



Current Affairs September 2020

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National

India's GDP growth contract by 23.9% in April-June quarter: MOSPI

i. In accordance with the official data released by the **National Statistical Office** (NSO), Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation (Mospi) on August 31, 2020, India's gross domestic product (GDP) contract by 23.9% (-23.9%) in April-June period quarter of 2020 due to downfall in businesses and livelihood amid COVID-19 pandemic induced nationwide lockdown restrictions.



ii. This data states slowing of consumer spending, private investments and contraction in exports in the March quarter. The growth of Indian economy in Q4 FY20 (January-March) quarter was also at the slowest pace in eight years at 3.1%.

iii. India's real GDP fell to 26.9 lakh crore in constant terms, 23.9% lower than a year ago.

iv. Nominal GDP fell to Rs 38.08 lakh crore, 22.6% lower than the same period last year.

CSIR-CMERI Developed & Installed the World's Largest Solar Tree in Durgapur

i. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR – CMERI) developed the world largest Solar Tree with customisable features for application in different locations and installed it in the residential colony of CMERI at Durgapur, West Bengal.

ii. The annual capacity of the tree to generate clean and green power is around 12000 to 14000 units.

iii. These solar trees are capable of saving around 10-12 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emission compared to the energy generated using other fossil fuels.

Bollywood Filmmaker Karan Johar Authored a Children's Book "The Big Thoughts of Little Luv"

Bollywood Filmmaker Karan Johar authored a children's picture book titled "**The Big Thoughts of Little Luv**" inspired by his Twins Yash and Roohi. The book will be published by **Juggernaut Books**.



The book narrates the story of the twins **Luv and Kusha** and features the challenges faced by the parents and the difference imposed between the boys and girls by the parents while raising them.

About Karan Johar:

i. He made his debut as director with Kuch Kuch Hota Hai in 1998.

ii. He is the owner of the Dharma Production which produced the commercial films like Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, My Name Is Khan, Ae Dil Hai Mushkil and critically acclaimed films like Wake Up Sid, Agneepath and Raazi.

Books:

Johar Karan released his autobiography titled "**An Unsuitable Boy**" in 2017.

Ramachandra Guha Authored New book 'The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind'

Indian writer **Ramachandra Guha** has authored a new book, 'The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind'. The book portrays the entire arc of the game (cricket) in India, across all levels at which it is played and gives a glimpse of local heroes, provincial emblems and international stars. The book will be co-published by **HarperCollins India** and **William Collins**.

Key Info

- i. Indian right of the book is acquired by Publisher Udayan Mitra, while UK and Commonwealth rights (excluding India) is acquired by Arabella Pike, William Collins Publishing Director
- ii. The book is to be released in November, 2020.

About Ramachandra Guha

Ramachandra Guha is currently serving as a Professor at Krea University, Andhra Pradesh. He has served as an administrator of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

Other books authored by him includes– The Unquiet Woods, India after Gandhi, and a two-volume biography of Mahatma Gandhi.

Books on Cricket– Corner of a Foreign Field, The Picador Book of Cricket, Spin and Other Turns, Wickets in the East.

Ministry of Electronics and Information & Technology Bans 118 Chinese Mobile Apps

The Ministry of Electronics and Information & Technology banned 118 Chinese Mobile Applications. The mobile applications have been banned as they were found to be harmful to the Sovereignty, Integrity, Defence of India and Public Order. The Government has banned them amidst the border tensions with China.

- i. The apps have been banned under section **69A** of the **Information Technology Act** read with the relevant provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking of Access of Information by Public) Rules 2009.
- ii. Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Ministry of Home Affairs had sent a recommendation to the Ministry of Electronics and Information & Technology for concerns of Data Security.
- iii. The list of 118 apps includes popular mobile gaming app PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (**PUBG**), and also apps from Baidu, Tencent and Xiaomi.

Adani Green Energy Ltd Ranked as World's Largest Solar Power Generation Company by Mercom Capital

Mercom Capital ranked **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** as **World's Largest Solar Power Generation Asset Owner** in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects.

GCL New Energy (7.1 GW), a Hong Kong-listed independent solar power producer, ranked second, followed by Tokyo-based renewable energy



developer, SB Energy (7 GW).

Mercom Capital Group is a clean energy communication consulting firm.

Key Points:

i. AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GigaWatts (GW) and its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW.

ii. AGEL's renewable energy portfolio stands at 12.32 GW, which exceeds the total capacity installed by the entire US solar industry in 2019.

Amul becomes 1st Indian Dairy Company to Enter Rabobank's Global Top 20, 2020 List; Switzerland's Nestle topped

Amul (Anand Milk Union Limited), Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) became the first Indian Dairy Company to enter Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20, 2020 Companies. Amul was ranked 16th with an annual turnover of USD 5.5 billion (approximately Rs 40,240 Crores).



Rabobank is a Dutch multinational banking and financial services company.

Reliance Industries acquired Future Group for Rs.24,713 crore

The Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), subsidiary of the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) acquired the retail and wholesale, logistics and warehousing business of the Future Group Business as going concerns on a slump sale basis for lump sum aggregate consideration of **Rs 24,713 crore**

Objective:

To enhance its retail business of RIL and increase their e-commerce capacity against Amazon.com.

Other investments under the scheme:

i. Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Ltd (RRFLL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RRVL has also proposed to invest Rs 1,200 crore in the preferential issue of equity shares of Future Enterprises to acquire 6.09% of post-merger equity.

ii. RRFLL has also proposed to invest Rs.400 crore in the preferential issues of equity warrants which will result in RRFLL to acquire an additional 7.05% of FEL

Pope Francis's New Book "Let Us Dream" to Release in December 2020

Pope Francis is set to release the book "**Let Us Dream**" in December 2020. The book will be an outcome of numerous exchanges between Pope Francis and his Biographer **Austen Ivereigh** in the weeks following the Coronavirus outbreak around the world.

i. Austen Ivereigh is a Roman Catholic Journalist, Commentator, author based out of Britain.

ii. The book is being published by Simon & Schuster and will be released in English and Spanish Editions simultaneously.



iii. In the book, Pope Francis explains how a crisis can teach an individual to deal with problems they face in their lives. He cites three major crises from his own personal life.

LIGO and VIRGO Detected Mammoth Collision of 'Impossible' Black Holes for 1st time

i. For the 1st time, The Collision of 'Impossible' Black Holes was detected and directly observed by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration also known as LVC (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration), which includes scientists from the Australian National University (ANU).

ii. They Initially found 2 black holes of 66 and 85 solar masses, which generated a final black hole of 142 solar masses, till now it is the largest black hole ever observed through gravitational-wave observations.

SpaceX Launched 60 Starlink Satellites to Provide Faster Internet

i. Falcon 9 of SpaceX, a two stage rocket launched the 12th batch of starlink mission with 60 starlink satellites into orbit. Falcon 9 was launched from the Kennedy Space Center of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Florida.

ii. This launch is the first mission of SpaceX in September and 16th Mission in 2020.

iii. The satellites launched in the lower orbit will enhance the high speed broadband internet on Earth and increase the internet access in the low coverage area where setting up of on ground towers are difficult.



Kerala tops literacy rate chart with 96.2%; Andhra Pradesh worst performer at 66.4%: NSO

i. In accordance with the report on "Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey – from July 2017 to June 2018" conducted

by National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Kerala again emerged as the most literate state in the country with 96.2% literacy followed by Delhi (88.7%), Uttarakhand (87.6%), Himachal Pradesh (86.6%) and Assam (85.9%).

KERALA TOPS THE LIST			
Literacy rates for those aged 7 or more (%)			
Top 5 State/UT	Person	Bottom 5 State/UT	Person
Kerala	96.2	UP	73.0
Delhi	88.7	Telangana	72.8
U'khand	87.6	Bihar	70.9
Himachal	86.6	Rajasthan	69.7
Assam	85.9	Andhra	66.4

ii. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh (AP) is the worst performer at 66.4% followed by Rajasthan at 69.7%, Bihar (70.9%), Telangana (72.8%), Uttar Pradesh (73%) and Madhya Pradesh (73.7%).

iii. The overall literacy rate in India is pegged at 77.7% where rural areas has 73.5% literacy rate and urban areas has 87.7%.

iv. **Literacy rate:** Literacy rate is defined as the percentage of literate persons among persons of age 7 years and above.

Prime Minister Modi E-Inaugurates Patrika Gate in Jaipur

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur, Rajasthan over a virtual platform. The **Patrika Gate** was built by the Patrika group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.
- ii. He also launched 2 books **Samvad Upanishad** and **Akshar Yatra**, authored by **Gulab Kothari**, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.

First World Solar Technology Summit organized by ISA and FICCI held Virtually; Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi

- i. The first World Solar Technology Summit (WSTS) was held virtually which was organized by the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** along with **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, as the convener of ISA Global Leadership Task Force on Innovation, to focus on new Technologies and Innovations in the field of Solar.
- ii. The summit aims at “**Let us make the sun brighter**” by bringing together key stakeholders.
- iii. The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi**.



- The summit witnessed inking of a number of agreements by ISA, including, with International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), Global Green Growth Institute (GGI) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited.
- ISA launched its technology journal, Solar Compass 360
- ISA Journal on Solar Energy (I JOSE) launched

About International Solar Alliance (ISA):

In November 2015, ISA was jointly launched by India and France during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France to promote solar energy among its Member Countries. The major objective of the organization is the deployment of **1000 GW** of solar capacity and mobilization of US\$ 1000 billion of investment in the solar energy sector by 2030.

Director General– Upendra Tripathy

Headquarter– Gurugram, Haryana

Vodafone Idea unveils new integrated brand identity ‘Vi’

Vodafone Idea virtually unveiled their new integrated brand identity ‘**Vi**’ (Pronounced as We) and a new logo. It comes two years after the merger of Vodafone and Idea.

- i. The Brand Integration marks the completion of the largest telecom merger in the world, it will set the company on a future journey to provide strong digital experiences to 1 billion Indians on its 4G Network.



ii. **Ogilvy**, the agency which has been working with Vodafone for many years has executed this rebranding exercise.

iii. The logo is short, simple and refers to the origin of two brands and reflects the collective nature of the Indian society.

India's FY21 GDP to contract 14.8%; worst hit: Goldman Sachs

In accordance with the American brokerage Goldman Sachs, Indian economy is the worst-hit among major economies as its gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for FY2020-2021 is contracted to 14.8% from 11.8% estimated earlier. This forecast is the most pessimistic (defeatist) one among all the analysts till now.

- For FY2021-22 the GDP is estimated to clock a **15.7%** growth.
- It should be noted that India has the second-largest number of COVID-19 infections (40 Lakh). Though there was nearly a two-month-long lockdown that sharply contracted the economic activity but was unable to contain the number of infections.

Key Points:

-As per the Goldman Sachs forecast, India will contract **13.7%** for the September 2020 quarter and **9.8%** for the December 2020 quarter in comparison to 10.7% and 6.7% contractions, respectively.

-The brokerage firm is expecting a real GDP growth of **27.1%** in the April-June 2021 quarter, on the condition if 70% of the lost output in June 2020 is recovered in June 2021.

Northrop Grumman Named its NG-14 Cygnus Spacecraft as 'SS Kalpana Chawla' after Former Astronaut Kalpana Chawla

i. An American global aerospace and defense technology company, **Northrop Grumman Corporation** (Northrop Grumman) has named its next Cygnus Spacecraft, **NG-14** as 'SS Kalpana Chawla' after **Dr Kalpana Chawla**, a former NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), United States of America-USA Astronaut.

ii. She was selected in honor of her outstanding place in history as the **1st woman of Indian descent** to go to space.

iii. S.S. Kalpana Chawla is the **2nd Cygnus** to be named for a member of the STS-107 crew.

Union Cabinet Approves 3 Labour Law Codes, to be Moved in Monsoon Session of Parliament

The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved amendments to the Labour Code on Social Security, Code on Industrial Relations (**IR**), and Code on Occupational Safety and Health (**OSH**). The codes will now be moved in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which starts from September 14, 2020.

- The Codes includes benefits like pension, medical benefits to **gig** workers (Independent contractors, online platform workers, contract workers, on-call workers and temporary workers), and will allow states to introduces significant

Reform Code

Changes to social security code, industrial relations code and occupational safety & health code

Likely in Monsoon session

Key Changes

- Wider social security net for gig workers
- Clear definition of conditions for fixed-term contracts

Removal of distinction between term employees and workers

CCEA decisions

- CCEA approved monetisation of PGCIL assets
- Monetisation of five transmission lines of PGCIL to fetch ₹164 cr

changes to their labour laws framework, such as rules for retrenchment (act of cutting down or reduction) through notifications.

- Code on Wages has already been passed by the Parliament on July 30, 2019, and the 3 remaining Codes were sent to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour** for scrutiny. The Committee submitted its report on the Three Codes.

Union Cabinet gives approval to increase FDI limit from 49% to 74%, National Security Clause added

The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in Defence Sector, thereby allowing FDI through automatic approval to be increased from 49% to 74%.

‘National Security’ clause:

The new policy has a ‘National Security’ clause as a condition, wherein any Foreign Investment in Defence Sector shall be subject to scrutiny on grounds of National Security.

Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to hit \$200 billion m-cap

Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to hit \$200 billion market capitalization with an approximate value of \$200.8 billion. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is a distant second with market cap of Rs 8.75 trillion, or USD 119 billion. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) also becomes World’s 40th Most Valuable Company.

Penguin Books Published Arundhati Roy’s Book titled “Azadi”

Arundhati Roy’s new book titled “**Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction**” is published by Penguin Books Limited. The nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism.

About Azadi:

- i. The word Azadi means **Freedom** in Urdu, the slogan Azadi! Was used in the freedom struggle in Kashmir which was also used against the Hindu Nationalism Projects of India.
- ii. The essay collection includes meditations on language and roles of fiction and alternative imaginations amid global pandemic due to COVID-19.

About Arundhati Roy:

- i. Arundhati Roy hails from Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ii. Her books have been translated to more than 40 languages.

Awards:

- i. Arundhati Roy won the Man Booker Prize in 1997 for her debut novel “**The God of Small Things**”.

Books:

- i. Her bestselling books includes My Seditious Heart and The Ministry of Utmost Happiness
- ii. She co-authored the book “Things That Can and Cannot Be Said” with John Cusack.

“A Promised Land”: First Volume of Former US President Barack Obama’s Memoir

Penguin Random House announced that the first volume of the Former President of United States of America(USA), Barack Obama’s memoir **“A Promised Land”** is set to hit the stores on **17th November 2020**, two weeks after Election day.

This book will be released by **Crown**, a division of Penguin Random House around the world in **25 languages** which includes Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Czech, Finnish and Vietnamese.

Note:

The publication date of the 2nd volume is not yet decided.

About “A Promised Land”:

- i.The memoir is a collection of Obama’s presidential campaign, his term in office and major events during his term and other important happenings during his term.
- ii.This book also holds the personal journey of Michelle and Obama during his term as President.
- iii.This also offers his thoughts and ideas to solve the ongoing issues in the country and to make the democracy of the US work for everyone.

About Barack Obama:

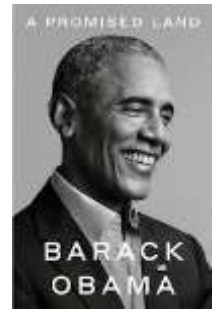
- i.Barack Obama served as the 44th President of the United States of America.
- ii.He was the first African American President of the Harvard Law Review.

Books:

His other books include “Of Thee I Sing” (children’s book), “Change We Can Believe In”, etc.,

Awards:

- i.He received the Grammy awards under Best Spoken Word Album for **Dreams From My Father** in 2006 and **The Audacity of Hope** in 2008.
- ii.He received the Nobel Peace Prize 2009 for his efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation.



“Voices of Dissent” authored by Historian Romila Thapar

The New book titled **“Voices of Dissent”** authored by Historian Romila Thapar will be jointly published by Penguin Random House India and Seagull Books. The book is set to publish in October 2020.

The book is a historical essay that explores dissent, including its articulation and public response to its forms, with a focus on the recent protest in India against the citizenship law and the National Register of Citizens.



Voices of Dissent:

- i.In this book the Romila Thapar speaks about the emergence of various groups like the Jains, Buddhists and Ajivikas who were collectively known as Shramanas and 1st millennium BC.
- ii.She explores the ideas of the few Bhakti saints of the 15th and 16th centuries and portrays the major moments of dissents (satyagraha of Mahatma Gandhi) that resulted in establishing a free and democratic India.

About Romila Thapar:

Romila Thapar hails from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.Her works include A History of India (1966), Interpreting Early India (1992), Early India: From the Origin to AD 1300(2003).

Awards:

She received the Kluge Prize in December 2008.She was honoured with **Padma Bhushan** in 2005 which she declined stating that she made a resolve not to accept any “State Award”.

Tamil Nadu becomes 1st state with Policies on Ethical AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) Edappadi K Palaniswami released **Tamil Nadu Cyber Security Policy 2020, Tamil Nadu Blockchain Policy 2020 and Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020** (Nicknamed as ABC Policies) while participating in the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'Connect 2020' event through video conference.

It became the first state in the country to release policies on Ethical AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity.



KKR Picks up 1.28% Equity Stake of Reliance Retail for Rs.5550 Crore Investment

- i. Reliance Industries limited(RIL) announced that KKR, a global investment firm, will pick up 1.28% equity shares of RIL subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Limited(RRVL) by investing Rs.5550 crores.
- ii. The investment of KKR will translate into a 1.28% equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis.
- iii. KKR's investment will support RRVL to become India's leading multi-channel retailer and support RRVL to build an inclusive retail economy in India.

About KKR (Kohlberg Kravis Roberts):

Co-Founders, Co-CEOs & Co-Chairmen– Henry Kravis & George R. Roberts

Headquarters– New York, United States of America

PM Narendra Modi, Ayushmann Khurrana among 5 Indians Named in Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020

The Time magazine released the annual list of 100 Most Influential People of 2020 of pioneers, leaders, titans, artists, and icons who have made an impact on the contemporary world. 5 Indians have made into the list, namely, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India; Ayushmann Khurrana, Bollywood actor; Bilkis, 'dadi' of Shaheen Bagh protest, Professor Ravindra Gupta(HIV/AIDS treatment) and Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet and Google.

NMC Officially Replaced MCI as Top Medical Education Regulator w.e.f. Sept 25, 2020; IMC Act, 1956 Repealed

- i. The Central government is trying hard to detach corruption from all sections of our society including health sector, the statutory body of which i.e. Medical Council of India (MCI) had faced corruption charges and was dissolved by the Government of India in 2018 with the Board of Governors (BoG)-MCI chaired by **Dr Vinod Kumar Paul**, member (health), Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.
- ii. Now in a further move, on September 25, 2020, BoG-MCI dissolved by Centre and was replaced by National Medical Commission (NMC) as India's top regulator of medical education. The notification in this regard was issued by
- iii. Along with the above, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of the section 60 of the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019** (30 of 2019), nearly 64-year-old IMC Act, 1956 (102 of 1956) has repealed w.e.f. September 25, 2020.

President Ram Nath Kovind gives Assent to 3 Farm Bills passed by Parliament

President Ram Nath Kovind gave Assent to Three Bills:

- The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020,
- The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Service Bill, 2020 and
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

With the President's Assent all Three Bills have now become Laws, and have been notified in the official gazette by the Law Ministry.

1st ever India Happiness Report 2020 Released, Mizoram Tops

The first-ever India Happiness Report 2020 was released by Professor Rajesh K Pillania, which ranks all 36 States and Union Territories(UTs) on the basis of their happiness quotient. Mizoram tops the ranking followed by Punjab and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Odisha, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh were least happy states. The survey was conducted based on 6 components of happiness, namely work; relationships; health; philanthropy; religious, spiritual orientation; impact of COVID-19.



International

India ranks 48th in the 13th Edition of Global Innovation Index 2020 released by WIPO

For the First time, India joined the group of Top 50 Countries in the **13th Edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020**, as it took the 48th rank with a score of 35.59 in the Annual report jointly released by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.

The Theme of the 13th edition of the GII 2020 is **“Who Will Finance Innovation?”**.



Rank	Country	Score	Income
48	India	35.59	LM*
1	Switzerland	66.08	HI*
2	Sweden	62.47	HI
3	United States	60.56	HI

Overview of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visit to Russia from September 3-5, 2020; SCO Defence Ministers Meet Held

i. The Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD) paid a 3 days visit to Moscow, Russia from September 3-5, 2020 to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers and to hold talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Shoigu on further boosting bilateral defence cooperation.

ii. It was his second visit to Moscow since June, 2020. He had represented India at the Victory Day Parade in Moscow on June 24 that commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in the Second World War. Rajnath holds talks with Russian counterpart; AK-47 203 rifles deal finalized between both nations

- Rajnath visits Russian armed forces' main cathedral in Moscow
- He addressed Combined Meeting of Defence Ministers of SCO, CSTO & CIS Member States in Moscow
- He met his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe amid border tension in Ladakh
- He also held meeting with counterparts from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan

73rd session of WHO South East Asia Region held Virtually

i. the 73rd session of WHO (World Health Organization) South East Asia Region (SEAR) was hosted virtually by Thailand from Bangkok under the Chairmanship of Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health, Thailand .Indian side was represented by Union Minister **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, Minister for Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) along with Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. **Dr. Poonam Khetrupal Singh**, Director WHO SEAR.



ii. Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, who was the Chair of the 72nd SEAR session which held in New Delhi ,addressed his part before handover the handing over the charge to the new Chair Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul

iii. Dr. Harsh Vardhan provided two interventions in the Ministerial Round Table Session on COVID-19 Emergency Preparation.

India slips 26 spots to 105th position on 2020 Economic Freedom Index: Fraser Institute Report

India took the 105th position in the **24th Edition of Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report** by Canada’s Fraser Institute, which has been released in India in conjunction with **Center for Civil Society**, New Delhi-based think tank. The report is co-published by **CATO Institute** (America) with more than 70 think tanks around the world.

This is the **24th edition** of Economic Freedom of the World. The report is based on **2018 data**. Hong Kong topped the Index with a score of 8.94, followed by Singapore (8.65) and New Zealand (8.53). This year’s publication ranks 162 countries and territories for 2018. The Report has been divided into 4 Quartiles based on the rankings.

Rank	Country	Score (out of 10)
105	India	6.56
1	Hong Kong	8.94
2	Singapore	8.65
3	New Zealand	8.53

74th Session of the UN General Assembly High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace held virtually

- i. The 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Forum (HLF) on the Culture of Peace which was convened by its President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande and addressed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the theme “**The Culture of Peace: Change our world for the better in the age of Covid-19**”.
- ii. The event was also addressed by ambassadors of a large number of Member States and High Representatives of several UN entities where Indian side was represented by Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN **Paulomi Tripathi**.
- iii. Apart from above mentioned main event, a side event titled “**Education, Covid-19 and the Culture of Peace**” was also organized by the renowned US Think Tank the International Peace Institute (IPI).

About UNGA:

President Elect– Volkan Bozkir

Headquarters– New York, United States of America

India, Afghanistan become Members of UN's Commission on Status of Women

India & Afghanistan were elected as Members of the United Nations (UN) **Commission on Status of Women**, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Commission on the Status of Women is a UN organ promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. India (38 votes) and Afghanistan (39) won the ballot among the 54 members, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T S Tirumurti announced the election of India to the Committee.



- i. India will be a member of the UN's Commission on Status of Women for four years from 2021-2025.
- ii. India & Afghanistan will now join Argentina, Austria, Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey and Zambia which were elected by acclamation (a form of election that does not use ballot) in the Commission on Status of Women.

India Ranked 116th in World Bank's Human Capital Index 2020

The 2020 Human Capital Index (HCI) is a collaboration between the Human Development Practice Group and the Development Economics Group of the World Bank. World Bank released the report titled “**The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19**” on September 16, 2020. India has been placed at the 116th position among 174 countries in the Human Capital Index 2020 with score increase to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018 in comparison to 115 out of 157 countries.

- The country of **Singapore** topped the score with 0.88 followed by Hong Kong at 0.81 and Japan at 0.80.
- Human capital is the stock of habits, knowledge, social and personality attributes embodied in the ability to perform labour so as to produce economic value.
- The report based on recent cross-section of 174 economies for the five HCI components (child survival, expected years of school, harmonized test scores, fraction of children under 5 not stunted, and adult survival), as used to calculate the 2020 HCI.

Mexico Became the First Country to Issue 7-year Sovereign SDG Bond worth \$890m

- i.** Mexico became the first country in the world to inaugurate sustainable financing program for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by issuing a seven-year Sovereign SDGs Bond worth USD 890 million under its new “**SDG Sovereign Bond Framework**” developed with investment bank **Natixis**, located in Paris, France.
- ii.** This transaction allows Mexico to expand its investor base by accessing international funds working towards sustainable economic development.
- iii.** Notably, the demand for these bonds reached approximately US\$5.70 billion, equivalent to 6.4 times the allocated amount with a participation of 267 global investment firms.

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Administrator– Achim Steiner

Headquarter– New York, United States (US)

Singapore topped in 2nd Smart City Index 2020; 4 Indian Cities in Top 100

Institute for Management Development (IMD), in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), IMD World Competitiveness Center, and

- i.** Smart Cities Observatory (SCO) has released the 2nd edition of **global listing of smart cities** i.e. “**Smart City Index (SCI) 2020**” in which the ranking of four Indian cities- New Delhi, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Hyderabad (Telangana), and Bengaluru (Karnataka) was declined as the technological advancement in these cities is not up to date to cater the COVID19 Pandemic.
- ii.** The index was topped by Singapore followed by Helsinki (Finland) and Zurich (Switzerland) in the second and the third place respectively.
- iii.** It should be noted that Indian cities have suffered more from the pandemic because they were not prepared.

Defence

China Successfully launches 9 satellites into Orbit by Sea Launch

China Successfully launched a solid-propellant carrier rocket from a ship in the Yellow Sea, China. It sent 9 satellites into the planned Orbit, and is the Second such Sea-based Launch Mission.

i. The 9 satellites belonged to the **Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group**, and were launched using Long March 11-HY2 (China's first sea-launched rocket), the 10th member of the Long March 11 family. It was the 346th Launch using the Long March Rocket Series.

ii. The Satellites have been developed by **Chang Guang Satellite Technology Company Ltd.**

iii. **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center** conducted the Mission.



INDRA NAVY-20- Maritime Exercise between India and Russia kicks off at Bay of Bengal

i. The 11th Edition of bi-annual, bilateral Maritime Exercise INDRA NAVY – 20 between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was conducted successfully from September 4 to 5. The Exercise was conducted in Bay of Bengal, close to the Strategic point of **Strait of Malacca**. Due to the Pandemic, INDRA NAVY-20 was undertaken in a '**non-contact, at sea only**' format.

ii. The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between the two navies.

iii. The **INDRA** military exercise has been conducted by India and Russia starting from 2003. The 10th edition of the exercise was conducted off Visakhapatnam in December 2018.



Five Rafale Aircrafts inducted into 'Golden Arrows' Squadron of Indian Air Force

i. The Five Rafale Aircrafts which arrived in India on July 29, 2020 were formally inducted into the Indian Air Force at a function held at Air Force Station, **Ambala (Haryana)**. They were inducted into the Indian Air Force's **17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows'**.

ii. On July 29, 2020, the first five of 36 Rafale fighter jets arrived from France and landed in Ambala, Haryana.

iii. The Rafale aircraft was given a traditional water cannon salute after the Sarva Dharma Puja.

DRDO Successfully Test Fires Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) successfully test fired the **Indigenously** developed Laser Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (**ATGM**) from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun at the Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC&S), KK Ranges in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. The missile had hit a target of upto 3Km in these tests.



Usage:

The missile will be designed to destroy modern as well as future enemy battle tanks.

Development Agencies:

Pune based DRDO facilities Armament Research & Development Establishment (**ARDE**) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (**HEMRL**) developed the missile in collaboration with DRDO Laboratory Instruments Research & Development Establishment (**IRDE**) in Dehradun.

Indigenously Developed Prithvi-II Missile Successfully Night Test Fired from Chandipur, Odisha

- i.**As a part of routine trail India successfully conducted the night testfire of its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile which was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.
- ii.**The entire launch activity was carried out by Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the Army and monitored by scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The missile was randomly chosen from the production stock.
- iii.**The last night time testfire of Prithvi-II was conducted successfully from the ITR on November 20, 2019.

Israel Defence Force successfully tests Sea-To-Sea Missile System

Israel's Navy and Defense Ministry's Weapons Development and Technology Infrastructure Administration (**MAFAT**) successfully test fired a new **Sea-To-Sea Missile System**. The Missile is yet to be named and has been designed to ensure Israel's continued Naval Superiority.

i.The New Missile system has been developed by Israeli Aerospace Industries (**IAI**).

ii.The Missiles will be integrated into Israel Navy's Sa'ar 5 and Sa'ar 6 Corvette Missile Ships.



About Israel:

Prime Minister – Benjamin Netanyahu

Capital – Jerusalem

Currency – Israeli Shekel

India, Australia conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the East Indian Ocean region

i. Indian Navy conducted a two-day long Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) where Indian side was represented by stealth frigate INS (Indian Naval Ship) **Sahyadri** and missile corvette **INS Karmuk** Australian side included HMAS Hobart along with Indian Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA), and helicopters from both the nations.

ii.This exercise was aimed at enhancing interoperability and to imbibe best practices from the other side.

iii.It should be noted that India-Australia conducts maritime exercise "AUSINDEX" biennially to boost defence cooperation in the maritime domain.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

IAS Officer Usha Padhee Became the First Woman DG of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

Usha Padhee, Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of 1996 batch from Odisha Cadre became the **first Women** and the **third IAS officer** to be appointed as the Director General(DG) of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security(BCAS), a security regulator of civil aviation industry in India under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. She succeeds **Rakesh Asthana**(IPS) who was appointed as the Director General of Border Security Force(BSF) on 17th August 2020.



She is currently serving as the joint secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and she was given additional charge as DG of BCAS until a new incumbent takes over the position.

Aveek Sarkar Elected as the New Chairman of PTI; succeeds Vijay Kumar Chopra

The Board of Directors of Press Trust of India(PTI) announced that **Aveek Sarkar** (75 years), Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of Ananda Bazar Group of Publication was elected as the new **Chairman of PTI**, he will succeed **Vijay Kumar Chopra**, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of Newspapers.

About Aveek Sarkar:

- i. Aveek Sarkar was tutored by Sir Harold Evans, the Legendary Editor of The Sunday Times.
- ii. He was the chief editor of Ananda Bazar Group which publishes numerous magazines including Anandabazar Patrika (Bengali daily) and The Telegraph (English daily) and runs 6 television news channels including ABP News.
- iii. Sarkar was the Founding Editor of Business Standard and played a major role in the acquisition of STAR News by the ABP Groups in 2003.
- iv. He was also the Founding Managing Director of Penguin India, the Indian counterpart of Penguin Books.

ACC Approved Restructuring of the Indian Railways and appointed first ever CEO of IR

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the **organizational restructuring** of the **Indian Railways**, which includes the merger of eight Group A services and also approved the appointment of the current chairman of the Railway Board V K Yadav as the **first ever Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IR**. Along with the CEO post he also holds the chairman post.

- Union Cabinet has already given a nod for the restructuring of Indian Railways in December 2019.

- i. The **8 Group A services** will be consolidated into a central service called the **Indian Railway Management Service**.
- ii. The Indian Railway Medical Service (**IRMS**) will be renamed the Indian Railway Health Service (**IRHS**).

UNICEF Appointed Ayushmann Khurrana as Celebrity Advocate for Children's Rights Campaign, 'For Every Child'

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appointed Bollywood Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign, "For Every Child". He will work towards this initiative in India. He will support UNICEF to **end violence against children**, especially in the present situation- COVID-19 is increasing the risk of violence and abuse against children due to the extended lockdown and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.



General Info

Ayushmann Khurrana will join hands with former football star David Beckham, who works on this campaign globally.

President Ram Nath Kovind appoints Paresh Rawal as Chairman of NSD

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Culture, Ram Nath Kovind, President of India appointed Paresh Rawal, actor and former Member of Parliament as the Chairman of National School of Drama (NSD) for the next years, he succeeded Ratan Thiyam, Playwright and theatre Director who served as the chairman of NSD from 2013 to 2017 after which the post was vacant until now.

About Paresh Rawal:

Career in Film and Theatres:

- i. Paresh Rawal started his career in the entertainment industry in 1982 with the movie Naseeb Ni Balihari (Gujarati).
- ii. His popular works include Hera Pheri, Bhagwaan Dada, Naam, OMG- Oh My God, King Uncle, Sanju and Uri: The Surgical Strike.

Rajesh Khullar Appointed as Executive Director of World Bank & Sameer Kumar Khare as Executive Director of ADB

i. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment of **Rajesh Khullar** as the **Executive Director** of **World Bank** and **Sameer Kumar Khare** as **Executive Director** of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- Rajesh Khullar (IAS) is presently serving as the principal secretary to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Sameer Kumar Khare (IAS) is presently serving as an Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance.

ii. ADB has appointed **Takeo Konishi** as its new **country director** for **India**. He succeeds **Kenichi Yokoyama** who has taken over as director general of the South Asia department of ADB.

iii. Currently, **India** is the **4th largest shareholder** and **largest borrower** of ADB since 2010.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB):

Headquarters– Metro Manila, Philippines(officially the Republic of the Philippines)

President and Chairperson of ADB's Board of Director– Masatsugu Asakawa

Members– 68 Countries

Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli Becomes Brand Ambassador of Great Learning

Great Learning, an ed-tech company for professional and higher education, has appointed **Virat Kohli**, Indian cricket team captain as its **brand ambassador**. Virat Kohli will lead 'Power Ahead' campaign, the latest one of the brand. Great Learning will launch a multi-film campaign with Virat Kohli during the upcoming Dream 11 IPL, where the brand is an associate sponsor on Disney + Hotstar.



Note

'Power Ahead' campaign highlights the importance of lifelong learning and shows how high-quality learning at the right time can help professionals and students advance in their career.

Key Info about Virat Kohli

i. In March 2020 Virat Kohli was named as the brand ambassador of iQOO (i Quest On and On). iQOO is a sub-brand of Vivo in China and has entered India as a separate entity & also part of the BBK group.

Sachin Tendulkar Becomes Brand Ambassador of Paytm First Games

i. **Paytm First Games (PFG)**, a subsidiary of digital financial service platform Paytm, has roped in legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** of India as its **brand Ambassador**.

ii. Sachin Tendulkar will create awareness about the genre of fantasy sports (sporting events played virtually) in India and will also promote and generate excitement around all sports including kabaddi, football, and basketball.

About Paytm:

Headquarters– Noida, Uttar Pradesh

President– Amit Nayyar

Yoshihide Suga formally elected as Japan's New Prime Minister

Yoshihide Suga was formally elected as **Japan's New Prime Minister**. He will succeed Shinzo Abe, who was Japan's Longest serving Prime Minister and stepped down due to health problems.

i. The 71-year old Yoshihide received 314 votes (462 votes were cast) in the 465-member House of Representatives, and 142 votes in the 245-member House of Councillors (House of Representatives & House of Councillors are both part of **DIET, National Parliament of Japan**).

ii. Yoshihide's party Liberal Democratic Party (**LDP**) holds a majority in the Japan Parliament.



About Japan:

Emperor – Naruhito

Capital – Tokyo

Government forms Expert Committee under NCSC Rajesh Pant to probe reports of snooping by Chinese firm

i. Government of India formed an Expert Committee led by National Cyber Security Coordinator (**NCSC**) Lt General (retd) **Rajesh Pant**, India's Chief Coordinator on Cyber Security to examine the reports of digital surveillance on Prominent Indian Nationals including President, Army Chief by Chinese firm **Shenzhen**

Zhenhua Data Information Technology Company Ltd.

ii. The Expert Committee will submit its recommendations in 30 days.

About National Security Council (NSC):

Head – Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Secretary – Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor

Former RAW Chief Anil Dhasmana Appointed as New Chief of NTRO; Succeeds Satish Chandra Jha

The Central government appointed **Anil Dhasmana**, former chief of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW or RAW) as the new chief of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO). He will serve till he attains the age of 65, i.e., for 2 years. He succeeds **Satish Chandra Jha**, former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer, who resigned from the office on September 17, 2020.

Note– The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the appointment of Anil Dhasmana.

Key info about Anil Dhasmana

i. He is a 1981-batch IPS (Indian Police Service) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre.

ii. He has been with RAW for the last 23 years. He was appointed as the Chief of R&AW on 31 January, 2017 and retired in 2019.

Gist about Satish Chandra Jha

i. He is a 1981 batch Bihar cadre IPS officer.

ii. Prior to his appointment as Chairman of NTRO, he also has served as an advisor to the NTRO

PK Mishra Panel to Initiate Action in Advance For Managing Air Pollution in NCR

i. A high-level task force led by Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister reviewed the action taken by agencies and firm up plans for the coming **harvesting and winter season** during a meeting with Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Secretaries of different departments/ministries of the central government including M/o of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Agriculture, Road, Petroleum and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

ii. Its objective was to initiate proper precautionary and preventive measures in advance for the management of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).

iii. The meet notified that incidence of stubble burning has reduced by more than 50% in the last two years and the number of Good Air Quality Index (AQI) days have gone up.

17-year-old girl Khushi Chindaliya appointed UNEP's Green Ambassador in India

Khushi Chindaliya, a 17-year-old girl from Surat, Gujarat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador (RA) for India for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza Eco-Generation (TEG), which is scheduled to take place in September, 2020.

i. Khushi's interest in nature and conservation of environment and her

conservation efforts has helped Chindaliya to bag the role of Regional Ambassador of UNEP-TEG. She started looking for ways to conserve nature, after she saw the greenery around her hometown change into a



concrete jungle.

ii. As Regional Ambassador, she will work on various awareness projects with TEG till February 2021.

Acer India Appoints Actor Sonu Sood as its Brand Ambassador

Acer India, leading Personal Computer(PC) brand appointed actor **Sonu Sood** as its brand ambassador. As the brand ambassador of Acer India, Sonu Sood will support the range of innovative products of Acer over the social media and campaign on the commitment of Acers in improving the lives of the people through technology.



Aim of the association:

- i. The association will support Acer India's awareness drive on leading India's next generation digital evolution through its cutting edge innovations and products.
- ii. With this association Acer aims to strengthen its significant relationship with the community.
- iii. The brand acer is best known for its range of dependable laptops, monitors, projectors and Internet of Things(IoT) led devices.

About Acer India:

President & Managing Director– Harish Kohli

Headquarters– Bengaluru, Karnataka

P D Vaghela Appointed as Chairman of TRAI; Succeeds RS Sharma

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **P.D. Vaghela**, currently the secretary of the department of pharmaceuticals (DoP) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers as the **chairman** of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (**TRAI**) for a period of three years or until he attains the age of 65, whichever is earlier. He will succeed Ram Sewak(**RS**) **Sharma**, who will retire on September 30, 2020, after a five-year tenure.



- RS Sharma is the **1st TRAI chairman** to have a tenure of **5 years**. The chairman of TRAI will normally have a tenure of 3 years.

About P.D. Vaghela

- i. He is a 1986-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre.
- ii. Prior to serving as a Secretary of DoP he was the Commissioner of Commercial tax in Gujarat .

Honours/ Awards

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport wins CII-GBC 'National Energy Leader' award

The GMR led Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Hyderabad International Airport) won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'. It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC).



The award was given to RINL also during the 19th edition of 'Energy Efficiency Summit', Virtual Conference and Exposition on Energy Efficiency held from August 6-28, 2020.

Sir David Attenborough, British Broadcaster is Honoured with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

Over a virtual event, Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh conferred the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize** for the year **2019** upon **Sir David Attenborough**, a British broadcaster. Sonia Gandhi, President of Congress was also present during the event.

About Indira Gandhi Prize:

- i.** The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development was instituted by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in 1986.
- ii.** The award consists of a citation along with a cash award of Rs.25 lakhs.
- iii.** The award is presented to individuals or organisations who are working to ensure international peace and development, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used to expand the scope of freedom and better humanity and creating new international economic order.

About David Attenborough:

- i.** Sir David Attenborough (94 years) is known as the world's leading authority on the natural world because of his prodigious creativity in educating mankind with films and movies about the natural world.
- ii.** He authored documentaries showcasing the natural world to create awareness on the needs of preserving it and tackle the environmental issues.

77th Venice Film Festival 2020: Chaitanya Tamhane's Marathi Film "The Disciple" Bags Best Screenplay Award

i. Venice Film Festival 2020, The 77th Venice International Film Festival organised by **La Biennale di Venezia** was held from 2nd September to 12th September 2020. Marathi film – **The Disciple**, directed by **Chaitanya Tamhane** and starring Aditya Modak, Arun Draavid, Sumitra Bhavne and Kiran Yadnyopavit won the **Best Screenplay Award** at the festival.



ii. Chaitanya Tamhane is the first Indian to contest in the main category of a European film festival since Mira Nair for Monsoon Wedding in Venice 2001.

iii. The film **Nomadland** directed by Chloé Zhao starring Frances McDormand won the **Golden**

lion award 2020.

About La Biennale di Venezia:

President– Roberto Cicutto

Director General– Andrea Del Mercato

Headquarters– Venice, Italy

Aditya Puri MD of HDFC Bank Honoured with Euromoney’s Lifetime Achievement Award 2020

Euromoney, the global finance and banking magazine’s Awards for Excellence 2020 honoured **Aditya Puri**, Managing Director(MD) of HDFC Bank with a **Lifetime Achievement Award 2020**. This is a first of its kind recognition for a corporate leader from India.

- The award is conferred upon him to recognise his skills in building a world class Indian bank and his contribution in creating a trustworthy brand.

About Euromoney’s Awards of Excellence:

i.This first of its kind awards were established in 1992 to recognise banks and bankers

ii.The regional and country Awards of Excellence 2020 were published on 15th July 2020 and the Global Awards were announced on 10th September 2020.

About Aditya Puri:

i.Aditya Puri served as the Chief Executive Officer of Citibank Malaysia from 1992 to 1994.

ii.He joined HDFC bank as its Managing Director and serving since 1994.

iii.He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

iv.He will retire from his post as the MD of HDFC bank on **26th October 2020** and Sashidhar Jagadishan will succeed him as the next MD & CEO.

Michelin Star Chef Vikas Khanna Honoured with 2020 Asia Game Changer Award for Feeding Millions Amid COVID-19

i. The Michelin Star Chef **Vikas Khanna** received the **2020 Asia Game Changer Award** from Asia Society, a United States based non-profit organisation for feeding millions of people across India amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, by coordinating a food distribution drive from Manhattan.

ii.He is the **only Indian** among the six awardees who were recognised by the Asia Society.

iii.The awards will be presented to the honourees over a virtual ceremony which will be held in October 2020 as a global virtual event hosted from New York.

About Asia Society:

President and CEO– Ambassador Josette Sheeran

Headquarters– New York, United States of America.

Narendra Modi Won the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education at 30th First Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony

i. **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister of India won the Medical Education Prize of Ig Nobel Prize 2020 at the 30th First Nobel Prize Ceremony over virtual platform.

ii.Modi became the **2nd Prime Minister** from India to win the Ig Nobel Prize after Atal Bihari Vajpayee who won the 1998 Peace award for “Aggressively peaceful explosion of atomic bombs”.

iii.The government of India and Pakistan won the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for **peace** for “having their diplomats



surreptitiously ring each other's doorbells in the middle of the night, and then run away before anyone had a chance to answer the door.”

Colombian Journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima won the Golden Pen of Freedom Award 2020 of WAN-IFRA

Colombian Journalist Jineth Bedoya Lima was honoured with the prestigious Golden Pen of Freedom Award 2020, an annual press freedom award of the World Association of News Publishers(WAN-IFRA). The award was presented to recognise her contribution towards promoting and protecting women rights and her courage to overcome her personal tragedy which inspires other women across the globe.

About Jineth Bedoya Lima:

- i. Jineth Bedoya Lima is the deputy editor for El Tiempo Newspaper, Colombia.
- ii. She has reported on drug trafficking and women rights issues and armed conflicts of Colombia for more than 20 years, which earned her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2016.
- iii. She launched the campaign “No Es Hora De Callar” (It is Not Time to be Silent) in 2009 to condemn chronic and systemic impunity in cases of sexual violence within Colombia's internal war.

Awards:

- i. She was honoured with the 2020 **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Award** in April 2020.
- ii. She won the Press Freedom Grand Prix from the Inter-American Press Association (SIP- Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa) in August 2019.
- iii. She also received the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (**CJFE**) International Press Freedom Award and International Women's Media Foundations(**IWMF**) Courage in Journalism Award in 2001.

Kerala Bags UNIATF Award 2020 for its Contribution Towards SDGs Related to Non-Communicable Diseases

- i. Kerala won the UN Interagency Task Force (**UNIATF**)UNIATF Award 2020 for its contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals(**SDGs**) related to the non-communicable diseases.
- ii. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of World Health Organisation (**WHO**) announced the annual **UNIATF** Award for the year 2020 on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- iii. This is the **first** time for Kerala to be recognised by this annual UN Award.

Shivangi Singh to become India's first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale

- i. Flight Lieutenant **Shivangi Singh** to become the **first woman fighter pilot** of **India** to fly the **Rafale combat aircraft** that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force(IAF) September 10, 2020.
- ii. She hails from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF.



Note– Five Rafale Aircrafts were formally inducted into the IAF’s 17 Squadron ‘Golden Arrows’ on September 10, 2020 at a function held at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana).

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Sanju Yadav Won the AIFF Player of the Year Award 2019-2020

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, (28 years) from Chandigarh, goalkeeper of Indian National Men’s Football team and **Sanju Yadav (22 years)** from Haryana, Midfielder of India’s National Women’s Football team were declared as the winners of the annual All India Football Federation (**AIFF**) Men’s Footballer of the Year Award **2019-2020** and AIFF Women’s Footballer of the Year Award **2019-2020** respectively.

Selection process:

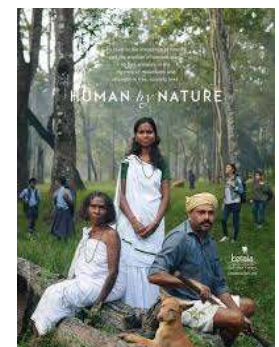
i. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was selected as the winners based on the votes of the **coaches of Hero I-League club and Hero Indian Super league.**

Kerala Tourism bags PATA Grand Award 2020

Kerala Tourism’s ‘**Human by Nature Print Campaign**’ campaign bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (**PATA**) Grand Title Winner 2020 for **Marketing**.

i. The awards were announced during a presentation ceremony of Virtual PATA Travel Mart 2020 in Beijing, which took place from September 23-27, 2020.

ii. The PATA Awards are supported and sponsored by Macao Government Tourist Office (**MGTO**) for the last 25 years.



Karnataka Tourism Bags PATA Gold Award 2020:

Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka won the PATA Gold Award 2020 for its Marketing Campaign – ‘**Script your Adventure 2019**’. It was one of the 21 Gold Award winners from across the globe.

Sports

Formula One Champion Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton Won the Belgian Grand Prix 2020; Won this title for 4th time, Claimed his 89th GP

Formula One Champion Mercedes **Lewis Hamilton**(British) won the **Belgian Grand Prix(GP) 2020** at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium. This is his **4th Belgian GP** win, the record equals with Jim Clark and Kimi Raikkonen in 3rd position in all time most wins of Belgian GP, behind Michael Schumacher(6 times)and Ayrton Senna(5times). With this victory, he claimed his 89th career title.



Note– This victory is Lewis Hamilton's **5th win** in 7 races this year(2020)

- i.**With this win, the 6 time Formula One World Champion is close to German great Schumacher's F1 record of 91.
- ii.**Lewis Hamilton holds the records for the all-time most; career points (3588), pole positions (93),podium finishes (157), most grand slams in a season (3) and the most points in a season.

India, Russia declared joint winners of 2020 Online FIDE Chess Olympiad

- i.** India and Russia were declared joint winners of the 2020 Online FIDE (International Chess Federation) Chess Olympiad after the final was marred by internet disconnection. This was the first time that FIDE was holding the Olympiad in an online format due to the ongoing Pandemic. **i.**Initially, Russia were declared winners after two Indian players – Nihil Sarin and Divya Deshmukh lost out on time in the final due to a disconnection in the server.
- ii.**However,India lodged a protest against the controversial decision which was reviewed and FIDE announced Gold Medals for both India and Russia.
- iii.**This was India's maiden appearance in the final of the tournament, and Russia had not won a Chess Olympiad since 2002.

Indian GM Iniyam wins 48th Annual World Open Chess Virtual tournament (online)

Indian Grandmaster Panneerselvam Iniyam won the 48th Annual World Open Chess Tournament via online with 7.5 points from nine games. The World Open Chess Tournament is organized by **Continental Chess Association**. It was held from August 7-9, 2020 in online mode following classical time control.



The tournament is usually held in Philadelphia, New York in the United States, this time it was conducted virtually due to the ongoing pandemic.

Highlights:

- i.**The Tournament had 31 Grandmasters, in which Iniyam and Sanan Sjugirov of Russia finished with 7.5 points, and Iniyam emerged the winner because of a better tie-break.

ii. 17-year old GM Iniyar hails from **Erode, Tamil Nadu** finished with 7.5 points from six victories and three draws.

French Driver Pierre Gasly wins 2020 Italian Grand Prix

French Driver Pierre Gasly won the Italian Grand Prix for his Racing Team Alpha Tauri. This was **maiden Formula One win** for both Pierre Gasly and his racing team Alpha Tauri. Lewis Hamilton was dominating until he was penalized.

- i. Pierre Gasly became the **first Frenchman** to win a race since Olivier Panis won Monaco Grand Prix in 1996.
- ii. The 24-year-old Frenchman finished ahead of McLaren Driver Carlos Sainz and Racing Point's Lance Stroll.
- iii. All the three drivers had never won a race and each had only one top-three finish to their names.
- iv. Alpha Tauri became the first team outside Mercedes, Ferrari and Red Bull to win a race since 2013.

Wushu Stalwart Poonam Khatri's Silver Medal at 2019 World Championship Upgraded to Gold Medal

Poonam Khatri who won the Silver Medal at the 15th edition of World Wushu Championships (WWC) 2019 held at Minhang Gymnasium in Shanghai, China has now been upgraded to Gold Medal.



- i. Poonam is now the **third Indian** to win a Gold in Wushu World Championship after Pooja Kadiyan (2017) and Praveen Kumar (2019).
- ii. Her Gold Medal got upgraded after Iran's **Maryam Hashemi** failed in her dope test. Maryam won the gold medal in the Women's Sanda event after defeating Poonam Khatri in the finals of the 75 kg category.
- iii. Wushu sanda is a martial art which combines full-contact kickboxing, including close range punches and kicks, with wrestling, takedowns, throws, sweeps and kick catches.

About Poonam Khatri:

- i. Poonam was born in **Soldha village** in **Haryana's** Jhajjar District.
- ii. Poonam is also a seven-time Senior National Wushu Championships gold medallist.

US Open 2020 – Overview

The 140th Edition of American Open took place at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre, New York, United States from August 31, 2020 – September 13, 2020.

It was the Second Grand Slam Event of the year, after Australian Open took place in January. Wimbledon was called off due to the pandemic.

2020 US Open Winners

Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Dominic Thiem (Austria)	Alexander Zverev(Germany)
Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Mate Pavic (Croatia) & Bruno Soares (Brazil)	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands)& Nikola Mektic (Croatia)
Women's Doubles	Laura Siegemund (Germany) & Vera Zvonareva (Russia)	Nicole Melichar (United States) & Yifan Xu (China)

Lewis Hamilton wins Tuscan Grand Prix, Albon secures first career podium

Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** (Britain) Won the Tuscan Grand Prix 2020, held at the Mugello Circuit, **Italy**.

- i.**This Hamilton's 90th Pole Position of his career, he is one win short of equalling Michael Schumacher's **All-Time Record**.
- ii.**Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas(Finland) finished Second, while Red Bull's Alexander Albon Anusinha (Thailand) finished third in the Tuscan Grand Prix 2020.
- ii.**This is the **First Podium Finish** of **Alexander Albon's** Formula 1 Career.

Mercedes Driver Valtteri Bottas wins Russian Grand Prix 2020

Mercedes Driver Valtteri Viktor Bottas (Finland) won the Russian Grand Prix 2020 held at Sochi Autodrom, Russia.

- i.**Red Bull's Max Verstappen (Netherlands) finished Second, while Mercedes Lewis Hamilton (Britain) finished Third in the Russian Grand Prix 2020.
- ii.**This is Valtteri's first win since the victory in season-opening Austrian Grand Prix.
- iii.**Lewis Hamilton who finished third due to a penalty of 10 Seconds missed a chance to match Michael Schumacher's Record of 91 wins in Formula One.



2020 Italian Open – Overview

i. The **77th Edition of Italian Open** (also known as Rome Masters or the Internazionali BNL d'Italia) 2020 took place from September 14-21, 2020 at Foro Italico Court, Rome, Italy.

ii. It is a **clay court tournament** and is classified as an ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour Masters 1000 Event on the 2020 ATP Tour and a Premier 5 event on 2020 WTA (Women's Tennis Association) Tour.

2020 Italian Open Winners

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Diego Schwartzman (Argentina)
Women's Singles	Simona Halep (Romania)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

Obituaries

Dr S Padmavati, India's 1st Female & Oldest Cardiologist, Founder of AIHF & NHI, Padma Awardee Died of COVID-19

i. Dr S. Padmavati Sivaramakrishna Iyer (S. I. Padmavati or S. Padmavati), **India's 1st Female & Oldest Cardiologist** died at the age of 103 in National Heart Institute (NHI) due to COVID-19 infection.

ii. She was the founder of All India Heart Foundation (AIHF) and NIH, New Delhi, India and established the **1st cardiac clinic** and catheterization laboratory at the Lady Hardinge Medical College in India (Delhi).

iii. She is popularly known as the "**GodMother of Cardiology**". She is the recipient of **Padma Bhushan** (1967) and **Padma Vibhushan** (1992).



Black Panther Star Chadwick Boseman Passed Away at 43

Chadwick Boseman, hollywood star well known for his role as T'Challa in the film **Black Panther (2018)** of the Marvel Superhero Franchise passed away at the age of 43 in his residence at Los Angeles, United States of America (USA) due to colon cancer.

He was born in Anderson, South Carolina.

Career:

i. He portrayed Thurgood Marshall, First African American Supreme Court Justice of the US in the movie **Marshall** in 2017.

ii. He debuted into the Marvel cinematic universe as Black Panther in the Marvel Film, **Captain America: Civil War (2016)** and also starred in the films **Avengers: Infinity War** and **Avengers: Endgame**.

iii. He also worked in the film **21 Bridges (2019)** which he co-produced and **Da 5 Bloods (2020)**.

iv. His last film, **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom**, will be released posthumously on Netflix.



Katyayani Shankar Bajpai, Ex Indian Ambassador and Chairman of Delhi Policy Group Died

Katyayani Shankar (KS) Bajpai (also known as K. Shankar Bajpai) **former Indian Ambassador** (envoy) to the United States (US), Pakistan, Netherlands and China **passed away** at the age of 92. He co-founded the **Delhi Policy Group (DPG)**, an independent think tank in 1994 with other eminent public intellectuals & remained its chairman since then. He served as the **Former Indian Secretary, External Affairs Ministry**. He was born on March 30, 1928, in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- The 1952 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer is a doyen of Indian foreign policy and one of the key persons behind the growth of Indo-US relations.

Key Info

- i. He is the Son of **Girija Shankar Bajpai** (1st Secretary-General of the Ministry of External Affairs).
- ii. It is to be noted that he is the only diplomat who served as the ambassador to China, Pakistan and the US, when there was a strain relationship with each and India was managing 3 most challenging relationships.

Former President & Bharat Ratna Awardee Pranab Mukherjee passes away

Former President Pranab Kumar Mukherjee passed away after developing a lung infection at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, he was admitted for a Brain Surgery. He had also tested Positive for Coronavirus.

- i. He served as the 13th President of India From 2012-2017. He was India's only non-Prime Minister who was the leader of the Lok Sabha
- ii. He was conferred with '**Bharat Ratna**' in 2019 and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2008.

Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji of Edneer Mutt passed away at 80

Kesavananda Bharati Swamiji, a petitioner of the historic judgement of the Supreme court on the Fundamental Rights case passed away at the age of 80 in the Edneer Mutt, Kerala due to cardiac and breathing problems.



Key Points:

- i. Kesavananda Bharati has headed the Edneer Mutt since 1961.
- ii. Apart from promoting advaita philosophy, He was a classical singer who managed and ran the troupe – Yakshagana Mela for more than 15 years and took part as a bhagavata (singer & Director) and performed Carnatic music.
- iii. He supported to eliminate the inhibition with the Yakshagana artists and conducted Yakshagana shows and Talamaddale programmes in the Mutt.

British Actress Diana Rigg Passed Away at 82: Starred in GOT, Avengers and James Bond

Dame Diana Rigg, British who was popularly known for her recent role as Olenna Tyrell in the Game of Thrones series passed away at the age of 82 after being diagnosed with cancer in March 2020. She was born in Doncaster, Northern England.

About Diana Rigg:

- i. Diana made her debut at the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1959.
- ii. She starred alongside Patrick Macnee in **The Avengers** (1965) as a secret agent Emma Peel.
- iii. She starred as Tracy who became Mrs James Bond in the film **On Her Majesty's Secret Service** (1969).
- iv. Her recent performances include the Duchess of Buccleuch in **Victoria**, Mrs Pumphrey in the new adaptation of **All Creatures Great and Small**.



Swami Agnivesh, Social activist, Former Cabinet Minister and Arya Samaj leader Passed Away at 80

Swami Agnivesh(Original Name- Vepa Shyam Rao), renowned social activist, scholar, former MLA(Member of the Legislative Assembly) and **Cabinet Minister for Education** of Haryana passed away at the age of 80 due to cardiac arrest at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi, India. He served as the president (2004–2014) of the **World Council of Arya Samaj**, which i



s the highest international body of the Arya Samaj. He was born on 21st September, 1939 in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh.

Key Info about Swami Agnivesh

- i.He founded the **Bonded Labour Liberation Front-BLLF**(or Bandhua Mukti Morcha-BMM), a Non-Governmental Organisation(NGO)
- ii.From 1994 to 2004, he served as the chairperson of the **United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Passes Away at 74

Former Union Minister for Rural Development, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away at the age of 74 at New Delhi due to post COVID complications.

He was born on 6th June 1946 in Bihar.

About Raghuvansh Prasad Singh:

- i.Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, was a former Professor with a doctorate in mathematics who served as the Minister of State for Energy during the term of Karpoori Thakur as Chief minister in 1977.
- ii.He became the Lok sabha member in 1996 and served as a Lok Sabha member for five terms representing Vaishali, Bihar.
- iii.He served as the Union minister for Rural development from 2004 to 2009 in the cabinet led by Manmohan Singh.
- iv.He was well known as the architect of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MGNREGA**) which was rolled out as a flagship programme under the United Progressive Alliance (**UPA**) government.

Ashok Gasti, Rajya Sabha MP Passed Away of COVID-19

Ashok Gasti, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) **Rajya Sabha MP** (Member of Parliament) from **Karnataka**, passed away of **COVID-19** at a private hospital in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was around the age of 55. The BJP Karnataka leader was born in 1965 and belonged to Raichur district, Karnataka.

- The first-time Rajya Sabha member took oath as MP on July 22, 2020.

Key Info about Ashok Gasti

- i.Ashok Gasti is an advocate by profession from the barber community.
- ii.He is credited for organising the BJP in Raichur district.
- iii.He served as the chairman of Karnataka Backward Classes commission in 2012.
- iv.He was elected to the Upper House on June 12, 2020 along with Iranna Kadadi of the BJP.

Balli Durga Prasad Rao, Tirupati Lok Sabha MP Passed Away of COVID-19

Balli Durga Prasad Rao, **Tirupati**(Andhra Pradesh-AP) **Lok Sabha MP**(Members of Parliament) passed away of **COVID-19** at Apollo Main Hospital in Chennai, TamilNadu. He was around the age of 64. He

belongs to Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party(YSRCP). He was born in Nellore district, AP on June 15, 1956.

- The first-time MP from the Tirupati (SC-Scheduled Caste) reserved constituency served as the School **Education Minister** in the Chandrababu Naidu Cabinet in the undivided Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96.

Key Info about Balli Durga Prasad Rao

- i.Balli Durga Prasad Rao is a lawyer by profession. He started his political career as a member of TDP(Telugu Desam Party).
- ii.In 2019 he joined YSRCP and contested in Tirupati Lok Sabha elections

Kapila Vatsyayan, Indian Cultural Icon, Former MP and Padma Vibhushan Awardee, Passed Away

Kapila Vatsyayan, a renowned scholar of **Indian classical dance, art, architecture, and art history** passed away at New Delhi, India due to age related ailments. She was about 91 years old. She was a former Member of Parliament(**MP**) and lifetime trustee of India International Centre (**IIC**). She was founder trustee, academic director and chairperson of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. Kapila Vatsyayan is the recipient of Padma Vibhushan(2011).



Key Info about Kapila Vatsyayan

Described as

Kapila Vatsyayan is described as the ‘**grand matriarch**’ of cultural research.

Key Positions

- i.She was also the chairperson of the Asia Project at the IIC. She served as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Education.
- ii.She held important positions in India’s representations to UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Nepalese Mountaineer “Snow Leopard” Ang Rita Sherpa Passed Away at 72

Ang Rita Sherpa, the Nepalese Mountaineer who scaled Mount Everest, the world highest peak, 10 times without bottled oxygen passed away at the age of 72 at his residence in Kathmandu, Nepal due to brain and liver ailments. He was born on 27th July 1948 in Solukhumbu, Nepal.

Ang earned the nickname “**Snow Leopard**” for his mountaineering skills and adventures.



Guinness World Records of Ang Rita Sherpa:

- i.Guinness World Record recognised Ang Rita Sherpa with a certificate in 2017 for making the most number of ascents on Mt Everest (8,848 meter) without supplemental oxygen between 1996 and 1983.
- ii.He was also recognised as the first man to climb Mt Everest in winter without supplemental oxygen on 22nd december 1987.

Suresh Angadi, MoS for Railways: 1st Central Minister to Die of COVID-19

Suresh Channabasappa Angadi, Union Minister of State for Railways and Bharatiya Janata Party (**BJP**)’s Member of Parliament(**MP**) from Belagavi constituency of Karnataka passed away at the age of 65 after

testing positive for COVID-19 at the Covid Facility, New Delhi. He is the first Central Minister to die of Coronavirus. He was born on 1st June 1955 at Belagavi, Karnataka.

About Suresh Angadi:

- i. Suresh Angadi was a law graduate who served as the Vice President of BJP in Belagavi in 1996.
- ii. He was elected as a Lok Sabha MP for the first time in the 2004 election and he was again elected for the 2nd and 3rd term in 2009 and 2014 elections.
- iii. He served as a member of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Human Resources Development and Defence.
- iv. He was appointed as the Minister of State (MoS) for Railways after winning the 2019 general election (his 4th term).

Former Australian Cricketer & Commentator Dean Mervyn Jones Passed Away at 59

Dean Mervyn Jones, former Australian and Victorian cricketer and Commentator passed away at the age of 59 in Mumbai, Maharashtra due to cardiac arrest. He was born on 24th March 1961 in Melbourne, Australia.



Career:

- i. Jones made his debut representing Australia in 1984 and played around 52 tests matches during which he scored around 3631 runs which includes 11 centuries.
- ii. He played around 164 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for Australia scoring around 6068 runs.
- iii. He played a vital role in the Australian Team to win their first World Cup in 1987.

Sekhar Basu, PadmaShri Awardee, Veteran Atomic Scientist and Former Chairman of AEC Passed Away of COVID-19

Sekhar Basu, Veteran Atomic Scientist and Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) passed away at the age of 68 at a private hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal of COVID-19. He served as the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and as director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). He was the recipient of **PadmaShri (2014)**. He was born on September 20, 1952 in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

Gist about Sekhar Basu

Key role

- i. Sekhar Basu developed the highly complex reactor for **INS Arihant**, India's 1st nuclear-powered submarine.
- ii. He was the key person behind the design, construction and operation of nuclear recycle plants in Tarapur and Kalpakkam.

Renowned Singer SP Balasubrahmanyam dies aged 74

Renowned Indian Singer **Sripathi Paditha Arathyula Balasubrahmanyam** (Popularly known as SPB) passed away at a Private Hospital in Chennai at the age of 74 due to Cardio-Respiratory arrest. He was admitted to hospital after testing positive for COVID-19. Even Though he tested Negative on September 4, he continued to be on Ventilator and ECMO support, and breathed his last on September 25.

i.He was born on 4th June, 1946 at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

ii.He is a **Six-time National Award Winner for Best Male Playback Singer** (1979, 1981, 1983, 1988, 1995, 1996).

Civilian Honours by Government of India:

i.He was awarded **Padma Shri** in 2001 by the Government of India.

ii.In 2011, he was awarded **Padma Bhushan** by the Government of India.

Padma Bhushan Dr.Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Former Chairperson of ICRIER Passed Away at 74

Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Indian economist, public policy researcher and the former Chairperson of an economic think tank, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (**ICRIER**), who served for 15 years from 2005-2020 passed away at the age of 74 at New Delhi due to brain cancer. She received the **Padma Bhushan** in 2009. She was born on 1st October 1945.



About Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia:

i.Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia was the first women scholar at the Centre for Policy Research (**CPR**) during the 1980s.

ii.She served as the director and CEO of the think tank ICRIER from 1998 to 2002.

iii.She also served as the Chairperson of the board of International Food Policy Research Institute and the High Powered committee on Urban Infrastructure Services between 2008 and 2011.

iv.She was named Chairperson Emeritus following the appointment of Paramod Bhasin as the new Chairperson of ICRIER.

Books:

i.She recently published her memoir titled "**Breaking Through**", a proof of her career which broke the barriers that huddled women's careers.

ii.Her other books include Industrial Growth in India: Stagnation Since the Mid-Sixties and Productivity and Growth in Indian Manufacturing.

Major Jaswant Singh (Retd) Former Union Minister Passed Away at 82

Major Jaswant Singh (Retd), former Union Minister in the cabinet of Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Founding member of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) passed away at the age of 82 at New Delhi due to cardiac arrest.

He was born in 1939 in Barmer, Rajasthan.

About Jaswant Singh:

- i. Jaswant Singh was elected 4 times to the Lok Sabha and 5 times to the Rajya Sabha during which he held the key portfolios like **External affairs, Defence and Finance**.
- ii. He was the lead negotiator in the negotiations with the United States(US)'s deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott, after the 1998 Nuclear tests of India.

Books:

His books include, "Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence (2009)" and A Call to Honour (2006).

Syeda Anwara Taimur, Assam's 1st and only Woman CM Passed Away

Syeda Anwara Taimur, Assam's first and only woman Chief Minister(CM) passed away in Australia due to cardiac arrest. She was around the age of 83. She is the **1st Muslim woman CM** of any state in India. She was born on November 24, 1936 in Assam, British India.

- She is a 4 time(1972, 1978, 1983 and 1991) Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and a 2 times Rajya Sabha MP- Member of Parliament (nominated in 1988 and elected in 2004).
- She had an illustrious political career spanning over 4 decades.

Key Info About Syeda Anwara Taimur

- i. Syeda Anwara Taimur prior to entering into politics served as the Economics lecturer in Devicharan Barua Girls College at Jorhat in 1956.
- ii. She was the CM of the state from December 1980 to June 1981 as a member of the Congress during the height of the anti-foreigners' agitation in the State. Her tenure ended as the state was put under president's rule.

Important Days with theme

September to be Observed as “Nutrition month”: PM Modi in Mann ki Baat

- i. During the monthly radio broadcast programme “**Mann ki Baat**”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to celebrate the September 2020 as “**Poshan Maah**” or “**Nutrition Month**”.
- ii. The month will be celebrated across India to educate everyone on the importance of optimum nutrition.
- iii. The nutrition month was celebrated earlier in September 2018 and 2019.
- iv. **Agriculture Fund of India** with information about the crops of each district and their nutrition value are being prepared.



National Teachers Day 2020 – 5th September

- i. India celebrates **5th September** of every year as the **National Teachers day** to honour the roles of teachers in shaping the future of the nation. The day is marked on the birth anniversary of India’s former President Bharat Ratna Awardee, renowned teacher and philosopher Dr. Sarvaepalli Radhakrishnan who was born on 5th September 1888.
- ii. The first National Teacher’s Day was celebrated in 1962.
- iii. In the first ever virtual award ceremony, Ram Nath Kovind, President of India awarded the **National Award to Teachers 2020**, the highest teachers award in India, to the **47 teachers** who were shortlisted by the Ministry of Education.

International Literacy Day 2020 – September 8

- i. United Nations(UN)’s International Literacy Day is annually celebrated on 8th September to promote the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights among the general public and to work towards a more literate and sustainable society.
- ii. The International Literacy Day was celebrated on 8th September since 1966.
- iii. The theme of International Literacy Day 2020 is “**Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond**” which particularly focuses on the role of educators and the method of teaching.



World Suicide Prevention Day 2020 – September 10

- i. World Suicide Prevention Day(**WSPD**) is annually observed across the world on **10th of September** to raise awareness that the suicide can be prevented and to educate people to reach out for those who need help. The day is organised by International Association for Suicide Prevention (**IASP**) in collaboration with

World Health Organisation (**WHO**).

ii. The first World Suicide Prevention day was hosted in 2003 by IASP in collaboration with WHO and World Federation for Mental Health (**WFMH**).

iii. The theme of 2018 World Suicide Prevention Day – “**Working Together to Prevent Suicide**” was retained as the theme for both 2019 and 2020 World Suicide Prevention Day.

Hindi Diwas 2020 – September 14

i. Hindi Diwas is celebrated annually on **14th of September** across India to promote Hindi and to create awareness about the language. This day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the adoption of Hindi (**the Devanagari Script**) as one of the **official languages** of the Republic of India in 1949. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India.

ii. The 14th September 2020 also marks the birth anniversary of Beohar **Rajendra Simha**, the illustrator of the original final manuscript of the Indian Constitution.

iii. The Department of Official Language under the Ministry of Home Affairs have released the list of the winners of **Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar** and **Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar 2019-2020**.



National Engineers Day 2020 – September 15

i. National Engineers Day is annually celebrated across India on **15th September** to pay tribute to India’s legendary dam builder and eminent engineer, Bharat Ratna **Sir MV Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya**, who was born on 15th September 1861 in Muddenahalli, Karnataka.

ii. The Engineer’s day was first observed in 1967 and 15th September 2020 marks the 53rd National Engineers Day.

iii. MV Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was the 19th Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918 during which he founded the Mysore Soap Factory, Bangalore Agricultural University and State Bank of Mysore. He was known as the “**Father of Modern Mysore**”.

International Day of Democracy – September 15, 2020

i. The International Day of Democracy is observed around the world annually on 15th of September, since 2007. The day is observed around the world to promote and uphold democratic principles, to respect human rights, inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency.

ii. It was established through a resolution passed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy.



About United Nations General Assembly:

President – Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (**Nigeria**)

Headquarters – New York, United States of America (USA)

International Day of Peace observed on 21st September, 2020

The International Day of Peace (“**Peace Day**”) is observed annually on September 21. The day will be devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace through observing “24 hours” of non-violence and cease-fire.

The **theme** for 2020 International Day of Peace is “**Shaping Peace Together**”.



- i. The Peace Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981.
- ii. It was only in 2001, that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) called for complete “non-violence and cease-fire” on the peace day.

World Rhino Day – September 22 2020

The World Rhino Day is celebrated Internationally on September 22, 2020. World Rhino Day is celebrated annually on September 22 by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and other international organizations.

- i. Theme for World Rhino Day is “**Five Rhino Species Forever**”.
 - ii. The World Rhino Day was first announced by WWF-South Africa in 2010. World Rhino Day is recognized as a day of awareness for threats facing all five rhino species (**Black, White, Greater one-horned (Indian), Sumatran and Javan Rhinos**).
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)’s conservation status of the Five

World Maritime Day 2020 – September 24

- i. United Nations (UNs) World Maritime Day is annually observed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and its member states on the **last thursday of September** to recognise the contribution of the international maritime industries toward the economy of the world. The World Maritime Day 2020 falls on **24th September 2020**.



- ii. The **theme** of World Maritime Day 2020 is “**Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet**”
- iii. The First World Maritime Day was observed on 17th March 1978 to mark the enforcement of IMO Convention in 1958.

World Tourism Day Observed on September 27, 2020; SAATHI App Launched

- i. Since 1980, the World Tourism Day (WTD) is held annually on September 27 globally to raise awareness on the importance of tourism in the social, cultural, political and economic aspects of any region.
- ii. The year 2020 marked a worst-hit on the tourism sector due COVID-19 induced lockdowns and restriction on travels. However, to reshape this effect into opportunity, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has designated 2020 as the **Year of Tourism and Rural Development**. Therefore, the 2020 edition of WTD was held with the **theme** “Tourism and Rural Development”.
- iii. In India, the Ministry of Tourism celebrated WTD 2020 through a virtual platform from New Delhi where Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel **Dharmendra Pradhan** was the chief guest. During the event **SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry)** Application was to assist the hospitality industry in safe operations covering staff, employees and guests.

World Heart Day 2020: September 29

- i. **World Heart Day** is observed annually on **September 29** to raise awareness about Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) including heart disease & stroke and highlights their prevention and global impact.
- ii. The day also aims to educate people that at least 80% of premature deaths due to



heart disease and stroke can be avoided by controlling risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.

iii. The World Health Day was established in 1999 by the World Heart Federation (**WHF**) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (**WHO**).