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National

General Atlantic to Buy 0.84% stake in Reliance Retail for Rs 3,675 Crore

- i. Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) and Reliance Retail Ventures Limited(RRVL) announced that **General Atlantic** will buy **0.84% stake** in **RRVL**, a subsidiary of RIL for **Rs 3,675 crore**.
- ii. This investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of **Rs 4.285 lakh crore**.
- iii. With this investment, RRVL gets total funding over Rs 16,000 crore within September 2020.

President Ram Nath Kovind Gives Assent to 3 labour codes along with Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020

i. The Central government aims to push India in among the top 10 countries in the World Bank's ease of doing business rankings with the comprehensive labour reforms such as passing of Code on Wages, 2019 in August 2019. Read Parliament Passed Code on Wages Bill, 2019. As per the 'Doing Business' 2020 report, India had jumped 14 places to the 63rd position in the ease of doing business rankings.

ii. Now, in order to pacing the commitment further, on September 30, 2020, President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the three labour codes viz. Code on Social Security 2020, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition Code 2020, and the Industrial relation Code 2020.

iii. Now these three labour codes along with Code on Wages, 2019 will merge **29 central labour laws** into four broader legislations including Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948, the Minimum Wage act, 1948, and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, among others.

iv. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020 that also seeks to promote ease of doing business in the country has received assent of the President. This Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 replace the Companies Act, 2013.



RBI excludes 6 PSBs from Second Schedule of RBI Act

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) excluded six public sector banks (PSBs) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 following their merger with other banks with effect from April 01, 2020. The six banks are Syndicate Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), United Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, and Allahabad Bank.

- OBC and United Bank of India merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India; and Allahabad Bank into Indian Bank.

Points to be noted:

- After the consolidation, there are 12 PSBs in the country, seven large PSBs, and five are smaller ones.
- The 2nd Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 contains the list of Scheduled Commercial Banks. These banks carry out the normal business of banking.

IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020 Released, Mukesh Ambani Tops

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) topped the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2020 with the total wealth of 6,58,400 Cr. He retains this position for the 9th consecutive year. Hinduja brothers secured the second spot followed by Shiv Nadar & family. Smita V Crishna, who ranked 28th spot overall is the richest woman in the list followed by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon founder, who is also the richest self-made women in India.



PM Inaugurates 'Atal Tunnel'- World's Longest Highway Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Atal Tunnel' – World's Longest Highway Tunnel in Manali, Himachal Pradesh. The **9.02 Kilometre Long Tunnel** has been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of **INR 3, 300 crores**. It connects **Manali and Lahaul-Spiti Valley**.

- i. The Tunnel is built in the Pir Panjal Range of Himalayas at an altitude of **3000 Meters (10, 000 Feet)** from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- ii. Prior to construction of Tunnel, Lahaul-Spiti valley was cut off for 6 months due to heavy snowfall.
- iii. The Tunnel is **9.02 Kilometres Long** and connects **Manali and Lahaul-Spiti Valley** all over the year.
- iv. Prior to construction of Tunnel, Lahaul-Spiti valley was cut off for 6 months due to heavy snowfall.

Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia Launched a Coffee-table Book "Bapu – The Unforgettable"

On the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Manish Sisodia, the Deputy Chief minister of Delhi launched the coffee-table book titled "**Bapu – The Unforgettable**" over a virtual event organised by the Delhi Archives & Department of Art, Culture and Language, Government of Delhi. Hindustan Times also partnered with these organization to organize the event.



About the book:

- i. The book "Bapu – The Unforgettable" will make the readers think and provide a glimpse of the ideology and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ii. The book also holds several untouched aspects of history, rare photographs, epigraphs and other details about Delhi.

Anand Neelakantan's First Kid's book: "The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids"

Anand Neelakantan, the author of Baahubali series, authored this **first kid's book** titled "**The Very, Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids**", published by Puffins Publishers Private Limited under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

About The book:

- i. The book narrates the story of the asura twins Kundakka and Mandakka who hate to go to school, troublesome Bhasma and per pig Nakura, brothers Atapi and Vatapi and others.

ii. This book introduces the Indian Puranas to the kids who are indulged in electronic gadgets.

iii. The illustrations of the book are made by Subhadeep Roy and Shiladitya Bose.

About Anand Neelakantan:

i. Anand Neelakantan made his **debut** with his book titled “**Asura Tale of the Vanquished**” in 2012.

ii. He invented the new genre “The counter telling of Mythology” in Indian writing.

Books:

i. His other works include the **Baahubali trilogy**, the prequel to the film Baahubali directed by SS Rajamouli.

ii. The series of **Ajaya-Roll of the Dice**, Rice of Kali the books based on Mahabharata from the perspective of the Kauravas.

Puducherry Airport Becomes AAI's first 100% Solar-Powered Airport at a Cost of Rs 2.8cr

i. AAI achieved a major feat on October 2, 2020, by converting the Union Territory of Puducherry's airport into its first entirely solar-powered airport in the country i.e. “absolutely power-neutral” airport with the commissioning of **500KWp** ground-mounted solar power plant at a cost of **Rs 2.8 crore**.



ii. The Airports Authority of India's (AAI) has set a target of transforming the of southern regional airports into renewable energy i.e. the “power neutral region” by **2025** energy by installing its first solar power plant of 750-KWp (kilowatts peak) capacity at Kozhikode Calicut International Airport (CCJ), Kerala in 2016. The focus is to reduce carbon footprints and power bills.

iii. It was inaugurated by Lok Sabha member **V Vaithilingam** in the presence of Rajya Sabha member N Gokulakrishnan, AAI regional govt director R Madhavan, and Puducherry airport director Vijay Upadhyay among others.

About Airports Authority of India's (AAI):

It is a Miniratna – Category -1 Public Sector Enterprise (PSE)

Chairman– Arvind Singh

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Launched “Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh”, Mega Anti Pollution Campaign

i. **Arvind Kejriwal**, Delhi Chief Minister(CM) launched a **mega anti pollution campaign**, “**Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh**” to reduce pollution levels in Delhi.

ii. As part of this campaign Delhi government to use a technology developed by Pusa Agriculture Institute in order control the threat of stubble burning.

iii. In Delhi, 13 pollution hot spots have been identified.

iv. CM announced that ‘Green Delhi App’, a photo-based complaint lodging App will be launched shortly

Gujarat to get Country's First Ever Two Organic Spices Seed Parks at Patan, Banaskantha

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani released Sanction letters to two Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for the Country's First Ever Organic Spices Seed Park in **Patan & Banaskantha** districts for production of **Cumin & Fennel Seeds**.



- Fennel seeds (Saunf) – Banaskantha
- Cumin seeds (Jeera) – Patan

The parks will encourage capacity building and help farmers in adoption of best practices in the production of cumin & fennel seeds.

Union Minister Smriti Irani Launches First-Ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton

Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani launched **First-Ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton** through virtual mode on occasion of World Cotton Day on October 7, 2020.

- India's Premium Cotton is set to be known as '**Kasturi Cotton**' in World Cotton Trade.
- It will represent **Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness**.

About Cotton Corporation of India (CCI):

Chairman, Managing Director (MD) – Pradeep Kumar Agarwal

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Goa Becomes India's 1st 'Har Ghar Jal' State by Providing FHTCs to Every Rural Household

i. Goa has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal' state in the country under Central Government's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) by providing 100% tap water connections in Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) covering 2.30 lakh households. The state has achieved the target before time i.e. by 2021.

ii. There are 1 lakh 65 thousand rural households in North Goa and 98,000 rural households in South Goa in 191 Gram Panchayats.

iii. Now, to strengthen water testing facilities, the State is in process of getting 14 **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)** accredited water quality testing laboratories.



Delhi Cabinet Approved First-of-its-kind 'Tree Transplantation Policy' & World's 2nd Smog Tower at Connaught Place

i. Delhi has become the first state in the country to have the 'Tree Transplantation Policy' for the preservation of trees which was approved by the state's cabinet on October 9, 2020.

ii. Under this, a minimum of 80% of trees affected by a development or construction project will be transplanted.

iii. Apart from above, the state cabinet also gave its nod for the installation of the second smog tower in the world after China and 1st in Delhi worth Rs 20 crore at Connaught Place within ten months.

Both Approvals are a part of Delhi's movement of "**Yuddh, Pradushan Ke Viruddh**" against the air pollution levels.

GBS Sidhu authored “The Khalistan Conspiracy: A Former R&AW Officer Unravels the Path to 1984”

GBS Sidhu, a former special secretary of Research and Analysis Wing(R&AW), India’s external intelligence agency authored a book titled “**The Khalistan Conspiracy: A Former R&AW Officer Unravels the Path to 1984**” that portrays the first person accounts on the facts and the roles of senior politicians in the creation and sustenance of Khalistan movement.

The book published by **HarperCollins** will be released on 24th October 2020.

About the book:

- i.The book narrates the series of events that resulted in the rise of Khalistan movement, Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 and the anti-Sikh violence.
- ii.The narration of the book moves from Punjab to Canada, United States, Europe and Delhi.
- iii.The timeline of the book covers 7 years before 1984 and a decade after 1984.

About GBS Sidhu:

- i.GBS Sidhu served in R&AW for 26 years and retired as the special secretary in 1998.
- ii.He also served as the R&AW Chief in Sikkim capital Gangtok

Book:

He published his book “Sikkim: Dawn of Democracy: Truth Behind the Merger with India” in 2018.

Kerala becomes First State in India to go Digital in Public Education

The state of Kerala has become the **First State** in India to make the **public education sector** completely **digital**.

It has been implemented at a cost of **INR 42.36 Crores**, out of which KIIFB has contributed INR 34.75 crores.



Implementing & Funding Agencies:

The project was implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (**KITE**). Financial assistance was provided by Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (**KIIFB**).

PM Modi Released Rs.100 Coin to Honour Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia

Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi released the **new coin** of Rs.100 denominations to honour the legacy of **Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia** on the occasion of her **birth centenary** over a virtual event. She was born on 12th October 1919.

Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of Culture and the family members of Vijayaraje Scindia participated in the event.

About Vijayaraje Scindia:

- i.Vijayaraje Scindia played a major role in inspiring a generation of Party Karyakartas through her courage, compassion and ideologies.
- ii.She contributed to popularizing the Ram Janmabhoomi movement of BJP following the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992.

iii. She served as a member of parliament from 1957 to 1967.

Books:

She penned her autobiography “**The last Maharani of Gwalior**” with the support of author Manohar Malgonkar.

Chandigarh University Bags First Rank in India for Filing Highest Number of Patents : Intellectual Property India Report

According to **Intellectual Property India’s Annual Report for 2018-**

19, Chandigarh University (Gharuan, Mohali, Punjab) has emerged as the Leading **Stand-Alone** University in India for filing **336 Patents**, which is the highest number of patents in a year.



The reports were released by the **Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks**, Government of India.

Top 3 Indian Applicants for patents from Academic Institutes and Universities:

Name of Institute	Rank
Indian Institute of Technology (Collective) – 557 Patents	1
Chandigarh University, Punjab – 336 Patents	2 (Top Stand-Alone University)
Shoolini University, Himachal Pradesh – 185 Patents	3

Pradeep Goorha Penned His 2nd Book titled “Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank The Dragon”

Pradeep Goorha authored his 2nd book titled “Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank The Dragon”, published by Partridge Publishing India is set to be released. The Fiction book is based on the reality around the issues along the Northern borders of India and the illegal occupation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (**PoK**), Gilgit-Baltistan by Pakistan.

About The Book:

i. Pradeep Goorha’s “Mr Prime Minister, We Shrank The Dragon” attempts to provide the solutions to solve the issues of the illegal occupation of Pakistan along the northern borders of India.

ii. Through this book Pradeep Goorha introduces his readers to believe that the problems are not as hard as they appear.

About Pradeep Goorha:

i. Pradeep Goorha, is an alumnus of IIT Roorkee and Clemson University, South Carolina.

ii. He was a management consultant and he also worked for the London based Commonwealth Secretariat.

iii. He has been a columnist for business magazines in India and authored articles including Gains from

Failure, The Going Concern Chimera, etc.,

iv. His debut book was “**Survival Redux**”, a historical fiction published by Createspace Independent Pub in 2016 in the United States of America.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Launched ‘Red Light On Gaadi Off’ Campaign to Reduce Air Pollution

i. In a bid to reduce air pollution, **Arvind Kejriwal**, Chief Minister(CM) of **Delhi** launched ‘**Red Light On Gaadi Off**’ Campaign. Under this antipollution campaign, people will be encouraged to turn off the engines of their vehicles while waiting at traffic signals.



ii. Prakash Javadekar, Union Environment Minister stated that only **4%** pollution is due to **stubble burning** in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), while the remaining **96%** is due to local factors like biomass burning, garbage dumping, etc.

Shashi Tharoor authored New Book Titled “The Battle of Belonging”

Renowned Author and Politician **Shashi Tharoor** is set to release his new book titled “**The Battle of Belonging**” in November 2020. The book is published by **Aleph Book Company**. Shashi Tharoor described this book as his “magnum opus” on the Theory, evolution and practice of Nationalism across the globe and especially in India.

He also stated that this book is one of his most solidly researched and passionately argued works.

About “The Battle of Belonging”:

The book appears to be an extension of his book “Why I Am a Hindu”.

It provides the historical context to the ideas of nationalism, patriotism, humanism, democracy and their origins.

This book established the actual Indianism and the what it means to be a patriotic and nationalistic Indian in the 21st century.

Books:

Some of his works include India: From Midnight to the Millennium (1997), The Five Dollar Smile And Other Stories (1993).

Heeng Cultivation starts in India for the First Time

Heeng (**Ferula assa-foetida**) commonly known as **Asafoetida cultivation** has been started in India for the first time. The first plantation of Heeng was done in **Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh**. Heeng is a **widely used spice in Indian Cuisine** and is usually imported from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan.



This move will reduce imports. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (**CSIR-IHBT**) introduced **six accession of heeng from Iran** through National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (**NBPGR**). It is a perennial plant and can be grown in unutilized sloppy land of cold desert regions.

NK Singh launches his autobiography 'Portraits Of Power'

i. Veteran Economist and bureaucrat **N K (Nand Kishore) Singh** has released his autobiography titled **"Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside"**. The book portrays the life of NK Singh who played an active role in the development of the Indian economy.

ii. He is currently serving as the **Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission**. The book is published by **Rupa Publications India**.

iii. The book portrays NK Singh's stents from 1964 when he joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), serving in higher positions of the Indian Government before entering politics as a member of Rajya Sabha. This book covers all the personal and national movements that happened in his life.



Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019

i. **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the top destination for attracting the highest number of domestic tourists visiting the state in **2019 as per the Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS) 2020**, released by the **Ministry of Tourism**.

ii. About 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019, which is 23.1% of the total travellers. **Tamil Nadu** (21.3%) came second followed by **Andhra Pradesh** (10.2%).

iii. In terms of Foreign tourists, **Tamil Nadu** has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019. **Maharashtra** (over 55 lakh) is at the second position in this list while **Uttar Pradesh** (over 47 lakh) has secured the third position in attracting foreign tourists visiting in 2019.

iv. **Goa** came last on this list with over **9 lakh foreign tourist** visits in **2019**.



India gets Chairmanship of ILO Governing body after 35 years

i. **India** has assumed the **Chairmanship** of the Governing Body of **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, after a gap of **35 years**.

ii. The Labour and Employment Secretary, **Apurva Chandra**, has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020-June 2021.

iii. Chandra is a 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Maharashtra Cadre. He would preside over the upcoming the Governing Body's meeting, to be held in November 2020. The Governing Body is the apex executive body of the ILO which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget and elects the Director-General.

iv. At present, ILO (**Headquarter- Geneva, Switzerland**) has **187 members**. It meets three times a year, in March, June and November.



India Posts releases 75th Anniversary of UN Commemorative Stamp

i. **Department of Posts (DOP)**, Ministry of Communications released a commemorative **postage stamp** on the **75th anniversary of the United Nations Organisations**.

ii. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, **Anurag Srivastava** stated India attaches the highest priority to the expansion of the UN Security Council so that it reflects contemporary realities of the world.

iii. He stated reformed multilateralism will be a key pillar of the overall approach in the upcoming innings of India as a non-permanent member.

iv. It may be noted that the Department of Posts has previously released similar such commemorative postage stamps on the **UN's 9th, 40th, and 50th Anniversaries in 1954, 1985, and 1995 respectively**.



PM Modi launched 3 projects in Gujarat

i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated three projects in his home State **Gujarat**, one each related to farmers' welfare, healthcare, and tourism development, via video conference from New Delhi. The projects inaugurated include The 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojna' is an **Agri scheme** which aims to provide power

supply during daytime from **5 am to 9 pm (16 hours)** for irrigation purposes to farmers.

ii. The state government has allocated a budget of **Rs 3,500 crores** for installing transmission infrastructure under this scheme by **2023**.

iii. The Paediatric Heart Hospital was inaugurated at **U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre at Civil Hospital** campus in Ahmedabad and a Mobile Application for telecardiology. The new facilities have been set up at the cost of Rs 470 crore and will be India's biggest hospital for cardiology.

iv. **Girnar hill ropeway at Junagadh** is **Rs 130 crore** project. It would attract more tourists and pilgrims to this historical place which will boost employment opportunities.

v. The **2,320 metres long ropeway** has a capacity of carrying **1,000 passengers every hour**.

NTPC ranks 1st among Indian PSUs in Forbes' World's Best Employer 2020

i. **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** has featured on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the '**World's Best Employer 2020**', published by **Forbes**.

ii. The modules have helped thousands of workers from NTPC to grow and think beyond the professional sphere.

iii. NTPC has successfully innovated and introduced people practices in the domain of hiring; engagement; diversity and inclusion; rewards and recognition; and performance management.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- NTPC Founded: 1975.
- NTPC Headquarters: New Delhi, India.

Samsung Tops Forbes' list of World's Best Employer 2020

i. **South Korea** based electronics conglomerate, **Samsung Electronics** has topped the list of '**World's Best Employer 2020**' published by **Forbes**'.

ii. **Amazon, IBM, Microsoft and LG** are among the top 5 in the list respectively.

iii. The global list features 750 multinational and large corporations headquartered in 45 countries.

iv. From India, **HCL Technologies** is the top industry in the list. It is placed at the **30th** position globally. In the Banking sector, **HDFC Bank** is top from India. It is at **176th** position.



Indian Army celebrates 74th Infantry Day in J&K

i. Every year, **October 27** is celebrated as **Infantry Day** by the Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir (known by the nickname, **Chinar Corps**).

ii. The Chinar Corps celebrated the **74th Infantry Day** on October 27, 2020, to honour the supreme sacrifice of the gallant soldiers in fighting the Pakistani invaders, in Jammu and Kashmir, in **1947**.

iii. Infantry Day is celebrated as a remembrance of the first military event of independent India, when the First Battalion of the Sikh Regiment of Indian Army fought battle to accomplish victory over the first attack on the Indian soil by the Pakistan Army and Lashkar invader on October 27, 1947, in the Kashmir valley, who tried to grab J&K.



3rd India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue begins in New Delhi

i. **India** is hosting the third **India-US two plus two Ministerial Dialogue** at Hyderabad House in **New Delhi**. The Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and External Affairs Minister **Dr S. Jaishankar** are leading the Indian delegation.

ii. The United States Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** and Secretary of Defence **Mark Esper** are leading the US delegation.

iii. The First two plus two dialogue was held in **New Delhi** in September 2018 and the Second in **Washington DC in 2019**.

iv. Besides, covering all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest during the third dialogue, the two sides also signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) to further expand the geospatial cooperation between them and improve the accuracy of missile systems of India.

GoI sets up committee to commemorate 400th anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

i. The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to commemorate the **400th** birth anniversary of **Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur**.

ii. Union Home Secretary **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** will be the member secretary of the **70-member high-level committee**.

iii. The committee will look into the approval of policies, plans, programmes and supervision and guiding the commemoration, as well as for deciding dates for detailed programmes of celebration.

iv. Some of the other members of the committee include former prime minister Manmohan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Hardeep Singh Puri, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Chief ministers of Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.



Kerala becomes the first state to fix floor price for vegetables

i. **Kerala** becomes the first state in the country to fix the **floor price for vegetables**. The floor price will be **20 per cent** above the production cost of the vegetable. Even if the market price goes below the floor price, the product will be procured at the floor price from the farmers.

ii. This is the first time in the country that the floor price is being fixed for vegetables produced in the state.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan.

World's first scientoon book "Bye Bye Corona" by Anandiben Patel

i. World's 1st scientoon book entitled "**Bye Bye Corona**", was released by **Anandiben Patel**, Governor, Uttar Pradesh.

ii. The book was written by 'scientoonist' **Dr Pradeep Srivastava**, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

iii. It is further planned to make a **3D version** of the book. The book has been published by **Vigyan Prasar**.



International

Third G20 Sherpa Meeting takes place virtually; Suresh Prabhu represents India

i. **G20 Sherpa Meeting** took place virtually under **Saudi Arabia's Presidency**. The meeting discussed the actions taken by the forum for tackling the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is the 3rd edition of G20 Sherpa Meeting.

ii. Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha represented India at the meeting. He is India's Sherpa (Emissary) to G7 and G20.



First-Ever Virtual G20 Leaders Summit:

The **First-Ever Virtual G20 Leaders Summit** will take place virtually from **November 21 to 22, 2020**. It will be chaired by **Saudi Arabia's King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**.

UN General Assembly – 75th session 15-30 September 2020 held virtually for 1st time

i. The 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 75) was held virtually for the first time amid COVID -19 from September 15 to September 30, 2020. It was hosted by the United States of America (USA) from New York and under the Presidency of Volkan Bozkir of Turkey.

ii. During the session, a special event was organized on September 21, 2020 marking the 75th anniversary of the UN. The event was held under the theme **“The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism”** while the theme of the session was **“The future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting the COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”**. The

iii. From India, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the high-level meeting to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN on September 22 and the General Debate on September 26 through the pre-recorded video statements. These statements were presented by Permanent Representative of India to the UN, **TS Tirumurti**.

- UNGA adopted forward-looking declaration to mark 75th anniversary of United Nations

World Economic Forum shifts Annual Meeting 2021 from Davos to Lucerne

World Economic Forum (WEF) has changed the venue of the Annual Meeting 2021 from Davos to **Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland**. The meeting will be held from **May 18 to 21, 2021** on the theme **“The Great Reset”**, it will be held both in physical and digital modes. The changes have been made due to the Pandemic.

OXFAM & DFI's CRI Index 2020: India ranked 129; Norway topped

i. India has been ranked **129** out of 158 countries in the **Third Edition of Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index or CRI Index 2020** released by **Oxfam** and **Development Finance International**

COUNTRY	PUBLIC SERVICES RANKING	TAX RANKING	LABOUR RANKING	CRI RANKING
Norway	14	23	1	1
Denmark	18	28	2	2
Germany	5	17	11	3
Belgium	7	37	8	4
Finland	2	61	4	5
Canada	28	6	20	6
France	3	47	16	7
New Zealand	21	11	34	8
Austria	10	50	18	9
Sweden	11	70	7	10

(DFI). According to the report, India has spent only **4 percent** of its budget on health during the Pandemic, which is the **Fourth Lowest** in the world.

CRI Index 2020 Overall Ranking:

Country	CRI Ranking
India	129
Norway	1
Denmark	2
Germany	3
South Sudan	158

Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes India Rich List 2020

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries topped the Forbes India Rich List 2020 and remains the wealthiest Indian for the **13th year in a row**. **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of Adani Group came second, and **Shiv Nadar**, Chairman of HCL Technologies came third in the list. **Cyrus Poonawalla**, Chairman of Poonawalla Group which includes **Serum Institute of India** entered the Top 10 list at **Rank 6**.

Pakistan to remain in grey list of FATF till Feb 2021

i. The global terror financing watchdog, **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has announced that **Pakistan** will continue to remain on its grey list till **February 2021**.

ii. This decision has been taken since Pakistan has not been able to fulfil six out of the 27 mandates to check terror funding. FATF has strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2021.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- The headquarters of FATF is in Paris, France.
- FATF was founded in July 1989.



India Ranked 94 out of 107 countries in Global Hunger Index 2020; Worldwide Hunger is at “Moderate” Level

i. **Concern Worldwide** and **Welthungerhilfe** released the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 report in which India ranked 94th among 107 countries with a score of 27.2. Although there is improvement in a score as compared to 38.9 in 2000, 37.5 in 2006, and 29.3 in 2012, but it still represents a **serious level** of hunger.

ii. In 2019, India was ranked 102 out of 117 countries and in 2018 it was ranked 103 among 119 countries.

iii. It is to be noted that **17 countries** have scores of less than 5 and are collectively ranked 1-17.

India ranks 58th in the List of Arton Capital's Passport Index 2020; New Zealand tops the Index

According to **Arton Capital's Passport Index 2020**, **India** has been ranked **58th** in the list of **World's Most Powerful Passports**. **New Zealand** topped the list followed by Japan, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland, South Korea and Australia in second place.

Country	Rank (Based on Access to Number of Destinations)
India (52 Destinations)	58
New Zealand (129 Destinations)	1
Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Australia (128 Destinations)	2
Sweden, Belgium, France, Finland, Italy, Spain (127 Destinations)	3
Afghanistan, Iraq (31 Destinations)	75 (Bottom of the rankings)

3rd Assembly of International Solar Alliance held virtually; ISA Solar Awards Presented for the 1st Time

i. On October 14-16, the third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance was held in a virtual mode where India and France were-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual third Assembly of ISA.



ii. During the assembly, a report prepared by the **World Resources Institute (WRI)** was presented which identified the sources of funds, opportunities and constraints, in scaling up solar investments and the contribution of ISA in assisting Member countries.

iii. The Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar conferred the Kalpana Chawla awards named after the American astronaut of Indian origin, to **Dr. Bhim Singh** from IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Delhi and **Dr. Aesha Alnuaimi** from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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.

Singapore becomes 1st country to use facial recognition to pay taxes

i. Singapore became the **World's First Country** to attach **Facial verification** in the **National Identification Database**. The function is called “**SingPass Face Verification**”.

ii. This technology is being rolled out to the city-state's SingPass digital identity scheme, offering access to no less than 400 online services, including tax declarations and public housing applications.

iii. According to the Singapore authorities, the technology helps ensure that the right person is genuinely present in front of their screen, rather than a photograph, a video, a replayed recording or a deepfake.



LG signs Lewis Hamilton as ambassador of LG Signature

i. LG Electronics has named **Lewis Hamilton** a **global ambassador** for its home solutions brand, **LG Signature**.

ii. Hamilton, the epitome of skill, style and precision will be seen communicating the brand's philosophy.

iii. In the new campaign, he will share with audiences his thoughts on how to lead a stylish, sophisticated life, and what motivates him to be the best in his field.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- LG Electronics Chairman: Kwang-Mo Koo.
- Vice-Chairman and CEO of LG Electronics: Jo Seong-Jin.
- Headquarters of LG Electronics: South Korea.



Defence

India Successfully Test Fires BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile with Strike Range of over 400

Kilometers

India successfully test fired the surface-to-surface Supersonic Cruise Missile BrahMos with a Strike Range of over 400 Kilometers from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. It was jointly conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & BrahMos Aerospace.

It was test fired with indigenous booster, airframe section, propulsion system, power supply and many other major indigenous components.



Objective:

This Test proved the ability of the indigenous components, which were used to achieve higher strike range.

ISRO to Launch Venus mission "Shukrayaan-1" in 2025 with France's CNRS Participation

i. In the domain of space explorations, the space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is credited with AstroSat, Mangalyaan Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2. Now moving forward, ISRO is all set to launch its first Venus mission "Shukrayaan-1" in 2025 with participation of French space agency CNES (National Centre for Space Studies; French: Centre national d'études spatiales) .

ii. In this regard, ISRO has selected the **VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker)** instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency **Roscosmos** and the **LATMOS (Atmospheres, Milieux, Observations Spatiales Laborator)** attached to the CNRS.

iii. Notably this will be the **first time** a French payload will be flown on an Indian exploration mission.

NASA Launched SS Kalpana Chawla Cargo Spacecraft Carrying 8000 Pound Stuff to ISS

i. A National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the Northrop Grumman Cygnus resupply spacecraft named "SS Kalpana Chawla" after its astronaut Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian-born woman to enter space and was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle in Columbia disaster when the spacecraft disintegrated during its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere in 2003.

ii. The spacecraft was launched on an **Antares rocket** from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, United States (US) to deliver nearly 8,000 pounds (approximately 3,630 kilograms) of scientific investigations, technology demonstrations, commercial products, and other cargo to the International Space Station (ISS).



India Successfully Test-Fired New Version of Nuclear-Capable surface-to-surface Missile, "Shaurya"

i. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired a new version of indigenously developed canister launched **hypersonic nuclear-capable** Shaurya missile from the Abdul Kalam Island test range off Dhamra, Odisha to a target in Bay of Bengal.

ii. Shaurya, a **surface-to-surface medium range** missile is a land version of Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) K-15 (B-05) and can be used by both the Navy and the Army.

Russia Successfully Test-Fires Tsirkon Hypersonic Cruise Missile

i. Russia successfully test-fired the **Tsirkon (Zircon) Hypersonic Cruise Missile**. The missile successfully hit a target in the Barents Sea.

ii. The test was carried out from Frigate Admiral Gorshkov Vessel located in White Sea, Northern Russia.

iii. The Missile successfully hit its target at a range of **450 Kilometres** in Four and Half Minutes, and reached hypersonic speeds of more than Mach 8.



About Russia:

President – Vladimir Putin

Capital – Moscow

India Successfully Test Fired 1st Anti-Radiation Missile 'Rudram' from Sukhoi-30 Fighter Aircraft

i. India successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, Rudram 1, a New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGARM) integrated on Su-30MKI fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force. Developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), this **air-to-surface missile** was tested at the interim test range Balasore, off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal.

ii. It has been designed for suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD).

iii. The missile will provide air superiority, tactical capability for the Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter aircraft.

India conducts Successful Night Trial of Nuclear Capable Prithvi-2 Missile

i. India successfully conducted the night trial of indigenously developed **Nuclear-capable Prithvi-2 Missile** at the Integrated Test Range (IPR), Balasore, Odisha. Prithvi-2 is a **surface-to-surface** Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM).

ii. This is the **second night trial of the missile**, the **First Trial of Prithvi-2** was tested successfully after sunset on September 23, 2020.

iii. The launch was carried out by Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the Army and monitored by scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



INS Sahyadri & Kora were Declared as Best Ships in Fleet Award Function 2020

i. Indian Navy Ship (INS) **Sahyadri** and **INS Kora** were awarded the **Best Ship** trophies among the Capital Ships and Corvettes & similar classes of ships respectively. The awards were presented at the Fleet Award Function (FAF) 2020 organised by the **Indian Navy** at Visakhapatnam to mark the successful performance of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet.

ii. The FAF is organised every year to mark the resilience and perseverance of Indian Navy personnels appointed onboard ships of **Poorvi Beda** or Sword Arm of Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

India-Sri Lanka Navies Conducting Maritime Exercise SLINEX-20 off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

i. India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and vision of 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)' is boosting interactions with neighbouring countries including Sri Lanka with which Indian Navy (IN) initiated a 8th Edition of annual Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 from October 19-21 October 2020 off Trincomalee in Sri Lanka.



ii. The Indian side is represented by indigenously built ASW (anti- Submarine Warfare corvettes) **Kamorta** and **Kiltan** under the command of **Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan**, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF) while Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) is represented by SLN Ships Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel) and Gajabahu (Training Ship) led by **Rear Admiral Bandara Jayathilaka**, the Flag Officer Commanding Naval.

iii. In addition, Indian Navy **Advanced Light Helicopter** (ALH) and **Chetak** helicopters embarked onboard IN ships, and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft are also participating.

BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile Successfully Test Fired from INS Chennai

i. The supersonic cruise missile, "BrahMos" was successfully test fired from Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS (Indian Naval Ship) Chennai to a target in Arabian Sea. This **290 KM** (Kilometer) **missile range** has a top speed of Mach 2.8 nearly three times the speed of sound.

ii. It should be noted that the BrahMos, a prime strike weapon has been jointly designed, developed and produced by **BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd** that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.

iii. BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture (JV) between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya-NPOM (formerly Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya of Russia).

Australia to join Malabar-2020 Naval Exercise with India, US & Japan

i. India has invited **Australia** to participate in its trilateral naval exercise "**Malabar-2020**" which is scheduled to be held in November 2020, in the **Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea**.

ii. In 2020, the exercise will be held in a '**non-contact – at sea**' format. It aims to increase cooperation and enhance safety and security in the maritime security domain.

iii. The Malabar series of naval exercises began in **1992** as a bilateral exercise between the **Indian Navy-US Navy**. Later, **Japan** joined the Naval exercise in **2015**.

iv. It must be remembered that **US-India-Japan and Australia** are already the part of the "**Quad**" alliance.



"INS Kavaratti" commissioned into Indian Navy

i. The Chief of Army Staff, General **MM Naravane** has commissioned the '**INS Kavaratti**', the last of four indigenously-built **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes**, into the **Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam**.

ii. The ship has been designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, **Directorate of Naval Design (DND)**, and built by **Garden Reach**



Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

iii. The anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes have been undertaken under 'Project 28', also called **Kamorta-class corvettes** of the Navy.

iv. INS Kavaratti has state-of-the-art weapons and sensor suite capable of "detecting and prosecuting" submarines and good endurance for long-range deployments.

Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.

DRDO successfully conducts final trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile

i. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation, **anti-tank guided missile 'NAG'**, from the **Pokhran** field firing ranges in **Rajasthan**.

ii. The successful final user trial of the missile makes the Nag anti-tank missile ready for induction in the Indian Army. Following the final trial, the missile will now enter into the production phase.

iii. The Nag anti-tank guided missile has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**, to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in the day and night conditions.

iv. It has an operational range of **500 m to 20 km**.

v. It will be manufactured by **defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**, under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)**, of DRDO.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Director Shekhar Kapur Appointed as the President of FTII Society

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MIB) announced the appointment of Renowned Filmmaker **Shekhar Kapur** (74 years) as the new **President** of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council which runs the FTII, an autonomous film School under the MIB at Pune, Maharashtra. His tenure will run till March 2023.Kapur succeeds Brijendra Pal Singh, popularly known for his lead role in the tele series CID whose tenure ended in March 2020.



Note:

The tenure of all the members of the society ended in March 2020.

About Shekhar Kapur:

- i. Shekhar Kapur, well known director and actor, hails from Lahore, Punjab (British India).
- ii. His popular works include **Elisabeth** starring Cate Blanchett, **Bandit Queen**, a movie based on the life of Phoolan Devi, **The Four Feathers** starring Heath Ledger and **Massom** starring Naseeruddin Shah.

Surjeet Singh Deswal DG of ITBP was Given Additional Charges as DG of National Security Guard

By the order of the Union Home Ministry, Surjeet Singh Deswal (SS Deswal), Director General(DG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police(ITBP) has been given the additional charges as the DG of the Counter Terror Force – National Security Guard(NSG) following the retirement of Anup Kumar Singh (AK Singh), incumbent chief of NSG, on September 30.

Deswal, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service(IPS) officer of the Haryana cadre, will hold the position of DG of NSG until the appointment of regular DG or any further orders.

About SS Deswal:

- i. Deswal headed NSG in July 2019 prior to the appointment of AK Singh, 1985-batch IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre in October 2019 following the retirement of Sudeep Lakhtakia.
- ii. This is the **second** time for Deswal to have the position of DG of NSG in an additional capacity.
- iii. He served as the Additional Director General(ADG) of Sashastra Seema Bal(SSB), the border guarding force from December 2015 to October 2017.
- iv. He also served as the DG of SSB while he headed the Border Security Force(BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force(CRPF) in additional capacity.

Crown prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Sworn in as Kuwait's New emir; Succeeds Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

- i. **Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**(83 years old), Crown prince of Kuwait(State of Kuwait) sworn in as new emir(16th Emir of Kuwait) during a session of the National Assembly in Kuwait.
- ii. He succeeds **Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah** (91 years old), who died on September 29, 2020 in the United States.

Government of India Appoints Dinesh Kumar Khara as the Chairman of SBI

The Government of India appointed Dinesh Kumar Khara, the current Managing Director of State Bank of India as the new Chairman of SBI for a period of three years effective from 7th October 2020. Dinesh Kumar Khara succeeds Rajnish Kumar as the new Chairman, whose 3-year term ended on 7th October 2020.



The appointment of Dinesh Kumar was recommended by the Bank Board Bureau.

About Dinesh Kumar Khara:

- i. Dinesh Kumar Khara is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers(CAIIB) and he joined SBI as a probation officer in 1984.
- ii. He played a major role in merging the 5 associate banks and Bharatiya Bank with SBI in April 2017.
- iii. He was appointed as the MD of SBI in August 2016 for a term of 3 years.
- iv. He headed the global banking division of SBI and also served as the MD and CEO of SBI Funds Management Private Limited(SBIMF).

Government Appoints M Rajeshwar Rao as the New Deputy Governor of RBI

The Government of India appointed M Rajeshwar Rao as the new 4th deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) responsible for Financial regulations. He will succeed NS Vishwanathan, the former 4th Deputy Governor of RBI, who resigned in March 2020 before the completion of his term (June 2020). M Rajeshwar Rao is currently serving as the executive director of RBI.



About M Rajeshwar Rao:

- i. M Rajeshwar Rao joined the RBI in 1984.
- ii. He was appointed as the executive director responsible for the department of the Statistics and information management, financial markets operation department and international department in November 2016.
- iii. He served as the chief general manager in the financial market operations department.

Note:

According to the RBI Act, 1934, RBI is required to have 4 deputy governors, 2 from within the ranks, 1 commercial banker and 1 economist to head the monetary policy department.

The other 3 deputy governors of RBI are Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain and Micheal Debabrata Patra.

MA Ganapathy IPS appointed as the Director General of BCAS

i. the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment of MA Ganapathy IPS (Indian Police Service) as the New Director General(DG) of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), under the ministry of Civil Aviation. He will hold the position till the 29th February 2024, the date of his retirement or until further order.

ii. He succeeds Rakesh Asthana, who was appointed as DG of Border Security Force(BSF) in August.

iii.He is currently serving as the special director general of the Central Industrial Security Force(CISF), incharge of the Airport Security.

About Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):

Director General– MA Ganapathy

Headquarters– Janpath, New Delhi

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Gets Additional Charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

- i. Ram Nath Kovind, President of India, as advised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has assigned Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** with additional charge of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** following the death of **Ram Vilas Paswan**.
- ii.Piyush Goyal is currently serving as the Cabinet Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry and as deputy leader of BJP(Bharatiya Janata Party) in Rajya Sabha.

Chetan Anand, CWG Shuttle Medalist appointed as the Brand Ambassador of India's first Badminton Brand, 'Transform'

Chetan Anand, Indian Badminton player and Commonwealth Games(CWG) medalist was appointed as the brand ambassador of Transform, India's first homegrown badminton brand which was virtually launched on 7th October 2020.

Chetan Anand was signed as the face of Transform along with his academy in Hyderabad.



About Transform:

The racquets of Transform are made out of military grade graphite.

These racquets have the best weight to strength ratio which is on par with the best racquets available in the market which are imported to India from overseas.

The initiative of Transform is promoted by VICKY Sports, one of India's top 3 sports brands.

About Chetan Anand:

- i.Chetan Anand 40 years old Indian badminton player from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- ii.He won his first Asian Satellite Tournament in 2001.
- iii.He won the bronze medals under the Men's Single and Mixed team in 2006 Commonwealth games at Melbourne, Australia.
- iv.He won the 3 gold medals under Men's Single and 3 gold medals under Men's team and one silver under Men's Doubles in the South Asian Games of 2004, 2006 and 2010.

Bhuvan Bam named Myntra's First Digital Brand Ambassador

Youtuber Bhuvan Bam has been named as Fashion e-commerce platform Myntra's First Digital Brand Ambassador. He has been appointed to strengthen Myntra's Digital presence ahead of the Festive Season.

The collaboration will create content to ensure that Myntra's features go beyond traditional forms of communication.

Rajkiran Rai G Elected as Chairman of IBA Succeeding Rajnish Kumar; Dinesh Kumar Khara, elected as Deputy chairman

i. At the meeting of the Managing Committee of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), **Rajkiran Rai G**, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), **Union Bank of India (UBI)**, has been elected as the **Chairman** of the Association for the term 2020-21. He succeeds Rajnish Kumar.



ii. While, **Dinesh Kumar Khara**, Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI), was elected as **Deputy Chairman** of the Association for the year 2020-21.

About Indian Banks' Association (IBA):

It was formed on September 26, 1946. It is an association of banks and other entities in the banking ecosystem in India catering to its members.

Jacinda Ardern, Wins 2nd Term as the Prime Minister of New Zealand

Jacinda Ardern leader of the **Labour Party** won the **2nd** term as the **Prime Minister** of New Zealand with her landslide victory in the 2020 General Elections. The Labour Party won the election with 49% of the votes and its coalition partner the **Green Party** won 8% i.e., 10 seats.

Results of the Election:

i. The results of the elections predicted the Labour party to win 64 out of the parliamentary seats, which makes it to be the first party to be able to govern alone under the system.

ii. With around 29% of the votes and 35 parliamentary seats the center right **National Party** became the main **opposition**.

iii. The Deputy Prime Minister **Winston Peters** of the New Zealand First, the other coalition partner of Labour was voted out in this election.

Note:

The norm of New Zealand is coalition, where no single party has won the majority of the votes in the past 24 years.

About Jacinda Ardern:

i. Jacinda Ardern became the Prime Minister at the age of 37 in 2017 and became the 3rd female leader and one of the youngest leaders in the world.

ii. She became the 2nd world leader to give birth while holding the office, after Benazir Bhutto.

Indian-origin Wavel Ramkalawan elected President of Seychelles

i. Indian-origin **Wavel Ramkalawan** has been elected as the President of **Seychelles**.

ii. Seychelles has elected an opposition candidate as president for the first time since 1977.

iii. He has defeated the incumbent **Danny Faure**. Ramakalwan is a priest of Indian Origin whose grandfather came from Gopalganj, Bihar.



Yashvardhan K. Sinha appointed as new Chief Information Commissioner

i. **Government of India** has approved the name of Former Foreign Service officer, **Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha** as the new **Chief Information Commissioner**.

ii. He was already the Information Commissioner and was also the most senior. The post of CIC chairman had been vacant for several months after **Bimal Zulka** retired.

iii. A Marathi journalist, **Uday Mahurkar** has been selected for the post of Information Commissioner. Uday Mahurkar worked as a deputy editor in India Today Group and is considered close to the Sangh Parivar.

iv. Uday Mahurkar has also written a book on Prime Minister Modi titled “**Merging with a Billion**” and “**Center Stage: Inside Narendra Modi**”.



Honours/ Awards

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh Selected for Gandhi Award of MGNF

Eby J Jose, Chairman of Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation(MGNF) announced that Sanjay Singh, Member of Parliament (MP) of Rajya Sabha and the leader of Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) has been chosen as the recipient of the “2020 Gandhi Award”. He was recognised with the award for being instrumental in the diplomatic intervention of India to remove the image of Mahatma Gandhi on the beer bottles of Malka brewery, a Israeli private company.



About the award:

The Gandhi Award, instituted by the Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation comprises a sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 25001.

Key Points:

- i.Sanjay Singh was chosen for the award by the committee chaired by K Narayana Kurup, former Madras High Court Acting Chief Justice and convened by Jayashankar Menon, Senior Journalist and Literary luminary.
- ii.M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India will present the 2020 Gandhi Award to Sanjay over an award ceremony at New Delhi in January 2021.

Iqbal Singh Chahal First Indian Bureaucrat to be Honoured with IACC “Covid Crusader Award-2020”

i.Iqbal Singh Chahal (I.S. Chahal), Municipal Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai(MCGM), Maharashtra was honoured with “Covid Crusader Award-2020”, instituted by Indo-American Chamber of Commerce(IACC), apex bi-lateral Chamber a collaboration of India-US Economic Engagement and the US Consulate in Mumbai.He became the **first Indian Bureaucrat** to be recognised with this global recognition.Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra presented the award over a virtual ceremony.

ii.He received the award under the **Indian Bureaucrats Category** for his contribution towards controlling the spread of COVID-19 in Mumbai, Maharashtra and his efforts to “flatten the curve” in Mumbai including Dharavi, Asia’s biggest slum.

About Iqbal Singh Chahal:

- i.I.S.Chahal, is the 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service officer from Maharashtra cadre with more than 30years of experience with both the Central government and the Government of Maharashtra.
- ii.He served as the Principal Secretary in the Urban Development Department, Maharashtra.

IACC Conferred Lifetime Achievement Award to Ratan N. Tata

i. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) conferred **IACC Lifetime and Global Excellence Awards** to **Ratan N. Tata** for his pioneering role in the Business Relations of India-USA (United States of America) and for his lifetime achievement in Global Leadership. It is to be noted that this is the 1st time IACC conferred the Lifetime Achievement award to any individual.



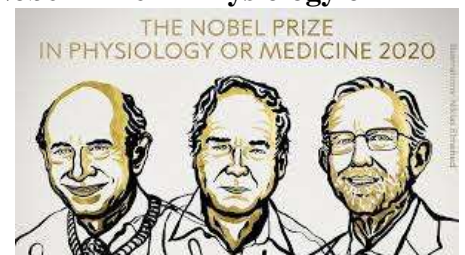
- This award was announced in virtual event of IACC “Covid Crusader Award-2020”

Key Info

- i. He is believed to be the 1st Indian to recognise and to tap the potential of the US market.
 - ii. In 3 decades, under his leadership the TATA group had transformed into the largest Indian employer in the USA.
 - iii. He is an influential industrialist, philanthropist and humanitarian up to day and has raised the revenue of India’s largest conglomerate ‘The Tata Group’ to nearly USD 100 billion by 2011-12.
 - iv. TATA group is in multiple industries globally namely, heavy steel (TATA Steel), automobiles (TATA Motors), ITES (TATA Consultancy Services), among others.
- Note**– He is the recipient of Padma Vibhushan (2008) and Padma Bhushan (2000).

Harvey J. Alter, Charles M. Rice & Michael Houghton won 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering the Hepatitis C virus

i. The Head of the Nobel Committee, Thomas Perlmann announced the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020** jointly to 2 Americans **Harvey J. Alter** and **Charles M. Rice** and one British-born scientist **Michael Houghton** for discovering the **Hepatitis C virus**, a major global health problem that causes cirrhosis and liver cancer at the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.



ii. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are over **70 million cases** of hepatitis, the chronic disease around the world and is responsible for **4 lakh deaths** annually.

Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez Won 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics for their Discoveries about Black Holes

i. Goran K. Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2020**.

ii. One half of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics was given to **Roger Penrose** (United Kingdom-UK) for his discovery that black hole formation is resilient prediction of the general theory of relativity and the other half jointly to **Reinhard Genzel** (German) and **Andrea Ghez** (America) for their discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy (Milky Way).

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna Won 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for Development of a Method for Genome Editing

- i. Goran K. Hansson, secretary-general of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020 jointly to **Emmanuelle Charpentier** of France and **Jennifer A. Doudna** of the United States for the development of a method for genome editing, namely ‘**CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors**’. The method is one of gene technology’s sharpest tools.
- ii. This is the **1st time 2 women** have **jointly won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry**.



American Poet Louise Glück Won 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature

- i. Mats Malm, Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy announced the **Nobel Prize in Literature 2020** to 77 year old **Louise Glück**, American Poet and essayist “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”.
- ii. She is the 3rd American woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature after Toni Morrison in 1993 and Pearl Buck in 1938.
- iii. She is also the 16th woman to receive this prize in literature.



UN’s World Food Programme Won 2020 Nobel Peace Prize

- i. Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the **Nobel Peace Prize 2020** to the **United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP)** for its efforts to fight hunger, for its contribution to improving peace conditions in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
- ii. UN’s World Food Programme is the largest humanitarian organisation in the world, that addresses hunger and promotes food security.



About World Food Programme:

Headquarters– Rome, Italy

Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson Won 2020 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for their Work on Auction Theory

- i. Professor Göran K. Hansson, Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** or **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2020** jointly to 2 American economists namely, **Paul R. Milgrom** and **Robert B. Wilson** for “improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats”.

Dr Jajini Varghese honoured with Outstanding Young Person 2020

i. UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, Dr **Jajini Varghese** has been named an ‘**Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020**’ by a non-profit NGO for her “incredible” scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.

ii. Varghese has been recognised in the “**Medical Innovation**” category for making it her personal mission to attempt to restore the lives of millions of women affected by breast cancer and will be presented with the award at a ceremony at the **2020 Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Congress in Yokohama, Japan.**

iii. In the UK, she is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Plastic Surgery (FRCS) and a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS). She is also on the Board of Examiners for the MSc in Plastic Surgery at University College London (UCL).



Om Puri awarded Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously at IFFB 2020

i. Late Indian actor, **Om Puri** was honoured with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the third edition of the **India International Film Festival of Boston (IFFB 2020).**

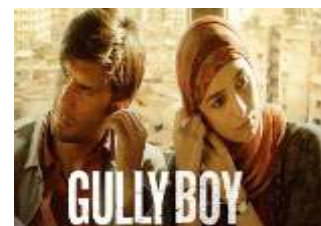
ii. The award was received by his wife Nandita Puri. The three-day film festival, based in Boston USA. Another highlight of the festival was a conversation with chef Vikas Khanna, recipient of the “**Pride of India Award**”.

iii. Malayalam film “**Kaanthi**” bagged the Best Feature Film Award, while the Best Male Actor was won by **Victor Banerjee** for playing a priest in **Josef: Born In Grace**. The Best Female Actor went to **Shylaja Ambu** for **Kaanthi** at the Boston festival.

14th Asian Film Awards 2020 announced

i. The 14th edition of **Asian Film Awards** was organized by the **Asian Film Awards Academy**. Indian Movie **Gully Boy** has received the award for the Best Original Score at 14th Asian Film Awards.

ii. The award went to **Karsh Kale** and The Salvage Audio Collective. **Gully Boy** has been directed by Zoya Akhtar. In **Gully Boy**, Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt played leading roles.



14th Asian Film Awards Winners List:

Award	Name Winner
Best Actor	Lee Byung-hun – The Man Standing Next (South Korea)
Best Actress	Zhou Dongyu – Better Days (China)
Best Director	Wang Xiaoshuai for So Long, My Son (China)
Best Film	Parasite (South Korea)
Best Supporting Actor	Ryo Kase – To the Ends of the Earth
Best Supporting Actress	Ko Shu-chin – A Sun

Sports

Australian Cricketer Alyssa Healy Broke MS Dhoni's Record of Most Dismissal by Wicket Keeper

i. Australian woman cricketer and wicket keeper **Alyssa Healy** broke the record of “**Most Dismissal by Wicket Keeper**” by **MS Dhoni's** who made 91 dismissals in 98 T20 Internationals(**T20Is**) for India. Healy has played **114 T20Is** for Australia and broke the record with **92 dismissals** in the shortest format of the game during the match against New Zealand in the 2nd T20I of the three match series at Allan Border Field at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.



French Open 2020 – Overview

ii. The **124th Edition of French Open** (also known as **Roland Garros**) took place at the **Roland Garros Stadium, Paris, France** from 27th September – 11th October, 2020. The French Open is a **Clay Court Tennis Tournament**.

French Open 2020 Winners:

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Sofia Kenin (USA)
Men's Doubles	Kevin Krawietz (Germany), Andreas Mies (Germany)	Mate Pavic (Croatia), Bruno Soares (Brazil)
Women's Doubles	Timea Babos (Hungary), Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Alexa Guarachi (Chile), Desirae Krawczyk (USA)

Lewis Hamilton wins 2020 Eifel Grand Prix; Equals Schumacher's record of 91 GP victories

i. Mercedes Driver **Lewis Hamilton (Britain)** won the **2020 Eifel Grand Prix** held at **Nurburgring, Germany**. With this win, Lewis Hamilton equalled Michael Schumacher's **All-time record of 91 Grand prix victories**.

ii. **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands) of Red Bull Racing finished **Second**, while **Daniel Ricciardo** (Australia) of Renault finished **Third**.

Polish Footballer Robert Lewandowski named as UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2019/2020

Robert Lewandowski (Poland) who represents the club Bayern Munich has been named as the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Men's Player of the Year 2020. He finished ahead of Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City) & Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich). It is an association football award given to footballers



playing for men's football clubs in Europe. It is given for performances in both club and national team competitions

DANISA Denmark Open 2020 Badminton World Federation (BWF) Tournament – Overview

i.DANISA Denmark Open 2020 took place from October 13-18, 2020 in **Odense, Denmark**. Denmark Open is an annual Badminton Tournament held in Denmark, organized by **Danmarks Badminton forbund**.

ii.It is the **only world tour event** in Badminton which took place **in 2020**.

ii.Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei) defeated **India's Kidambi Srikanth** in the Quarterfinals of Denmark Open 2020.

Winners of DANISA Denmark Open 2020 Badminton World Federation (BWF) Tournament

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Anders Antonsen (Denmark)	Rasmus Gemke (Denmark)
Women's Singles	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)	Carolina Marin (Spain)

Indian Shooters Elavenil, Shahu Mane Bag Gold, Silver Medals in Sheikh Russel International Air-Rifle Championship 2020

i. Indian Shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** won the **Gold Medal** in the **Women's event**, while **Shahu Tushar Mane** won the **Silver Medal** in the **Men's event** in the **Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship 2020** that held **virtually**.



ii.The championship was organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation (**BSSF**).

Men's Event

Winners	Medal	Score
Naoya Okada (Japan)	Gold Medal	630.9
Shahu Tushar Mane (India)	Silver Medal	623.8
Baki Abdullah Hel (Bangladesh)	Bronze Medal	617.3

Women's Event:

Winners	Medal	Score
Elavenil Valarivan (India)	Gold Medal	627.5
Shiori Hirata (Japan)	Silver Medal	622.6
Vidya Toyyiba (Indonesia)	Bronze Medal	621.1

Lewis Hamilton wins Portuguese Grand Prix 2020

i. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won the **2020 Portuguese Grand Prix**, held at **Algarve International Circuit, Portugal**.

ii. This was the 12th round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship. This is Hamilton's **8th win** of the season and 92nd career race victory.

iii. With this win, he has surpassed the record of 91 wins set by German great Michael Schumacher. **Valtteri Bottas** (Mercedes- Finland) came second followed by **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) at the third spot.



Obituaries

Haji Hussain Ansari, Minister of Jharkhand Passed Away at 73

On October 3, 2020 **Haji Hussain Ansari, Minister of Minority Welfare of Jharkhand** passed away at the age of 73 at Medanta hospital in Ranchi, Jharkhand due to cardiac arrest after recovering from COVID-19. He was the senior leader of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (**JMM**) party. He was also the sitting chairman of Hajj committee. He is the first and only Muslim to become minister of Jharkhand. He was born in 1947 at Pipra village in Deoghar district, Jharkhand.



About Haji Hussain Ansari

- i. Haji Hussain Ansari started his political career in 1980s with congress and later joined JMM.
- ii. He is a 4 time(1995, 2000, 2009 & 2019) Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from the Madhupur assembly constituency, segment in Deoghar as a JMM candidate.
In 2004, he was elected as leader of the opposition.
- iii. He served as chairman of the Hajj committee of Jharkhand during 2010.

Mario Molina, The Only Mexican Scientist to Win Nobel Prize in Chemistry Passed Away at 77

Mario José Molina, the only **Mexican scientist** to receive the Nobel Prize, passed away at the age of 77 in his native Mexico City, Mexico. He shared the 1995 Nobel Prize in **Chemistry** with **Frank Sherwood Rowland** of the United States(US) and **Paul Crutzen** of the Netherlands for their 1970 research on **the damage to Ozone layer**. He was born on 19th March 1943 in Mexico City, Mexico.

About Mario J. Molina:

- i. Mario was well known for his role in the discovery of the Antarctic Ozone hole.
- ii. He discovered the effects of chlorofluorocarbon gases or CFCs on the depletion of the Ozone layer.
- iii. This work contributed to the drafting of the first International treaty regarding the depletion of Ozone, the Montreal Protocol, which stopped the use of these substances.

Awards:

- i. He won the American Chemical Society's **Esselen Award** of the Northeast section in 1987.
- ii. He won the United Nations(UN) Environmental Programme Global 500 Award in 1989.
- iii. He received the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** from Former American President Barack Obama on 8th August 2013.

Ashwani Kumar, Former CBI Director & Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland Passed Away at 69

69 years old Ashwani Kumar, the former Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and former governor of Manipur and Nagaland committed suicide and was found dead in his residence in Shimla. He was born on 15th




November 1950 in Nahan, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh.

He was currently serving as the vice chancellor of a Private university in Shimla.

About Ashwani Kumar:

- i. Ashwani Kumar was a retired IPS officer of 1973 batch from the Himachal Pradesh Cadre.
- ii. He was selected and inducted in the Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for the security of the Prime Minister in 1985.
- iii. He served as the Director General of Police (**DGP**) of Himachal Pradesh from 2006 to 2008.
- iv. He was appointed as the Director of CBI for a period of 2 years (August 2008 to November 2010) and became the first officer from Himachal Pradesh to head CBI.
- v. He served as the 17th governor of Nagaland from 2013 to 2014 during which he also served as the governor of Manipur in 2013.

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan Passed Away at 74

- i. Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (elected from the **Hajipur** constituency of Bihar) passed away at the age of 74 in a hospital at New Delhi due to heart ailments. He was born on 5th July 1946 at Khagaria, Eastern Bihar. He was the leader of the Lok Janshakti Party(**LJP**) and a stalwart of socialist movements and known as the foremost **Dalit leader of Bihar**. 
- ii. He was elected 8 times to Lok Sabha between 1977 to 2014 and he also served as a member of Rajya Sabha from 2010 to 2014.
- iii. He held the **Guinness record** for winning his constituency, **Hajipur**, with the highest margin for many years.

Jnanpith & Padma Shri Awardee and Malayalam Poet 'Mahakavi' Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri Passed Away at 94

'Mahakavi'(great poet) **Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri**, renowned **Malayalam Poet** passed away at the age of 94 at a private hospital in Thrissur, Kerala. He is the last Malayalam poet to be called as 'Mahakavi'. He introduced "meaningful modernism" in Malayalam poetry several decades ago. He is a recipient of Jnanpith Award(2019), India's highest literary honour and Padma Shri(2017). He was born on March 18, 1926 in Kumaranallur in Palakkad District, Kerala.

• Noted painter Akkitham Narayanan is his younger brother.
He has published about 45 books, that comprises poetry anthologies, plays and short stories.

Awards

- i. He received Padma Shri in 2017 for Literature and Education.
- ii. In 2019, he received 55th Jnanpith Award

Bhanu Athaiya, Costume Designer & India's First Oscar Winner Passed Away at 91

Bollywood Costume Designer, Bhanu Athaiya, who was the first Indian to win the Oscars Award passed away at the age of 91 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was born on 28th April 1929 in Kolhapur, Kolhapur State (now Maharashtra), British India.



About Bhanu Athaiya:

- i. Bhanu Athaiya debuted as a costume designer for the film Shahenshah in 1953.
- ii. She designed costumes for Guru Dutt film CID and later worked with Raj Kappor, Ashutosh Gowariker, Yash Chopra and others.
- iii. She also designed for international filmmakers like Conard Rooks, Richard Attenborough etc.,
- iv. During her 50 years career as costume designer she worked in around 100 films including Chalis Baba Ek Chor (1954), Gandhi (1983), Lekin (1990), Lagaan (2001), Swades (2004).

Book:

Her book titled “**The Art of Costume Design**” was published by HarperCollins in 2010.

She presented this book to the Dalai Lama in 2013.

Awards:

- i. She won the **Oscar award** for best costume design in **1983** for the film Gandhi directed by Richard Attenborough starring Ben Kingsley as Mahatma Gandhi.

IAF's first woman officer Vijayalakshmi Ramanan passes away

i. Indian Air Force 1st woman officer, Wing Commander (ret'd) Dr **Vijayalakshmi Ramanan** passed away. She was born in February 1924, she did her MBBS and later was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps on **August 22, 1955**.

ii. Besides having served as a gynaecologist at various Air Force Hospitals, including here, she had also attended to the troops wounded during wars and performed administrative duties.

iii. Ramanan was promoted to the rank of **Wing Commander** in August 1972 and honoured with the **Vishist Seva Medal** five years later. She had retired in **February 1979**.

iv. Ramanan was also trained in Carnatic music and had been an artist with the All India Radio at a very young age.



Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel passes away

i. Former Chief Minister of Gujarat, **Keshubhai Savdasbhai Patel** passed away.

ii. He had served as the Chief Minister of the state for a few months in **1995** and then from **March 1998 to October of 2001**.

iii. He was a six-time member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and was a part of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) till 2012.



Veteran Gujarati Film Musician, Former MP Mahesh Kanodia passes away

i. Famous Gujarati film musician, singer and former Parliamentarian **Mahesh Kanodia** passed away.

ii. He was born at Kanoda village of Mehsana district on January 27, 1937. Kanodia was a three-time BJP MP from Patan in north Gujarat.

iii. He represented Patan Lok Sabha constituency as a Member of Parliament of the BJP thrice between 1991 and 1999.

iv.He had received several accolades and awards for his performance as a music composer and singer for Gujarati films including Jigar and Ami, Tanariri, Jog Sanjog and Laju Lakhan.

Samsung Chairman Lee Kun-Hee passes away

i.The chairman of South Korea's largest conglomerate, Samsung Group, **Lee Kun-Hee** has passed away.

ii.Lee helped to transform Samsung from a small trading business to become the world's largest producer of smartphones and memory chips.

iii.The firm's overall turnover today is equivalent to a fifth of South Korea's GDP. Lee was also the richest person in South Korea, according to Forbes, with a net worth of **nearly \$21bn.**



Important Days with theme

International Coffee Day 2020: October 1

i. International Coffee Day is observed annually on **October 1** to celebrate coffee and recognize the efforts of people who are associated with the coffee industry namely, farmers, roasters, baristas, coffee shop owners globally. The day also promotes fair trade coffee and to raise awareness for the coffee growers



ii. International Coffee Organisation (ICO) launched its first official International Coffee Day in Milan, Italy in 2015 as part of Expo 2015, a World Expo hosted by Milan.

About International Coffee Organization (ICO):

Executive Director– José Dauster Sette

Headquarters– London, United Kingdom

International Day of Non-Violence 2020: October 2

i. The United Nations (UN) International Day of Non-Violence is observed annually on **October 2**, the birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**, the leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

ii. The day is observed to spread the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.

iii. In India, to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated. This year (2020) marks the **151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.

iv. Webinar titled 'Swachhata Ke 6 Saal, Bemisaal' was organised as part of the 2020 events.



World Animal Day 2020 – October 4

World Animal Day is annually observed on the 4th October to enhance the status of animals to improve the welfare standards of animals around the world and celebrate the relationship of animals and human beings. The day aims to create awareness about the major role of the animals in protecting the environment and the wellbeing of humans.

Background:

i. Heinrich Zimmermann, a German Editor, Writer and animal protection activist organised the first World Animal Day on 24th March 1925 at the Sport Palace in Berlin, Germany with an aim to improve the welfare of animals and later from 1929, the day is being celebrated on 4th October aligned with **feast of St Francis of Assisi**.

ii. Initially the day was celebrated only in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia and became a

global event after the congress of the World's animal protection organisations held at Florence, Italy, in May 1931, officially adopted the 4th of October as the World Animal Day.

World Teachers' Day 2020: October 5

i. World Teachers' Day, also known as International Teachers Day is observed annually on **October 5** to celebrate the teaching profession around the world and also to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching.



ii. The day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 **ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers** in a conference summoned by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in Paris, France.

About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

Headquarters– Paris, France

Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

Indian Air Force Day Observed on October 8 2020

i. The Indian Air Force (IAF) day is held annually on October 8 as on this date the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom (UK).



ii. The year 2020 marked its 88th anniversary.

iii. The day was marked by the main event comprising a parade and flypast at Hindon Air Force Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with COVID restrictions along with events at IAF establishments across the country.

iv. Notably, this year, the Tejas LCA, Mig-29 and 21 and Sukhoi-30 participated in show along with newly inducted Rafale jets, marking Rafale's first public appearance since arrival in Indian.

World Post Day – Observed on 9th October, 2020

i. The World Post Day is observed annually on 9th October. It aims to bring **awareness about the role of Post** in the lives of people, business and its contribution to global social and economic development.

ii. It is observed to celebrate the **anniversary of establishment** of Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.

iii. It was declared as World Post Day by the **Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress** in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

World Egg Day 2020: October 9

i. **World Egg Day** is observed annually on the **2nd friday of October**, this year(2020) the day falls on **October 9**. The day aims to raise awareness of the benefits of eggs and their importance in human nutrition.

ii. The day was established by the International Egg Commission (IEC) in 1996 in a conference held at Vienna.

About International Egg Commission (IEC):

Administration Office– United Kingdom

Membership– Over 80 countries including India

Chairman– Suresh Chitturi, India

World Mental Health Day 2020: October 10

i. **World Mental Health Day** is observed annually on **October 10** to raise awareness about mental health issues globally and mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

ii. The theme for World Mental Health Day 2020, as per the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) is “Mental Health for All: Greater Investment – Greater Access”.

iii. Around 1 billion people are living with mental disorder, 3 million people die annually from the harmful use of alcohol and 1 person dies every 40 seconds by suicide.

International Day of the Girl Child 2020: October 11

i. The United Nations (UN) **International Day of the Girl Child** is observed annually on **October 11** to recognize the rights of the girls and to promote their empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. The day also highlights the need to address the challenges faced by them around the world.



Theme of International Day of the Girl Child 2020– “My Voice, Our Equal Future”.

2020 Events in India

i. Odisha Govt launched a programme Advika, for adolescent girls aged between 10 and 19 years of the state.

ii. Rajasthan Govt launches IMPACT app to monitor action taken under Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994

World Students Day observed on 15th October, 2020

The World Students Day is observed annually on **15th October** to celebrate the **Birth Anniversary** of India's **11th President Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam** (known as APJ Abdul Kalam). This is Abdul Kalam's **89th Birth Anniversary**.

The theme of World Student Day 2020 is “**Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace**”.

Key Points:

i. Abdul Kalam was born on **October 15, 1931** in **Rameshwaram**, Tamil Nadu.

ii. He spent four decades as Scientist, Science Administrator at Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**).

iii. He is also known as ‘**Missile Man of India**’ for work on Development of Ballistic Missile and Launch Vehicle Technology.

- iv. He is recipient of **Padma Bhushan** (1981), **Padma Vibhushan** (1990), **Bharat Ratna** (1997).
- v. He passed away on July 27, 2015 at IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Shillong, Meghalaya.

World Food Day 2020: October 16

i. The United Nations (UN)'s **World Food Day** is annually celebrated on **October 16** to commemorate the founding date of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN in 1945, this year (2020) marks the 75th anniversary of FAO.

Theme of World Food Day 2020– “Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together”.

2020 Events in India

- i. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi Released Commemorative Coin of **Rs 75 denomination**.
- ii. PM Dedicates **17 recently developed biofortified varieties of eight crops** to Nation.
- iii. Harsh Vardhan Chairs Event on ‘World Food Day’ Organized by FSSAI

About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

Director-General– QU Dongyu

HeadQuarters– Rome, Italy

National Police Commemoration Day: 21 October

i. In India, the **National Police Commemoration Day** is observed on **21st October** every year. The day is marked to remember and honour the brave policemen who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.

ii. On **21 October 1959**, twenty Indian soldiers were attacked by Chinese troops in **Ladakh's** Hot Spring area, in which, ten Indian policemen lost their lives and seven were imprisoned.

iii. Since that day, 21 October has been observed as Police Commemoration Day in honour of the martyrs.



United Nations Day: 24 October

i. **24th October** has been celebrated as **United Nations Day** since **1948**. The United Nations was founded in 1945 to support collective action to realize peace, development and human rights for all.

ii. With the ratification of the UN Charter by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.



59th ITBP Raising Day: 24 October

i. **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has observed his **59th raising Day** on **24th October**. The ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the **1962** Chinese aggression and it has a strength of about 90,000 personnel with 60 battalions on the ground.

ii. ITBP is one of the five bodies of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)**. It keeps Vigil on the northern borders and prevents border violations.

iii. It checks illegal immigration, trans-border smuggling, and maintains peace.



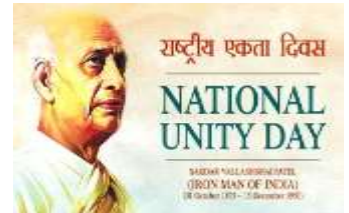
Important takeaways for all competitive exams:

- Director-General of ITBP: Surjeet Singh Deswal.

National Unity Day: 31 October

i.In India, the **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day** is observed every year on **October 31** since 2014, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

ii.This year marks the 145th anniversary of the great leader who played an instrumental role in India's struggle for independence, and later during the integration of the country.



International Internet Day 2020

i.**International Internet Day** is observed on **29th October** every year. It aims to honour a momentous day in the history of telecommunications and technology.

ii.This day also highlights the sending of the 1st electronic message which was conveyed from one computer to another computer in the year **1969**.

iii.**Charley Kline** who was a student programmer at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), he discovered the transmission of first-ever electronic message in the world 'LO' on **29th October 1969**.

