like Mumbai Meri Jaan (2008), Force (2011), Lai Bhaari (2014), Madaari (2016), Rocky Handsome (2016) and Drishyam(2015).



Vasanthakumar, Congress MP, and Founder of Vasanth & Co Died of COVID-19

H.Vasanthakumar, Congress Member of Parliament-**MP**(Kanyakumari Lok sabha Constituency), founder and chairman of **Vasanth & Co**, founder and managing director of Vasanth TV(Tamil channel) **passed away** at the age of 70 in Apollo hospital, Chennai, TamilNadu due to COVID-19. He is the first MP from tamilNadu to die due to COVID-19. The Indian businessman and politician from Tamil Nadu was born on April 14, 1950 in Kanyakumari, TamilNadu.

Gist about H. Vasanthakumar

i.A first-time MP from Tamil Nadu, H Vasanthakumar had also been elected MLA twice in the past from the Nanguneri assembly constituency and was the working president of the state Congress committee.

Athletics Coach Purushotham Rai dies a day before Receiving Dronacharya Award

Athletics Coach Purushotham Rai passed away at the age of 79 due to Cardiac Arrest, a day before he was to be conferred with the **Dronacharya Award** from President Ram Nath Govind in the **lifetime category**.

Purushotham Rai was the third person to receive the award from Karnataka in athletics after the Late N. Lingappa and V R Beedu.

About Purushotham Rai:

i.He began his coaching career after graduating with a diploma in athletics from Netaji Institute of Sports in 1974.

ii.He has coached top athletes like Olympian quartermiler Vandana Rao, heptathlete Pramila Aiyappa, Ashwini Nachappa, Murali Kuttan, MK Asha, EB Shyla, Rosa Kutty and GG Pramila.



Important Days with theme

Hiroshima Day 2020 – August 6

i. August 6th of every year is observed as **Hiroshima Day** to mark the world's first atomic bombing on Hiroshima, Japan during World War II which instantly killed more than 70,000 people. The day is to remember the victims of the bombing and to promote world peace and create awareness about the hazards of Nuclear Power and nuclear weapons.

ii. 6th August 2020 marks the **75th Anniversary** of Hiroshima Day.



78th Anniversary of Quit India Movement – August 08, 2020

Government of India commemorated the 78th Anniversary of the “Quit India Movement”. On this day in 1942, father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi gave the clarion call of ‘**Do or Die**’ to all Indians to drive away Britishers from the country.

Key Points:

i. After the **failure of Cripps Mission** in March 1942, Gandhiji began the Quit India Movement and determined to launch a mass civil disobedience motion.

ii. As a result, Gandhi was imprisoned at Aga Khan Palace, Pune and the All India Congress Committee and the four Provincial Congress Committees were declared unlawful associations under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908

iii. The movement began from **Gowalia Tank Maidan** in Mumbai.

iv. This day is observed as **August Kranti Day** every year.

Note – The Quit India Movement helped in uniting the people of India against the British rule.

Nagasaki Day 2020 – August 9

The 9th August of every year is observed as **Nagasaki day** all over the world to promote peace and to create awareness about the hazards of nuclear weapons. The 9th August 2020, Marks the **75th anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan.

History:

On 9th August 1945, three days after the bombing on Hiroshima, The United States dropped the Atomic bomb code named “**Fat Man**” over the city of Nagasaki, Japan which instantly killed around 74,000 people.

Effects of Bombing:

The survivors of the atomic bombing developed various illnesses and cancer due to the exposure to high level radiation.

International Youth Day 2020 – August 12

i. The United Nations (UNs) International Youth Day (IYD) is annually celebrated on 12th August to raise awareness on the legal and cultural problems related to the youths all over the world and to celebrate and focus on the voices, actions and initiatives of young people.



ii. The First International Youths day was observed on **12th August 2000**.

iii. The **2020 IYD** is celebrated under the theme – “**Youth Engagement for Global Action**”

iv. IYD 2020 is convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (**DESA**) in partnership with the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (**IANYD**) Youth Caucus and Create2030.

World Elephant Day 2020 – August 12

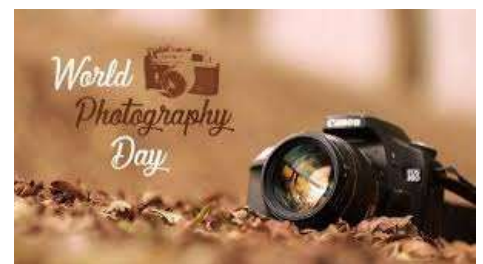
i. The 12th August of every year since 2012 is celebrated as the World Elephant Day to create awareness on the need to conserve and preserve the giant mammals and their habitats.

ii. The **First** World Elephant Day was celebrated on 12th August 2012.

iii. Sivaporn Dardarananda, Secretary General of **Elephant Reintroduction Foundation** and Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark officially launched the World Elephant Day.

World Photography Day 2020 – August 19

The **World Photography Day** also known as **World Photo Day** is observed annually on 19th August with an aim to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world. The day celebrates the arts, crafts, science and history of Photography.



The **first official** World Photo Day was marked on **19th August**

2010 when the first global online gallery was hosted with around 270 photographers who shared their photographs.

Sadbhavan Diwas 2020 – August 20

i. Every year 20th August is celebrated as the Sadbhavana Diwas which is also known as Communal Harmony Day, to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.



ii. 20th August 2020, marks the 76th Birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

iii. The All India Congress Committee (AICC) instituted the annual **Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award (RGNSA)** in 1992 in memory of Rajiv Gandhi.

National Sports Day 2020: August 29

i. National Sports Day is annually observed on 29th August to commemorate the birth anniversary of Indian Hockey Legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh. The day is celebrated to create awareness among the general public on the importance of sports and to attract attention towards sports in India.

ii. The First National Sports Day was celebrated on 29th August 2012.

iii. President Ram Nath Kovind Presented the first virtual National Sports and Adventure Award during the National Sports Day 2020.

