



Current Affairs Supplement

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National

Rajasthan CM inaugurates India's first "Organ donor Memorial"

On the occasion of 11th National Organ Donation Day celebration in Jaipur, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot inaugurated virtually the first of its kind "**Organ Donor Memorial**" in the country.

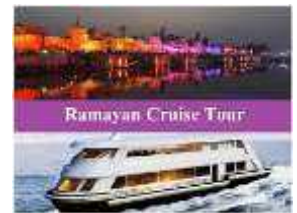
key points:-

- i. The organ donor memorial has been built near SMS Hospital by the Mohan Foundation Jaipur Citizens Forum and the Jaipur Municipal Corporation.
- ii. The memorial is inspired by the famous Jantar Mantar of Jaipur and it was designed by Sameer Wheaton.



'Ramayan Cruise Service,' Becomes India's 1st Luxury Cruise Service on Saryu River in Ayodhya, UP

The '**Ramayan Cruise Service**' is to be launched on Saryu river (Ghagra/National Waterways-40) in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. It is **India's 1st luxury Cruise service** on the **Saryu river**. It aims to give an attractive experience to devotees with one-of-its-kind spiritual journeys while cruising through the famous ghats of the holy river Saryu. On the basis of the theme of Ramcharitmanas, the interiors of the cruise and the boarding point is designed.



India's Top 10 Police Stations List 2020 released during 55th DGPs & IGP's Conference; Manipur's Nongpok Sekmai Tops

- i. On the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released the annual list of India's Top 10 Police Stations for 2020 during the virtual 55th annual DGPs (Director Generals of Police) and IGP's (Inspector Generals of Police) conference 2020 which was attended by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, Union Minister Amit Anilchandra Shah, MHA among others.
- ii. The list was topped by Manipur's Nongpok Sekmai police station in Thoubal district as the best performing police station in India. It was followed by AWPS-Suramangalam in Tamil Nadu's Salem city and Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh's Changlang district.
- iii. The top 10 police stations were ranked out of 16,671 Police Stations in the country through data analysis, direct observation and public feedback.

Union Education Minister Presented 1st Copy of his Inspirational Book "Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind" to President Ram Nath Kovind

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Education Minister presented 1st copy of his inspirational book '**Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind**' (The book is in Hindi with the title 'Manavta ke Praneta Maharishi Arvind') to President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The book is about Sri Aurobindo Ghosh(Maharishi Arvind), an Indian philosopher, yogi, guru, poet, and nationalist.

About the Book:

Through this book, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank conveys Aurobindo Ghosh's philosophy and thinking in a simple language to the younger generation of the world.

Note– The ideas of Maharishi Arvind plays the role of catalyst to make the country a knowledge-based superpower

About Aurobindo Ghosh:

i.Aurobindo Ghosh(15 August 1872 – 5 December 1950) was best known for his philosophy on human evolution and Integral Yoga.

ii.He is the founder of Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry.

About Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank:

i.He is the Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

ii.He has authored about 75 books.Many of his books were translated into many national and foreign languages.

iii.His books include Dreams that Don't Let You Sleep: Based on the Life Skills Management of Dr. Kalam, among others.

Fiscal Deficit Reached 119.7% of Annual Budget Target of FY21 in Oct 2020: CGA Data

i. In accordance with the official data released by **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, the Central Government's fiscal deficit increased to Rs 9.53 lakh crore (9,53,154 crore), or 119.7% of the annual budget estimate of FY21, at the end of October 2020. It was 114.8% of the annual budget estimate at the end of September 2020. Also, in the first 7 months of the FY20, the deficit was at 102.4% of the annual target.



ii.The key reason behind this increase is poor revenue realisation due to lockdown imposed to curb COVID-19.

iii.It should be noted that for FY21 the government had set the fiscal deficit at Rs 7.96 lakh crore or 3.5% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February 2020.

IIT Bombay Released Urban Quality of Life Index 2020; Mumbai Tops, Patna Ranked Last

i. On December 5, 2020, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) released the Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020, which ranked 14 Indian cities in India using 29 indicators grouped into 7 categories.

ii.In accordance to this, Mumbai(Maharashtra) tops the index followed by Delhi, Kolkata (West Bengal) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) by providing Highest Quality of Life while Bihar's capital city Patna provides

poorest quality of life to its people.

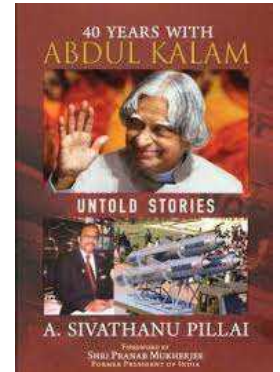
iii. Notably, this is for the first time the index has considered the factor of **gender parity** under which Chennai is named as the most women-friendly city while Patna stood last.

About Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B):

Establishment– 1958 (In 1961 Parliament decreed the IITs as “Institutes of National Importance”)

VP Venkaiah Naidu Virtually Released the Book “40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories” Authored by Sivathanu Pillai

The Vice President of India **M Venkaiah Naidu** released the book titled “**40 Years with Abdul Kalam- Untold Stories**”, a book on the life of the former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The book was authored by **Dr A.Sivathanu Pillai**. The book is published by **Pentagon Press LLP** and the foreword was written by **Pranab Mukherjee**, former president of India.



About the book:

- i. The book provided a first-hand account of the life of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, who was described as the epitome of simplicity, honesty and wisdom.
- ii. Dr. Kalam strengthened the Defence sector of India and contributed to the development of India’s space capabilities.
- iii. The book discusses his life events including the events at ISRO, DRDO and BrahMos and his interaction with the power corridors.

About A. Sivathanu Pillai:

Career:

- i. He started his career in Systems engineering and systems management of launch vehicles at ISRO in 1969.
- ii. He served as the Honorary Distinguished Professor at ISRO and served as the Distinguished Scientist and Chief controller of Research and Development department of DRDO.

Awards:

- i. He received various honours including the Padma Shri in 2002 & Padma Bhushan in 2013 for science and engineering.
- ii. He also received the “Order Of Friendship”, the highest Russian Award for the foreign citizens of highest order from the Government of Russian Federation.

Om Birla Released a book ‘The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force’

On the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack(December 13, 2020) **Om Birla**, Speaker of the Lok Sabha released a book, ‘**The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force**’ at the parliament house, New Delhi, India.

The book is co-authored by Ms Nitu, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and M. Dhinakaran, DIG CRPF along with their team consisting of Mr Amit, Assistant

Commandant CRPF and Inspector Deepak Saxena.

Note

Om Birla also released the hindi version of the book.

Essence of the Book

- i. The book is a collection of 13 most exemplary acts of courage of CRPF who were the recipients of Ashok Chakra-the Highest Peacetime Gallantry Award, Vir Chakra, and Shaurya Chakras.
- ii. The book includes stories of Constable Kamlesh Kumari Ashok Chakra (Posthumously) and four Shaurya Chakra recipients-Head Constable Yam Bahadur Thapa, Constable D Santosh Kumar, Constable Sukhwinder Singh, Constable Shyambir Singh.
- iii. The book also responds to the attack on Indian Parliament in 2001.

About 2001 Indian Parliament attack:

- i. On December 13, 2001, 5 terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) attacked Indian parliament.
- ii. In this attack 9 people including 6 Delhi Police personnel were killed
- iii. All the terrorists were killed outside the parliament.

Central Zoo Authority grants recognition to 2 New Zoos – one each in Bihar & Uttar Pradesh

The **37th General Body meeting** of **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** chaired by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), **Prakash Javadekar** granted recognition to **2 New Zoos – Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar & Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.**



Rajgir Zoo Safari:

The Foundation stone for the Zoo was laid by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in 2017. The speciality of the zoo is the naturalistic safari enclosure which provides large space for the captive animals.

Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan, Gorakhpur:

Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh has enclosures for a range of birds, herbivores and carnivores and is expected to be the 2nd Biggest Zoo in Uttar Pradesh after Kanpur Zoological Park.

About Central Zoo Authority:

It is a Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Lakshadweep becomes India's First 100% Organic Union Territory

Indian Island region, **Lakshadweep becomes India's first 100% organic Union Territory** in the country, and second in the country only after Sikkim. This comes after the UT received proper certifications and declarations under the Centre's **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (organic farming improvement programme).**

Key Highlights:

- i. Synthetic chemical usage has **stopped completely since 2005.**
- ii. Majority of the UT has already got certified **under the National Programme**



Lakshadweep becomes India's 1st UT to be declared 100% Organic

The Ministry of Agriculture has declared Lakshadweep as India's first Union Territory to become 100 per cent organic. All farming activity in the UT is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, which provides access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environment-friendly activity.

for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2011.

iii. Entire 32 kms land is categorised under organic area.

Opportunities for Women– 150 self-help groups will work to increase exports of products like virgin coconut oil, tuna pickles, and jaggery.

About Lakshadweep:

India's smallest Union Territory with **36 Islands**.

Includes- 12 atolls, 3 reefs, 5 submerged banks, 10 inhabited islands.

Capital- Kavaratti

Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh CM Named Jewar Airport as 'Noida International Greenfield Airport'

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, approved the name, design and logo of the international airport to be constructed in Jewar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Name– Noida International Greenfield Airport

Logo– Image of 'sarus' (stork), the state bird

Design– On lines of world-famous airports in London, Moscow and Milan.

Key Info about the Airport

i. The airport will be developed in 4 phases.

ii. The initial capacity of the airport will be 12 million passengers per year. This will be expected to be increased to 70 million passengers annually by 2050.

iii. Initially, it will have 2 runways, in later phases will be increased to five.

iv. The cost for the Jewar Airport is estimated to be around Rs 30,000 crore.



VP Venkaiah Naidu Released "Oh, Mizoram", Book of English Poems by P S Sreedharan Pillai Governor of Mizoram

M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India virtually released the book titled **"Oh, Mizoram"**, a collection of poems written by **P S Sreedharan Pillai**, the Governor of Mizoram. The book is published by **Indus Scrolls Press**.

About the Book:

i. This is the first poem collection written by P S Sreedharan Pillai.

ii. The book displays his love for nature and the poems portray the magnificence of Mizoram at its best.

iii. The poems also showcase the moral decay in politics, the effects of socio-economic scenario, urbanisation and modern lifestyle on our family system.

About P S Sreedharan Pillai:

i. PS Sreedharan Pillai was born in Alappuzha, Kerala.

ii. He worked as a lawyer in the High Court of Kerala and he served as the senior Central Government Standing Counsel (Assistant Solicitor General) from 2001 to 2003.

iii. He was well known as a writer and columnist in Kerala and he has written more than 125 books in Malayalam and English.

iv. He became the Governor of Mizoram on 5th November 2019.



EAM S. Jaishankar launched book titled, “Reporting India: My Seventy Year Journey As A Journalist” by ANI Chairman Prem Prakash

External Affairs Minister(EAM) S. Jaishankar virtually launched the book ‘**Reporting India: My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist**’ written by Asia News International (ANI) Chairman Prem Prakash. The book came as an outcome of the author’s experience over the years, where he has interacted with almost all the Prime Ministers of India.

Highlights of the Book:

- i. The book includes all key events in the history of India from a foreign policy perspective covering events over 50 years.
- ii. Book highlighted the momentous events like liberation of Goa, 1962 war with China, Rise of Indira Gandhi after Vallabhai Patel’s death, attack on PM Rajiv Gandhi in Colombo and events of Afghan War.

ASSOCHAM Foundation Week 2020 observed on Dec 15-19, 2020; PM conferred “ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award” to Ratan Tata

i. The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Foundation Day 2020 was commemorated on December 12, 2020. To mark this occasion, the 3chamber organized a 5-day virtual event “ASSOCHAM Foundation Week 2020” from 15th to 19th December 2020 on the theme “**India’s resilience: Aatmanirbhar roadmap towards a US\$5 trillion economy**”.



- ii. During the occasion, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address via video conferencing and also presented “**ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award**” to Ratan Tata, who received the award on behalf of the TATA Group.
- iii. The award recognized the role played by Tata Group in India’s development.

About Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM):

Establishment– 1920

President– Vineet Agarwal

Secretary General– Deepak Sood

Headquarter– New Delhi

RIL, BP commence Gas production from Asia’s Deepest Gas Field ‘R-cluster’ situated in Krishna-Godavari Basin

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), BP (formerly known as The British Petroleum Company plc) have commenced Gas production from Asia’s Deepest Gas Field ‘**R-cluster**’ situated in the **KG-D6 block, Krishna-Godavari basin** of the Bay of Bengal (eastern coast of India). The gas reserve is located at a water depth of greater than 2, 000 metres, making it the deepest offshore gas field in Asia.



- i. ‘R-cluster’ is the **1st operational project** of the **3 deepwater gas projects** that RIL & BP are developing together in the KG-D6 block. The other two projects are Satellites Cluster & MJ Field.
- ii. Plateau Gas Production (i.e Constant Production Rate) at the ‘**R-Cluster**’ is expected to reach ~ **12 Million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd)** in 2021.

PM Modi Released Postal Stamp to Mark Centenary Celebration of Aligarh Muslim University

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a **special postal stamp** to mark the **centenary** celebration of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). He participated in the event organised at the AMU through video conferencing.

- Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Minister of Education also participated in the event.
- He highlighted the achievements of AMU over the past 100 years and the contributions of its alumni.

Note:

i. This is the first time in 50 years that a Prime Minister attended an event of AMU as a chief guest.

ii. Lal Bahadur Shastri was the last prime minister to attend an AMU event (1964).

About Aligarh Muslim University (AMU):

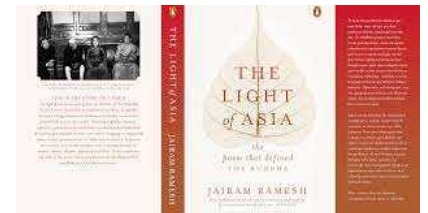
i. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) was founded by **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**, one of the architects of modern India. He was born on 17th October 1817 in Delhi.

ii. AMU is located in **Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh**.

Former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh Authored New book “The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha”

Former Union Minister **Jairam Ramesh** authored his new book titled “**The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha**”. The book will showcase the story of the poem “The Lights of Asia” which shaped the people’s view of Buddha and his teachings.

The book will be published by **Viking imprint** of Penguin India.



About the book:

i. The book uncovers and narrates the story of “**The Light of Asia: The Great Renunciation**” written and published by **Sir Edwin Arnold** in **1879**.

ii. The book describes the life and period of Prince Gautama Siddhartha.

iii. The book “The Light of Asia: The Great Renunciation” was translated into more than 30 languages which has impacted numerous lives across the globe.

About Jairam Ramesh:

i. Jairam Ramesh, an economist and policy expert, served as a member of Rajya Sabha representing Karnataka.

ii. He was a member of the Indian National Congress (INC).

Books:

He has authored various books which includes, Making Sense of Chindia: Reflections on China and India (2005), To The Brink and Back: India’s 1991 Story (2015) among others.

Cabinet Approvals on December 23, 2020

On December 23, 2020, the Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the following proposals:-

i. Union Cabinet has approved the **merging of four film media units**, namely Films Division of India (FDI), Directorate of Film. Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children’s Film Society

India (CFSI) with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association of NFDC.

India Becomes 6th Country to Manufacture High Power Electric Locomotives Indigenously

India became the 6th Country to manufacture High Power Electric Locomotives indigenously. In 2015, the **Ministry of Railways & Alstom (France)** signed a contract worth **€3.5 billion (INR 25,000 crore)** to produce **High Power Electric Locomotives at Madhepura Electric Loco Factory in Bihar**. It was the largest ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) project of Indian Railways. 2020 marks the 5th year of signing of the contract.



The other countries which manufacture High Power Electric Locomotives are Russia, China, Germany & Sweden.

Target – By the year 2030, Indian Railways expects to be the first 100 per cent green railway in the world with net-zero emission.

Fact:

Indian Railways has set a target of achieving 100% electrification of Railway tracks by December, 2023 and has fixed a target of electrification of 7, 000 Route Kilometres (RKM) for the year 2020-21.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant Virtually Launched DigiBoxx, India's 1st Digital Asset Management Platform

i. Amitabh Kant, CEO of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog virtually launched **India's 1st digital asset management platform, DigiBoxx**.

ii. The digital file storage, sharing, and management SaaS product provides storage options for individuals and organisations of all sizes and industries.

iii. This cloud storage service was created by a tech startup founded and promoted by Arnab Mitra, MD, LIQVD ASIA along with Ashish Jalan and Vivek Suchanti, Concept Group.



Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi Launched His New Book "Covid-19: Sabhyata Ka Sankat Aur Samadhan"

Former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh launched **Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi's** new book titled **"Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan"** (Covid-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions). This Hindi book was published by **Prabhat Prakashan**.



About the book:

i. The book discusses the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the common way of life and suggests the solutions to the ongoing pandemic.

ii. The book also discusses the impacts of the pandemic on education, business, politics, public safety, foreign policy, law, medicine, economy and the development of the nation.

About Kailash Satyarthi:

i. Kailash Satyarthi, hailing from Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh is an electrical engineer who worked as a teacher.

ii. He founded the "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" organisation which has saved more than 1000 children from slave-like conditions.

iii. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his endeavours against the suppression of children and young people and for his rights to education.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik: India's largest Hockey Stadium is Set to Build in Rourkela, Odisha

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the plan for India's largest Hockey stadium to be built in Rourkela city, Odisha with a seating capacity of 20,000. The stadium will also be a part of hosting International Hockey Federations' (FIH) 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup that is planned to be held at Odisha.

About the Stadium:

- i. To be built at **Biju Patnaik University of Technology Campus** owned by the Odisha Government.
- ii. **Capacity**- 15 acres' land with 20,000 seats
- iii. Built at Sundargarh district, from where many Indian hockey legends including former Captain Dilip Tirkey and Sunita Lakra came from.

6th India International Science Festival 2020 held virtually; Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates event

The **6th Edition of Indian International Science Festival 2020 (IISF 2020)** took place virtually in New Delhi through virtual mode from December 22-25, 2020. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the event in the presence of Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences & Health & Family Welfare.



- i. **Theme of IISF 2020** – “Science for Self-Reliant India and the Global Welfare”.
- ii. **Organized** jointly by Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**), Department of Science & Technology (**DST**), Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**), Department of Biotechnology (**DBT**), Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) in association with Vijnana Bharati (**VIBHA**). The nodal institution for IISF 2020 is CSIR-NISTADS (**National Institute of Science, Technology & Development Studies**), New Delhi.

UP Govt to Set up India's First Mega Leather Park in Kanpur

- i. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is set to establish India's First Mega Leather Park in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. This project is expected to generate more than 50000 job opportunities and indirectly provide livelihood to more than 1.5 lakh individuals.
- ii. After laying the foundation Mega Leather Cluster Development UP Ltd will develop the area
- iii. The project is set to be built across 235 acres in Ramaipur village, Kanpur at an expense of Rs.5850 crores.

India's First Lithium Refinery to be Set up in Gujarat

- i. The **1st Lithium refinery of India** is to be set up in **Gujarat**. It will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material.
- ii. More than Rs 1,000 crore will be invested by Manikaran Power Limited (MPL) to set up this refinery.
- iii. MPL in 2019 had collaborated with Australian firm Neometals to tap the Mount Marion Lithium mine in Western Australia for Lithium ore.
- iv. Target – India has set an ambitious goal of increasing the Electric Vehicle numbers to 30% by 2030.



Justice Rajindar Sachar's Autobiography "In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" was Launched Posthumously

"In Pursuit of Justice: An Autobiography" the autobiography of the **Justice Rajindar Sachar** was launched posthumously by his family in association with the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL) and The Indian Law Institute (ILI) over a virtual event organised to mark his birth anniversary. The book has been published by **Rupa Publications**.

About the book:

i. At the time of his death in 2018, the book consisted of handwritten notes and recorded interviews.

ii. His personal Secretary **Niranjan Kaushik** transcribed these interviews and the manuscript was **edited** by **Chitra Padmanabhan**, an independent journalist and writer.

iii. The book portrays the life events of Justice Rajindar Sachar, a socialist, egalitarian, defender of civil liberties and a humanist who has witnessed India's Partition in 1947.

About Rajindar Sachar:

i. Rajindar Sachar was born on 22 December 1923 in Lahore, British India (Present day Pakistan).

ii. He became the Judge of the Delhi High Court in 1970 and after his retirement he advocated human rights and civil liberties.

iii. He argued in various important cases for People's Union for Civil Liberties (**PUCL**) like mandatory declaration of assets/criminal antecedents of MPs and MLAs, 'None of the Above' (**NOTA**) option for voters, among others.

iv. He was well known for the Sachar Committee report of 2006 which documented the social and economic conditions of Muslims in India.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates India's 1st ever Driverless Train operations on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated **India's 1st ever Driverless Train Operations** on Delhi Metro's **38 Kilometres long Magenta Line** which connects **Janakpuri West & Botanical Garden** in Noida. PM also inaugurated the fully operational National Common Mobility Card (**NCMC**) services on the **Airport Express Line** of Delhi Metro.



i. With the inauguration, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (**DMRC**) entered the **elite league of 7%** of the World's Metro networks which are capable of operating without drivers.

ii. The Driverless train operations will be **extended to the Pink Line** between Majlis Park & Shiv Vihar by Mid-2021.

iii. **NCMC** is an **inter-operable transport card** allowing citizens to pay for bus travel, toll taxes, parking charges, retail shopping & withdraw money.

PM virtually Inaugurates 2 Railway projects – New Bhaupur to New Khurja section, OCC

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 2 Railway projects for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (**EDFC**) namely the **351-Kms long New Bhaupur-New Khurja section** in Uttar Pradesh (UP) which has been built at a cost of **INR 5, 750 crores** and **Operational Control Centre (OCC)** at **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh**. It is expected to be **one of the largest control centers** in the world.

New Bhaupur-New Khurja section:

i. The inauguration of the section will **benefit local industries in** Uttar Pradesh as 60% of EDFC falls in the state.

ii. It will **decongest the Kanpur-Delhi mainline** and enable Indian Railways to deploy faster trains.

PM flags off 100th Kisan Rail:

On December 28, 2020, PM virtually flagged off the **100th 'Kisan Rail'** from **Sangola (Maharashtra) – Shalimar (West Bengal)**. The **1st Kisan Rail** was introduced from **Devlali (Maharashtra) – Danapur (Bihar)** on August 7, 2020. It was extended up to Muzaffarpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Approves Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill, 2020

Madhya Pradesh (MP) cabinet headed by Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved the **Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill, 2020**. The aim of the bill is to outlaw **marriages** which take place with a **sole motive of religious conversions**.

It will now be placed in the MP state assembly for discussion & passage.

Key Provisions of the Law:

i. Forced religious conversion of **minors or women** or a person belonging to **SC/ST category** will invite jail term of 2-10 years & penalty of INR 50, 000.

ii. Mass forced conversions invite **5 to 10 years of jail term** & fine of up to INR 1 Lakh.

iii. Forced religion conversion will attract **1-5 years of imprisonment** & a minimum fine of INR 25, 000.

iv. The new act will replace the **Freedom of Religion Act, 1968** (also known as MP Dharma Swatantrya Adhiniyam, 1968) in Madhya Pradesh.

India records 60% rise in Leopard population across the Country: Status of Leopards in India, 2018 report

Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), Prakash Javadekar released the '**Status of Leopards in India, 2018**' report. The report states that India has recorded a **60% rise in Leopard population** across the country and it now has 12, 852 Leopards. The states **Madhya Pradesh (3, 421)**, Karnataka (1, 783) & Maharashtra (1, 690) recorded the most number of leopards.



i. India had recorded 7, 910 Leopards in 2014.

ii. The study has been conducted using Satellite imaging, camera traps & field work by teams of Forest Officials & teams of **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** & **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**.

iii. The report states that **poaching, habitat loss, depletion of natural prey and human-leopard conflict** are major threats to leopard populations.

International

Singapore & USA Become the Biggest FDI Sources for India During April-September 2020: DPIIT's FDI Statistics

- i. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade(DPIIT)'s in its Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) data, has listed out the top investing countries FDI(Foreign Direct Investment) equity inflows in India during **April-September 2020**.
- ii. **Singapore** has invested Rs 62,084 crore(USD 8.30 billion) into India, which makes it the **biggest source of FDI** into India.
- iii. The **USA**(United States of America) becomes the **second** biggest source of FDI into India by investing Rs 53,266 crore(USD 7.12 billion) .
- iv. USA overtakes Mauritius which was in the 2nd rank during the 1st half of the current financial year.

India Tops Asia in Bribery, Use of Personal Connections to Access Public Services: 10th GCB Asia 2020

- i. In accordance with the 10th edition of the report titled “**Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)-Asia 2020**” by corruption watchdog Transparency International, India has the highest bribery rate of 39% in Asia and the highest rate of people (46%) who use personal connections to access public services.
- ii. Nearly 50% people who paid bribes were asked to while 32% of those who used personal connections said they would not receive the service otherwise.
- iii. This report is based upon the fieldwork conducted in 17 countries covering nearly 20,000 citizens in June-September 2020 seeking their perception of and experiences with corruption in the past twelve months.
- iv. It covered 6 key public services viz: police, courts, public hospitals, procurement of identity documents and utilities.



QS Asia University Rankings 2021: 3 IITs in top 50; National University of Singapore topped

- i. The global higher education think-tank, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released the **QS Asia University Rankings 2021** in association with King Abdulaziz University (KAU) , Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) for the Asia's best higher education institutions in 2021. The ranking has been topped by National University of Singapore (NUS) for the 3rd consecutive year.
- ii. On Indian front, three Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have made it to the top 50 viz. IIT-Bombay (37), IIT-Delhi (47) and IIT-Madras (50) but no Indian university got placed in top-10 list.
- iii. This ranking compared 650 Asian institutions from 18 locations based on 11 key parameters making it the QS's biggest Asia Ranking that ever published.

iv. Out of the 650 institutions 124 were from Mainland China, followed by 107 from India, 105 from Japan, 88 from South Korea, 43 from Taiwan, 40 from Pakistan, 35 from Malaysia, and 30 from Indonesia.

Lahore tops list of World's Most Polluted Cities: Air Pollution Data released by US Air Quality Index 2020

According to Air Pollution Data released by **United States (US) Air Quality Index 2020** on November 30, 2020 **Lahore**, Pakistan topped the list of World's most Polluted Cities. It reported a Particulate Matter (PM) rating of **423** (Hazardous). **New Delhi** with a PM of **229** (very unhealthy) came Second followed by Nepal's **Kathmandu** with a PM of **178** (unhealthy).



Key Points:

- i. To reduce the pollution, Pakistan has sealed around 613 Brick Kilns, 2, 148 industries and seized 8, 578 vehicles.
- ii. According to AQI, the index between 0-50 is "Good", 51-100 is "Moderate", 101-150 is "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups", 151-200 is "Unhealthy", 201-300 is "Very Unhealthy", 301-Higher is "Hazardous".

Amul becomes World's 8th Largest Milk Processor: IFCN Dairy Processors Report 2020

According to The International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN) Dairy Processors Report 2020 (Biennial), Amul (**Anand Milk Union Limited**) a brand of dairy cooperative major **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)** emerged as the 8th Largest Milk Processor globally in the list of Top 20.

- i. The rankings are based on the **parameters of Milk Intake per annum**.
- ii. Amul has reported an intake of **10.3 Billion Kg of Milk** annually, it is more than double growth from the 4.54 Billion Kg of Milk Intake reported by Amul in 2013.

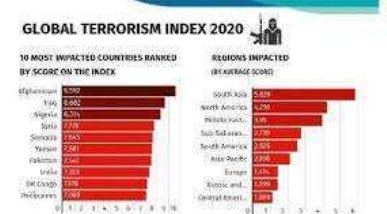
India 8th Most Affected Country in the World due to Terrorism in 2019; Afghanistan tops the List – 8th Edition of GTI 2020

According to the **8th Edition of 'Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2020: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism'** released by Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), **India** with a score of 7.353 is the **8th Most Affected Country** in the World due to Terrorism in 2019.

- i. Afghanistan (9.592), Iraq (8.682) & Nigeria (8.314) are top 3 countries which are the most affected by Terrorism.

ii. GTI is a complete analysis of impact of terrorism for 163 countries covering 99.7% of the World's Population.

iii. Qatar (0.014) took the 133rd Rank followed by Uzbekistan (0.010) in the 134th Rank and around 29 Countries (score of 0.000) took the 135th Rank which means they are Least Affected Countries or Face No Impact due to Terrorism.



2020 set to be among one of the Three Warmest Year Ever Recorded: WMO's State of the Global Climate 2020

According to the “**State of the Global Climate 2020**” Interim report released by the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO) based on the temperature data from **January-October (of 2020)**, the year **2020** is set to be among **one of the Three Warmest Years** Ever recorded. **2020 becomes the 2nd warmest year** followed by 2016.

Key Points:

- i. The past **six years (2015-2020)** are set to make up all six of the hottest years since modern records began in **1850**.
- ii. The **Global mean temperature** for January-October 2020 was **1.2 Degree Celsius**.
- iii. Approximately **152 Gigatonnes (Gt) of ice** were lost between September 2019 and August 2020 in Greenland ice sheets.
- iv. Global sea-level rise in **2020 is similar to 2019** continuing the general decreasing trend.

16th Climate Change Performance Index 2021: Sweden Ranked at 4th while India ranked at 10th Position

i. On December 7, 2020, a non-profit, non-governmental organization, Germanwatch has released the 16th edition of Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) i.e. CCPI 2021 for 57 countries and European Union (EU) in which India was ranked at 10th spot with a score of 63.98 out of 100.

ii. This was the second consecutive time that India remained in top 10 as it was at 9th position in 2019 with an overall score of 66.02.

iii. Notably, the index has placed **no country on the first three positions**, which states overall very high rating, because countries are not performing well in all index categories. In categories ranking also there are no first three positions.

iv. Therefore, Sweden got the best ranking among its competitors but overall it is ranked at 4th with a score of 74.42. It topped the ranking in the categories GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy and Climate Policy.



Nepal, China announced revised height of the World's Highest Peak Mt. Everest – 8848.86 metres

Nepal and China jointly announced that “**8848.86 metres**” is the revised height of World's Highest Peak, Mount Everest.

i. The revised height of Mt. Everest is **86 centimetres** more than the previous measure done in 1954 by Survey of India (8, 848 metres).

ii. The decision to re-measure the peak was taken due to many reasons, one of the reasons was the 2015 Nepal Earthquake.

iii. In 2019 during Chinese President Xi Jinping's Nepal visit, both countries decided to jointly measure and



announce the height of the world's tallest peak.

iv. “**Sagarmatha**” is the Nepali name for Mount Everest, whereas it is called “Chomolungma” or “Qomolangma” in Tibetan and “Qomolangma Feng” in Chinese.

Mt. Everest:

i. It is a peak in the Himalayan Mountain Range and is located in the Mahalangur Himal Sub-range of Himalayas.

ii. Himalayas covers around 2400 Kms and passes through India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Bhutan and Nepal.

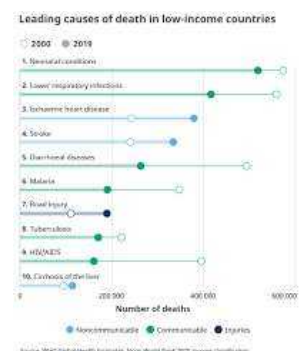
Ischaemic Heart Disease is the Top Cause of Death at the Global level from 2000-19: WHO's 2019 Global Health Estimates

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2019 Global Health Estimates, Ischaemic Heart Disease remained the **Top Cause of death** at the Global level over the period 2000-19, it is responsible for **16%** of World's total deaths. The study has also stated that Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) constitute 7 of the World's Top 10 causes of death.

i. In 2019, the 7 non-communicable diseases accounted for 44% of all deaths or 80% of the deaths caused by top 10 diseases. However, all noncommunicable diseases together accounted for 74% of deaths globally in 2019.

ii. In the year 2019, the top 10 causes of death accounted for 55% (55.5 Million deaths) of deaths worldwide.

iii. The Top 10 causes of death over the period 2000-19 are Ischaemic Heart Disease, Stroke, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Lower Respiratory Infections, Neonatal Conditions, Trachea, Bronchus & Lung Cancers, Alzheimer's & Dementia, Diarrhoeal diseases, Diabetes Mellitus, Kidney Diseases.



Singapore to host Special Annual Meeting of WEF in May 2021

The Organisers of the World Economic Forum (WEF) have announced that **Singapore** will host the **Special Annual Meeting 2021 of WEF** from **May 13-16, 2021**. This will be the **first time** that the WEF Special Annual meeting is taking place **in Asia** and the **second time** that meeting is being held **outside Davos, Switzerland**.

Note- Ahead of the Special Annual Meeting 2021, the Forum will host the **Global Technology Governance Summit in Tokyo from 6-7 April 2021**.



i. The first meeting outside Davos, Switzerland being the 2002 edition, when it was held in New York.

ii. The Special Annual meeting will **return to Davos-Klosters, Switzerland** for **2022 Edition**.

iii. The venue has been changed keeping in mind the alarming rate of COVID-19 cases in Switzerland, while Singapore has reported very few cases.

iv. Singapore is set to **allow in-person meetings**, which means the meeting will be the **1st time** that leaders from business, government, and civil society will meet in person since the start of the pandemic.

China becomes 2nd country to Plant its National Flag on Moon

China's Chang'e-5 probe planted the Chinese National Flag on the Moon's Surface. The United States was the first country to plant its National Flag on the Lunar surface during the manned Apollo 11 mission in 1969. Chang'e-5 planted the flag before starting on its return journey from the moon. It is carrying China's first Lunar Samples.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Virtually addressed Climate Ambition Summit 2020

- i. The virtual Climate Ambition Summit 2020 was held to provide a platform for government and non-governmental leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the multilateral process.
- ii. It was co-hosted by the **United Kingdom (UK)**, the **United Nations (UN)** and **France**, in partnership with **Chile** and **Italy**.
- iii. The date also marked the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement.
- iv. This summit also regarded as a “**sprint to Glasgow**” as the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is scheduled to take place from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, UK.
- v. From India, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi addressed the summit.

India Slips to 131 in Human Development Report 2020 released by UNDP: Norway tops the list

According to the “**Human Development Report 2020 – The next frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene**” released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India (**score of 0.645**) was ranked **131** in the list of 189 countries based on Human Development Index (HDI). **Norway topped the list** with a score of 0.957, the second place was grabbed by 2 countries – Ireland (0.955) and Switzerland (0.955). The report provides HDI ranks for the year 2019.



- i. India slipped two spots to 131, it ranked 129 in 2019 HDI.
- ii. HDI is measured based on 3 criterias which are – Life Expectancy, Education and Per Capita Income, in the 2020 report ‘Planetary pressures’ a new experimental Index has been introduced.
- iii. 2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the 1st Human Development report.

20th Meeting of IORA Council of Ministers hosted Virtually by UAE; France Joined IORA as its 23rd Member

- i. The 20th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting 2020 hosted virtually by United Arab Emirates (UAE) where Indian side was represented by **Vellamvelly Muraleedharan**, Minister of State (MoS) Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). France became 23rd member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.
- ii. The COM was inaugurated by **Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE while it was chaired by **Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh**, UAE Minister of State.
- iii. It was the first virtual COM amid COVID-19.
- iv. The meeting was attended by all 22 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners and also adopted the **Emirates Communiqué** as the outcome of the COM.

India ranks 111 out of 162 countries in the Human Freedom Index 2020; New Zealand tops the index

According to the ‘Human Freedom Index 2020: A Global Measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom’ – 6th Annual Report released by Cato Institute of United States & Fraser Institute in Canada, India (overall score of 6.43) ranked **111** in the list of 162 countries. **New Zealand** (score – 8.87) topped the index followed by Switzerland (score – 8.82) & Hong Kong (score – 8.74).



i. The Human Freedom Index (HFI) 2020 is a global ranking of civil, economic & personal freedom, it uses data from **2008 to 2018**. The Index was prepared by **Ian Vásquez and Fred McMahon**.

ii. India ranked **110/162** in **Personal Freedom** (Score – 6.30); **105/162** in **Economic Freedom** (Score – 6.56).

iii. In the Regional Wise Rankings, in South Asia, India secured 10th Rank among 17 countries.

iv. India was ranked 94 on the HFI 2019.

India Ranked 63rd in EODB 2020: World Bank

The World Bank (WB) has released the updated the **Ease of Doing Business(EODB) 2018 & EODB 2020** reports after **correcting the data irregularities** submitted by **4 countries** – China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia & Azerbaijan. India Ranked **63** in the **17th** edition of WB report ‘**Ease of Doing Business 2020-Comparing Business Regulation in 190 Economies**’ report remains unchanged.



In August, 2020, WB decided to pause the publication of the EODB report due to a number of irregularities, and changes to data in previous reports.

Rankings of Ease of Doing Business 2020 Report:

Rank	Country	Score
63	India	71.0
1	New Zealand	86.8
2	Singapore	86.2
3	Hong Kong, China	85.3

India becomes 6th Largest Economy in the world in 2020, slumps from 5th in 2019:CEBR's WELT 2021 report

According to the **12th** edition of **World Economic League Table 2021 (WELT)** an Annual Report

released by Centre for Economics & Business Research Ltd (CEBR), India slumped 1 spot to **6th Largest Economy** (out of 193 countries) in the world in 2020 from 5th in 2019 **due to the impact of COVID19**. The United States (US) topped the 2020 rankings followed by China & Japan.

i. India overtook the United Kingdom (UK) to become the 5th Largest economy in 2019 rankings.

ii. The report stated that **India** will become **5th Largest Economy by 2025 & 3rd Largest by 2030**.

iii. **China** will replace the US as the **World's Largest Economy by 2028**.

India ranks 3rd in list of Countries with most Publications on AI from 2015-2019, China tops list : Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence

According to the 'Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence' released by **Nature Research, International Scientific publishing company**, India ranked **3rd** (with 91,563 publications) in the list of 25 Countries with **most publications on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** during the period 2015-2019. China topped the List, followed by the United States. The whole Index is based on the time period between 2015-19.

i. India ranked 20th among 25 countries in artificial intelligence ranked by total article share in the field from 2015 to 2019.

ii. Anna University, Chennai ranked 32nd in Top 100 research organizations in the AI field. It is the only Indian Organization in Top 100.

Top 3 Research Organizations based on Total number of publications in AI:

Rank	Institution
32	Anna University, India
1	Tsinghua University, China
2	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
3	Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Cashaa in Partnership with United Multistate Credit Co-Op Society Launches World's 1st Crypto Bank, 'Unicas' in India

i. 'Unicas', world's first crypto bank was launched in India as a Joint Venture(JV) between **Cashaa of UK** and **United Multistate Credit Co-operative society of India**. The world's first 'Crypto-Friendly' branch was initiated in Jaipur, India.

ii. This bank allows users to transact in cryptocurrency and fiat from one account to another.

iii. It will provide banking services for both fiat and crypto-assets. This JV allows Cashaa to access regulatory licenses, physical branches, and overall banking Infrastructure of United Multistate Co-Op Society.

iv. It is to be noted that for the 1st time in the world a financial institution has enabled cryptocurrency trade through physical branches.



Defence

HAL delivers Biggest Ever Cryogenic Propellant Tank 'C32-LH2' to ISRO

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) delivered 'C32-LH2' Cryogenic Propellant Tank to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is **Biggest ever** cryogenic propellant tank fabricated by HAL.

C32-LH2 is made of **aluminium alloy** and has been designed to **improve the payload capability of GSLV** (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) MK-III launching vehicle.



Key Points:

- i. The 4-metre diameter tank is of **8-metres length** to load around **5, 755 Kg propellant** in the 89 Cubic Metre Volume.
- ii. The welds have been done to meet 100% quality requirements on **radiography, dye penetrant check and leak-proof**.

Defence Ministry approves Creation of 2 New posts – Deputy Chief for Military Operations & Strategic Planning, DG Information Warfare

On December 3, 2020, As part of reorganisation of Army Headquarters, Defence Ministry approved the Creation of **2 New Posts – Deputy Chief for Military Operations & Strategic Planning & Director General (DG) of Information Warfare**. The Deputy Chief (for Military Operations & Strategic Planning) will be the **3rd post of Deputy Chief** in the Indian Army.



- i. Deputy Chief for Military Operations & Strategic Planning will deal with military operations, military intelligence, strategic planning and operational logistics.
- ii. Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) **Lt General Paramjit Singh** is set to become the First Deputy Chief of Army Staff for Military Operations & Strategic Planning.
- iii. Director General of Information Warfare will cater to the needs of **future battlefield, hybrid warfare** and social media realities additionally they would deal with media affairs.

Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry Assumes Charge as 27th Director General of Border Roads Organisation; Succeeds Lt Gen Harpal Singh

On December 1, 2020 Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) **Rajeev Chaudhry** assumed charge as **27th** Director General (DG) of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). He succeeds **Lt Gen Harpal Singh**. BRO is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

IAF Carries out Firing of Surface-to-Air Missiles Akash, Igla in Suryalanka, Andhra Pradesh

The Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out the Firing of Indigenously Developed **Akash Missile System (Surface-to-Air Missile) & Russian-Origin Short-Range Igla Missile (Surface-to-Air Missile)** as part of a drill which took place at Air Force Station in Suryalanka, Andhra Pradesh. The drills were part of an exercise which was carried from November 23-December 2 by the IAF.

- i. Both the Akash Missile System & Short Range Igla Missiles were fired and they engaged the Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Targets (**MEAT**).
- ii. Akash is a **Nuclear capable** Missile Defence System developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (**BDL**)
- iii. The Igla Missile is a Russian man-portable infrared homing Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM).

INS Himgiri, 2nd Project 17A Stealth Frigate, Launched at GRSE Yard in Kolkata

The 2nd ship of Project 17A class of stealth frigates, namely, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Himgiri, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) was launched at its facility in Kolkata (West Bengal).

- ii. The chief guest of the launch ceremony was **General Bipin Rawat**, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) while the INS was launched by spouse of CDS, **Smt Madhulika Rawat** as a part of the naval traditions.

- iii. It should be noted that it is the 1st ship built by GRSE as a part of **Rs 19,294 crore** contract for construction of the three stealth frigates by August 2023 under Project 17A. Also, the P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.



India, Vietnam hold PASSEX Naval Exercise 2020 in South China Sea; INS Kiltan reaches NhaRong Port, Vietnam under Mission Sagar-III

Indian Navy & Vietnam People's Navy undertook a Passage Exercise (**PASSEX**) 2020 in the **South China Sea** from December 26-27, 2020 to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries.

On December 25, 2020 **Indian Navy Ship (INS) Kiltan** carrying **15 tonnes** of Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (**HADR**) reached **NhaRong Port, Ho Chi Minh City** as part of **Mission Sagar-III**. The relief materials are for the flood-affected people of Central Vietnam.



PASSEX:

- i. A PASSEX exercise is usually carried out between 2 navies to ensure that they are able to **communicate & cooperate in times of war or humanitarian relief**.

Mission Sagar-III to Vietnam:

- i. The 15-tonnes of relief materials were handed over to Vietnam's **Central Steering Committee for national disaster prevention & control**.
- ii. Central Vietnam had faced severe floods during October-November, 2020, it had claimed the lives of 230 people.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

AR Rahman Appointed as the Ambassador for BAFTA Breakthrough India 2020-21

Music Composer **AR Rahman** was appointed as the Ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)'s **Breakthrough initiative in India 2020-21**". This initiative is supported by **Netflix**.



About AR Rahman:

- i. He debuted as the Music Director in 1991 for the film "Roja" directed by Mani Ratnam.
- ii. He secured the National award for best music composer for Roja, first time for a debutant to receive the honours.
- iii. He has worked in various languages which includes, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, English and Chinese.

Awards:

- i. AR Rahman won 2 Academy Awards for Original score and original song in 2009 for the film "Slumdog Millionaire".
- ii. He also won the Golden Globes for Slumdog Millionaire in 2009 for best Original Score for which he also won the BAFTA Awards in 2009.

BAFTA 'Breakthrough India Initiative':

Aim of the Initiative:

To identify, celebrate and support upto 5 talents working in Film, Televisions or Games in India.

Sandeep Kataria, Becomes 1st Indian to be Appointed as Global CEO of Bata; Succeeds Alexis Nasard

Sandeep Kataria, the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Bata India has been elevated as the **CEO of Bata Organization**. He becomes the **1st Indian** to be appointed as the global CEO of Bata. He succeeds Alexis Nasard.

About Sandeep Kataria:

- i. Sandeep Kataria joined Bata India in 2017 as Country Manager of India.
- ii. Before joining Bata India, he served as the chief commercial officer of Vodafone India.
- iii. He also has served in leading global firms like Unilever, Yum Brands in India and Europe.

About Alexis Nasard:

- i. Alexis Nasard has been CEO at Bata since April 2016.
- ii. Prior to this, he has been in a broad range of leadership roles such as Global Chief Marketing Officer and President of Europe.
- iii. He worked for 17 year with Procter and Gamble (P&G) in Senior Management role.

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya Appointed as the First Vice President of WLPGA

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was appointed as the **first Vice President** of the World Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (WLPGA), an authoritative voice of the LPG industry across the globe which represents the complete LPG value chain.

About Shrikant Madhav Vaidya:

- i. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya prior to his appointment as the chairman of IOC in July 2020 he served as the director(Refineries) of IOC since 2019.
- ii. He also serves as the Chairman of the Chennai Petroleum Corporation, a standalone refining subsidiary of IOC.
- iii. He has led various refinery expansion and petrochemical projects and he has guided the timely rollout of BS-VI grade auto fuels across India and expanded the green energy offerings of the Corporation with projects related to biofuels and 2G/3G ethanol-blended fuels at its refineries.

About World LPG Association:

President– Henry Cubbon

Headquarters– Paris, France

Uday Shankar elected as the President of FICCI; Succeeds Sangita Reddy

On 4th December, 2020 The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) elected **Uday Shankar** as its **President** for the year 2020-21. He will succeed **Sangita Reddy**. Mr. Shankar is the **first person** from the media and entertainment industry to lead a national industry chamber like FICCI.



About Uday Shankar

- Uday Shankar (58) is the outgoing president of The Walt Disney Company for Asia Pacific and the chairman of Star and Disney India.
- He also serves as the **Vice-President of FICCI**.
- **Created Hotstar**, now globally expanded as Disney+ Hotstar.
- Earlier served as the President of Indian Broadcasting Federation (IBF) and chairman of FICCI's Media and Entertainment Committee.
- As the Editor and news director at TV Today Group, he **launched Aaj Tak in 2000 and Headlines Today in 2003**

WHO Foundation Appoints Indian-origin Anil Soni as its 1st CEO

i. On December 8, 2020 **WHO Foundation** appointed **Anil Soni**, Indian-origin global health expert as its **1st Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** or inaugural CEO. He will take charge on January 1, 2021.

ii. Anil Soni as a CEO will expedite the work of WHO Foundation to invest in



innovative, evidence-based initiatives that support WHO(World Health Organisation) to deliver on its mission to ensure healthy lives and improve well-being for everyone.

About WHO Foundation:

Launched– May 2020

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Founder and Chairman of the Board of the WHO Foundation– Professor Thomas Zeltner

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah reappointed as Prime Minister of Kuwait

On 8th December, 2020 Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah **reappointed Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al- Sabah as the Prime Minister** of Kuwait. Earlier Sabah took over the Country's Prime Ministership in September, 2020 after the death of his brother, Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



About Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah:

- i.He started his career in 1978, joining the ministry of foreign affairs, where he worked at various capacities, including being a member of Kuwait's permanent mission to the United Nations (1983-1989).
- ii.He belonged to the political Party, Independent.
- iii.He served as the Minister of the Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2019 simultaneously, during the same period, he had been served as the Deputy Prime Minister(PM).

RBI Approves Re-appointment of Uday Kotak as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) approved the **reappointment** of **Uday Kotak** as Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of **Kotak Mahindra Bank(KMB)** for a period of 3 years effective from 1st January 2021.

Other Approval

RBI also granted approval for reappointing Prakash Apte as Part –time Chairman and Dipak Gupta as joint MD for 3 years period with effect from January 1, 2021.

About Uday Kotak:

Career in KMB

- i.Uday Kotak is the founder and promoter of KMB
- ii.He had served for the past 17 years as the head of KMB

Other Post Held

- i.He is currently serving as the president of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21.

Justice S Muralidhar was Elevated as CJ of Orissa High Court

Justice S Muralidhar, Judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court has been elevated as the Chief Justice(CJ) of **Orissa High Court(HC)**. Prior to his transfer to Punjab & Haryana HC he served as the judge in his parent high court in Delhi. The elevation was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium chaired by Chief Justice of India (CJI) **SA Bobde**

Mohammad Rafiq, the current CJ of Orissa has been transferred to **Madhya**



Pradesh HC.**Other elevations:**

- i.**Justice Hima Kohli, senior judge of Delhi High Court has been recommended as the CJ of Telangana HC.
- ii.**Justice Sanjib Banerjee one of the senior judges of Calcutta HC has been elevated as CJ of Madras high court.
- iii.**Justice Pankaj Mithal of Allahabad HC, serving as senior judge on the Lucknow Bench, has been recommended as the new CJ of Jammu and Kashmir HC.
- iv.**Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia of Uttarakhand HC has been elevated as the CJ of Gauhati HC.

Honours/ Awards

Cambridge Dictionary Named “Quarantine” as Word of the Year 2020

The **Cambridge Dictionary** has named “**Quarantine**” as the **Word of the Year 2020** based on its data which showed that the word ‘quarantine’ is one of the most searched words on the Cambridge Dictionary in 2020.

**'Quarantine' -
Word of the Year
2020**

Key Points:

- i. The word ‘quarantine’ ranks among the top five words for both search spikes and overall views more than **183000 views** by early November.
- ii. The largest search spike was observed from **18th to 24th March 2020**, during which many countries across the globe went into lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.

New sense:

- i. The Cambridge editors have added a new sense of quarantine to the Cambridge dictionary “a general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely, so that they do not catch or spread a disease”.
- ii. Researchers found that this word is also used synonymously with lockdown to refer to a situation in which people avoid exposure to disease by staying at home.

Note:

- i. Runners-up for Word of the year 2020 are, **Lockdown** and **Pandemic**.
- ii. Cambridge’s word of the year **2019** was “**Upcycling**”.

Veteran Bollywood Actor Naseeruddin Shah Honoured with Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Puraskar 2020

Veteran Bollywood Actor **Naseeruddin Shah** was honoured with the **Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Puraskar 2020** at the Sangit Kala Kendra Awards virtual function. He was awarded in the category theatre.

The 2 emerging stars of theatrics, Neel Choudhary and Irawati Karnik were awarded the Aditya Vikram Birla Kalakiran Puraskars 2020.



Note

Rajashree Birla, President of Sangit Kala Kendra mentioned that ‘Theatre’ is the central theme for 2020 awards.

Key People

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Neerja Birla and the extended Aditya Birla family attended the event.

About Naseeruddin Shah:

Acting Career

- i. Apart from being a film actor, he is also a stage actor and director.

ii. He made his debut in Indian film industry, with a small role in the film Aman (1967).

iii. He made his Pakistani film debut in Khuda Ke Liye (2007).

Awards

i. He received Padma Shri in 1985 for Arts and Padma Bhushan in 2003 for Arts.

ii. He has received 3 National Film Awards for the films, Sparsh, Paar and Iqbal.

iii. He also has received 3 filmfare awards for the films, Aakrosh, Chakra and Masoom.

About Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Shikhar Puraska:

i. Sangit Kala Kendra instituted this award in 1966, in memory of its Founder President, the Late Shri Aditya Vikram Birla.

ii. It is annually presented, close to his birth anniversary, November 14th

Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com select “Pandemic” as Word of the Year 2020

Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com two of the most popular dictionary companies for the first time have chosen a common word “Pandemic” as Word of the Year 2020. Once the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced COVID-19 as pandemic in early March, 2020 the word continuously peaked in the most searched list.



The announcement was made right after the Oxford Languages issued a 16-page report explaining the urgency to the role of Lexicographer.

About the word “Pandemic”:

i. Pandemic is a word having roots in Latin and Greek, where “pan” denotes “for all” and “demos” indicating “people or population” sometimes roots to “democracy”.

ii. Broadly the word “pandemic” denotes “universal” and more specifically to disease in a medical text in the 1600s.

RIL Tops 2020 Fortune 500 Ranking List of Indian Companies

i. On December 2, 2020 Fortune India announced the **2020 Fortune 500 Ranking List of Indian companies**.

ii. The list is **topped** by Reliance Industries Ltd (**RIL**) with revenue of Rs 615,854.00 crore, accounting for 7% of cumulative revenues and 11% profit of the companies featured. RIL retains the top rank for the 2nd time.

iii. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (**IOCL**) secured **2nd rank** with revenue of Rs 493,932.99 crore followed by **Oil & Natural Gas Corporation** with revenue of Rs 405,243.31 crore.



Ranjitsinh Disale, Maharashtra Primary School Teacher Wins \$1 million Global Teacher Prize 2020

i. Ranjitsinh Disale, a teacher from Zilla Parishad Primary School, Paritewadi, Solapur district in Maharashtra, India won **US \$1 million annual Global Teacher Prize 2020**.

ii. The Prize was founded by **Varkey Foundation** and organised in partnership with **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).

iii. US\$45,000 COVID Hero Award, supported by CVC Capital Partner was given to UK (United Kingdom) Maths teacher Jamie Frost.

iv. The Varkey Foundation launched a new Chegg.org Global Student Prize, a US\$50,000 sister prize to the Global Teacher Prize.

About Varkey Foundation:

Founder– Sunny Varkey

Head Office– UK (United Kingdom), London

2nd Edition of Kotak Wealth Hurun – Leading Wealthy Women 2020: Roshni Nadar Malhotra of HCL Tech Tops the List as India's Richest Woman

i. the 2nd edition of “Kotak Wealth Hurun – Leading Wealthy Women” 2020 was jointly launched by Kotak **Wealth Management**, a division of Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) and **Hurun India**.

ii. Roshni Nadar Malhotra (32 years), the chairperson of HCL Technologies has topped the Kotak Wealth Hurun India 2020 and was named as **India's richest woman** with a wealth of **Rs.54,850 crore**.



iii. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon Limited was named the **2nd richest woman of India** with a wealth of Rs.36600 crore. She is the **wealthiest self-made woman** on the list.

Gitanjali Rao 15 year old Indian-American Scientist & Inventor named First Ever Times “Kid of the Year”

Gitanjali Rao, 15-year-old Indian-American Scientist and Inventor has been named as the **first ever “Kid of the Year”** by TIME Magazine. She was selected from a field of more than 5000 nominees for her work “to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyberbullying using technology”.

Britain became the First Country to recognise Pfizer-BioNTech's coronavirus vaccine

The Government of **Britain** has become the **first country to recognise Pfizer-bioNTech's coronavirus vaccine**, after recommendations by Independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for its use. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to have **95% effectiveness** against COVID-19 in the final phase trials.



Book Titled,' The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj' Authored by Anita Anand Wins PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize 2020

The book titled '**The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj**' authored by Journalist **Anita Anand**, a British Indian wins **£2,000 annual PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize 2020**.

Note- PEN stands for Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, Novelists

Key Info

The judges also 'highly commended' two other titles from the shortlist, namely Hazel V Carby's *Imperial Intimacies: A Tale of Two Islands* and Roel Sterck's, *Chinese Thought: From Confucius to Cook Ding* (Pelican).

About the Book

- i. The book is based on the life of Indian revolutionary Udham Singh.
- ii. The book portrays the story of a young man caught up in the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar, Punjab.
- iii. It was published by Simon & Schuster UK.

About Anita Anand

Apart from being an author and journalist she is a radio and television presenter.

She authored books namely, *Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary* and, with William Dalrymple, *Koh-i-Noor: The History of the World's Most Infamous Diamond*

She won the Nazia Hassan Award for 2005 in the category of Upcoming Television Broadcasters.

About PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize:

General Info

The prize is given for a non-fiction book of specifically historical content.

It is administered by English PEN, the founding centre of PEN International.

The award is one of many PEN awards sponsored by PEN International affiliates in over 145 PEN centres around the world.

Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2020: India's Shantanu Narayen ranked 8th & Ajay Banga ranked 9th; Elon Musk Tops

The **Fortune** ranked **India's Shantanu Narayen**, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Adobe in 8th position and Ajay Banga, CEO of **Mastercard** in 9th position in its list of **Businessperson of the Year 2020**.

Top 3 in the list:

- i. The list is topped by **Elon Musk**, co-founder & CEO of Tesla. He is also CEO of Space Exploration Technologies Corp.(SpaceX). He tops the list for the second time.
- ii. Lisa Su, CEO of AMD has been ranked in 2nd spot followed by Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia in the 3rd spot.



Mondo Duplantis and Yulimar Rojas Named '2020 World Athletes of the Year' at World Athletics Awards 2020

i. Pole Vaulter **Mondo Duplantis** of Sweden was named as the male **World Athletes of the Year**(2020) and Triple Jumper **Yulimar Rojas** of Venezuela as the female World Athletes of the Year(2020) at the **World Athletics Awards 2020**.

ii. The award is annually given by World Athletics, the international governing body for the sport of athletics.

iii. Mondo Duplantis, who is 21 years old is the **youngest athlete** ever to be named as the World Athlete of the Year. He is also the first Swedish man or woman to win the award.



About World Athletics:

It is formerly known as the International Amateur Athletic Federation and International Association of Athletics Federations, both abbreviated as the IAAF.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute named 2020 'Asian of the Year' with 5 others

Adar Poonawalla, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (**SII**) was named as 2020 “**Asians of the Year**” along with 5 others by **The Straits Times**, Singapore’s leading daily for their contribution in fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic. SII collaborated with University of Oxford and AstraZeneca for making COVID-19 vaccine ‘**Covidshield**’ (under trials phase in India). The five others are Zhang Yongzhen (China), Major General Chen Wei (China), Ryuichi Morishita (Japan), Ooi Eng Eong (Singapore) and Seo Jung-jin (South Korea).



MP's Gwalior & Orchha named in UNESCO World Heritage Cities List

i. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has inscribed the fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh (MP) in its world heritage cities under urban landscape city programme. This was informed by the state government of MP.

ii. The inclusion will lead to the beautification of both cities by the MP Tourism Department in collaboration with UNESCO.

iii. In this regard, UNESCO team will visit the state in 2021 and will prepare a master plan for their development and conservation under the Historic Urban Landscape recommendation.

Amar Singh College Receives 'Award of Merit' in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

i. **Amar Singh College**, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir received the ‘**Award of Merit**’ in the **2020 UNESCO**(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) **Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation**.

ii. It is one of the 7 award winners of the 2020 awards. It is the first international award given to cultural heritage in Kashmir.

iii. Sunder Nursery of New Delhi, Mumbai received 'Special Recognition for Sustainable Development' and Award of Excellence.

iv. It is the 1st heritage complex in Delhi to receive 2 UNESCO Asia-Pacific awards for Cultural Heritage Conversation.

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

Director General– Audrey Azoulay

Headquarters– Paris, France

Members– 193 member states(including India) and 11 Associate Members

2020 Goldman Environmental Prize Ceremony held Virtually; Paul Sein Twa of Myanmar won in Asia Continent

i. The 2020 Goldman Environmental Prize ceremony was held virtually on November 30, 2020 which recognizes six grassroots environmental activists annually from each of the world's six continents viz. Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America. The prize is also known as the "Green Nobel Prize".



ii. The 2020 ceremony was hosted by actress Sigourney Weaver.

iii. The winners are Chibeze Ezekiel (Ghana), Kristal Ambrose (The Bahamas), Leydy Pech (Mexico), Lucie Pinson (France), Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador) and Paul Sein Twa (Myanmar).

Raj Kamal Jha for his Novel 'The City and the Sea' Wins 3rd Edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020

i. **Raj Kamal Jha**, Indian Author and the Chief Editor of The Indian Express wins **3rd Edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020** for his literary fiction novel 'The City and the Sea' which was published by Penguin Random House India Private Limited. This is Raj Kamal Jha's 5th novel.



ii. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, late Sultan of Oman and The People of Oman and Sandip Soparrkar a renowned dancer choreographer from India named as the winner of **Tagore Prize for Social Achievement 2020**.

About Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize & Social Achievement Prize:

Instituted in – 2018

Chair of the Awarding Committee and Founder of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize– Peter Bundalo

Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman Ranked 41 in the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2020 by Forbes

Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman made it to the World's 100 most powerful women 2020 list announced in the **17th annual Forbes power list**. This is the second time she features in the list, in **2019 she ranked at 34 and In 2020, she was ranked 41st position**.



i. India's leading Business women, **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Chairman of Biocon Limited also featured in the list at **68th position**.

ii. The list also saw the biggest jump in ranking to 3rd position by Kamala Harris, Vice President Elect of USA, and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, **Sheikh Hasina Wajed is ranked at 39**.

Rank	Personality	Profession
41	Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance Minister of India
68	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw	Founder, Chair and Managing Director, Biocon Ltd.
1	Angela Merkel	Chancellor, Germany
2	Christine Lagarde	President, European Central Bank
3	Kamala Harris	Vice President-elect, United States
4	Ursula von der Leyen	President, European Commission, European Union
5	Melinda Gates	Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr. Carolina Araujo of Brazil Becomes 1st Non-Indian to Win Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020 from Developing Countries

Dr. Carolina Araujo, Brazilian Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was named as the winner of **Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020** from developing countries in a virtual ceremony. She is the **1st non-Indian women mathematician** to receive this prize. The Prize carries a cash award of USD 15,000.

Reason of the Prize

- She won the prize for her **outstanding work in algebraic geometry**, especially in bilateral geometry, and in the theory of extremal rays.
- And also for her work in the Fano varieties' study and classification and study of algebraic foliations.



About Dr. Carolina Araujo

i. She is the vice president of the Committee for Women in Mathematics at the International Mathematical Union(IMU).

ii. She has been a Simons Associate at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP),

since 2015.

About Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians:

- i. The Ramanujan Prize for young mathematicians from developing countries has been awarded annually since 2005.
- ii. The prize is named after the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- iii. It is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India in association with ICTP and IMU.
- iv. The prize is given to a young mathematician less than 45 years of age, who has conducted outstanding research in a developing country.

Bajrang Punia and Elavenil Valarivan Awarded “FICCI Sportsperson of the Year” at India Sports Award-2020

On 10th December, 2020 **Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** virtually presented India Sports Awards-2020, to sports personalities for their outstanding contributions in the field of sports. In the Event, **Wrestler Bajrang Punia and Shooter Elavenil Valarivan** received the highest honour “**Sportsperson of the Year of Male & Female**” Award.

Award	Personality
Sportsperson of the Year- Female	Elavenil Valarivan (Shooting)
Sportsperson of the Year- Male	Bajrang Punia (Wrestler)
Best State Promoting Sports Award	Madhya Pradesh
Best Company Promoting Sports (Private Sector)	Anil Kumble for Tenvic Sports
Coach of the year award	Radhakrishnan Nair (Athletics)
Best National Sports Federation	Wrestling Federation of India and Paralympic Committee of India

Poland Footballer, Robert Lewandowski won Best FIFA Men Player Award 2020

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) awarded **Robert Lewandowski**, captain of **Poland** National Team as the **Best FIFA Men’s player for 2020** in its annual award ceremony. The event also saw the distribution of 9 awards related to football. **Lucy Bronze of England** won the **Best FIFA Women’s**



player for 2020.

Other Awardees:

- i. Best FIFA Men's Coach Award 2020 won by Jurgen Klopp for a record second time.
- ii. Best FIFA Women's Coach Award 2020 won by Sarina Wiegman (Currently Coaching Netherlands Football National Team).
- iii. Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper 2020 won by Manuel Neuer.
- iv. Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper 2020 won by Sarah Bouhaddi.

UNEP announces 6 Recipients for 2020 Champions of the Earth Award

The United Nations (UN) Environment Programme (UNEP) virtually announced **6 Individuals** as recipients of the **2020 Champions of the Earth Award**, which is UN's **highest environmental honour**. The award is given across **5 categories** – Policy Leadership, Inspiration & Action, Science & Innovation, Entrepreneurial vision & LifeTime Achievement Award.

They are given to recognize the contributions of outstanding environmental leaders from public & private sectors and also from civil society.



Awards:

Recipient	Category	Contribution
Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji	Policy Leadership	for global climate action work, and commitment to climate-responsive national development
Dr Fabian Leendertz, (Germany)	Science & Innovation	Discovery in Zoonotics & work in One Health
Mindy Lubber (United States of America)	Entrepreneurial Vision	for commitment to convert capital markets green by mobilizing top investors and companies
Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)	Inspiration & Action	Leadership and unifying work with indigenous communities to halt drilling in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest
Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)	Inspiration & Action	for teaching traditional nature-based solution to farmers for regeneration of soil to turn barren land into arable land in Africa
Professor Robert D. Bullard (United States of America)	Earth Lifetime Achievement Award	For commitment and service to environmental justice

NTPC Won Excellence Award in CSR Domain in 15th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020

i NTPC Limited(formerly- National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) won ‘Excellence’ award in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain in 15th CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 .

ii.In addition to this, NTPC has also received **Commendation for Significant Achievement** in the category of **Corporate Excellence**.

iii.NTPC wins the CII-ITC Sustainability Award in the corporate excellence category for consecutive second time.

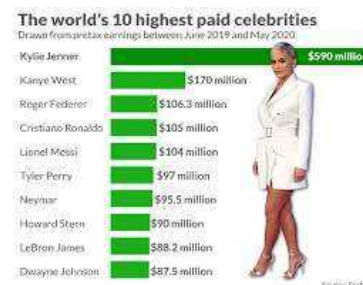
iv.NTPC is the only PSU to receive the award in the Corporate Excellence category.



Kylie Jenner tops Forbes 2020 Highest Paid Celebrity List

Famous American Media Personality and founder of Kylie Cosmetics, **Kylie Jenner topped the Forbes 2020's highest paid celebrity** list with an earning of **USD 590 million** in 2020. She was followed by popular American singer Kanye West in the second spot with 170 million.

i.The 23-year-old topped the list after she sold a 51% stake in Kylie Cosmetics for \$600 million to Coty.



Rank	Celebrity	Earning (USD in million)
1	Kylie Jenner	590
2	Kanye West	170
3	Roger Federer	106.3

Virat Kohli Wins Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade; MS Dhoni wins ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade

i. The winners of the International Cricket Council(ICC) Awards of the Decade(2010-2020) were announced. In this, Indian Cricketer **Virat Kohli** wins the **Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade**. He also won ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade award.

ii.**MS Dhoni(India)** won the **ICC Spirit of Cricket Award of the Decade** for calling back former England batter Ian Bell after a disputable runout at Trent Bridge Cricket ground, Nottinghamshire, England in 2011.

iii.**Ellyse Perry(Australia)** wins the **Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade**. She also won ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Decade award and ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Decade award.

DRDO confers 'Scientist of the Year Award-2018' on Dr Hemant Kumar Pandey

Dr Hemant Kumar Pandey has been conferred with '**Scientist of the Year Award-2018**' by Defence Research & Development Organization (**DRDO**) for his contributions towards developing herbal medicines which includes '**Lukoskin**' a drug for treatment of leucoderma. Pandey has been undertaking research at DRDO's Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (**DIBER**) at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand for 25 years.

Harsh Vardhan Launched India's 1st Indigenous Vaccine 'Pneumosil' Against Pneumonia

The vaccine has been developed by Serum Institute of India Private Limited (**SIPL**) in collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**.

i. The Vaccine will make SIPL the **world's 3rd largest supplier** of PCV under the pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment (AMC), and the **first Developing country vaccine manufacturer** to access the global PCV market.

Objective – The vaccine will primarily help to fight against pneumococcal pneumonia among children



Sports

Lewis Hamilton wins Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020

British Driver Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) won the 2020 Bahrain Grand Prix (officially known as Formula 1 **Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix**) held at Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir, Bahrain. The race was the fifteenth round of the 2020 Formula One World Championship.

The Championships are organized by **Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)**.

i. Netherlands Driver **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull Racing) finished **Second** while Thailand's **Alexander Albon** (Red Bull Racing) finished **Third** in the race.

ii. This is Hamilton's **11th Win** of the 2020 season.

iii. Lewis Hamilton clinched the 2020 Driver's Championship Title with his victory at the 2020 Turkish Grand Prix held on November 15, 2020.

iv. Lewis Hamilton's victory gave Mercedes their 115th Formula 1 race win, they overtook Williams to take the 3rd position on the all-time list of most Grand Prix Victories by Constructors. Ferrari holds the record for the most Grand Prix victories with 238 wins, and McLaren is placed second with 182 wins.



New Zealand all-rounder Corey Anderson retires from International Cricket, Joins MLC in US

New Zealand **all-rounder Corey Anderson announced retirement** from International Cricket and signed a **3-year deal with USA's Major League Cricket (MLC)**. Corey Anderson once held the **record for fastest ODI century for his 36 ball hundred** against West Indies in 2013.

Corey Anderson's Career:

i. The 29-year-old cricketer, born on 13 December, 1990 represented New Zealand in International Cricket.

ii. On his Debut year, recorded the fastest ODI century in 36 balls against West Indies.

iii. The All-rounder represented New Zealand in 13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20s. He scored 2277 runs with two hundreds and 10 half-centuries. He also picked up 90 wickets.

iv. Lastly, he represented New Zealand in **November 2018** in a T20 International.

Sergio Perez wins Formula 1 Rolex 2020 Sakhir Grand Prix; Jehan Daruvala becomes 1st Indian to win F2 race

On December 6, 2020, Mexico's **Sergio Perez** (Racing Point BWT Mercedes) won the 2020 Sakhir Grand Prix (officially known as the **Formula 1 Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix 2020**) held at 'Outer Circuit' configuration at the **Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain**. Sergio Perez became the **First Mexican** Formula One Driver to win a race since Pedro Rodriguez who won the 1970 Belgian Grand Prix. The



Championships are organized by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (**FIA**).

i. France's **Esteban Ocon** (Renault) finished **second**, while Canada's **Lance Stroll** (Racing Point BWT Mercedes) came **Third**.

Jehan Daruvala 1st Indian to win a Formula 2 race:

i. On December 6, 2020, Indian Driver **Jehan Daruvala** became the **First Indian** to win a Formula 2 race during the 2020 Sakhir Grand Prix.

ii. Jehan drives for **Carling Racing**, he hails from **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie breaks half marathon World Record in Valencia Half Marathon 2020

Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie smashed the World Record by completing the 13.1 Mile Marathon in 57 minutes 32 seconds at the 2020 Valencia Half Marathon Trinidad Alfonso EDP held at Valencia, Spain. With this, Kandie overtook Geoffrey

Kamworor's (Kenya) record of 58.01. He also became the First person to finish the Half Marathon in 58 minutes. Jacob Kiplimo (Uganda) came second while Rhonex Kipruto of Kenya finished Third.



Indian Cricket Team won the 2020 Dettol T20I series against Australia held in Australia

The **Indian Cricket Team** won the **3-match Dettol Twenty20 International (T20I) series 2020** against Australia by 2-1. The T20I series is part of India's Tour of Australia, 2020-21 which consists of 3 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 3 T20Is & 4 Test matches taking place from November 2020 – January 2021.

Indian All-rounder **Hardik Pandya** was chosen as the **Player of the Series**.

Records:

i. Indian Spin Bowler **Yuzvendra Chahal** became the **1st Concussion substitute** to be awarded in an International Cricket Match, he also became India's Joint-highest wicket-taker in T20Is along with Jasprit Bumrah.

ii. Indian Captain Virat Kohli equalled Rohit Sharma's record of **Most Fifty Plus** scores in T20I.

iii. England Opening Batsman **Dawid Malan** became the first-ever player to cross 900-point for batsmen in ICC (International Cricket Council) T20I Player Rankings. This is the Highest-ever rating points in T20I history.

IOC adds Breakdance as Medal Events in 2024 Paris Olympic Games; 3 other events added in 2020 Tokyo Olympic Game

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board added "**Breaking**" – a competitive form of breakdancing & 3 other sports – **Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, and Surfing to Medal Events Program** in Olympic Games. **Breaking** will make its Olympic debut at the **2024 Summer Olympics** in Paris, while **3 other**



sports will make their **olympic debut** at the **2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics** to be held in July, 2021 (delayed due to COVID-19). The additional sports were proposed by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee.

i. The sports have been included by IOC to set a new standard for **inclusive**, gender-balanced and youth-centred games.

ii. The IOC has approved the reduction of certain medal events in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, Paris will have 329 medal events, 10 events less than the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games (to be held in 2021)

About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

President – Thomas Bach

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Sri Lanka to host 2021 Edition of Asia Cup Cricket Tournament; Pakistan to host 2022 Edition of Asia Cup

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), **Wasim Khan** stated that **Sri Lanka** will host the **2021 Edition of Asia Cup**, Cricket tournament and **Pakistan** will host the **2022 Edition of Asia Cup**, Cricket tournament.



i. In July 2020, Asia Cup's Governing body, Asia Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the 2020 Edition of Asia Cup was cancelled due to Pandemic.

ii. The 2020 Edition was originally set to be hosted by Pakistan, as it was cancelled Pakistan were awarded to host the 2022 Edition as Compensation.

Asia Cup:

i. Asia Cup is a men's One Day International (ODI) & Twenty20 International Cricket Tournament.

ii. It is organized by ACC, which has 5 full members – India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh & Afghanistan.

Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing Honda wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020

The Dutchman **Max Verstappen** won the **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020** in a crucial race, making his second win of the year 2020. He made his first win of the year at the special 70th Anniversary Grand Prix held at the Silverstone Circuit in the United Kingdom.

Valtteri Bottas (Finland) of Mercedes finished second in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020. He was followed by **Lewis Hamilton (Great Britain) of Mercedes**.



About Max Verstappen:

i. 23-year-old, Belgium born Formula 1 racer representing Red Bull Racing Honda.

ii. At the age of 17 he became the youngest driver to compete in Formula 1 at the 2015 Australian Grand Prix for Scuderia Toro Rosso.

iii. Won 2 races in 2020- Special 70th Anniversary Grand Prix and Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

iv. Currently ranked World Number 3 in Formula 1 racing

Ankita Raina ITF doubles title in the 23rd Al Habtoor Tennis Challenge held in Dubai

Indian tennis player Ankita Raina and Georgia's Ekaterine Gorgodze clinched the ITF (International Tennis Federation) Doubles title at the 23rd Al Habtoor Challenge 2020 held in Dubai by defeating Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov (Spain) and Kaja Juvan (Slovakia). This is Ankita Raina's 3rd Doubles Title of the 2020 season. The Al Habtoor Challenge is a hard court event. Ankita Ravinderkrishan Raina hails from Ahmedabad, Gujarat. She is the current Indian No.1 in both women's singles (WTA Ranking – 180) and Doubles (WTA Ranking – 117).

Anshu Malik wins India's First Medal at the Wrestling-Individual World Cup 2020 in Belgrade, Serbia

India's Women wrestler **Anshu Malik won the Silver medal in the 57 Kg category at the Individual World Cup 2020** held at Belgrade, Serbia. She won the first and only medal winner in the event where Indian side was represented by 24 wrestlers.

i. In the Gold medal fight, Anshu Malik lost to reigning European champion Anastasia Nichita of Moldova.

ii. 19-year-old Anshu Malik won her first medal at international level in her 3rd event.

About Individual World Cup 2020:

The Individual World Cup came as a **replacement to the 2020 World Championship** which was cancelled due to less participants because of the pandemic.

3 categories- Freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's.

Organiser- United World Wrestling



Indian Men's Hockey Team to finish 2020 in 4th Position, Women's Team in 9th Position : FIH Rankings

According to the latest rankings released by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), Indian Men's Hockey Team will **finish 2020 in the 4th Position**, while the Women's Hockey Team will finish at the **9th Position**. Belgium Men's Team finished 2020 at the **top position**, while Netherlands women's team finished **1st**.

i. In January, 2020, FIH released a **new method for calculation of World Ranking**.

ii. The new method is based on a **match-based rankings model**, moving away from **Tournament-based rankings** followed by FIH.



Indian Boxers bag 9 medals at the Cologne Boxing World Cup 2020; India Ranked 2nd in Overall Medal Tally, Germany topped

Indian Boxers bagged **9 Medals** – 3 Gold, 2 Silver & 4 Bronze at the **Cologne Boxing World Cup 2020** held from December 16-20 at **Cologne, Germany**. India finished **2nd** in the **overall Medals List**, Germany topped the list with 16 medals. The Cologne Boxing World Cup 2020 was hosted by the European Boxing Confederation (EUBC).



List of Indian Winners:

Winners	Medal	Category
Amit Panghal	Gold	52 kg, Men's Category
Manisha Moun	Gold	57 Kg, Women's Category
Simranjit Kaur	Gold	60 Kg, Women's Category

FIFA cancels Men's 2021 U-20 & U-17 World Cup due to COVID-19; Next Edition of the events to take place in 2023

FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) announced the cancellation of 2 Men's Tournaments – 2021 FIFA U-20 World Cup & 2021 FIFA U-17 World Cup due to the impact of COVID-19. FIFA has also announced that

- FIFA U-20 World Cup will be hosted by Indonesia in 2023 &
- FIFA U-17 World Cup will be hosted by Peru in 2023

i.Indonesia & Peru were the hosts of the 2021 Edition.

FIFA Women's World Cup 2023:

i.FIFA has decided to expand the number of participants in FIFA Women's World Cup to 32 teams to boost the growth of Women's Football.

ii.The hosts of the 2023 Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand will automatically qualify for the Tournament.

FIFA Rankings:

Men's Ranking (as of December, 2020) – Belgium (Rank-1), France (Rank-2), India ranked at 104th position.

Women's Ranking (as of December, 2020) – United States of America (Rank-1), Germany (Rank-2), India ranked at 53rd position.

Obituaries

Abhay Bharadwaj Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat Passed away at 66

On 1st December 2020, **Abhay Bharadwaj**, member of **BJP** and Rajya Sabha **MP** (Member of Parliament) passed away at the age of 66 in a hospital in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu. He passed away due to post **COVID-19** complications. He hails from Rajkot, Gujarat. He was born on April 2, 1954 in Uganda.



- He is the 2nd Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat to die due to COVID-19 complications after Ahmed Patel, Rajya Sabha MP of Indian National Congress.

About Abhay Bharadwaj:

- Abhay Bharadwaj was a prominent lawyer who was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat in June 2020.
- He was a leading criminal lawyer who led the defence counsel in 2002 Gulberg Society massacre in which 69 people including Ehsan Jafri, former Congress MP was killed.
- He was appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) by the Gujarat Government for a case against Abhay Bharadwaj, IAS former collector of Rajkot District.
- He starred as a Judge in the film Agneekal (1990) starring Raj Babbar.

Padma Bhushan Awardee & “King of Spice”, Dharampala Gulati passed away

Mahashay Dharampal Gulati, the **founder and CEO of MDH Masala** India's famous spices company, dies at the age of 97 due to cardiac arrest in New Delhi. The pioneer of the ready to use ground spices, also called as “**King of Spice**” was awarded India's third highest civilian award “**Padma Bhushan**” in 2019.



Gulati's career:

- Born on **March 27, 1923**, in Sialkot, Punjab in present day Pakistan.
- Started a small business on mirrors with his father in 1937
- Tried multiple businesses, then joined his father's spices business, “Mahashian Di Hatti”
- Restarted his family business of ground spices, **Mahashian Di Hatti (MDH) Spices in 1959**
- In 2020, the company produces 50 varieties of spices, with a net income of 450 crore.

Lakshadweep Administrator & Former IB Chief Dineshwar Sharma Passed Away at 66

Dineshwar Sharma, the administrator of the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep and the former **chief** of Intelligence Bureau (IB) passed away at the age of 66 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, due to lung ailments. He was a retired IPS officer of Kerala Cadre who was serving as the Administrator of Lakshadweep since October 2019. He was born on 23rd March 1954 in Bihar.

About Dineshwar Sharma:

- Dineshwar Sharma started his career as the Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Palghat, Kerala.

- ii. He joined the Intelligence Bureau (IB) as Assistant Director in January 1991 prior to which he was serving as the Inspector General of Police at Trivandrum, Kerala.
- iii. He was later appointed as the 25th Director of Intelligence Bureau in December 2014.
- iv. He served as the Central interlocutor and led peace talks with the stakeholders for a political solution to the issues of Kashmir and also led the peace talks with the groups in North Eastern States.

Awards:

- i. He received the prestigious **Indian Police Medal** for meritorious service in **1997**.
- ii. He also received the **President's Police Medal** for Distinguished Service in **2003**.

Paolo Rossi, Italian Footballer and Star of 1982 World Cup Star Passed Away at 64

On December 10, 2020 **Paolo Rossi, Italian footballer**, passed away at the age of 64 on Siena, Italy. He became the star of 1982 FIFA World Cup held in Spain by scoring 6 goals, which led Italy to win the 1982 world cup title. He was born on 23rd September 1956 in Prato, Italy.



Achievements of Paolo Rossi:

- i. Paolo Rossi received the 1982 World Cup's Golden Boot and Golden Ball. He scored 20 goals in 48 senior international caps for Italy
- ii. He is one of the 3 players who won all 3 awards at a World Cup, along with Garrincha in 1962, and Mario Kempes in 1978.
- iii. He won 2 Serie A titles, a European Cup and a Coppa Italia with Juventus Football Club.
- iv. He was awarded the 1982 Ballon d'Or as the European Footballer of the Year for his performances.

Padma Awardee & Eminent Aerospace Scientist Roddam Narasimha Passed Away at 87

The eminent Aerospace scientist, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan Awardee, **Roddam Narasimha** passed away at the age of 87 at a private hospital in Bengaluru, **Karnataka**. He was born on 20th July 1933, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

About Roddam Narsimha:

- i. He served as the Director of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research. -National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) from 1984 to 1993.
- ii. He authored the book "**Developments In Fluid Mechanics and Space Technology**" along with former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Awards:

- i. He received the **Padma Bhushan** in 1987 and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2013 for science and Engineering.
- ii. He also received the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** in 1974 for his contribution in the field of Fluid mechanics.

Indian Navy's Senior Most Submariner, Vice Admiral Srikant passed away

On 15th December, 2020 **Indian Navy's Senior Most Submariner and the current director general of Project Seabird, Vice Admiral Srikant** passed away after suffering from COVID-19 infection.

- i. Vice Admiral Srikant is the current Director general of Indian government's **largest infrastructure project "Project Seabird"**.
- ii. Previously he held the charge of Inspector General of Nuclear Safety and Commandant of the National

Defence College.

iii. The 59-year-old submariner was about to retire on 31st December before he ended up with COVID linked breathing complications.

Veteran Congress Leader & Former CM of MP Motilal Vora Passed Away at 93

Motilal Vora, a veteran congress leader who twice served the Chief Minister(CM) of Madhya Pradesh(MP), passed away at the age of 93 in a private hospital in Delhi. He died due to **post COVID-19 complications**. He was born on 20th December 1927 in Nimbi Jodha, near Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

About Motilal Vora:

i. Motilal Vora became the 13th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in 1985 and held the office till 8th December 1989.

ii. He served as the member of Rajya Sabha from Chhattisgarh for 4 terms from 10th April 2002 to 9th April 2020.

iii. He has also served as the Lok Sabha MP for 1 term.

iv. He has also served as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh between 1993 and 1996 in the post 1992 Babri Masjid demolition era.



Important Days with theme

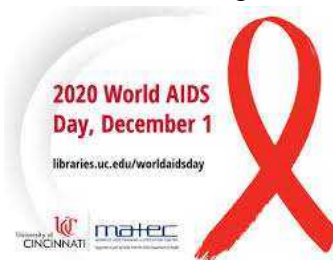
World AIDS Day 2020 – December 1

i. The **World AIDS (Acquired ImmunoDeficiency syndrome) Day** is annually observed across the globe on **1st December** to show support to the people infected with **HIV** (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and to remember the people who passed away due to AIDS and other related diseases. The first World AIDS Day was observed in 1988, which was the first international day for global health.

ii. The World AIDS Day is one of the 9 days and 2 weeks that the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) have mandated as “Official Global Public Health Days”.

iii. WHO theme for World AIDS Day 2020 is “**Global solidarity, resilient HIV services**”.

iv. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) published the **2020 World AIDS Day report** titled “Reimagining a resilient HIV response for children, adolescents and pregnant women living with HIV” on 25th November 2020.



56th Raising Day of Border Security Force 2020 – December 1

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India annually celebrates its Raising Day on **1st December**. The 1st December 2020 marks the **56th Raising Day of BSF**. The Border Security Force (BSF), India’s first line of Defence was raised in accordance with an Act of the Parliament on **1st December, 1965**, following the India-Pakistan War of 1965.

- The BSF has been guarding India’s borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh since 1965.

56th Raising Day of BSF:

i. On the occasion of the 56th Raising Day of BSF, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished the BSF personnel who were committed to protect the nation and support and help the citizens during natural calamities.

ii. Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs saluted the personnels of the BSF for their service and contribution to national security.

National Pollution Control Day 2020 – December 2

National Pollution Control Day is annually observed across India on **2nd December** to honour the people who lost their lives in the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** in **1984**. The day is observed to create awareness among the general public about the pollution level of India and the rate on which the harmful substance level in the environment has been increased every year.

2nd December **2020** marks the **36th anniversary** of the Bhopal Gas



Tragedy.

The **theme** of the 2020 National Pollution Control Day is “raise awareness about the importance of pollution control and educate people on how to prevent pollution”.

Indian Navy Day 2020 – December 4

i. Indian Navy Day is annually celebrated on **4th December** to celebrate the achievements of Indian Navy and commemorate the launch of **Operation Trident** during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

ii. The Navy day 2020 marks the commencement of the 50th Anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war – “**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**”.

iii. The theme of Indian Navy Day 2020 is “**Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive**”.

iv. The 2020 events include, **360-degree Virtual Reality Tour** of **INS Vikramaditya** which enables the users to explore the flight deck and other unclassified areas.



Armed Forces Flag Day 2020 – December 7

i. The Armed Forces Flag Day is annually observed across India on 7th December to honour the martyrs and the men and women in uniform who protect the honour of the country.

ii. The first Armed Forces Flag Day was observed on **7th December 1949**.

iii. The Government of India has decided that **December 2020** will be celebrated as the “**Gaurav Maah**” (Pride Month) to honour the contributions of armed forces and its veterans.

iv. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, presided over the 2nd Edition of the Armed Forces Flag Day Corporate Social Responsibility(**CSR**) Conclave which was organised on 4th December 2020.



International Anti-Corruption Day 2020: December 9

i. The United Nations(**UN**) **International Anti-Corruption Day** is observed annually on **December 9** to raise awareness about corruption and ways through which it can be reduced.

ii. The day also aims to create awareness of the role of the UN Convention against Corruption and its role in combating and preventing corruption. The day also highlights the need to eradicate corruption.

iii. **Theme of International Anti-Corruption Day 2020**– ‘Recover with Integrity’.

About United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

Director-General/ Executive Director of UNODC and United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)– Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly of Egypt(Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Headquarters– Vienna, Austria

Human Rights Day 2020 – December 10

i. United Nations (UN)'s **Human Rights Day** is annually observed across the world on **10th December**, the day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1948.



ii. The theme of 2020 Human rights day is “**Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights**”, which is associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

iii. The UN's call to Action “**Stand Up for Human rights**”, aims to engage the general public, its partners and other UN bodies to enhance the transformative actions and showcase the practical and inspirational examples that contribute to recovering better and fostering more resilient and just societies.

International Mountain Day 2020 – December 11

i. The United Nations (UN)'s **International Mountain Day** is annually observed across the globe on **11th December** to encourage the sustainable developments in mountains and to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life.

ii. The day highlights the difficulties and the opportunities in the development of mountains and to establish an alliance and enable positive change to the people living in the mountain and the environments across the globe.

iii. The **theme** of International Mountain Day 2020 is “**Mountain Biodiversity**”, which aims to celebrate the diverse biodiversity of the mountain and address the difficulties they face.

iv. The conservation of mountains is a vital factor for sustainable development and it is also a part of the **Goal 15** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): **Life on land** – Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

49th Vijay Diwas – 16th December 2020

i. **Vijay Diwas** is annually celebrated across India on **16th December** which marks India's victory over Pakistan in 1971 which resulted in the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

ii. The 16th December 2020 marks the **49th Vijay Diwas** and also marks the beginning of the celebration of “**Swarnim Vijay Varsh**” – **50th anniversary** of India's victory over Pakistan.

iii. The day is observed to pay tribute to the martyrs of both India and Bangladesh who died in the line of duty during the 1971 Liberation War.



International Migrants Day 2020 – December 18

i. The UN's **International Migrants Day** is annually observed across the globe on **18th December** with an aim to ensure effective and full protection of human rights of the migrants and to spread the information on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants.

ii. The **theme** of 2020 International Migrants Day is “**Reimagining Human Mobility**”

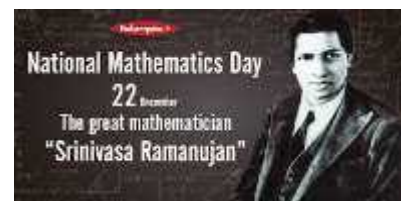
iii. The day 18th December was chosen to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the 1990 resolution



A/RES/45/158 on International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their family by the UNGA.

National Mathematics Day 2020 – December 22

i. The National Mathematics Day is annually observed across India on 22nd December to mark the birth anniversary of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The day aims to create awareness among people about the importance of mathematics.



ii. To honour and remember the contribution of Srinivasa Ramanujan in the field of Mathematics, on 26th February 2012, Former Prime Minister of India, **Manmohan Singh** decided and proclaimed the **22nd December** of every year as the **National Mathematics Day**.

iii. The **2020 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize** (10000 USD) will be awarded to **Shai Evra** of Princeton University, United States and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel for her research which concerns locally symmetric spaces of arithmetic groups and their combinatorial, geometric and topological structure.

National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas 2020 – December 23

The National Farmers Day or Kisan Diwas is annually observed across India on 23rd December to honour the contributions of the Indian farmers and to mark the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, 5th Prime Minister of India.

ii. He served as the Prime minister for a short period of time from 28th July 1979 to 14th January 1980.



iii. He was the chief architect of the UP land reforms and he played a key role in the formulation and finalisation of the Department Redemption Bill 1939 which provided relief to the rural debtors.

National Consumer Day 2020 – December 24

i. The **National Consumer Day** also called as **National Consumer Rights Day** is annually observed across India on **24th December** to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the needs to ensure that customers are aware of their rights and responsibilities.



ii. The National Consumer Day marks the day on which the **Consumer Protection Act 1986** received the presidential assent.

iii. The theme of National Consumer Day 2020 is **“New Features of Consumer Protection Act, 2019”**.

iv. The **Department of Consumer Affairs**, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India in collaboration with the Centre for Consumer Studies, Indian Institute of Public Administration(IIPA), virtually celebrates the National Consumer Day 2020 on 24th December 2020.

7th National Good Governance Day – 25th December 2020

i.National Good Governance Day is annually observed across Indian on **25th December** to create awareness about the accountability of the government. The day also marks the **birth anniversary** of India's former Prime Minister(**PM**) and Bharat Ranta **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**, who served 3 terms as the Prime Minister of India.

ii.The 25th December 2020 marks the celebration of the **7th National Good Governance Day**.

iii.The **first** National Good Governance Day was observed on **25th December 2014**.

iv.PM Modi addressed the Nation on the 7th National Good Governance day and sanctioned Rs.18000 crores directly into the bank accounts of 9 crore farmers in around 19000 venues across India under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana(PM-KISAN).

