

September 2020

Daily Current Affairs PDF

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Daily Current Affairs September 2020

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Nutrition Week September 1 to September 7

National Nutrition Week is conducted every year from September 1 to September 7 to provide knowledge among people about the importance of nutrition for better health.

World Coconut Day is observed on 2 September

World Coconut Day is observed on 2 September. The main objective of celebrating this day is to create awareness across the globe about the importance of the coconut and its benefits. The day is especially marked in countries under Asian and Pacific regions by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) as they house most of the world's coconut growing production centres. The first celebration of World Coconut Day was in the year 2009. The theme of World Coconut Day this year is – 'Invest in Coconut to save the world'.

Skyscraper Day is observed on 3 September

Skyscraper Day marks the ability of the man to construct an industrial masterpiece. It is celebrated in the memory of William Can Aien on his birthday. William Can Aien is a genius behind the construction of the Chrysler

Building which is one of the iconic landmarks in New York City.

Teachers Day is observed on 5 September

Teachers Day in India celebrates the birth anniversary of India's second President Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. On this occasion, students appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of teachers in shaping their future.

Brazilian Independence Day is observed on 7 September

Brazil got its independence from the Portuguese on September 7, 1822. However, in 1889, Brazil accepted to become a republic government and it ended its monarchical system. This is the reason why they celebrate September 7 as its Independence Day.

International Literacy Day is observed on 8th September

International Literacy Day came into existence to make people aware of the importance of literacy which is amongst the basic human rights. This Day is celebrated on the 8th of September every year to remind everyone of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies. This year, the focus is on - "Literacy, teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond". The theme highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective.

World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on 10 September

World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is conducted every year to raise awareness and prevent more suicides from happening. This day is established by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and co-sponsored by WHO. According to WHO, nearly eight lakh people die by suicide every year. Furthermore, for each suicide, there are more than 20 suicide attempts.

Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September

Hindi Diwas is observed on 14 September. The day is observed every year to celebrate the adoption of the Hindi language as one of the official languages of India. Hindi Diwas is celebrated to emphasize the importance of the Hindi language which is losing its importance in the country. In 1918, Mahatma Gandhi urged to make Hindi the national language of India. On 14 September 1949, Hindi written in Devanagari script became the official language of India under Article 343. Hindi language written in Devnagri script is one of the two languages of India, English is the second one. Hindi language is spoken by 250 million people as the original language. Hindi is known to be the third most spoken language in the world.

World First Aid Day is observed on 14 September

World First Aid Day raises awareness about the importance of first aid and how it can save lives in case of an emergency.

Engineers Day is observed on 15 September

Engineer's Day is observed on 15 September every year in India. The day is aimed to commemorate the birthday of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (Sir MV). The day aims to celebrate the achievements of the Engineers in each and every field of science and technology.

International Democracy Day is observed on 15 September

International Democracy Day is observed on 15 September every year worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness among people about democracy. Despite the major social, legal and political challenges that happened globally due to Covid-19, the world states have upheld the rule of law, respect and protect international standards and basic principles of legality, and the right to access justice, remedies, and due process.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed on September 16

World Ozone Day is observed to create awareness related to climate change and ozone depletion. On this day in 1987, the Montreal Protocol was signed. Since 1994, World Ozone Day is celebrated which was established by the United Nations General Assembly to remind the world about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and its dangers.

International Day of Peace (UN) is observed on September 21

International Day of Peace (UN) is amongst the most special days in September which is observed around the world since September 1982. In

2001, the General Assembly adopted a resolution 55/282, which established September 21 as International Day of Peace of non-violence and cease-fire.

World Alzheimer's Day is observed on September 21

World Alzheimer's Day helps in raising awareness among people about the challenges faced by the due to dementia. In 2012, World Alzheimer's Month was launched.

European Day of Languages is observed on 26 September

European Day of Languages is celebrated annually to increase awareness among the citizens about the significance of language learning and protecting the heritage of the language

World Contraception Day is observed on 26 September

World Contraception Day is a global campaign to make people aware of the contraceptive methods available and enable young citizens to make mature decisions in terms of sexual and reproductive health.

World Tourism Day is observed on 27 September

World Tourism Day helps in highlighting the importance of tourism to generate employment and build a future for millions of people around the world.

World Rivers Day is observed on 27 September (Fourth Sunday of September)

World Rivers Day is celebrated every year on last Sunday of September. In 2020, it comes on September 27. This day marks the importance of rivers and encourages people to improve and save water, rivers around the world.

World Rabies Day is observed on 28 September

World Rabies Day is conducted every year to keep people informed of the prevention regarding rabies. The day also highlights the progress of the world in defeating this horrifying disease.

World Heart Day is observed on 29 September

World Heart Day is observed annually to inform the world about heart-related diseases. It creates awareness about stroke which is the world's leading cause of death. This initiative was launched in 2000 by the World Heart Federation as an annual event and gets celebrated on 29th day of September ever since.

STATE NEWS

Madhya Pradesh govt launches campaign 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo'

In Madhya Pradesh, a massive 'Gandagi Bharat Chhodo' campaign was launched by the State Government. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh said that this campaign has been given the shape of a mass movement. The campaign was divided into five themes- Cleanliness Oath, Continuous reduction in urban waste emissions, Cleanliness in COVID conditions, Separation of waste from sources of houses and Launching a special cleanliness campaign for public places.

Jammu & Kashmir Administration issues New Excise Policy for 2020-21

In Jammu & Kashmir, the Union

Territory Administration has issued New Excise Policy for 2020-21 effective from 1st of September till 31st March next year. The new policy aims at rationalizing the tax structure to optimize revenues besides encouraging transition from High to Low Alcoholic drinks. The policy also aims at providing choice of brands to consumers and level playing field to those in the trade and 50 per cent Additional Excise Retail Duty commonly known as Corona Tax has been waived off.

UP govt decides to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district

Uttar Pradesh government has decided to set up exclusive anti-electricity theft police stations in every district of state to address the problem of frequent cases of power theft. An order issued by home department said that one police station dedicated to deal with the issue of power theft will be opened in all 75 districts out of which 63 has already started functioning. The government has also raised the number of enforcement teams from 33 to 88 to launch a crackdown against those involved in power pilferage. As many as 53 teams are already functioning.

Odisha govt passes resolution to request Centre to accord classical status to Odishi music

Odisha Government has passed a resolution to request the Centre to accord classical status to Odishi music. The resolution was passed in the Heritage Cabinet meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Government of Odisha has already recognised it as a classical form of music since 2008. After Odishi dance

and Odia language, now is the turn for Odishi music to claim classical status.

Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat programme: Goa paired with Jharkhand

Under Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat, Goa is paired with Jharkhand. Lot of exchange activities are happening on this front. During lockdown, the intensity of programmes is less and focus is laid on virtual events.

'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan' connects people of Manipur & Madhya Pradesh emotionally

Manipur and Madhya Pradesh have been paired for implementing the Centre's ambitious scheme Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan. The people of both the States are involved in various activities for understanding art and culture, education, literature and traditions of each other. One of such activities- a Yuva Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Camp was held in Imphal where 50 youth from Madhya Pradesh participated and explored Manipur for 15 days.

Prakash Javadekar virtually addresses 60th Annual Convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar today virtually addressed the 60th Annual Convention of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, SIAM. Mr Javadekar spoke on reviving demand in the Automobile sector. He said, government is working with all stakeholders on ways and means to boost demand.

Delhi paired with Sikkim under 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

programme

'Unity in diversity' is the global identity of India. To celebrate and strengthen this identity, Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat Abhiyan focused campaign is underway in the country. National Capital Delhi has been paired with Sikkim under Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat programme. Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat initiative has strengthened the bond of oneness between Delhi and Sikkim.

Assam govt relaunches SVAYEM scheme to provide self-employment to around 2 lakh youths of state

In Assam, the State Government re-launched a scheme to provide self-employment to around two lakh youths of the state. Known as Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment (SVAYEM), it would provide 50 thousand rupees each as seed money to selected youths to start business ventures. Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the Assam Government is launching the redesigned SVAYEM with a budget of 1,000 crore rupees which will be spent in the next three months without any banking linkage. He said, the beneficiaries would have to be part of self-help groups, joint liability groups.

UP govt to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women SHGs

In a major step towards self-reliance of the women in the state, Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to allocate outlets under Public Distribution System to women self-help groups. These are the outlets which are lying unattended in state. The move will expedite the food distribution to the needy hit by the pandemic. The State Government has decided to give women self-help groups

priority during reallocation of PDS shops in rural and urban areas. Currently, there are more than 2,000 PDS shops ready for reallocation in the state whose licences have been cancelled earlier due to different reasons.

Madhya Pradesh paired with Manipur and Nagaland under 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'

The 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' programme aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and Union Territories in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them. Under 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat', Madhya Pradesh is paired with Manipur and Nagaland. Lot of exchange activities are happening on this front.

Govt announces 3rd phase of 'Back to Village' programme from October 2 to 12 in J&K

In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the government announced the third phase of ambitious Back to Village (B2V) programme from October 2 to 12, this year. The announcement was made by Principal Secretary, Power Development and Information Departments, Rohit Kansal who is also government spokesperson, at a press conference in Srinagar.

Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu selected as fully Digital Economy district

Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu, which houses a large number of small and medium enterprises, especially in the fire crackers and allied sectors, has been selected by the Central Government as the state's first Fully Digital Economy district. All industrial

units and commercial establishments in the district are at present implementing various forms of cashless transactions. These include widespread use of ATM debit cards, increased usage of internet banking, widespread use of QR codes etc.

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat campaign: Mizoram paired with Bihar

Under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat campaign, cultural exchange is arranged to bolster mutual friendship, peace and harmony among the people of different states to build a New India. Under the campaign, people from paired states happily shared their experiences.

PM Modi to inaugurate Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Patrika Gate in Jaipur through video conference. The iconic gate is built by the Patrika group of newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.

Ministry of Textiles plans to organize another Mega Virtual Show - 'Textile India 2020' – in J&K

In Jammu and Kashmir the Ministry of Textiles is planning to organize another Mega Virtual Show - 'Textile India 2020' - in November to bring the exporter and business community related to handicrafts and handloom sector on the global platform. Organizations like India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) and Invest India will be involved for branding and promotion of the mega event across the globe.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami pledges to donate his eyes

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi

Palaniswami has donated his eyes. Coinciding with the National Eye Donation fortnight, he has pledged to donate his eyes. Tamil Nadu remains at the forefront in eye and organ donation nationally.

Nagaland gets its first 'Naga Tele health', a telemedicine platform

Nagaland received its first Naga Tele health, a telemedicine platform, where citizens can directly connect with medical officers and specialist doctors and seek general and specialized tele-consultation at their doorstep free of cost. Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom virtually launched the Naga Tele-Health at his office chamber in Kohima. The Naga Tele-Health is an initiative of the Nagaland government supported by USAID NISHTHA Jhpiego to provide quality healthcare services at the Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres in the state.

PM hold 'SVanidhi Samvaad' with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold SVanidhi Samvaad with street vendors from Madhya Pradesh. The Government of India had launched the PM SVANidhi scheme on 1st June this year to help poor street vendors, impacted by COVID-19, resume livelihood activities. 4.5 lakh street vendors were registered in Madhya Pradesh, with more than 4 lakh vendors having been given identification and vendor certification.

Prime Minister Modi launched several other initiatives in the fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Bihar

PM Modi announced the establishment of a fish brood bank at Sitamarhi and an aquatic disease referral laboratory at Kishanganj. The Prime Minister also

inaugurated one-unit fish feed mill at Madhepura and two units of 'Fish on Wheels' at Patna under 'blue revolution'. Mr Modi also inaugurated a comprehensive fish production technology centre at Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in Pusa, Bihar.

Ek Bharat Sresht Bharat: Goa paired with Jharkhand

Under Ek Bharat Sresht Bharat scheme Goa is paired with Jharkhand. Lot of cultural exchange activities are happening on this front. During lockdown, the intensity of programmes was less and focus was laid more on virtual events. Lots of exchange projects are on between Goa and Jharkhand. The translation project has already initiated. Jharkhandi literature is being translated into Konkani in Goa by Dr Sonia Sirsat and Zilu Gaonkar. Also Konkani literature is being translated into Jharkhandi language in their state. More projects are in pipeline and will be launched soon after pandemic wave recedes. These projects include co-operation between Goa and Jharkhand on tourism and sports fields. Recently a webinar was held between these two states wherein experts from both the states participated. Goan artistes have already visited Jharkhand state and presented programmes there that included folk dances and folk songs from Goa. they were lauded by the local artistes in Jharkhand.

Gadkari approves proposal to construct Munger-Bhagalpur-Tirpety-Kahalgaon concrete road on NH80 in Bihar

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved a proposal to construct the 120 kilometre Munger-

Bhagalpur-Tirpety-Kahalgaon concrete road on national highway 80 in Bihar. This will be a 2-lane road with paved shoulders, which will also be 4-lane wide at certain stretches. Mr Gadkari has directed officials to begin work on this road within next three months. He also ordered release of 20 crore rupees for immediate repair works on this section.

Vice President inaugurates 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Kavi Samrat Shri Viswanatha Satyanarayana

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu said that preserving and protecting the mother tongue, Indian culture, values and the environment will be real tribute one could pay to the Telugu literary legend, Shri Vishwanatha Satyanarayana. Virtually inaugurating the 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations of the Kavi Samrat Shri Viswanatha Satyanarayana, Mr Naidu described the literary genius as an embodiment of Indian culture and traditions.

Gujarat government announces state's first Heritage Tourism Policy

Gujarat Government has announced the state's first Heritage Tourism Policy. This was announced after the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in Gandhinagar today. According to sources, the policy has provisions to permit use of pre-1950 historical buildings such as heritage palaces and forts, as heritage hotels, heritage museums, heritage banquet halls and heritage restaurants, provided that basic heritage structure is not disturbed. This decision paves a way for creating tourism attraction in unused historical buildings.

Home Minister Amit Shah e-launches development projects worth Rs 221 crore in Ahmedabad

Home Minister Amit Shah e-dedicated and e-launched development projects worth Rs 221 crore in Ahmedabad district. Addressing the event through video conferencing, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani expressed happiness that even during the difficult times of Corona pandemic, Gujarat has continued its upward surge of developmental works. He expressed thanks to the Union Home Minister for e-dedicating developmental works to Bavla, Sanand and Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh launches Smart Ration Card Scheme

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched the Smart Ration Card Scheme to cover 1.41 crore beneficiaries across the state. Rolling out the scheme virtually, with connection to 100 places across the state, the Chief Minister said, 37.5 lakh cards will be distributed to the eligible beneficiaries this month.

J&K govt announces Universal Health Insurance Scheme for all residents of UT

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has announced a scheme to provide universal health insurance to all residents of the Union Territory. The scheme will provide health insurance cover free of cost to all residents and shall include the serving and retired employees and their families as well. The Health Secretary Atal Dulloo said the J&K Health Scheme will have the same benefits as Ayushman Bharat and beneficiaries can avail cashless treatment at all hospitals empanelled

under the central scheme across the country.

Kiren Rijju lays foundation stones for various sports facilities in Leh

Union Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has laid foundation stones for various sports facilities at the cost of over 12 crore rupees in Leh. The Minister laid foundation for a Synthetic Track & Astroturf for football in Leh at an open stadium. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kiren Rijju said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi the Union Government is inculcating a sporting culture in the country which in turn keeps the people healthy and fit.

UP govt issues notification for setting up of Special Security Force

Uttar Pradesh government has issued a notification for the setting up of the Special Security Force which will be given responsibility of security of important government buildings, offices and industrial establishments. Private companies will also be able to take the services of SSF after making a payment.

France-based EDF Group, VJTI, I2EN ink MoU to establish Centre of Excellence in civil nuclear sector in Maharashtra

France-based EDF Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute in Mumbai and International Institute of Nuclear Energy (I2EN) to conduct a pre-feasibility study for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in the civil nuclear sector in Maharashtra. I2EN is the umbrella organization of French stakeholders involved in nuclear education and training.

Maharashtra govt accords ambulance status to vehicles carrying medical oxygen for one year

Maharashtra State Government has accorded ambulance status to the vehicles carrying medical oxygen for one year. A notification was issued yesterday in this regard. The decision was taken in view of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity of uninterrupted oxygen supply to various hospitals in the state.

111th Birth Anniversary of 1st CM of Tamil Nadu C. N. Annadurai being celebrated on 15 September

111th Birth Anniversary of the first Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu C. N. Annadurai, popularly known as Arignar Anna. He was also a Member of Rajya Sabha from 1963 to 1967. Well known for his powerful oratorical skills, Anna was a prolific writer too.

Industry Dept, SIDBI enters into MoU to encourage MSME sector in Gujarat

In Gujarat, Industry Department and the Small Industries Development Bank of India- SIDBI entered into a MoU to encourage the MSME sector in the State. The MoU was signed by Additional Chief Secretary for Industry and Mines M.K. Das and SIDBI Dy. M D Vasantharao Satya Venkata Rao at Gandhinagar last evening. Speaking on this occasion, the Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said that the state government is committed to encourage the MSME sector.

BMC launches 'My Family My Responsibility' campaign in Mumbai for spreading awareness about coronavirus

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday

launched 'My Family My Responsibility' campaign in Mumbai for spreading more awareness about coronavirus. It is part of a state wide campaign of the Maharashtra government to stop the spread of COVID19 virus.

PM Modi inaugurates various projects under 'Namami Gange' & 'AMRUT' schemes in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for seven projects related to urban infrastructure in Bihar under 'Namami Gange' and 'AMRUT' schemes through video conferencing. Out of these, four projects are related to water supply, two to sewerage treatment and one to riverfront development. The total cost of these projects is 541 crore rupees. The implementation of these projects has been undertaken by Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.

Cabinet gives nod to establishment of new AIIMS at Darbhanga in Bihar

The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Darbhanga, Bihar. This will be established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The Cabinet also approved creation of one post of Director for Darbhanga AIIMS. The total cost on setting up the new AIIMS will be 1264 crore rupees and is likely to be completed within a period of 48 months. New AIIMS will add 750 hospital beds and add 100 UG (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats.

Cabinet gives nod to Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonapat

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has given its approval to the Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda. This Rail Line will start from Palwal and end at the existing Harsana Kalan station on Delhi-Ambala section. This will also give connectivity enroute to existing Patli Station on Delhi-Rewari line, Sultanpur station on Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line and Asaudha Station on Delhi Rohtak Line.

Road accident victims to get ₹30,000 under Balasaheb Thackeray Insurance Scheme

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced the approval of the Balasaheb Thackeray Accidental Insurance Scheme that will ensure accident victims get maximum benefit of ₹30,000 or free treatment in hospital.

PM Modi inaugurates Kosi Rail mega bridge & 12 railway projects in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated the historic Kosi Rail Mahasetu (mega bridge) to the nation through video-conference this afternoon. He also inaugurated 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities to benefit the people of Bihar. The 1.9-kilometre long Kosi mega bridge has been completed at a total cost of 516 crore rupees.

Tamil Nadu introduces 'Covid Suspects Wards' in all major hospitals

In Tamil Nadu, the health department is introducing "Covid Suspects Wards" in all major hospitals of the state. They are for treating patients having strong symptoms of COVID-19 infection,

though their RT-PCR tests show negative results.

Meghalaya BJP Chief launches e-book- Seva Hi Sangathan

In Meghalaya, State BJP launched a COVID-19 report card on the initiatives taken up by the party during the COVID 19 pandemic in the form of an e-book- Seva Hi Sangathan. Meghalaya BJP Chief, Ernest Mawrie launched the book at the party office, Shillong. He said that the e-book Seva Hi Sangathan literally means service is an organisation which emphasizes on the importance of service to the nation and people.

Himachal Pradesh CM inaugurates "Swachhata Cafe" in Solan district on PM's birthday

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur virtually inaugurated the "Swachhata Cafe" at Nalagarh in Solan district on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Shimla. While wishing the Prime Minister on his birthday Jairam Thakur said that the nation and the state is blessed to have Narendra Modi for guiding the nation and making it strongest amongst the comity of the nations.

UP CM Adityanath announces film city near Noida

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that a film city will be set up in the state. This film city will give provide a good option to film producers and it will also help in generating employment. For this purpose, an action plan should be made soon.

Lt Governor Sinha announces ₹1350 cr economic package for Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday announced a relief package of ₹1350 crore for Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to boost the business and the other ailing sectors that have suffered huge losses for several years in the newly formed Union Territory (UT).

Nutrition park to be set up near Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Steps are being taken up to set up a nutrition park in Chandrasekharapuram, Namakkal near Trichy. This is part of the National Nutrition Month programme being undertaken in Tamilnadu.

PM Modi launches optical fibre for internet services in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched optical fibre cable link in poll-bound Bihar to connect all 45,945 villages in the eastern state through internet and provide digital services such as e-education, e-agriculture, tele-medicine and tele-law. The project will include setting up of one Wi-Fi and free five connections at government institutions such as primary schools, anganwadi centres, Aasha workers, Jeevika Didi.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches new Covid-19 application

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a unified COVID-19 application which will help in better tracking of the pandemic in the state. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a unified coronavirus application. The new Covid-19 application will help in better tracking of the pandemic in the state.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha formally launches home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad

LG Manoj Sinha formally launched

home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad for devotees who may not be able to visit the Hindu pilgrimage, during the Board meeting at the Raj Bhavan, Jammu. Once the booking is done, the Board ensures that Pooja is performed within 72 hours and Prasad is dispatched through Speed Post.

51st IFFI to be held from 16th to 24th January next year in Goa

The 51st Edition of the International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 16th to 24th January, next year in Goa. The postponement follows discussion between Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar and Goa Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant. The festival will be conducted in a Virtual and Physical format.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board to launch mobile app for live darshan

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board is devising new methods so that devotees unable to take nearly 12 Kms trek to the Holy Cave Shrine can still have Darshan from home. The Yatra to the holy Cave Shrine had resumed on the 6 August initially with a ceiling of 5000 pilgrims per day with safety procedures. The App, set to be launched on 17th October, the first day of Navratri, would also have features to conduct live Havan. Currently, the Aarti is being live-streamed on a religious TV Channel.

'Mukhymantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' to be start in Madhya Pradesh

Mukhymantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana is being started in Madhya Pradesh on the lines of Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. Under this scheme, additional financial assistance of Rs. 4,000 will be

given to the eligible beneficiaries of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi.

UP Govt to set up a dedicated Infotainment Zone, film city to attract film fraternity

Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to set up a dedicated Infotainment Zone, film city and rolled out an open offer to film fraternity to come to the state.

Union Ministers inaugurate Post-Harvest Management Centre for medicinal plants, AYUSH units in J&K

Union Minister for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik and Union Minister of State PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh today jointly laid e-foundation of Post-Harvest Management Centre for Medicinal Plants at Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir.

New Delhi invites US companies to engage more intensely in developing gas infrastructure in India

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held a discussion with U.S Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster on India-U.S. energy relationship, especially the Strategic Energy Partnership through Video Conference. Mr Pradhan invited US companies to engage more intensely in developing the gas infrastructure in the country. He also reviewed the strategic petroleum reserves cooperation initiated in June this year.

Mandatory tuberculosis tests in West Bengal for recovered COVID patients

State health department in West Bengal has instructed mandatory tuberculosis tests of recovered covid patients after their discharge from hospitals or after testing negative in home isolations. This

directive has been forwarded to all government and private Covid hospitals and testing laboratories of the state.

CM Mamata Banerjee announces grant of Rs 50,000 to each Durga Puja committee in West Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced a grant of 50,000 rupees to each Durga Puja committee in the state. Announcing a slew of doles for around 37,000 Durga Puja committees in the state, Banerjee said that the fire brigade, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), other civic bodies, municipalities and panchayats will not charge any money or tax for their services from the puja organisers. It has also been decided that CESC and the state electricity board will give 50 per cent waiver for the puja committees. The Chief Minister also announced a one time grant of Rs 2,000 for 75,000 hawkers of the state as they had faced difficult time due to the lockdown.

UP govt launches unified portal 'U-Rise' to guide students in learning, career counselling, employment

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a unified portal called 'U-Rise' to guide students in learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the portal in Lucknow. He termed it historic and said it is the biggest reform programme in the education sector after the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. This portal would benefit students and empower them by providing every possible information -- from online exams, digital content, digital assessment, digital examination papers, webinars, internship, e-library, recorded video content to employment.

UP govt to run family planning program in mission mode

Uttar Pradesh government has announced to run the family planning program in mission mode. State Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh said that it will reduce the mortality rate among infants and women and will also expand the health facilities. Government said that every woman and girl should have access to the contraceptive method of her choice.

Madhya Pradesh CM to launch Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana in Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan will launch the Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana in Bhopal. The scheme has been prepared on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. On the occasion, the Chief Minister will also interact with the farmers through video conferencing.

ADB approves \$300 million loan to develop Rajasthan's towns

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 300 million dollar (about ₹2,200 crore) loan to finance inclusive water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in secondary towns of Rajasthan. The project is expected to build citywide access for improved water supply services for about 5.7 lakh people.

West Bengal to launch river cruise for just ₹39

A river cruise for just ₹39 may sound unbelievable, but the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) has come forward to launch a leisure ride on the Ganges for the price to give tourists and local visitors a memorable

experience of viewing the heritage of the city. The unique pricing of less than a dollar for a 90- minute cruise over the Ganges, like the London river cruise or Singapore boat ride or those on River Mandovi in Goa, is aimed at attracting people from all walks of life, WBTC managing director Rajanvir Singh Kapur.

Maharashtra Governor launches chemo recovery kits

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari today launched chemo recovery kits containing Ayurvedic formulation at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. The chemo recovery kit has been developed by the Integrated Cancer Treatment and Research Centre of the Bharatiya Sanskriti Darshan Trust in Pune with financial assistance from the Tata Trusts.

World famous tourist destination Ladakh observes World Tourism Day

World famous tourist destination Ladakh today observed World Tourism Day with cleanliness drive in Leh and Kargil towns. Ladakh Lieutenant Governor, R K Mathur flagged off the teams participating in cleanliness drive in Leh. He expressed concerns about the adverse affect on the tourism sector due to the pandemic. He appreciated the Ladakh Tourism Department, Rural Development Department and other bodies for their initiative to celebrate the World Tourism Day with a cleanliness drive.

Odisha launches initiative to make state slum-free in 3 years

Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik today launched a slum upgradation programme to make the state slum-free in three years. The

programme, aimed to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers by providing them with basic necessities like piped water, electricity, paved roads and recreational space, will start immediately in 1000 slums to be extended to about 3,000 slums across the state in 3 years.

Odisha Govt to launch Radio Pathshala program for students upto class 8

In view of the prevailing pandemic, Odisha Government is launching Radio Pathshala program for students upto class 8 from today. The program will be broadcast from All India Radio stations in the state for 15 minutes daily. More than ten Akshvani Kendras in the state will carry the classes between 10 to 1015 hours daily from Monday to Friday.

Gujarat govt signs MoU with Denmark in water sector

Gujarat Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding -MoU with Denmark in the water sector. This will help in technology exchange, training, capacity building, knowledge exchange, cooperation in water supply, wastewater treatment- reuse and water management between the two organizations. MoU has been signed for a five-year period in order to set up Indo-Danish Water Technology Alliance in Gujarat and contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal -6.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Indian power market goes green with launch of pan-India GTAM in electricity

Indian power market has gone green today with the launch of pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity. It will benefit buyers of renewable energy through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement. It will also benefit renewable energy sellers by providing access to the pan-India market. GTAM contracts will allow additional avenues to the renewable energy generators for sale of energy.

Dept. of Fertilizers to observe Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September

The Department of Fertilizers is observing Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st to 15th September. All Public Sector Undertakings and other Organisations under the Department are participating in the Swachhta Abhiyan.

Indian Railways solarises more than 960 stations

In order to achieve its objective of becoming 100 per cent self sustainable for all its power needs, Indian Railways has solarised more than 960 stations till date. Orders have been placed for 198 MW solar rooftop capacity for 550 stations which are under execution. This will contribute to national solar power needs. Some of the stations solarised are Varanasi, New Delhi, Old Delhi and Jaipur, Secunderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Howrah.

New Vande Bharat trains to have up to 75% local component

The government will soon float a new

tender for 44 sets of Vande Bharat Trains, which will have up to 75% indigenous content, line with the government's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative. The previous tender, which was cancelled on 21 August, had a provision of up to 50% indigenous content.

Government blocks 118 Mobile Apps including PUBG

Government has blocked 118 Mobile Apps including PUBG which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, Defence of India, Security of State and Public Order. The move will safeguard the interests of crores of Indian mobile and internet users. This decision is a targeted move to ensure safety, security and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace. PUBG MOBILE Nordic Map: Livik, PUBG MOBILE LITE, WeChat Work, WeChat reading, Cyber Hunter, LifeAfter and Warpath are among the 118 banned mobile apps.

Govt. says, all calendars, diaries and similar materials to be digital now

Government said that all calendars, diaries and similar other materials, which were earlier printed in physical format, will now be done digitally. All Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Undertakings and all other organs of the government have to adopt innovative means to use digital or online methods.

Cabinet gives nod to 'Mission Karmayogi', National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building

Cabinet gave its nod to Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. The scheme will lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil Servants so they remain entrenched in Indian culture

while they learn from best practices across the world. Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.

Govt launches eight immunity boosting products under PMBJP for sale through Janaushadhi Kendras

Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda today launched eight immunity boosting products under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Priyोजना for sale through Janaushadhi Kendras across country.

Railways to offer reliable, fast, affordable & easy to handle parcel services for logistics & courier agencies

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal today held a meeting with top courier service agencies to facilitate robust partnership with Railways Freight and Parcel service. The meeting was called to discuss and explore the possibilities of expanding the business of private parcel services through Indian Railways. During the meeting it was informed that Railways will offer reliable, fast, affordable and easy to handle parcel services for logistics and courier agencies.

Cabinet approves Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its nod to Mission Karmayogi - National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building. The scheme will lay the foundation for capacity building for Civil

Servants so that they remain entrenched in Indian culture while they learn from best practices across the world. Mission Karmayogi aims to prepare the Indian Civil Servants for future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, innovative, proactive, professional, progressive, energetic, enabling, transparent and technology-enabled.

Transport Ministry proposes to make FASTags mandatory for old vehicles sold before Dec 2017

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified draft notification to seek comments and suggestions from the stakeholders on making FASTag mandatory for old vehicles sold before 1st December, 2017. The amended provision in Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 is proposed to be put in force with effect from 1st January 2021.

Govt to make FASTag mandatory to avail third party vehicle insurance from 1 April

The road transport and highways ministry plans to FASTag mandatory for availing a new third-party vehicle insurance from 1 April, 2021, to drive faster adoption of the electronic toll collection device.

President gives away National Awards to distinguished teachers; Says teachers are true nation builders

Teachers' Day is being celebrated throughout the country. The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of educationist and former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. President Ram Nath Kovind has said that teachers are the true nation builders who lay the foundation of character-building in our

sons and daughters to make them enlightened citizens. He said, teachers are instrumental in building the character and knowledge of the children.

Thaawarchand Gehlot to launch 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline 'KIRAN'

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot will launch the 24x7 Toll-Free Mental Health Rehabilitation Helpline "KIRAN". The helpline number is 1800-500-0019. This Helpline has been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to provide relief and support to persons with Mental Illness.

India now got world's 2nd largest road network

India has now the second largest road network in the world being fuelled by the tremendous growth in construction of expressways and highways. Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said this while addressing the 60th annual convention of SIAM through video conference. He informed that the current rate of road building per day has averaged to 30 Kilometre a day, with the highest being 40 Kilometre per day of highways.

Ministry of Shipping directs all major ports to procure or charter only 'Made in India' tug boats

The Ministry of Shipping has directed all major ports to procure or charter tug boats which are only made in India. All procurements being done by major ports will now need to be carried out as per the revised Make in India Order.

148th Birth Anniversary of 'Indian Helmsman' V O Chidambaranathan Pillai being observed

148th Birth Anniversary of V O Chidambaranathan Pillai (VOC), also known as the "Indian Helmsman". He paved a new path in the annals of Indian History by starting the first ever indigenous shipping service between Tuticorin and Columbo.

Prakash Javadekar to chair webinar on first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar will chair a webinar on the first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. Mr Javadekar will also review the progress of activities under National Clean Air programme, NCAP during the course of the webinar. The webinar will be joined by Principal Secretaries of the Urban Development Departments and Environment Departments of 28 states and 8 Union Territories.

3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah being celebrated this month to address malnutrition among young children and women

The 3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated this month to address malnutrition among young children and women. The objective of the Poshan Maah is to encourage Jan Bhagidaari to ensure health and nutrition for everyone. Women and Child Development Ministry said the Poshan Maah is celebrated every year under POSHAN Abhiyaan, which was launched in 2018. Considering the prevalent COVID situation in the Country, the Ministry is encouraging all stakeholders to use digital platforms for celebrating Poshan Maah.

States mandated to set up panel on Content Regulation of Govt Ads

As per directions of the Supreme Court, States are mandated to set up their three member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements. State-level committees have already been constituted by Karnataka, Goa, Mizoram and Nagaland. The Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising, CCRGA in its 19th meeting held last week took a serious note of delay in constituting state level Committees by other states.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds bilateral talks with his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Amir Hatami in Tehran

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with his Iranian counterpart Brigadier General Amir Hatami on Saturday. Mr Singh was on a transit halt in Tehran enroute from Moscow to New Delhi. The meeting between the two Ministers took place in a cordial and warm atmosphere. Both the leaders emphasized upon the age-old cultural, linguistic and civilizational ties between India and Iran. They discussed ways to take forward bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional security issues, including peace and stability in Afghanistan.

1st International Day of Clean Air for blue skies being commemorated

The first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies is being commemorated around the world, following the recognition by the United Nations General Assembly of the importance of clean air for the health and day-to-day lives of people.

Home Minister Amit Shah lauds centre's 'PM SVANidhi' scheme for street vendors

Home Minister Amit Shah has lauded the 'PM SVANidhi' scheme being run by the Centre to benefit the street vendors. The Home Minister said the scheme is serving crores of poor people by reviving their means of livelihood during these difficult times of COVID-19. Mr Shah said, PM SVANidhi is making small businesses Aatma Nirbhar and is playing a key role in realization of a New India.

Food Processing Industries Minister inaugurates Organic Food Processing Unit in Barabanki, UP

Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Organic Food Processing Unit in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh through video conference. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Badal said, through this food processing unit five thousand farmers will be benefitted and it is expected to leverage an investment of over 50 crore rupees. She said that the food processing sector is witnessing robust growth and has been identified as a champion sector by the Government of India.

Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates 22 bamboo clusters in nine states

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar today inaugurated 22 bamboo clusters in nine states by virtual mode. These States are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. A logo for the National Bamboo Mission was also released.

PM Modi to digitally launch Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana & e-

Gopala App

Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Mr Modi also inaugurated the e-Gopala App, a comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers. The PMMSY will transform the fisheries sector and add strength to the efforts of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The PMMSY is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crore. The investment of Rs. 20,050 crore under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector. The project envisages investment of Rs. 1,390 crore in Bihar.

Education Ministry to organise 2-day conclave on School Education in 21st Century under Shikshak Parv

Education Ministry will organising a two-day conclave on School Education in 21st Century under Shikshak Parv starting through online medium. On first day of the Conclave, the focus will be on Principal and Teacher practitioners, who will discuss how they have already implemented certain themes of the NEP in creative ways. National Awardee teachers and other creative teachers will be a part of this conclave. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the conclave on 11th September.

Rafale Fighter Aircraft formally inducted into IAF

Rafale Fighter Aircraft has been formally inducted into the Indian Air Force today at a formal function at Air Force Station, Ambala. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Florence Parly, Minister of the Armed Forces of France graced the occasion.

Highways Ministry releases over ₹10,000 crore under Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme

A sum of ₹10,339 crore has been released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways during the COVID-19 period under the simplified payment process as envisaged in the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme. Another sum of ₹2475 crore is being processed and is likely to be released soon.

Centre launches Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework along with 'Streets for People Challenge'

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, CSCAF 2.0, along with the 'Streets for People Challenge' in a virtual event. The objective of CSCAF is to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions, including investments. CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.

Santosh Gangwar addresses Virtual Meeting of G-20 Labour and Employment Ministers

Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Gangwar has called upon all G-20 members to continue to work together for finding solutions to the common problems resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Gangwar was speaking at Virtual Meeting of G-20 Labour and Employment Ministers last evening through video conferencing.

India to host CHG meeting of SCO on 29-30 November in New Delhi

India is scheduled to host the meeting of Council of Heads of Government (CHG)

of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO on 29-30 November 2020 in New Delhi. This will be the first Prime Minister level meeting to be hosted by India since its elevation as a full-member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO.

PM Modi to dedicate three petroleum projects in Bihar to nation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation three key projects related to the Petroleum sector in Bihar through video conferencing. The projects include the Durgapur-Banka section of the Paradip-Haldia-Durgapur Pipeline Augmentation Project and two LPG Bottling Plants in East Champaran and Banka. The Bottling Plants will empower the 'Atmanirbhar Bihar' by meeting the rising demand for LPG in the state. LPG Bottling Plants in East Champaran and Banka have a combined bottling capacity of 80 thousand cylinders per day. The Banka Plant will serve Bhagalpur, Banka, Jamui, Araria, Kishanganj and Katihar districts in Bihar and Godda, Deoghar, Dumka, Sahibganj and Pakur districts in the neighbouring Jharkhand. The cost of Banka Plant is 131.75 crore rupees while that of East Champaran Plant is 136.4 crore rupees. The two plants were envisaged under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. These plants have also created direct and indirect employment opportunities for about one thousand people in nearby rural areas.

BJP launches week-long 'Seva Saptah' to mark PM Modi's 70th birthday

BJP has launched a week-long campaign namely Seva Saptah to mark the 70th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which falls on 17th this

month. Various social initiatives are being undertaken by the party leaders and workers across the country.

India will be self-reliant in production of fertilizers by 2023

Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda has said that India will be self-reliant in the production of fertilizers by 2023. He said, under Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme new fertilizer manufacturing units are being set up with an investment of 40 thousand crore rupees in the country to reduce dependency on import. Addressing a webinar on Self-Reliant India and Sustainable Agriculture through video conference, Mr Gowda said, recently the government has revived four urea plants in the country.

Rajya Sabha passes Aircraft (Amendment) Bill 2020

Parliament has passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 with the Rajya Sabha approving it today. The Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha. It seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934. It has provisions to convert three existing bodies under the Ministry of Civil Aviation into statutory bodies. These three authorities are, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau. Under the bill, each of these bodies will be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre.

Harivansh Narayan Singh elected as Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha

Shri Harivansh Narayan Singh has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha for the second time. Harivansh's name was proposed by the BJP president JP Nadda. The

opposition had fielded Manoj Jha, an RJD member. Shri Harivansh hails from a poor family based in a Bihar. The 64-year-old JD-U leader is a post-graduate in Economics from Banaras Hindu University. He holds a Diploma in Journalism.

Parliament passes 'Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020'

Parliament has passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha has already passed the bill. The bill seeks to establish an Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda and declare it an Institute of National importance. The bill also has the provision to merge three Ayurveda institutes situated in Jamnagar, Gujarat into one. The institutes are, the Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and the Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences. The proposed Institute will be situated in the campus of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar.

Provision of Rs 40,000 cr made under MGNREGA Scheme through Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package

Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur has said that the Government has made a provision of 40 thousand crore rupees under MGNREGA Scheme through Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package to provide employment to the needy workers.

India's first terminal for private jets inaugurated at Delhi Airport

Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated India's first General Aviation Terminal at Delhi airport. The

exclusive terminal will handle the flight operations of private jets. The terminal has 57 parking bays and can handle up to 150 private jet flights per day. Flight operations of private jets are classified under the 'general aviation' category.

Ministry of MSME announces new guidelines to support artisans including Pottery & Beekeeping activity

Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME come out with new guidelines for two more schemes which include Pottery Activity and Beekeeping Activity. These new initiatives of the Ministry with beneficiary oriented Self-Employment schemes, are aimed at rejuvenating the grass root economy contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. For Pottery Activity Government will provide assistance of pottery wheel, Clay Blunger, Granulator etc. It will also provide Wheel Pottery Training for traditional pottery artisans and Press Pottery training for pottery as well as non-pottery artisans in Self- Help Groups. A total of 6,075 Traditional and others non-traditional pottery artisans, Rural Un-employed youth, Migrant Labourers will get benefitted from this Scheme.

Home Ministry asks all States, UTs to ensure free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles without any restriction

The Home Ministry has asked all the States to ensure free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles without any restriction as medical oxygen is an important prerequisite for managing moderate and severe COVID-19 cases.

Indian Navy aircraft carrier 'Viraat' to begin last journey

Viraat, the decommissioned aircraft carrier of the Indian Navy, will begin its last journey today from Mumbai's Naval Dockyard to Alang in Gujarat, where it will be dismantled. The vessel had served the Indian Navy for 30 years before being decommissioned in 2017. There were attempts to convert 'Viraat' into a museum or a restaurant, but none of the plans materialised.

ICAR organizes training programme for capacity development of Anganwadi Workers & Farm Women

A training programme for capacity development of Anganwadi Workers and farm Women to achieve the national nutrition goals was organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It was organised yesterday as part of the third Rashtriya Poshan Maah being celebrated in the month of September throughout the country. Around one lakh Poshan kits were also distributed among Anganwadi workers by Krishi Vigyan Kendras all over the country.

FM introduces Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation & Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020 in Lok Sabha

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Bill, 2020 in the Lok Sabha today for consideration. The bill will replace the ordinance which was promulgated in March this year to provide relaxations related to compliance by extending the time limit and waiving penalty in relation to certain specified laws.

Rajya Sabha passes two Bills to reduce salary, allowances of MPs,

Ministers by 30%

The Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill 2020 and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The bills will replace the two ordinances amending the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 and the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954. The bills have provision to cut the salaries and other allowances by 30 per cent. These changes have been made for a period of one year effective from 1st of April this year.

Rajya Sabha passes Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020 and Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020

The Rajya Sabha today passed the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020. Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill amends the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

Lok Sabha passes two agriculture reform bills aimed at bringing revolutionary changes in the lives of farmers

Lok Sabha yesterday passed two bills aimed at transforming agriculture in the country and raising farmers' income. The bills are Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020. Both the bills were passed by the Lok Sabha with voice vote.

Union govt approves amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in Defence Sector

The Union Government has approved the amendment in Foreign Direct Investment Policy in Defence Sector. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that for new licensees, FDI is allowed upto 74 per cent through automatic route and beyond 74 per cent to be permitted through government route. For existing licensees, infusion of fresh foreign investment up to 49 per cent can be done by making declaration of change or transfer within 30 days.

Eight Indian beaches recommended for coveted Blue Flag international eco-label

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has said that eight beaches of the country have been recommended for the coveted 'Blue Flag' international eco-label. For the first time, eight beaches of India have been recommended for the Blue Flag certification.

Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by an international agency 'Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark' based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads—environmental education and information, bathing water quality, environment management and conservation and safety and services in the beaches.

Rajya Sabha passes Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020

Rajya Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include protections for healthcare service personnel combating epidemic diseases and expands the

powers of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases. The legislation makes harm, injury, hurt or danger to the life of healthcare service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offence. It has provisions of imprisonment from three months to five years and a fine between 50 thousand rupees to two lakh rupees.

Rajya Sabha passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill 2020

Rajya Sabha today passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020. It amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 which provides a time bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bill. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt. The Bill seeks to temporarily suspend initiation of the corporate insolvency resolution process, CIRP under the Code.

Lok Sabha has passed The National Forensic Science University Bill 2020

Lok Sabha has passed The National Forensic Science University Bill 2020. The Bill establishes National Forensic Science University as an institute of national importance. The proposed university would facilitate and promote studies and research and help achieve excellence in the field of forensic science in conjunction with applied behavioural science studies, law, criminology and other allied areas.

Lok Sabha has passed the Rashtriya Raksha University Bill

The Lok Sabha also passed the

Rashtriya Raksha University Bill. The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat. The key objectives of the University include providing dynamic and high standards of learning and research, and providing a working environment dedicated to advancing research, education and training in the domain of policing.

Lok Sabha has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill to decriminalise various corporate offences

Lok Sabha has passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which decriminalises a number of technical and filing-related corporate offences. It also allows direct listing of Indian companies on foreign stock exchanges and revokes the criminal provisions added to the Companies Act for violations of provisions of corporate social responsibility rules.

MoU signed between AYUSH Ministry and WCD Ministry for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Women and Child Development today in New Delhi for controlling Malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan. The MoU will see some time-tested and scientifically proven Ayush-based solutions being adopted for controlling malnutrition in the country.

Govt launches Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in 272 most affected districts

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated and is

implementing a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy. The activities under the NAPDDR include awareness generation programmes in schools, colleges, Universities, workshop and provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 introduced in Lok Sabha

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 was introduced in Lok Sabha on Sunday. The Bill seeks to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism, enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year. The proposed amendments seek to bar public servants from receiving foreign funding. The amendments seek to make Aadhar mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking foreign contributions.

National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 passed in parliament

Parliament has passed the National Forensic Sciences University Bill 2020 with the Rajya Sabha clearing it today. The Lok Sabha has already approved the Bill. The Bill is to establish the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Sciences, New Delhi, as a National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat. The Bill

declares the University to be an institution of national importance.

Parliament passes Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The Bill amends the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 which regulates the functioning of banks and provides details on various aspects such as licensing, management and operations of banks.

Parliament passes Essential Commodities Amendment Bill

The Bill allows the central government to regulate the supply of certain food items only under extraordinary circumstances such as war and famine. It will replace the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 which was promulgated in June this year.

Parliament passes IIIT Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020

The Bill amends the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014 and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017. The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017 declares certain IIITs established under public-private partnership mode as institutions of national importance. The Bill seeks to declare five IIITs set up under the public private partnership mode in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala, and Raichur as institutions of national importance.

Lok Sabha passes Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill 2020

Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill amends the Homoeopathy Central Council Act,

1973. The Act sets up the Central Council of Homoeopathy which regulates homoeopathic education and practice. The bill replaces the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 which was promulgated in April this year.

Health & happiness of all is hidden in 'Fitness Ki Doz, Aadha Ghanta Roz' mantra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the Mantra of Fitness - Fitness Ki Doz, Aadha Ghanta Roz and said that the health and happiness of all is hidden in this Mantra. He was interacting with fitness experts and influencers during a nation-wide online Fit India Dialogue. The dialogue was organized to celebrate the First Anniversary of the Fit India Movement.

Govt notifies Standards for Safety Evaluation of Hydrogen Fuel cells based vehicles

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified the Standards for Safety Evaluation of vehicles being propelled by Hydrogen Fuel Cells. This would facilitate the promotion of Hydrogen Fuel Cell based vehicles in the country which are energy efficient and environment friendly. These standards are also at par with the available international standards.

India aims to end tuberculosis by 2025

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has said that India has accorded high priority for ending tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Harsh Vardhan said this while addressing Ministers of Member Nations of WHO, Heads and Representatives of UN Agencies

through virtual interaction yesterday. He spoke on India's role and contribution towards strengthening multisectoral action and progress towards ending TB, especially in context of the COVID-19 crisis.

Railways target to complete 100% electrification of broad gauge routes by 2023

Railways has planned for 100 per cent electrification of its broad gauge routes by 2023. This was stated by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. He said, a total of 23,765 route kilometre lines are yet to be electrified in the country.

Lok Sabha passes the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020

Lok Sabha passed the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020 today. The Bill seeks to provide for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in the country and provide greater autonomy to these ports. It seeks to replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

Parliament passes J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020

Parliament has passed the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 with Rajya Sabha giving its nod. The bill makes Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi, English and Urdu as the official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

'Saubhagya' scheme completes three years

Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - "Saubhagya" has completed three years since its inception. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched this scheme on the 25th of September, 2017 to ensure electrification of all willing households in the country in rural

as well as urban areas. The scheme was launched with an aim to achieve universal household electrification by providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas across the country. The scheme was started with an outlay of 16,320 crore rupees.

PM Modi to virtually inaugurate VAIBHAV Summit scheduled to be held on 2nd October

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit scheduled to be held on 2nd of October this year. VAIBHAV summit is a collaborative initiative by Science and Technology and Academic Organisations of the country to enable deliberations on thought process, practices and Research and development culture with a problem solving approach for well defined objectives.

NPPA caps prices of medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped the prices of medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders in a bid to stop their black marketing and hoarding due to surging demand amidst covid-19 pandemic. The NPPA has decided to cap the ex-factory price of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) at manufacturers' end at ₹15.22/CUM exclusive of GST. And, it has further capped the ex-factory cost of medical oxygen cylinder at fillers' end at ₹25.71/CUM exclusive of GST in suppression of the existing ceiling price of ₹17.49/CUM, subject to transportation cost fixation at state level, for six months.

'Cable Stayed Bridge' constructed across Durgam Cheruvu Lake inaugurated

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the new 'Cable Stayed Bridge' constructed across Durgam Cheruvu Lake along with four-lane elevated corridor connecting it with Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad last evening. The bridge is 426 metre long, including the approaches on both ends, and 25.8 metre wide, with a total of 52 stay cables. The bridge is one of longest in the country constructed at a cost of over 334 crore rupees. On the occasion, the Minister appreciated the efforts of all workers and engineers involved in the construction of the iconic bridge.

Vice President pays tributes to social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar on his 200th Birth Anniversary

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has paid tributes to great social reformer and educationist Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar on his Jayanti. Mr Naidu said, a multifaceted genius, he is most widely admired for his crusade against child marriage and initiatives for widow remarriage. Vidyasagar continued social reform movements during the mid-19th century. He always had a strong voice against the oppression inflicted on women by society. The reformist passed away on July 29, 1891, due to liver cancer. He died at the age of 70 in Kolkata.

MoRTH notifies amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified amendments in Central Motor Vehicle Rules facilitating implementation of Electronic enforcement, Maintenance of Vehicular Documents through Information

Technology portal with effect from 1st of next month.

BJP launches Self-reliant India Dialogue Campaign in Maharashtra

Bharatiya Janata Party has launched the Self-reliant India Dialogue Campaign in Maharashtra. Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly Devendra Fadnavis gave information about the different schemes being run under the campaign launched by the Centre. He was addressing the 'Self-Reliant India Dialogue Campaign' launched in Maharashtra.

Bangalore airport and Virgin sign MoU to study viable hyperloop corridor

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) and Virgin Hyperloop, that claims to be a category leader in hyperloop technology on Sunday said they have signed an MoU to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed Hyperloop corridor from the city's Kempegowda International Airport. A hyperloop-connected airport would dramatically improve the delivery of cargo and create an ultra-efficient supply chain, says Sultan bin Sulayem, Chairman of Virgin Hyperloop and DP World. The airport will also be connected with sub-urban railway soon and will have Metro connectivity in four years.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually inaugurates 'Destination North East-2020'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today virtually inaugurated 'Destination North East-2020', a four-day event to highlight the Northeast region's various potentials like eco-tourism, culture, heritage and business. During the inaugural session,

the Union Home Minister said that India is incomplete without the North East. Mr Shah termed the unique culture of North-Eastern region as the ornament of Indian culture.

Folk art Villuppaattu gets special mention in PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat'

The folk art Villuppaattu that was referred to by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann ki Baat has a very glorious tradition. Villuppaattu means "bow-song". This medium of storytelling has been instilling moral values in the minds of the people for generations. It has been one of the predominant traditional media in Tamil Nadu, southern Kerala and a few other regions in the South.

PM Modi to inaugurate six mega projects under Namami Gange Mission in Uttarakhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate six mega projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission through video conference. The projects include construction of a 68 million liters per day or MLD Sewage Treatment Plant, upgradation of the existing 27 MLD at Jagjeetpur and construction of an 18 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Sarai, in Haridwar. The inauguration of 68 MLD Jagjeetpur project also marks completion of the first sewage treatment project taken up on hybrid annuity mode of Public Private Partnership.

'Doodh Duronto Specials' transported three crore litres of milk from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi

Doodh Duronto Specials transported three crore litres of milk from Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh to New Delhi. Doodh Duronto Special introduced during lock

down period from Renigunta to Hazrat Nizamuddin to supply milk to the people of national capital is being operated on regular basis and the total milk transportation crossed 3 crore liters mark.

Nation pays homage to revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his 113th birth anniversary

Nation pays homage to the revolutionary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on his 113th birth anniversary. It was on this day in 1907, Bhagat Singh was born in Banga village of Lyallpur district of undivided Punjab province. He fought against British rule for the country's independence and was hanged in Lahore jail at the age of 23, along with Rajguru and Sukhdev.

Govt launches portal for updates, developments on Covid-19 vaccine

In a bid to make transparent information readily available for Covid-19 vaccine development, the government on Monday launched the Vaccine Portal and National Clinical Registry for coronavirus. The portal provides useful and important information related to vaccine development, ongoing clinical trials and progress made in this area locally and globally at regular intervals, says health minister Harsh Vardhan.

Indian Railways to get metro-style flap gates in Mumbai's CSMT station

Indian Railways' Central Railway zone will be installing flap-based gates for automatic entry into the station at Mumbai division's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (non-suburban passenger entry) by using QR code tickets. The flap-based gates will be installed for passengers who will be travelling in the long distance trains.

These flap based gates have QR code scanner and thermal scanning feature. Passengers will be required to place the QR code on the QR code scanner at the entry gate for validation of the ticket details.

Home Ministry sanctions three new NIA branches at Imphal, Chennai, Ranchi

National Investigation Agency (NIA) will have three more branches in Imphal, Chennai and Ranchi. Union Home Ministry has sanctioned three new NIA branches. The opening of new branches will help in ensuring quick response to any emergent situation in the concerned states by the premier anti-terror investigation agency. The decision will also strengthen the NIA's capability in the investigation of terrorism-related cases and other national security-related matters. Currently, the NIA has nine branches besides specialized units at Headquarters, New Delhi.

Rajnath Singh launches Defence India Startup Challenge-4, releases PMA guidelines for iDEX

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) during the iDEX event, featuring the initiatives aimed at expanding the horizons of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) ecosystem in New Delhi. Mr Singh also launched the iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA) guidelines during the event. iDEX4Fauji is a first of its kind initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers and field formations.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India to receive development assistance loan worth Rs 3,500 Cr from Japan to fight COVID-19

Japan has committed an official Development Assistance loan of 3 thousand 500 crore rupees for the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Response Support. The Notes were exchanged between the Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Dr C.S. Mohapatra and Ambassador of Japan to India Suzuki Satoshi for a Health sector programme loan to fight the COVID-19 crisis.

Bangladesh Announces National Mourning in Honour of Former President Pranab Mukherjee

The government of Bangladesh has announced national mourning to honour the memory of the former President of India Pranab Mukherjee. Bangladesh had conferred the honour of 'Bangladesh Muktijuddho Sommanona' on the former President Pranab Mukherjee in 2013 for his valuable contribution to Bangladesh's Liberation War of 1971.

First ever direct flight between Israel and UAE lands in Abu Dhabi

The first commercial direct flight between Israel and the UAE landed in Abu Dhabi after the two countries announced normalisation of relations. The El Al airliner made the three-hour trip carrying a top level Israeli delegation led by National Security Adviser Meir Ben Shabbat while the US delegation was headed by US President Donald Trump's adviser Jared Kushner and US NSA Robert O'Brien. The flight was allowed to cross Saudi Arabian

airspace, normally blocked to Israeli air traffic.

Trade and Commerce Ministers of India, Australia and Japan interact through video conferencing

India reaffirmed its determination to take lead in delivering a free, fair, inclusive and stable trade environment along with partner countries Australia and Japan. In a meeting between the Trade and Commerce Ministers of the three countries held today through video conferencing, they pledged to promote non-discriminatory, transparent, and stable investment environments in addition to keeping their markets open.

Bangladesh to set up authority for regulating online media

The government of Bangladesh will set up an authority to regulate the online media. Briefing media after a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on Monday, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said that the Online Media Policy has a provision to set up a Commission for regulating the online media. Till the time the Commission is formed, the Ministry of Information will set up an authority for regulating the online media.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through virtual conference

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has invited the US business and industry to work with their Indian counterparts to take the bilateral trade to greater heights. Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum through a virtual conference today, Mr Goyal said the two democracies share deep commitment with each other, at

the Government, Business and people to people levels.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Japan for improving quality of Indian textiles for Japanese market

Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Japan for improving quality and testing of Indian textiles and clothing for the Japanese market. The MoU would enable M/s Nissenken Quality Evaluation Centre, Japan in assigning Textile Committee as their cooperative Testing and Inspection service providers in India for Textiles and Apparel products.

Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources

Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Finland for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources. The MoU facilitates cooperation in the field of geology, training, mineral prognostication and suitability analysis with the intent of reinforcing and strengthening scientific links.

India to host key meeting of Russia, China led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India will be hosting one of the key meetings of the Russia and China led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) regional grouping on 30 November. The summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Governments will take place in New Delhi, Secretary (West) in the

Indian foreign ministry Vikas Swarup said at a webinar.

Google partners with Bangladesh for flood forecasting

Google has partnered with Bangladesh Water Development Board to bring the flood warning services to the country. Announcing this on its official blog on Tuesday Google said that it currently covers more than 40 million people in Bangladesh and it is working to expand its coverage to the whole of the country.

Rajnath Singh meets Defence Ministers of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Defence Minister of Tajikistan Colonel General Sherali Mirzo in Moscow. Rajnath Singh also had a meeting with Kazakhstan counterpart Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev in Moscow. Mr Singh said, he discussed ways to add further momentum to India-Kazakhstan defence cooperation with Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev.

Japanese companies relocating to Bangladesh from China to get govt subsidy

Bangladesh has been added to the list of countries which will qualify for subsidy for the Japanese companies which shift their production base out of China. In order to diversify its supply chain, Japan has decided that Japanese manufacturers will now be eligible for subsidies if they shift production out of China to India or Bangladesh, reports the Nikkei Asian Review. The supplementary budget of Japan for the fiscal year 2020 has earmarked dollar

221 million for companies that move production to Southeast Asian countries.

First trial run on newly opened inland waterways from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in India completes successfully

The trial run of the newly opened inland river route from Daudkandi in Bangladesh to Sonamura in Tripura was successfully completed . The newly opened 93 kilometers long route on the river Gumti marks another major step in enhancing connectivity between India and Bangladesh.

Germany joins Indo-Pacific club aimed at securing trade routes from aggressive China

Germany has joined the Indo-Pacific club. The move is aimed at securing the trade routes from aggressive China. Germany has drafted a 40-page guidelines as it formally adopts a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region. The move makes it the second European nation after France to formally adopt a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region.

First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue held virtually

The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Secretary-General, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs François Delattre, and Secretary, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Frances Adamson. The focus of the dialogue was on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

India-Bangladesh to hold Joint Consultative Commission meeting

India and Bangladesh have agreed to

hold the 6th meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) later this month. High Commission of India in Bangladesh said that the ministerial level meeting will be held on the virtual platform. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen had a telephonic conversation on this issue.

MoS V. Muraleedharan attends 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan attended the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Meeting was held virtually. It was attended by the Foreign Ministers of the East Asia Summit participating countries and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam. The Meeting discussed ways and means to strengthen the Leaders-led EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.

PM Modi discusses global pandemic challenges with G20 president Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia discussed the global challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; with Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking on phone with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This comes in the backdrop of Saudi Arabia, which holds the G20's rotating presidency this year and India working towards coordinating and drawing up a strategy at the G20 level.

India, France, Australia hold 1st trilateral dialogue with focus on Indo-Pacific

India, Australia and France held talks for the first time under a trilateral framework

with focus on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, a region that has been witnessing increasing Chinese military assertiveness. The three countries had an exchange on the priorities, challenges and trends in regional and global multilateral institutions, including the best ways to strengthen and reform multilateralism, the MEA said.

India China to meet in Moscow as part of RIC

Foreign ministers of India, Russia and China will have a luncheon meeting in Moscow on the sidelines of SCO foreign ministers meet. This is an important meeting as India, China and Russia are also part of Russia India China - RIC grouping which focuses on mutual cooperation between three countries keeps meeting at regular intervals.

EAM S Jaishankar to attend SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, will attend the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Moscow. The Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow will review the preparations for the forthcoming SCO Summit and also exchange views on international and regional issues. This will be the third Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that India will be attending as a full member of SCO. India has been taking active part in various SCO dialogue mechanisms under the Chairmanship of the Russian Federation this year. Dr Jaishankar met his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Minister of Armed Forces of France Florence Parly arrives in New Delhi Minister of Armed Forces of France

Florence Parly arrived in New Delhi. Ms Parly and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be the Chief Guest at the induction ceremony of Rafale Aircraft at Air Force Station Ambala. Ms Parly will be given a ceremonial Guard of Honour.

President Ram Nath Kovind accepts Letter of Credence from High Commissioner of Singapore

President Ram Nath Kovind accepted Letter of Credence from Simon Wong Wie Kuen, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore in a virtual ceremony. President conveyed his warm wishes to the High Commissioner on his appointment. He also thanked Singapore for its strong support to India at multi-lateral forums, including the United Nations Security Council. Mr Kovind noted that mutual cooperation during the period of COVID-19 pandemic has further strengthened the existing ties of friendship and trust between both countries.

India, Japan ink agreement for reciprocal supplies & services between armed forces

India and Japan have signed an Agreement between the two countries concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed Forces of India and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan. The agreement was signed in New Delhi by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Ambassador of Japan Mr Suzuki Satoshi. This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the Armed Forces of India and Japan in reciprocal provision of supplies and services. The agreement will also enhance the interoperability between the Armed Force of India and Japan thereby further

increasing the bilateral defence engagements under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.

Jaishankar participates in inaugural session of Intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar participated in the inaugural session of the Intra-Afghan negotiations held in Doha on Saturday via video teleconference. The Minister's participation was in response to an invitation extended to him by the Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

India hands over disaster relief material to Nepal

Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of India in Nepal Ms. Namgya C. Khampa, on behalf of the Government of India, handed over a consignment of disaster relief material to Ms. Chanda Chaudhary, Member of Parliament and President of the Nepal-India Women Friendship Society (NIWFS) in Kathmandu today. The relief material includes tents and plastic sheets for distribution to flood and landslide affected families in five districts of Nepal.

ITEC Day observed by High Commission of India in Dhaka

The 56th ITEC day was observed online by the High Commission of India in Dhaka. over 4000 young Bangladeshi professionals have benefitted from various ITEC programmes since 2007. These training programmes provide an

opportunity to share best practises which benefit both the countries.

Bangladesh govt allows limited export of Hilsa fish to India

Bangladesh Commerce Ministry of has given special permission for traders to export Hilsa fish to India on a limited scale in view of the forthcoming Durga Puja. The Commerce Ministry has allowed nine exporters to send a total of approximately 1,500 tonnes of Hilsa to India. Bangladesh had imposed a ban on the export of Hilsa in 2012.

India is elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

India is elected as the Member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The 54-member the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall. The principal global body held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Three countries namely Afghanistan, India, and China competed. Afghanistan garnered 39 votes and India won 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China got 27 votes failed to get the required majority of 28 votes.

India, Brazil, South Africa call for comprehensive reform of UN Security Council

India, Brazil and South Africa emphasized the need for the international community to redouble efforts to achieve tangible progress for accelerated and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council. External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, chaired the customary meeting of IBSA

Foreign Ministers through video conferencing. On this occasion, the ministers adopted the IBSA Joint Ministerial Statement on the Reform of the UN Security Council, as a common endeavour of the Global South. The Ministers also exchanged views on furthering IBSA cooperation. They exchanged views on various issues of global significance including peace, security, countering terrorism, climate change, and sustainable development.

10th virtual meeting of BRICS NSAs chaired by Russia

10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security chaired by Russia held via video link. The National Security Advisors of the BRICS nations will deliberate upon the issues related to strengthening political security and cooperation among the five countries. India, Russia and China are members of BRICS, SCO and RIC and act as platform for mutual trust building and cooperation.

BRICS countries agree to continue support WHO to tackle COVID pandemic

BRICS countries have agreed to continue supporting the World Health Organization in playing a leading role, and to strengthen BRICS countries' cooperation in bio-safety governance and vaccine research and development. The 10th meeting of National Security Advisors of BRICS countries was held via video link.

US bans Chinese apps Tik Tok and WeChat from tomorrow citing threat to national security

The United States has banned download of Chinese app TikTok and use of messaging and payment platform

WeChat, saying they threaten national security. The ban will come into effect from tomorrow night. In a statement, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said, Chinese Communist Party has demonstrated the means and motives to use these apps to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and the economy of the US.

Bangladesh govt orders closure of largest Deobandi Madrasa

The government of Bangladesh ordered the closure of the largest and oldest Deobandi Hathazari Madrasa till further orders. The Education Ministry in its order said that the Hathazari Madrasa at Chittagong will be closed due to the breach of conditions. On August 28, the Ministry had allowed Madrasas to resume their academic activities on the condition that the health guidelines issued by the government are followed.

India, Bangladesh agree to resume Joint Coordinated Border Patrolling to reduce criminal activities

India and Bangladesh have agreed to resume the joint coordinated border patrolling to reduce criminal activities like smuggling of cattle, weapons and narcotics on the border. The decision was taken during the 50th DG level conference of the border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh which concluded in Dhaka. Both countries agreed to take effective steps for the prevention of human trafficking and illegal crossing of the International Border (IB).

India extends 250 million dollars support to Maldives to overcome economic impact of Covid-19

India has provided financial assistance of 250 million dollars as budgetary

support to the Maldives government to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. India has provided substantial and continued assistance to the Maldives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

50th meeting of border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh concludes in Dhaka

The 50th meeting of border guarding forces of India and Bangladesh, Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh concluded in Dhaka. The biannual meeting discussed the issues related to India-Bangladesh border management and security.

Direct cargo ferry service between India & Maldives jointly e- launched

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation of Maldives, Ms Aishath Nahula jointly e- launched a direct cargo ferry service between India and Maldives.

During its maiden voyage, a vessel with a capacity of 200 TEU and 3000 MT of break bulk cargo will sail from Tuticorin to Kochi, from where it will proceed to Kulhudhuffushi port in North Maldives and then to Male port.

Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy Passage Exercise (PASSEX) underway in Eastern Indian Ocean

PASSEX underway between Royal Australian Navy and Indian Navy in Eastern Indian Ocean Region. Air Warfare Destroyer HMAS Hobart, Stealth Frigate INS Sahyadri and Missile Corvette INS Karmuk are engaged in complex Maritime Exercises

UN, Britain to co-host a global climate summit on Dec 12

United Nations and Britain will co-host a global climate summit on December 12, the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will co-host the event to rally much greater climate action and ambition.

India holds webinar with Cambodia to boost defence cooperation

A webinar between India and Cambodia was held. The theme of the webinar was "Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership: Webinar and Expo". It was organized under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers, SIDM. This webinar is the part of the series of webinars which are being organized with friendly foreign countries in order to boost defence exports and achieve defence export target of 5 billion dollars in the next five years.

India accords highest priority to its relation with Sri Lanka as part of India's Neighbourhood First approach

A Virtual Bilateral Summit was held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa. The summit was Prime Minister Modi's first such virtual engagement with a neighbouring country and also Mr Rajapaksa's first diplomatic engagement with a leader of a foreign country after he was sworn in as Prime Minister in August this year.

PM Modi to address UN General Assembly

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of the 75th UNGA is - The Future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting the COVID-19 through effective multilateral action. The UNGA this year is being conducted mostly virtually as it is being held in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Prime Minister's address will be via a pre-recorded video statement broadcast at the UNGA hall in New York.

Fourth Edition of India-Japan Maritime Bilateral exercise commences in Arabian Sea

The fourth edition of India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise (JIMEX) begins in North Arabian Sea. The exercise is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). 'JIMEX' series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam coast. JIMEX 20 will be spread over three days and is being conducted in a 'non-contact at-sea-only format', in view of COVID-19 restrictions.

World Bank approves 200 million dollar loan for safe water & sanitation in Bangladesh

The World Bank (WB) has approved a 200 million dollar loan for Bangladesh to improve access to safe water and sanitation services in the rural areas of the country. The Bangladesh Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project

will help 6 lakh people to have access to clean water through piped water schemes in rural areas.

India extends 15 million dollars grant assistance to Sri Lanka for promoting Buddhist ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a grant assistance of 15 million dollars to Sri Lanka for the promotion of Buddhist ties between India and Sri Lanka. Briefing the media this afternoon, Joint Secretary (Indian Ocean Region) in the External Affairs Ministry Amit Narang said the grant will assist in deepening people-to-people linkages between the two countries in the sphere of Buddhism.

India, Japan naval exercise JIMEX-2020 concludes

Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) & Indian Navy completed 3 days of highly successful Exercise led by CCF2 & FOCWF. Ships undertook Anti-Air & Anti Submarine Warfare exercises, Weapon firings, Seamanship, tracking & tactical manoeuvres. Surveillance aircraft & helos participated making JIMEX-2020(India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise) most intensive edition so far. Exercises conducted in 'non-contact' format & ships waved farewell to each other before parting ways.

India, Denmark to work together in addressing global challenges & solutions on green energy transition and climate change

According to a Joint Statement for India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership, the two Prime Ministers confirmed the close partnership in addressing global challenges and solutions on green energy transition and climate change.

India and Denmark also agree to be at the forefront in the global fight against climate change. Both countries have set very ambitious national targets on climate and energy that will contribute to an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement.

UK GDP collapsed nearly 20% in second quarter in history

Britain suffered a record collapse in economic output in the second quarter of 2020 when COVID-19 lockdown measures were in full force, though the decline was slightly smaller than first estimated. Output has rebounded in recent months but the recovery looks to be fading with rising coronavirus cases and forecasts of a jump in unemployment as the govt scales back job support.

India and Bangladesh to set up monitoring committee to review project implementation

India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a 'High Level Monitoring Committee' headed by the Secretary, Economic Relations Division of Bangladesh and High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh to regularly review the progress of implementation of projects being run with Line of Credit (Loc) provided by India.

BANKING & FINANCE

Indian Bank announces cut of 5 basis points in MCLR for one-year tenure

State-owned lender Indian Bank has announced a cut of 5 basis points in its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) for one-year tenure. The bank has decided to reduce the MCLR

for one-year tenure by 5 basis points to 7.30 per cent effective from September 3, 2020, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing.

ICICI Bank launches 'Home Utsav'

ICICI Bank announced the launch of 'Home Utsav', a virtual property exhibition that digitally showcases real estate projects by renowned developers from key cities across the country. The exhibition is available for everyone, including ICICI Bank's customers and those who are not customers of the Bank. It offers them enhanced convenience, as they can simply browse through these projects online, from the comfort of their home and office. They can also avail exclusive offers such as attractive interest rates, special processing fees and digital sanction of loans, on buying a property through this exhibition.

Banks, post offices can now check your ITR filing status for deducting TDS

Banks can now check the status of income tax returns or ITRs of their customers based on their Permanent Account Number (PAN). Through this facility banks or post offices can get the applicable rate of TDS under Section 194N of the Income-tax Act, 1961 by entering the PAN of the person who is withdrawing cash. The income tax department said data on cash withdrawal indicated that huge amount of cash is being withdrawn by the persons who have never filed income-tax returns.

RBI introduces weightage in priority sector loans to assist neglected

districts

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday revised its priority sector lending (PSL) guidelines to include a system where higher weightage will be assigned to fresh priority sector loans in districts with low flow of such credit. In order to harmonise various instructions issued to commercial banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks, urban cooperative banks and local area banks, RBI made these changes.

RBL Bank offers cardless cash withdrawal facility through ATMs

RBL Bank has launched cardless cash withdrawal facility for customers through the IMT System. RBL Bank has tied up with Empays Payment Systems, a global financial technology provider, to offer the service. RBL Bank customers can withdraw cash without their debit cards from 389 IMT-enabled ATMs of RBL Bank. To avail the service a customer has to log into RBL Bank's MoBank app.

RBI to set up innovation hub for finance sector

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in the process of setting up an innovation hub which will focus on future technology in the financial services space. Detailed guidelines in this respect are expected to be released soon.

Banks sanction loans of ₹1.61 lakh cr to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme

The Finance Ministry on Monday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1,61,017 crore under the ₹3-lakh crore

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector reeling under the slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by the Finance Minister in May. The loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs increased to ₹78,067.21 crore, of which ₹62,025.79 crore has been disbursed as of September 3.

RBI to conduct simultaneous purchase & sale of govt securities under OMO for Rs 10,000 crore each on Sept 10

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under the Open Market Operation (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore each on September 10. The central bank today said it would be selling three securities totalling Rs 10,000 crore and also purchasing equal number of securities of the same amount.

Public Sector Banks' doorstep banking services launched by FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks and participated in the awards ceremony to felicitate best performing banks on EASE Banking Reforms Index. As part of the EASE Reforms, Doorstep Banking Services is envisaged to provide convenience of banking services to the customers at their doorstep through the universal touch points of Call Centre, Web Portal or Mobile App. Customers can also track their service request through these channels. The services shall be

rendered by the Doorstep Banking Agents deployed by the selected Service Providers at 100 centres across the country.

SBI's Yono app now has 27 million registered users

State Bank of India's (SBI) Yono mobile app has been adding 70,000 new users daily, taking its total registered users to 27 million at present. Rajnish Kumar said that owing to covid-19, the rate at which new users are being added on Yono has increased.

SBI planning to launch loan product 'SAFAL' for organic cotton growers

State Bank of India is planning to launch a loan product, SAFAL, primarily focused on organic cotton growers who don't have any credit history.

Sebi allows NSE to undertake e-KYC Aadhaar authentication

Markets regulator Sebi added the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to the list of entities that can undertake e-KYC Aadhaar authentication. The regulator, in May, had come out with a list of eight entities permitted to use e-KYC (Electronic-Know Your Customer) Aadhaar authentication. Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL), National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL), BSE, CDSL Ventures, NSDL Database Management, NSE Data and Analytics, CAMS Investor Services and Computer Age Management Services were the eight entities that were allowed to use e-KYC Aadhaar authentication.

Standard Chartered fined ₹100 crore for violating forex norms

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), India's anti-money laundering agency, fined Standard Chartered Plc \$13.6

million (Rs100 crore) for breaking foreign exchange rules when it worked on the takeover of a local bank, marking one of the country's biggest penalties imposed on an overseas lender. An 8-year probe found that Standard Chartered violated the FEM Act—which monitors offshore financial transactions—when it worked with a group of investors to buy a stake in Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in 2007.

EPFO decides to pay 8.5% interest during 2019-20

The Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar chaired the 227th Meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund. In view of the exceptional circumstances arising out of Covid-19, the Central Board has recommended the same interest rate at 8.50 per cent to the Central Government. It would comprise of 8.15 per cent from debt income and balance 0.35 per cent capital gain from the sale of Exchange Traded Funds, ETFs subject to their redemption by 31st December this year.

ICICI Bank launches 'iStartup2.0'

ICICI Bank has launched -'iStartup2.0' - a programme for startups that takes care of their banking as well as beyond-banking needs such as regulatory assistance, analytics, staffing, accounting, customer acquisition and digital outreach to customers, among others. The bank offers customers an eponymous Current Account which is available in three variants - Platinum, Gold and Silver.

RBI issues guidelines for appointment of CCO in banks

Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for appointment of Chief

Compliance Officer (CCO) in banks to ensure uniform approach with regard to compliance and risk management culture across the banking industry. Accordingly, RBI has said that the CCO must be appointed for a minimum fixed period of three years. The person should be a senior executive of the bank, preferably in the rank of a general manager or an equivalent position or he could also be recruited from outside.

DBS Bank India unveils online loan platform for SMEs, offers credit up to ₹20 cr

DBS Bank India launched an online platform for making loans available to small and mid size businesses in a hassle-free manner, with credit facility up to ₹20 crore. Driven by its constant focus on building seamless, intuitive and hassle-free banking solutions for customers, DBS Bank India has unveiled its online credit solutions platform - DBS Digital Business Loans for SMEs, the bank said in a release.

RBI announces straight purchase of government securities worth ₹10,000 crore

Reserve Bank of India on announced the straight purchase of government securities worth ₹10,000 crore through open market operations. In a notification RBI said that it will purchase long term securities maturing in 2026, 2029 and 2031. During 2020-21 (up to July 31), RBI has injected ₹1,24,154 crore through open special market operation (OMO) purchases.

SBI, Titan launch India's first contactless payment watch

Country's top lender State Bank of India (SBI) and Titan Company have partnered have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called Titan Pay. "Now, make your payments fast, hassle-free, contactless, and from your watch. Presenting the all-new Titan Pay, a new-age collection of stylish timepieces from Titan.

Lok Sabha passes Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill

Lok Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020. This Bill replaces the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance which was promulgated on 26th June this year. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said it will help in safeguarding interest of the co-operative bank depositors' in the country. She also raised the issue of PMC bank and asserted that this bill will protect depositors' interest in similar situations.

She said the amendments to section 3, 45 and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, proposed in the current bill seeks to bring parity in terms of rules and regulations in co-operative banks as applicable in the commercial banks. The bill also enables the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to make a scheme for reconstruction or amalgamation of co-operative banks to secure its proper management, and in the interest of depositors.

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund launches 'ESG Fund'

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has launched ICICI Prudential ESG Fund, an open-ended equity scheme which encourages sustainable investing, by investing in companies which follow Environmental, Social and Governance

(ESG) theme. Companies will be assigned a composite ESG score based on the factors mentioned and exposure will be taken in companies by assessing them on the mentioned factors.

FDI inflow of Rs. 2883 crore reported in Defence and Aerospace sector

FDI inflows of two thousand 883 crore rupees have been reported in Defence and Aerospace sector through automatic route till June this year. This was stated by the Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

SBI launches portal to help retail customers with loan restructuring

The country's largest bank State Bank of India launched a portal within its website to enable its retail customers to check their eligibility for loan restructuring under the Reserve Bank of India scheme. Retail customers will be offered a simple option to opt for 1-24 months of moratorium and reschedule the loans.

SBI Life inks pact with Yes Bank to sell insurance policies

SBI Life Insurance said it has signed bancassurance agreement with Yes Bank to offer a comprehensive bouquet of life insurance solutions to the bank's customers across the country. SBI Life's diverse range of individual and group insurance solutions will be offered to the customers of Yes Bank through the bank's branches spread across 28 states and 8 Union Territories in India.

Google Pay introduces tap-to-pay option for SBI Card users in India

India's largest credit card issuer SBI Card announced a collaboration with Google to enable customers to use their

cards on Google Pay platform. Users will now be able to make card payments using Google Pay app on their Android smartphones in three modes.

HDFC Life joins hands with Yes Bank to sell insurance policies

HDFC Life Insurance has joined hands with corporate agency agreement with Yes Bank to offer a comprehensive bouquet of life insurance solutions to the bank's customers across the country. As part of the agreement, HDFC Life's diverse range of life insurance products will be offered to the customers of Yes Bank through the bank's branches spread across the country. HDFC Life's insurance products include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness.

RBI suggests five-pillared approach to deal with cybersecurity issues in UCBs

The Reserve Bank today came out with a five-pillared strategic approach 'GUARD' to deal with cyber security threats being faced by Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). The RBI said in its document 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Cooperative Banks 2020-2023' that the number, frequency and impact of cyber incidents and attacks have increased manifold in the recent past, more so in the case of the financial sector, including UCBs.

Central govt suspends operation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code by another 3 months to protect companies in distress due to Covid-19

The Central government has suspended

the operation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) by another three months in order to protect companies in distress due to the Covid pandemic. The Code was earlier suspended for six months from 25 March to help the firms recover from the financial distress due to the global pandemic. During the suspension of IBC codes, these firms are protected from being referred to insolvency proceedings.

SBI opens new office of Financial Inclusion and Micro Market in Delhi

SBI opens new office of Financial Inclusion and Micro Market in Delhi. NEW DELHI : India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) said it has relocated the office of its Dy MD, financial inclusion and micro markets (FI&MM) vertical to the national capital. Under this new vertical, SBI will offer loans predominantly for agriculture and allied activities. 8,000 branches in rural and semi-urban areas have been identified for providing specialised services to the micro-segment.

Income Tax Dept launches Faceless Income tax Appeals to streamline collection process & check corruption

The Income Tax Department has launched Faceless Income tax Appeals. In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said, under it, all income tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner with the exception of appeals relating to serious frauds, major tax evasion, sensitive and search matters, International tax and Black Money Act. The Faceless Appeals system aims to streamline the income

tax collection process and check corruption and unfair practices during the resolution of the appeals of the taxpayers.

SBI Card joins hands with American Express to offer premium benefits, services

SBI Card has joined hands with American Express to offer global benefits and exclusive privileges for consumers in India. Under this agreement, SBI Card's top-end products SBI Card ELITE and SBI Card PRIME will be available on American Express' global network. This alliance is another step in our efforts to bolster our premium portfolio, said Ashwini Kumar Tewari, MD & CEO, SBI Card. With this launch, SBI Card will have products across four networks.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Infosys to hire 12,000 American workers by 2022

Information technology (IT) major Infosys Ltd said it will hire 12,000 American workers over the next two years, creating a 25,000 strong workforce in the U.S over five years. This is part of its strategy to increase local hiring in the country.

Adani Green is largest solar power developer globally

With 8GW of SECI contracts, Adani Green is largest solar power developer globally. In June, Adani Green Energy Ltd bagged a manufacturing-linked solar contract from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to develop 8

GW of projects. The transaction is valued at ₹45,000 crore, or \$6 billion.

Uber makes face-mask selfies mandatory for mask slackers

Uber unveiled a new policy stipulating that if a driver reports to Uber that a rider wasn't wearing a mask, the rider will have to take a selfie with one strapped on the next time they summon a driver. Mask slackers will now have to provide photographic proof they're wearing a face covering before boarding an Uber.

Adani to acquire Mumbai airport

Adani group will take control of India's second-busiest airport of Mumbai, in the biggest-ever thrust to its ambition to become a top airports operator. Adani will buy GVK Airport Developers' debt, against which a 50.5% stake in MIAL is pledged.

Flipkart launches digital B2B marketplace

Homegrown e-tailer Flipkart has launched its digital business-to-business (B2B) marketplace as e-commerce firms boost such operations, digitising kiranas and leveraging online sales to take advantage of India's large consumer base. Flipkart Wholesale claims to be a one-stop solution which will offer businesses products at significant value to help them grow. It is available for fashion retailers, especially footwear and apparel, in Gurugram, Delhi, Bengaluru.

StartupXseed launches ₹200 crore second fund to invest in deep tech startups

Bengaluru-based StartupXseed

Ventures has launched its second fund of ₹200 crore, that will focus on early-stage investment in start-ups focused on deep technologies. The sector agnostic seed and early stage venture capital fund was founded five years back by B. V. Naidu, former director, Software Technology Parks of India, Mohan Das Pai, co-founder of Aarin Capital, Ravi Thakur and other entrepreneurs. Out of ₹200 crore, ₹65 crore has been raised from individual technocrats and the balance amount will be raised over the next 6-9 months.

India, ADB sign 500 million US dollar loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System corridor

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 500 million US dollar loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor. The first tranche of a total one billion dollar facility, to build a modern, high-speed 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor will improve regional connectivity and mobility in India's national capital region (NCR). The signatories to the loan agreement for the Delhi-Meerut RRTS Investment Project were Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission who signed for ADB. The first tranche loan will support construction of the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021 to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining states.

Amazon India sets up all-women delivery station in Gujarat

E-commerce major Amazon India on Thursday said it has set up an all-women delivery station in Kadi, Gujarat - its second such facility in the country. The new all-women delivery station at Gujarat's Kadi, operated by a delivery service partner, is part of the company's efforts towards increasing participation of women in the workforce.

Indian short-video platform Chingari signs licensing deal with T-Series

Homegrown short-video platform Chingari, which has gained some prominence since TikTok's ban in India, announced a licensing deal with music label T-Series on Friday. The deal will allow Chingari's users and creators in India, West Asia and SAARC nations to access music owned by T-Series.

IFC to provide two trillion dollars to India to develop green buildings

The International Finance Corporation has said that two trillion dollars will be provided to India to develop green buildings, improve public transport and to expand renewable sources of energy. Addressing the "e-DIALOGUE on Ease of Living and Sustainable Development Goals-2020-21" held in Mumbai, IFC's Country Head Jun Zhang said the organisation is committed to urban development in India.

Chqbook launches digital ledger, lending, insurance services for small merchants

Chqbook, a fintech startup focused on small business owners such as kiranas, merchants and chemists, has launched a suite of services, including current

account for daily transactions, short to long-term business loans and insurance products on its platform. Many small business owners currently depend on manual ledgers to record daily transactions, and some do not even own a bank account, without which access to credit is almost impossible.

Indian economy to contract 11% in FY21, says Icmra

Domestic rating agency Icmra further revised down its GDP estimate for the country on Monday and now expects the Indian economy to contract by 11% in FY21. The agency, which was earlier estimating a contraction of 9.5%, said the revision has been done as the rate of new COVID-19 infections remains elevated.

Paytm Money launches stock trading, charges ₹10 for intraday trades

Paytm Money has opened stockbroking access for everyone in the country with an aim to onboard over 10 lakh investors this fiscal with the majority of them as first-time users from small cities and towns. As part of its early access program, the stockbroking services were then available for a few android users. The cash delivery trades are free on the app, and it charges only ₹10 for intraday trades.

PFC signs MoU with Ministry of Power detailing targets for FY 2020-21

Power Finance Corporation Limited, PFC has signed a performance-based Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with the Ministry of Power detailing various targets to be achieved by PFC during FY 2020-21. The MoU was

signed by Power Secretary Sanjiv Nandan Sahai and CMD of PFC R.S. Dhillon in presence of senior officials of the Ministry of Power and PFC.

Google partners online firms to bring SMBs online

Google India said it has partnered with third-party online platforms such as Instamojo, Zoho, Swiggy and Dunzo to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) build their digital presence as more and more consumers turn to online purchases amid the pandemic. Small businesses will be able to create business websites using software-as-a-service (SaaS) firm Zoho inventory platform and sell online through Zoho Commerce for free till 31 March.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Women writers, debuts dominate the JCB Prize for Literature 2020 longlist

Six books by women writers, four debuts and two works in translation feature in the longlist of the JCB Prize for Literature 2020. The ten books cover a range of genres as well—from Samit Basu's fantasy novel Chosen Spirits to Deepa Anappara's internationally acclaimed experimental novel Djinn Patrol On The Purple Line to Malayalam writer S. Hareesh's avant-garde novel Moustache, translated into English by Jayasree Kalathil.

Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presents first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank presented the first ever AICTE Visvesvaraya Best Teacher Awards 2020 to 12 faculty members of AICTE approved institutes on the occasion of Engineers Day. The event was organised in virtual mode and the faculty members were felicitated by the Minister through online interaction. Sir M Visvesvaraya was a pioneer of Engineering in India. Visvesvaraya was one of the most eminent Engineers and Statesmen of India, whose contribution to the advancement of the country is unforgettable. He was awarded the highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' in 1955 for his indispensable contribution to nation-building.

Manipur College receives two National Service Scheme Award 2018-19

The National Service Scheme Award 2018-19 were conferred by the President of India to the awardees of different categories. In Manipur, a college located in a remote hill area has received two awards including Best Program Officer Award. Sister Sweta William Parmar, Program Officer NSS Unit of Don Bosco College Maram Centre of Senapati District Manipur has been conferred the Award in the category of Program Officer.

UP govt bags 8 awards in Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan

Uttar Pradesh government has bagged 8 awards in Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA) launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Union Ministry of

Jal Shakti. The State has also got overall second rank in implementation of Gandagi Mukh Bharat scheme. The awards will be distributed at a virtual ceremony by the Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti on October 2, 2020.

Maharashtra govt announces Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for 2020-21 to Usha Mangeshkar

The Maharashtra government today announced the Gan Samragini Lata Mangeshkar award for the year 2020-21 to veteran female playback singer Usha Mangeshkar. The award is given by the cultural department of the state government. Making the announcement, state culture minister, Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh said the award include cash prize of five lakh rupees, a certificate and a memento.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Vice Admiral S R Sarma assumes charge as Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy

Vice Admiral S R Sarma assumed charge as the Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy. Admiral Sarma during his illustrious career spanning over three and a half decades has served onboard Indian Naval ships Vindhyagiri, Rana, Krishna and Mysore in various capacities.

Rajeev Kumar assumes charge as new Election Commissioner of India

Mr Rajeev Kumar assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner of the country. A 1984 batch IAS officer, Mr Kumar retired as the Finance Secretary. Mr Kumar joins the Election

Commission of India with Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra.

Shailendra Dashora joins as new Chief Postmaster General in Jammu

Shailendra Dashora, an Indian Postal Service (IPoS) Officer of 1989 batch joined as the new Chief Postmaster General, Jammu and Kashmir Circle in Jammu today. AIR correspondent reports that Dashora was welcomed by Gaurav Srivastava, Director of Postal Services (Headquarters), J&K. Soon after taking over as Chief Post Master General, J&K Circle, Dashora reviewed the functioning of Postal Department in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Nepal's Finance Minister Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada resigns

Finance as well as Communication Minister of incumbent government in Nepal, Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada has resigned from his post. Khatiwada had tendered his resignation to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Friday late afternoon which was accepted by evening, Press Advisor to Oli, Surya Thapa confirmed.

Global CEO Sandeep Mathrani joins WeWork India board

Real estate veteran Sandeep Mathrani, who was appointed as the chief executive officer (CEO) of shared workspace provider WeWork in February, has joined the board of the Indian arm at a time when the company seeks to tide over the covid-induced disruptions and become profitable.

Netflix appoints Bela Bajaria as global TV head

American streaming service Netflix has appointed Bela Bajaria as vice president, global television. Original programming at Netflix was previously headed by Cindy Holland who looked after English language programming and Bajaria, who oversaw non-English originals. The two have now been clubbed.

Raghvansh Prasad Singh resigns from Rashtriya Janata Dal party

Former Union Minister Raghvansh Prasad Singh resigned from Rashtriya Janata Dal party. Earlier the senior leader had resigned from the post of national vice-president of the party. He is currently undergoing corona treatment at AIIMS, Delhi. Mr. Singh has sent his resignation letter to party president Lalu Prasad.

Subhash Kamath elected ASCI chairman

Subhash Kamath, chief executive at advertising agency BBH & Publicis Worldwide, India, has been unanimously elected chairman of the board of governors of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). NS Rajan, managing director at public relations firm Ketchum Sampark P. Ltd. was elected vice-chairman and Shashidhar Sinha, chief executive, Mediabrands India Pvt. Ltd was reappointed as honorary treasurer.

Yoshihide Suga formally elected as Japan's new PM

Yoshihide Suga was formally elected as Japan's new Prime Minister in a Parliamentary vote. Mr Suga replaced former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe, who resigned earlier in the day because of ill health.

Japanese PM Shinzo Abe resigns

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cabinet resigned, clearing the way for his successor to take over after parliamentary confirmation. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, was chosen as the new head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, virtually guaranteeing his election as prime minister in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of the party's majority.

Toyota appoints Ayushmann Khurrana as brand ambassador for Urban Cruiser

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), announced the appointment of actor Ayushmann Khurrana as the brand ambassador for the soon-to-be launched SUV model Urban Cruiser ahead of the festive season. The one-year long partnership will see the actor appearing in an advertising campaign for Urban Cruiser across media platforms including television, digital and print.

Morningstar India appoints Jiju Vidyadharan as head of India business

Morningstar India, a subsidiary of independent investment research provider Morningstar, Inc. has announced, Jiju Vidyadharan as their new Head of India Business.

Australian Judge resigns from Hong Kong top court

A veteran Australian judge, one of the

14 foreign judges on Hong Kong's highest court has resigned citing unspecified reasons related to the new national security law imposed by Beijing on the city.

HD Deve Gowda takes oath as Rajya Sabha member

Former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) leader HD Deve Gowda took oath as Rajya Sabha member. Mr. Gowda was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka.

Alapan Bandyopadhyay appointed as new Chief Secretary of West Bengal

Alapan Bandyopadhyay is appointed as the new Chief Secretary of West Bengal. The outgoing Chief Secretary Rajiv Sinha has been appointed as the Chairman of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. H K Dwivedi will be new Home Secretary and Manoj Pant will take charge of Finance.

RBI ropes in Amitabh Bachchan for customer awareness campaign

After sport stars, the Reserve Bank has roped in Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign to prevent gullible account holders from being duped by fraudsters. As part of the public awareness initiative of RBI, the regulator keeps informing about dos and don'ts that have to be followed by customers to transact safely and securely.

PD Vaghela appointed as new TRAI chairman

Senior Indian Administrative Service Officer Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India- TRAI. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

has approved his appointment. He will replace R.S. Sharma. Mr Vaghela will hold the post for a period of three years or until he attains the age of 65 years. Mr Vaghela, a 1986-batch officer of Gujarat Cadre, is currently Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals.

BJP appoints Devendra Fadnavis as its in-charge for Bihar assembly polls

BJP has appointed former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis as its in-charge for the Bihar assembly elections. The announcement came on a day party president J P Nadda is holding talks with state BJP leaders here to discuss the three-phase polls to the 243-member state assembly, including seat-sharing arrangements with allies like the JD(U) and the LJP.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian astronomers discover one of the farthest Star galaxies in universe

Indian astronomers have discovered one of the farthest Star galaxies in the universe in a landmark achievement. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today said it is a matter of pride that India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory 'AstroSat' has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. The galaxy called AUDFs01 was discovered by a team of Astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.

IIT Delhi incubated startup launches "Chakr DeCoV" to decontaminate

N95 masks

IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV' to decontaminate N95 masks. Designed in the shape of a cabinet, Chakr DeCoV is built with an innovative decontamination mechanism, which utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask, ensuring complete decontamination of its intricate layers.

IISc researchers develop low-cost, on demand printing technique

The researchers at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering in the Bengaluru based Indian Institute of Science have developed a low cost, on demand printing technique. This new technique replaces the nozzles of an inkjet printer with a mesh covered chemically treated nano wires that repel water.

Actor Akshay Kumar launches multi-player mobile game FAU-G

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar took to micro blogging platform Twitter to announce the launch of a multi-player action game called 'Fearless And United-Guards' or FAU-G. The game has been developed by nCore, a mobile games and interactive entertainment company, based out of Bengaluru. The announcement came after India on Wednesday banned Chinese mobile gaming app PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds, popularly known by the acronym PUBG, and 117 others.

Chandrayaan-1 reveals presence of rusty minerals on Moon's surface

MoS Space Jitendra Singh said that ISRO's maiden mission to the Moon has sent images, which show that Moon may be rusting along the poles. The

sign of this finding is that even though the surface of the Moon is known to have iron - rich rocks, it is not known for the presence of water and oxygen, which are the two elements needed to interact with iron to create rust. NASA say that this could be because the Earth's own atmosphere is lending a helping hand which, in other words, means that the Earth's atmosphere could be protecting the Moon as well.

IIT Guwahati researchers design engineered surfaces to detect, prevent covid-19

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed methods to detect and prevent the novel coronavirus using bio-interface interactions between the virus and the surface spike protein.

China's 1st reusable spacecraft lands after 2-day flight

China's first reusable spacecraft landed Sunday after two days in orbit, a possible step toward lower-cost space flight, the government announced. The secretive, military-run space program has released few details of the craft, which was launched Friday aboard a Long March 2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China's desert northwest. The craft landed as planned at Jiuquan.

Chandrayaan-3 launch likely in early 2021

Minister of State for Space Dr Jitendra Singh said that the launch of Chandrayaan-3 may now take place somewhere in early 2021. Chandrayaan-3 will be a mission repeat of Chandrayaan-2 and will include a Lander and Rover similar to that of

Chandrayaan-2, but will not have an orbiter.

India successfully test fires Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

India conducted a successful test flight of the indigenously developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), joining an elite group of countries i.e. the US, Russia and China, who possess the technology. India first tested the HSTDV last year in June. The HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet technology demonstrator that can cruise up to a speed of mach 6 (or six times the speed of sound) and rise up to an altitude of 32 kilometres in 20 seconds.

Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence inaugurated at NIT Trichy

The Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence was inaugurated at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy, by its Director Dr Mini Shaji Thomas. The Centre, with various cutting edge technical facilities, was set up with Rs 1.18 crore funding from the Higher Education Funding Agency - HEFA.

Google rolls out Android 11 for Google Pixel, other mobiles

Google Android 11 launched to a wide range of smartphones including OnePlus, Google Pixel, Xiaomi, Oppo, and Realme. The final version of the Android can now be downloaded on Pixel 2, 3, 3A, 4, 4A, OnePlus 8 and 8 Pro.

NTPC to add 5 GW solar capacity over the next two years

State-run NTPC Ltd plans to add at least 5 gigawatt (GW) solar capacity over the next two years. India's largest

power generation utility plans to have 30 GW of renewables by 2030, also looking to acquire at least 1 GW of operational solar power projects. With 63 GW installed capacity, NTPC runs the largest fleet of coal based capacity in India.

iOS version of Cam Scanner alternative Carbon Scanner launched

Indian mobile app studio KShark Apps recently launched the iOS version of its app Carbon Scanner. The app was first introduced for Android users in the month of July. According to the company, downloads grew to 100,000 within a week of its launch and now the app has almost 400,000 users.

Apple develops special face masks for employees

Apple Inc. has developed masks that the company is beginning to distribute to corporate and retail employees to limit the spread of Covid-19. The mask looks unique with large coverings on the top and bottom for the wearer's nose and chin. The ClearMask, is the first FDA-cleared surgical mask that is completely transparent.

IIM, Kozhikode based incubatee start-up launches wearable gadget for implementing social distancing norms

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode based incubatee start-up has come up with a unique user friendly wearable device that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms. Known as the Veli Band, this wearable device has been developed by Qual5 India Pvt. Ltd, a startup co-founded by woman entrepreneur Kiranmayee. The start up was mentored and funded by IIMK's business

incubator and entrepreneurship development center. Veli Band helps implement social distancing and location and contact tracing which can help organizations comply with social distancing norms during the current pandemic situation. Veli Band momentarily vibrates, sounds buzzer, and flashes LED simultaneously to notify wearers that another band is within 3 feet.

Astronomers detect first-ever giant planet orbiting a dead star

Scientists have, for the first time, discovered a Jupiter-sized planet orbiting a white dwarf or a dead star located about 80 light years away. The finding, published in the journal Nature, shows the likely presence of the planet, named WD 1856 b, orbiting the smaller star remnant every 34 hours. This planet is roughly the size of Jupiter, but it also has a very short orbital period -- a year on this planet is only 1.4 days, so it's quickly whipping around its white dwarf star.

Facebook joins hands with Ray-Ban to launch smart glasses

Facebook is joining hands with one of the most popular eyewear brands in the world and even in India. The social media company is pairing with the Ray-Ban in order to develop new smart glasses. The new smart glasses are being built to help users connect to near and dear ones. The partnership with Essilor Luxottica SA was announced by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg at Facebook's annual conference. The new move seems to be an attempt to popularize smart glasses technology with help from the Ray-Ban brand.

Oracle will review TikTok source code to watch for Chinese access

ByteDance Ltd. would allow Oracle Corp. to review TikTok's source code and software to ensure there are no backdoors that allow the Chinese government or other entities to access the data, according to people familiar with the matter. Provision offered to the U.S. government by Beijing-based ByteDance in its effort to verify the security of TikTok.

Airbus unveils hydrogen powered designs for zero-emission flight

European planemaker Airbus SE unveiled three designs it's studying to build hydrogen-powered aircraft as it races to bring a zero-emission passenger plane into service by 2035. The approaches include a turbofan jet with capacity for as many as 200 passengers that can fly more than 2,000 nautical miles. It would be powered by a modified gas-turbine engine running on hydrogen.

Earth-sized 'Pi planet' discovered by astronomers at MIT

Scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), along with others, have discovered an earth-sized "Pi Planet" that revolves around its star every 3.14 days. The orbit of the planet is reminiscent of the universal mathematics constant. The researchers discovered signals of the planet in data taken in 2017 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Kepler Space Telescope's K2 mission.

NASA reveals plan to return to Moon in 2024; to cost \$28 billion

NASA revealed its latest plan to return astronauts to the Moon in 2024, and

estimated the cost of meeting that deadline at \$28 billion, \$16 billion of which would be spent on the lunar landing module. Three different projects are in competition to build the lunar lander that will carry two astronauts to the Moon. The first one is being developed by Blue Origin, founded by Jeff Bezos. The other two projects are being undertaken by Elon Musk's SpaceX and by the company Dynetics.

Reliance Jio starts offering mobile services on 22 international flights

Reliance Jio has started offering mobile services on 22 flights on international routes, with plans starting at ₹499 per day. The company's partner airlines include Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Etihad Airways, Euro Wings, Lufthansa, Malindo Air, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, and Alitalia.

DRDO successfully test-fires Laser-Guided Anti Tank Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on successfully test-fired the indigenously-developed Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) from the Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun at KK Ranges in Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.

DRDO conducts successful flight test of ABHYAS

The successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target was today conducted by Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha. Abhyas is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment of DRDO.

Samsung launches AI-powered washing machines in India

Samsung India has launched its 2020 range of 'AI-powered' front load washing machines which has its latest Q-Rator technology. Samsung has also launched a 7-kg washer dryer front load machine. The 10 kg fully automatic front load model will be available at ₹67,000 while the 10 kg washer dryer model will be available at ₹93,000. Both these models come with Samsung's new Q-Rator technology.

Made-in-India affordable COVID-19 test kit will show result in 1.5 hours

Indian Council of Medical Research approved another made-in-India coronavirus RT-PCR diagnostic kit for us. Dubbed as GlobalTM, the kit has been developed by Equine Biotech, a startup company founded by a faculty member of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The test takes about one and half hours to confirm the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in patient samples.

UAE plans to launch unmanned spacecraft to moon in 2024

The United Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024. The announcement by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the vice president and prime minister of the hereditarily ruled UAE, shows the rapid expansion of the space program that bears his name.

Airtel launches cyber security solutions for enterprises

Bharti Airtel Ltd launched a suite of cyber security solutions for large, medium and small businesses as they shift to digital and cloud platforms, increasing the need to protect data and

information from online attacks. The suite, Airtel Secure, will have a security intelligence centre, a state-of-the-art infrastructure with access to advanced technology and artificial intelligence tools. The telco has invested about ₹100 crore in Airtel security intelligence centre located in the National Capital region (NCR).

India test fires BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

India successfully test fired the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos having a range of around 400 km. The BrahMos cruise missile travels at a speed of Mach 2.8, nearly three times that of sound. The test firing of the missile was carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) off the coast of Balasore in Odisha.

Amazon unveils new biometric payment system

Amazon unveiled a new biometric payment system using palm recognition, to be made available to rival retailers and also promoted as a replacement for badge entry at stadiums or workplaces. The system called Amazon One was touted as 'a fast, convenient, contactless way for people to use their palm to make everyday activities like paying at a store'. Amazon One uses each individual's 'unique palm signature,' an alternative to other biometric identifiers.

SPORTS

Sumit Nagal becomes 1st Indian to win grand slam singles main draw match in 7 years

Sumit Nagal stormed into the second

round of the ongoing US Open Tennis last night. Nagal defeated Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open to progress further into the tournament. With this result, the 23-year-old Nagal has become the first Indian to win a singles main draw match at a Grand Slam in the last seven years. In 2013, Somdev Devvarman had reached the second round of the Australian Open, French Open and US Open.

BCCI signs on Cred as official partner for IPL in three-year deal

Cred, a digital community of creditworthy individuals, merchants and institutions, announced that it has become the official partner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020. Cred will start a variety of offers around credit card bill payments during the tournament.

Sports training camps in Uttar Pradesh to start from 1st October

In Uttar Pradesh, sports training camps will start from 1st October and will continue till March next year. The state Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Upendra Tiwari said that sports activities will be back on the track once the situation normalises.

Serena Williams wins in US Open Tennis Tournament

In the US Open tennis tournament, Serena Williams won in straight sets again. She moved into an all-American showdown against Sloane Stephens.

World Cup host Qatar set to play in Gold Cup next year in US

World Cup host Qatar is set to play in the Gold Cup next year in the United

States after accepting an invitation from soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean. The Asian Football Confederation issued a statement today saying the Asian Cup champion will participate in the 2021 and 2023 Gold Cup tournaments as a guest under a memorandum of understanding signed in Bahrain in 2017.

Cricketer Suresh Raina to set up cricket schools in J&K

International cricketer Suresh Raina called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Srinagar. The celebrity cricketer, on the request of Lt Governor, agreed to set up five schools in Kashmir division and an equal number in Jammu division to train the aspiring cricketers, particularly the youngsters from remote areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Novak Djokovic wins Men's Singles event in Italian Open

In tennis, world number one Novak Djokovic won a record 36th Masters title by beating Diego Schwartzman in the Italian Open at Rome.

RANKINGS

India ranks in top 50 countries for 1st time in Global Innovation Index

India ranked in the top 50 countries for the first time in the Global Innovation Index, which was released today. India jumped four positions to rank at 48th since 2019. The index compiled by World Intellectual Property Index

(WIPO) presented the latest global trends and annual innovation ranking for 131 countries.

Andhra Pradesh tops chart among all Indian States and UTs in BRAP 2019 rankings

Andhra Pradesh topped the chart among all Indian States and Union Territories in the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2019 rankings. Uttar Pradesh and Telangana bagged second and third positions respectively.

Gujarat & Andaman and Nicobar Islands named best performers in State StartUp Rankings 2019

State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been named the best performers in the State StartUp Rankings 2019. They have been recognized for their outstanding performance in simplifying commerce, enhancing productivity and leveraging technology. The State Startup Rankings was released in New Delhi. Karnataka and Kerala are the top performing states in the State StartUp Rankings for fostering innovative entrepreneurship to attract business and finance. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh are the emerging startup ecosystems in the country.

Singapore, Helsinki and Zurich top index of world's smartest cities

Singapore, Helsinki and Zurich are the world's smartest cities, according to an index published on Thursday amid a

growing debate on the future of urban design for a post-COVID era. From smart traffic cameras and car sharing apps to pollution monitoring and free wifi for all, cities around the world are racing to embrace technology, but researchers said the real test was whether citizens felt the benefits. Others in the top 10 included Auckland, Oslo, Copenhagen, Geneva, Taipei City, Amsterdam, New York, while Abuja, Nairobi and Lagos ranked bottom.

India ranks 116 in World Bank's human capital index

India has been ranked at the 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index that benchmarks key components of human capital across countries. However, India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.

OBITUARY

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, Indispensable Man of Indian Politics, Dies at 84

Pranab Mukherjee, an Indian politician who rose to high office alongside one of India's longest-serving prime ministers, Indira Gandhi, died on Monday at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 84. A journalist turned politician, he was India's president from 2012 to 2017 and wore many hats during a career that spanned political generations.

Father of India's Radio Astronomy Govind Swarup passes away

Father of India's Radio Astronomy, Dr.

Govind Swarup passed away at Pune. He was 91. He was admitted to a local hospital due to ill health a few days ago. Dr. Swarup is known not only for his many important research contributions in several areas of astronomy and astrophysics, but also for his outstanding achievements in building ingenious, innovative and powerful observational facilities for front-line research in radio astronomy.

Liberation war fighter Ziauddin Tariq Ali passes away in Dhaka

Liberation war fighter and a prominent public figure of Bangladesh Ziauddin Tariq Ali passed away in Dhaka on Monday. He was admitted to a specialised hospital in Dhaka after getting infected with Corona two weeks back. He was a member of the cultural group 'Muktir Gaan', that inspired the freedom fighters through their songs during the Liberation War in 1971.

Arya Samaj leader, Social activist Swami Agnivesh passes away

Arya Samaj leader and social activist Swami Agnivesh passed away today at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, ILBS in New Delhi. He was 80. Swami Agnivesh was suffering from liver cirrhosis and was critically ill and on ventilatory support due to multi organ failure.

Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passes away

Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away. He was undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Delhi about a week ago after developing post-Covid complications. Raghuvansh

Prasad Singh, recently resigned from RJD party.

Renowned scholar of Indian classical dance Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan passes away

Leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture and art history, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan passed away. She was a former Member of Parliament and also served as Secretary to the Government in the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for the establishment of a large number of national institutions of higher education. Dr Vatsyayan served as the founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. She was former President of India International Centre (IIC) and an IIC Life Trustee and the Chairperson of the IIC International Research Division.

Bill Gates Sr., father of Microsoft's co-founder, dies at 94

William H. Gates Sr., a lawyer raised in the Great Depression who helped his son give away an immense fortune, has died. He was 94. He had played a role in the development of Microsoft, the world's largest software company.

Newly elected RS MP Ashok Gasti passed away

Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Karnataka minister Ashok Gasti passed away in Bengaluru. He was admitted to Manipal Hospital after he tested positive for coronavirus (Covid-19). The BJP leader had taken oath as a Rajya Sabha MP on July 22 this year.

Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha MP Roza

Deshpande passes away

Veteran Communist leader and former Lok Sabha Member Roza Deshpande died at her residence in Mumbai due to old age. Deshpande, 91, was the daughter of Shripad Amrit Dange, one of the founders of the Communist Party of India.

Former Maharashtra BJP MLA Sardar Tara Singh passes away

Former Maharashtra BJP MLA Sardar Tara Singh died in Mumbai due to prolonged illness. He was 82. Senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya said, Sardar Tara Singh breathed his last this morning at a private hospital in Mumbai. Mr Somaiya said, Singh had been in the hospital since the last several days and was undergoing treatment for various illnesses. He was elected from Mulund Assembly Constituency in Mumbai four times in a row.

Noted Marathi actress Ashalata Wabgaonkar passes away

Noted Marathi actress and Bollywood's veteran character artist Ashalata Wabgaonkar passed away this morning due to Covid 19 infection at a hospital in Satara in Maharashtra. She was 79.

Dr Sekhar Basu, Eminent Nuclear Scientist And Champion Of Mega Science Projects, Passes Away

Renowned Indian nuclear scientist Dr Sekhar Basu has passed away in Kolkata after he was reportedly suffering from COVID-19 and other kidney ailments. He was 68 years old. Dr Basu played key roles in advancing nuclear science and engineering in India. Most notably, he served as the director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) before taking over as the

chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Railways MoS Suresh Angadi dies of Covid-19

Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi passed away Wednesday at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. Angadi was undergoing treatment for Covid-19. He was 65.

Australian cricketer Dean Jones dies of cardiac arrest in Mumbai

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones has died of cardiac arrest in a Mumbai hotel. The 59 year old Dean Mervyn Jones was part of the 1987 World Cup winning team. He had played 52 Tests and 164 ODIs for Australia. He was one of the great ambassadors of the game associating himself with Cricket development across South Asia.

Singing Legend SP Balasubrahmanyam Passes Away

Legendary playback singer SP Balasubrahmanyam passed away at the age of 74. The singer had been admitted at MGM Healthcare since August 5 after he tested positive for coronavirus.

Economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia passes away

Economist Isher Judge Ahluwalia passes away at 74 after battling brain cancer. Isher Ahluwalia was Chairperson of the think-tank ICRIER for 15 years and had stepped down last month due to ill health. In 2009, she was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President for her services in the field of education and literature.

Former Union Minister Jaswant Singh passes away

Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Jaswant Singh passed away in New Delhi following a prolonged illness. He was 82. He had been admitted to Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi following a fall at his residence six years ago in 2014.

World's first HIV survivor dies after cancer returns

Timothy Ray Brown, the first person known to be cured of HIV when he had a unique type of bone marrow transplant, has died in California after relapsing with cancer. Timothy Brown, born on March 11, 1966, became known as the 'Berlin Patient' after his HIV was cleared by treatment there in 2007.

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