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CURRENT AFFAIRS
Monthly Current Affairs Capsule
October 2020

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Monthly Current Affairs: October 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

International Day of the Older Persons is observed on October 1

One of the important days in October is the International Day of Older Persons is celebrated to acknowledge and appreciate contributions made by older people in society. The United Nations General Assembly was selected on October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons on 14 December 1990.

International Coffee Day is observed on October 1

October 1 also celebrates one of the most popular beverages in the world – coffee is celebrated by stating the day as International Coffee Day. This year in 2020, the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) is calling on coffee lovers around the world to pledge their support for a fair, living income for coffee farmers.

World Vegetarian Day is observed on October 1

October 1 is celebrated as the World Vegetarian Day. It is celebrated to highlight the advantages of being vegetarian and to show the meatless life can also be a very delicious life.

Gandhi Jayanti is observed on 2 October

October 2 is one of the most important days in India. The day is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti and is a national holiday. It is the day when Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, fondly known as Mahatma Gandhi was born. A grateful nation is paying homage to Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 151st Birth Anniversary today. A series of activities are being organized across the country and also around the Globe. Many virtual events are being held in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

German Unity Day (First Saturday of October)

Another one of the most important days in October is German Unity Day. In the year 1990, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Democratic Republic of Germany united to create one single federal in Germany. In the memory of this day, October 3 is celebrated as German Unity Day.

World Animal Welfare Day is celebrated on 4 October

October 4 is celebrated as World Animal Welfare Day. For the celebration of this day unites the animal welfare movement, mobilising it into a global force to make the world a better place for all animals.



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World Teacher's Day is observed on October 5

October 5 is celebrated in order to show appreciation towards teachers. The day is observed globally but is not a public holiday is not declared. In 1994, World Teacher's Day was celebrated for the first time.

World Habitat Day is observed on October 5

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. 2020 Theme: Housing For All — A Better Urban Future.

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on October 8

October 8 is celebrated as the Indian Air Force day. On this day in the year 1932, the force had participated in many wars and missions. Hence the day is celebrated as the anniversary. Every year IAF plans the day in advance. In 2020, according to the Indian Air Force Modernization Plan of 2020: Challenges for Regional Air Forces will be defining its vision in the wake of the 'Arun Singh Task Force on Management of Defence'.

International Day of the Girl Child is observed on 11 October

October 11 has been marked as the International Day of the Girl Child. The day highlights and addresses the women empowerment and the needs and challenges that girls face including the fulfilment of their rights. International Day of the Girl Child is being celebrated across the districts of Nagaland, under this year's theme, "**My voice, our equal future**".

World Calamity Control Day (UN) or UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is observed on October 13

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is globally observed on October 13. The United Nations' (UN) International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is marked to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction.

National Philately Day is observed on October 13

The National Philately Day is being celebrated on 13 October throughout the country. The Philately is the study of postage stamps and postal history. The day also marks the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other philatelic products.

World Standards Day is observed on October 14

One of the special days in October is 14, the members of IEC, ISO and ITU of the International Standards Association celebrate World Standards Day. They pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of the thousands of experts worldwide. These experts here have to develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards.



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Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is observed on October 15

The day was established in 2002 in the United States and Canada on October 15 in order to honour, celebrate, and remember babies who have passed away due to miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death, and other causes of infant loss.

Global Handwashing Day is observed on October 15

October 15 is Global Handwashing Day. The day is dedicated to increasing awareness about hygiene. The day is to make people understand the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. Handwashing has always been one of the most effective ways of keeping diseases at bay and is also one of the key cornerstones of COVID-19 prevention.

World White Cane Day is observed on October 15

The National Federation of the Blind celebrates White Cane Awareness Day every year on October 15. According to the NFB President Mark A. Riccobono, White Cane Awareness Day is a way of emphasizing the critical role that the white cane plays in living the lives we want and informing the public about its true significance.

World Students' Day is observed on October 15

World Students' Day is a celebration of diversity, multiculturalism and cooperation among students across the world. Students display and celebrate their acts of social responsibility and have gatherings on campus. The theme of this year's celebration is **Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace**.

International Day of Rural Women is observed on October 15

International Day of Rural Women is observed on October 15. The Day recognizes the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

World Food Day is observed on October 16

World Food Day is annually celebrated on October 16 to commemorate the founding of the United Nations' (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). A World Food Day official symbol consists of three abstract human figures distributing, harvesting and sharing food.

International Poverty Eradication Day is observed October 17

October 17 is marked as the International Poverty Eradication Day. According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, one of the keys to ending child poverty is addressing poverty in the household, from which it often stems. Access to quality social services must be a priority.

World Statistics Day is observed on October 20



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The third World Statistics Day will be celebrated around the globe on 20 October 2020 with the theme “Connecting the world with data we can trust.” This theme reflects the importance of trust, authoritative data, innovation and the public good in national statistical systems.

World Osteoporosis Day is observed on October 20

World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on October 20, and launches a year-long campaign dedicated to raising global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. The campaign will feature “THAT’S OSTEOPOROSIS” as a headline, highlighting emotionally impactful visuals and stories of real people living with osteoporosis in all regions of the world.

Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21

The Police Commemoration Day is observed on October 21, 2020. The day is observed on October 21 every year to honour the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation.

International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed on October 22

International Stuttering Awareness Day is observed annually on October 22. Stuttering is a communication disorder in which repetitions or abnormal stoppages of sounds and syllables -break the flow of speech. This year’s theme is “Journey of Words – Resilience and Bouncing Back”.

National Mole Day is observed on October 23

National Mole Day recognizes a special number in chemistry. We’ll eliminate any visions of a burrowing creature celebration immediately. Chemists and chemistry students mark the occasion each year on October 23.

United Nations Day is observed on 24 October

October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. The United Nations officially came into being after the signatory documents which includes the five permanent members of the Security Council. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter.

World Development Information Day is observed on 24 October

The General Assembly in 1972 established World Development Information Day to draw the attention of the world to development problems. Hence October 24 is marked as World Development Information Day.

World Polio Day is observed on 24 October

World Polio Day is celebrated on October 24th. World Polio Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis. The theme for 2020 is “**A win against polio is a win for global health.**”



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Vigilance Awareness Week from 27 October to 2 November

The Central Vigilance Commission observes the Vigilance Awareness Week from 27 October to 2 November, 2020. This is observed every year during the week in which the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October) falls. This awareness week campaign affirms our commitment to promotion of integrity and probity in public life through citizen participation. Theme 2020: Satark Bharat, Samridh Bharat (Vigilant India, Prosperous India).

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on October 27

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage takes place every 27 October. This commemorative day was chosen by UNESCO in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents. This year the theme of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is "Your Window to the World".

World Thrift Day is observed on October 31

World Thrift Day is celebrated on October 31 every year. It was a day "devoted to the promotion of savings all over the world". It is a worldwide celebration well supported by savings and responsible retail banks, schools, women's associations, sports bodies, cultural organizations and professional agencies etc.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is observed on October 31

The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or the National Unity Day that is celebrated on October 31 in India. The day is the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. During the time of India's independence, Patel played a key role in convincing several princely states to align with the Indian Union.

STATE NEWS

UP becomes first state in country to undertake over one crore tests to screen Coronavirus

Uttar Pradesh has achieved another landmark in testing of COVID samples by becoming the first state in the country to undertake over one crore tests to screen Coronavirus. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath termed it a great achievement and said that the government has conducted 1.5 lakh tests per day for the past 45 days.

Inter-faith prayer held at Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi

An interfaith prayer meeting was held at Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi this evening on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid floral tributes at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial to offer his respects.



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Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Central Jail launches 'Radio Prison' on 151st Birth Anniversary of Father of the Nation

Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad has launched 'Radio Prison' on the occasion of the 151st Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation. The Radio Prison- will offer educational, legal and health related details to prisoners within the jail premises. Radio Prison is a unique initiative of Sabarmati Central Jail, which was inaugurated by Addition DGP (Prison) K.L.N. Rao.

On World Postcard Day, picture postcard named "Jau Kandhei" released on theme 'Traditional Toys of India'

On the occasion of World Postcard Day today, the Chief Postmaster General, Odisha Circle, has released a picture postcard named "Jau Kandhei" on the theme of 'Traditional Toys of India'.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to launch mega anti-air pollution campaign

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will launch a mega anti-air pollution campaign on Monday following a meeting with departments concerned. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will launch a mega anti-air pollution campaign after a meeting with officials from departments of environment, transport, development, PWD, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Jal Board, traffic police and municipal corporations.

NABARD launches sanitation literacy campaign in Karnataka

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD regional office in Karnataka launched the Sanitation Literacy Campaign to promote literacy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, (WASH) under Swach Bharath Mission. Inaugurating the campaign in Bengaluru on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. NABARD Chief General Manager, Niraj Kumar Verma said, there is a need for continuous awareness creation to sustain behavioural change among the rural masses for good hygiene and sanitation.

Finance Ministry grants additional borrowing permission to UP, Andhra Pradesh

Union Finance Ministry has granted additional borrowing permission to Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for successfully undertaking reforms in the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Ease of Doing Business. This will make an additional amount of seven thousand 376 crore rupees available to these states.

'Corona Intensive Community Survey Campaign' underway in Chhattisgarh

In Chhattisgarh, "Corona Intensive Community Survey Campaign" is going on. Under this campaign, a door-to-door survey is being conducted to identify patients with symptoms of corona infection in rural and urban areas of the state by October 12. The objective of this campaign is to identify Corona patients as soon as possible by conducting intensive community surveys in urban and rural areas. Through this campaign, the state government is trying to break the chain of corona infection by isolating corona patients.



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Gujarat govt announces Digital Seva Setu Programme for rural areas

Gujarat Government has announced Digital Seva Setu Programme for the rural areas. Under this programme, the citizens will be able to get benefit from various public welfare services at the Panchayat level. The villages of Gujarat will be connected with a 100 MBPS optical fibre network under the Digital Seva Setu programme. Digital Seva Setu programme has been announced by the Chief Minister Vijay Rupani at a press conference in Gandhinagar.

Uttar Pradesh CM inaugurates INOX oxygen plant in Modi Nagar

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated INOX oxygen plant at Modi Nagar in Ghaziabad through Video conferencing. The inauguration of the oxygen plant, which has a capacity of 150 Tonnes per Day, coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Jan Andolan for creating awareness regarding Covid-19. The MoU for this plant was signed in 2018 in presence of PM Narendra Modi during investor's summit in 2018.

Maharashtra becomes first state to cap prices of masks

In Maharashtra, the committee appointed to control the price of masks and sanitizers, has submitted a report to the State Government. Health Minister Rajesh Tope said that the process of deciding on the price fixed by the committee is in the final stage.

Pune airport will remain shut during night for one year

The flight operations at the Pune airport will remain shut during night for a year due to recarpeting work of the runway. "The recarpeting work of the runway is going to start from October 26 and will be on for around one year. Since the work is planned during the night time, the runway will be shut for flight operations between 8 pm and 8 am. Pune airport will remain shut during night for a year due to recarpeting work of the runway.

ADB approves 300 million US dollar loan to finance water supply, sanitation infrastructure in Rajasthan

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 300 million US dollar loan to finance inclusive and sustainable water supply and sanitation infrastructure and services in 14 secondary towns of the state of Rajasthan. The signatories to the Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project were Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

Kerala introduces high-tech digital classrooms in all its public schools

Kerala, the highly literate state, is pioneering digital classroom technology. And it is introducing high-tech classrooms in all its public schools. Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has implemented the project which comes under the general education department. Over 3.74 lakh digital equipments were distributed in 16,027 schools for the smart classroom project. Apart from KIIFB fund, the asset development funds of public representatives and local government funds were also utilized for the project.



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Union Cabinet okays ₹520 cr package under NRLM for Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government will extend its National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) aimed at increasing household incomes in rural areas to the two newly created Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The programme, aimed at women, will ensure they get better access to credit facilities.

“SAKHI” One-Stop Service Centre for women inaugurated in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir

“SAKHI” One-Stop Service Centre for women in Ramban district. The Ministry has been implementing a scheme for setting up One Stop Centres since April 2015 to support women affected by violence. The scheme aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance and legal aid or case management, psycho-social counselling and temporary support services to women affected by violence. Under the scheme, it has been envisaged that One Stop Centre would be set up across the country at district level in a phased manner.

Maharashtra govt to probe Jalyukt Shivar water conservation scheme

Maharashtra government will probe the Jalyukt Shivar water conservation scheme launched by the Devendra Fadnavis- led government. The "Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyaan", launched with the objective of making Maharashtra a drought-free state by 2019; involved deepening and widening of streams, construction of cement and earthen stop dams besides digging of farm ponds.

Gujarat govt announces setting up of world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district

Gujarat government has announced the setting up of the world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district. The Memorandum of Understanding for this project was signed with Vedanta Group. The proposed 300 KTPA production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area. The first phase of the proposed plant will be operational in 36 months. The project with the investment of Rs.10 thousand crore will also have a State-of-the-art Research and Development Centre.

MP Police begins initiative to connect Banchhara, Kanjar communities with mainstream society

Madhya Pradesh police have started an initiative to connect Banchhara and Kanjar community with the mainstream of the society. These communities are known for their criminal activities. This is the first of its kind of attempt in Madhya Pradesh. Ratlam SP Gaurav Tiwari informed that the youth of these communities are getting free training and employment in private companies. Efforts are also being made to provide them opportunities in police recruitment.



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UP govt decides to set up women help desk in every police station of state

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered to establish women help desks in each and every police station of the state. The Chief Minister gave the instruction in a meeting with senior government officials and asked them to prioritize and ensure the women's security in the state.

Kerala CM inaugurates operations of 1st phase of IIAV at Thonakkal, Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the operations of the first phase of International Institute of Advanced Virology at the life sciences park at Thonakkal, Thiruvananthapuram through video conference. He lauded the efforts of the robust public health system within the state for containing pandemics like Nipah and covid to a great extent.

J&K Govt inks MoU with Flipkart to provide platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers to reach customers worldwide

In a significant step to promote the rural economy and to boost the sale of genuine products of Jammu & Kashmir, the JK Government signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with online store Flipkart to provide a platform for local artisans, craftsmen, weavers to reach customers across the globe.

Delhi CM launches campaign 'Red light on, Gaadi off' to tackle air pollution

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a campaign Red light on, Gaadi off to tackle air pollution in the national capital. Mr Kejriwal said that there are one crore vehicles registered in the city. He urged people to switch off their vehicles, while waiting on a traffic signal.

Delhi govt exempts registration fee for electric vehicles

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government exempted electric vehicles from registration fee in the national capital. The government's policy to exempt all battery operated vehicles from registration fee under its electric vehicle policy was shared by Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot.

ITBP launches cycling expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim

The Eleventh Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) launched a cycling expedition from its Pegong base in Sikkim to border villages of the state. The Minister of Culture, Road and Bridges Department of Sikkim Samdup Lepcha flagged off the expedition. Total 218 Kilometers will be covered by the ITBP team in the course of 20 days in difficult terrains.

Star-studded Ramleela begins at Laxman Qila in Ayodhya

The star-studded Ramleela started at Laxman Qila in Ayodhya. Doordarshan is broadcasting it live. The live telecast, being done for the first time, will be available from 7 pm every day through the nine-day Navratri period leading up to Dussehra on October 25. State Culture Minister, Neelkanth Tiwari inaugurated the 9-day long event by lighting lamps. Delhi MP, Pravesh Verma was also present on the first day of Ramlila.



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UP government launches 'Mission Shakti' campaign to tackle crime against women

Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 6-month long women empowerment campaign 'Mission Shakti' to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state. The campaign was kicked off by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Devi Paatan Shakti Peeth (देवीपाटन शक्ति पीठ) in Balrampur. Mr Yogi said that the government is committed to the security of women. The campaign was initiated by various ministers, public representatives and senior officials in all 75 districts across the state.

"My Town My Pride" campaign will be for urban areas on the lines of "Back to Village" in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced that the government is coming up with a movement called "My Town My Pride" from October 19 to provide governance at the doorsteps in urban areas on the pattern of the "Back to Village" programme. Three main objectives – public outreach in towns, strengthening grassroots democracy, and service delivery at doorsteps.

Nagaland Minister for Health & Family Welfare launches handbook on "TB Harega, Desh Jeetega"

Nagaland Minister for Health and Family Welfare , Mr. S. Pangnyu Phom launched a handbook on "TB Harega, Desh Jeetega" . The government's commitment to end Tuberculosis by 2025 in the country.

Telangana Dharani portal to safeguard ownership of immovable property

Dharani project, the Telangana government's online facility for enlistment of nonagricultural properties, has been conceptualised as a comprehensive system for safeguarding ownership and streamlining transactions related to immovable properties in the state. A digital database of agricultural properties has already been created and Pattadar passbooks (green) have been issued. Now, a similar database is proposed to be created for non-agricultural properties for which maroon colour Non-Agriculture Immoveable Property Passbooks (NPBs) will be issued.

Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will virtually lay the foundation stone for the first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam. The Rs 693.97 crore park will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people. It will be developed under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India.

Kati Bihu Celebrated In Assam

Locals in Bongaigaon celebrated the Kati Bihu festival in Assam. Kati Bihu marks an important day for the Assamese people as they celebrate it by lighting up their homes and agricultural fields. People perform cultural dances and organise feasts.



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West Bengal Government Launches Campaign To Curb Elephant Deaths Due To Electrocution

The West Bengal government launched a campaign in areas adjoining elephant habitats in the northern part of the state. This campaign has been launched to prevent electrocution deaths of elephants. The campaign will focus on areas adjoining Buxa Tiger Reserve, Jaldapara and Gorumara national parks.

Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site

Asan Conservation Reserve has become Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site, making it a 'Wetland of International Importance', announced the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of the Himalayan state.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launches 'Mo Bidyut' portal, app

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched an electricity consumer service portal "Mo Bidyut" and its mobile app to provide efficient, time-bound and transparent online service to the people of the State. Electricity services will now come under Mo Sarkar, people now need not run to various offices for new connections, bill payment or grievance redressal.

Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to cap prices of masks

The Maharashtra state govt had constituted a committee to give suggestions about regulating prices of Masks and Sanitisers. By this Maharashtra becomes the first state in the country to cap prices of masks. N95 masks will now be available at Rs 19 to Rs 49, while two-layer and three-layer masks will be available for Rs 3 to 4.

Surat now has India' longest BRTS network

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani e-launched projects worth more than Rs 200 crore in The BRTS corridor from Kumbharia to Kadodora was opened. With the opening of this BRTS corridor , Surat has become the only city in the country to have the longest BRTS network of 108 km. Unveiling the development works of SMC and SUDA through video conference from Gandhinagar.

Govt partners with FICCI for Make-in-Odisha 2020

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has been selected as the national industry partner for the third edition of 'Make in Odisha' conclave, the flagship industrial summit of the Odisha Government that showcases the State as an industrial powerhouse and a preferred investment destination in the country.

Meghalaya CM launches 'micro ATM' service in rural areas

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma launched the 'micro ATM' service in rural areas of the state. He distributed the handheld devices, through which money could be withdrawn, to banking



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correspondent agents (BCA). “The implementation of various development and welfare schemes get delayed due to the absence of basic banking infrastructure”.

Andhra Pradesh govt launches YSR Bima scheme

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched YSR Bima scheme. The scheme will benefit 1.41 crore families by providing insurance cover. The State government will be paying 510 crore every year as a premium for the scheme.

Uttarakhand CM Rawat Launches Integrated Model Agricultural Village Scheme

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme (Ekikrit Adarsh Krishi Gram Yojana) in the state in partnership with NABARD. Integrated Model Agricultural Village scheme is a concept which will prove to be a milestone in strengthening the economy of farmers and doubling their income.

Tamil Nadu govt implements Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 govt schools

Tamil Nadu government is implementing the Smart Black Board scheme in 80,000 government schools to ensure a better teaching environment. The Smart Black Board scheme envisages usage of audio visual teaching material that can be fed into the computer screens in classes using widely available pen drives. The central government has also launched a similar scheme called Operation Digital Board Scheme.

Assam CM lays foundation stone of Agar International Trade Centre at Dabidubi

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone of Assam Agar International Trade Centre at Dabidubi, Golaghat. The ambitious project is expected to provide an environment of investment in agarwood which aims at boosting Assam’s economy. The new trade centre would significantly help the farmers and entrepreneurs of Agar to sell their products.

SIFCO begins construction of integrated food processing units in Sikkim

In a boost to organic farming and food production in Sikkim, IFFCO’s organic joint venture, Sikkim IFFCO Organics Ltd. or SIFCO, has initiated construction of two integrated food processing units at Rangpo, East Sikkim. The project would be completed by October 2021 at a cost of around 50 crore rupees. All products will be 100 percent organic certified. This is expected to promote sustainable agriculture and promote Green Himalayan Economy through Sikkim, which is already recognized as a 100 percent organic state.

Haryana tops Anemia Mukta Bharat Index

Haryana State has the best Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) Index among 29 states in the country. The Anemia Mukta Bharat, an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has been launched to reduce the prevalence of Anemia all over India. This information came to light during the 8th Governing Body Meeting of the State Health Society of the National Health Mission (NHM) in Chandigarh.



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Jammu and Kashmir's grievance system integrated with Centres portal

In a significant effort to strengthen the governance mechanism and to ensure prompt action in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the online grievance system of the UT has been integrated with the central grievance portal. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in the Union Ministry of Personnel has collaborated with the J&K administration on this.

War memorial of 1962 braveheart, Sub Joginder Singh inaugurated at Bum La

Under the patronage of Arunachal Government and with efforts of Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, a War Memorial has been constructed at Bum La, where Sub Joginder Singh, 1st Battalion the Sikh Regt made the supreme sacrifice.

Mysuru in Karnataka organised Jamboo Savari elephant procession

Mysuru in Karnataka organised the Jamboo Savari elephant procession on the tenth and concluding day of Dussehra.

Administrator of UT Chandigarh launches App for online monitoring of rescue, reporting, release of wildlife in Chandigarh

The Governor of Punjab & the Administrator of UT Chandigarh V.P. Singh Badnore launched the Mobile Based Application (App) for online monitoring of rescue, reporting and release of the wildlife in Chandigarh. This Mobile App works on all Android supporting smartphones. Through this App, timely dissemination of information to the concerned authorities is possible for injured and distressed wild animals.

Young Advocates Welfare Fund launched in Tamil Nadu

In Tamil Nadu, the Young Advocates Welfare Fund has been launched. It provides a monthly financial assistance of three thousand rupees each for two years to the lawyers who just come out of law colleges. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy handed over the assistance to nine young lawyers at a function in Chennai today as a mark of launching it throughout the state.

UP govt secures first rank in disbursing loans under PM Swanidhi Scheme

Uttar Pradesh government has secured the first rank in central government's one of the most ambitious schemes - the PM Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (SVANidhi Scheme) by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute loans to around 3 lakh beneficiaries and will interact with a few of them tomorrow via video conferencing. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also be present on the occasion.

India's First Sand Dune Park To Come Up In Goa With The Support Of World Bank

Goa, the beach state is all set to have India's first sand dune park. The World Bank accepted the proposal of the Biodiversity Board of the state and has sanctioned a sum of Rs 3 crore for the project. Sand dunes are geological deposits formed by the action of wind. As part of the efforts, bridges will



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be constructed using eco-friendly materials to reduce the chances of the sand dune vegetation being walked over.

Telangana CM launches 'Dharani' Portal for land & property registrations

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao launched 'Dharani' Portal for land and property registrations at Mudu Chinatalapalli village of Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The website has been launched with all the details of properties of the citizens. The property details which are not uploaded on the portal will be treated as illegal and will not be allowed for further registrations or mutation. The portal has been part of the recent revenue reforms taken up by the state government.

Kolkata International Film Festival rescheduled to January 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the internationally acclaimed Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) has been rescheduled to January 2021 by West Bengal Government.

Delhi CM launches 'Green Delhi' App to increase citizen participation in fight against pollution

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the 'Green Delhi' App to increase citizen participation in Delhi's fight against pollution and ensure timely action against pollution sources in the city. 'Green Delhi' App is available on the android version. Through this app, people can register their complaints regarding the pollution. The complaint will automatically reach the concerned department and it will take time bound action on the complaint.

PM Modi inaugurates Jungle Safari project at Statue of Unity in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Jungle Safari project at the Statue of Unity near Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat. The project known as Sardar Patel Zoological Park has been completed in a record time. This state-of-art Zoological Park project is spread over 375 acre of land and built at seven different levels. It will house over 1100 birds and 100 different species of animals from across the globe.

Andhra bans online gaming, betting

Andhra Pradesh has banned online gaming, online betting and gambling, and has urged the Centre to direct all internet service providers to block access to 132 websites and apps, including Paytm First Game, Mobile Premier League and Adda52, that are providing such services in the state. The list, however, does not include Dream11, the main sponsor of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020, which also provides online gaming and gives chance to its users to win cashbacks.

Delhi govt approves over ₹40 crore to give insurance to lawyers

The Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government on Friday approved more than ₹40 crore to provide medical insurance of ₹5 lakh and term insurance of ₹10 lakh to lawyers, who are residents of the national capital, according to Law Minister Kailash Gahlot.



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FIP organises virtual version of Delhi Book Fair this year

The Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) has organised a virtual version of Delhi Book Fair this year in light of the Corona pandemic. The organisers said that arranging the book fair online was a challenging task but expressed satisfaction that the virtual module of the Delhi book fair 2020 has opened up new and future avenues of marketing books.

145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' in Himachal Pradesh

In Himachal Pradesh, 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' at the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla. Chief Minister Jairam Thakur garlanded a portrait of Sardar Patel at the Ridge. He also administered the oath of national unity pledge to the gathering. An impressive march past was also taken out by the State Police on this occasion.

Kerala becomes best governed state

According to the Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre in Bengaluru, Kerala was pronounced the best governed state in India while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the large states category. Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar were at the bottom of the ranking, scoring negative points in the category.

India's first 'Tyre Park' to come up in West Bengal

West Bengal will soon feature "India's first" 'Tyre Park', where artworks made from scrap and defective parts will be on display. The Tyre Park, which will come up at Esplanade area, would have a small cafe where people can sit, relax and enjoy the craftsmanship made from tyres. The date of launch of the Tyre Park will be announced shortly.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

48-day long webinar on Gandhi Ji's thoughts on Health & Nutrition to begin on Oct 2

The National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune in association with the Regional Outreach Bureau Maharashtra and Goa of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is organizing a 48 day- long series of Webinars starting 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti. Ayush Ministry said the webinar will be held from 11 AM to 12 noon every day, and can be viewed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/punenin. The webinars will be on the theme Mahatma Gandhi- The Healer and are intended to propagate the relevance of Gandhi Ji's thoughts on Health and Nutrition in the 21st century among people of all walks of life. The aim of this webinar is to promote the benefits of Naturopathy.

Arjun Munda to launch largest market of tribal products 'Tribes India E-Marketplace'



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Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda will virtually launch India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace- Tribes India E-Marketplace on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Keeping in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of making India Aatmanirbhar and self-reliant, this path breaking initiative of TRIFED will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from across the country. It will help them market their products directly.

PM Modi to inaugurate world's longest highway tunnel 'Atal Tunnel', Rohtang

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Atal Tunnel, Rohtang on 3rd of October. It is the longest highway tunnel in the world. The 9.02-kilometre long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. Earlier, the valley was cut off for about six months each year owing to heavy snowfall. The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of three thousand metres from the Mean Sea Level. It reduces the road distance by 46 kilometres between Manali and Leh and the time by about four to five hours.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated VAIBHAV summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Vaishwik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit. The VAIBHAV summit is a global virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians and is being organized from October 2 to October 31.

Department of Justice organises Shramdan drive to commemorate Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

The Department of Justice organised a Shramdan drive in New Delhi to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Law and Justice Ministry said online essay and painting competitions were organised as part of the drive. All the officers and staff pledged to maintain cleanliness as an essential character in their life.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal virtually inaugurates Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East West Metro corridor

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal virtually inaugurated the Phoolbagan Station of Kolkata's East West Metro corridor, and flagged off the first train from there to Salt Lake Sector-V. Mr Goyal also said the entire stretch of the corridor, connecting Sector-V and Howrah Maidan, is likely to be completed by December 2021.

PM Modi to inaugurate Summit RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Summit RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Summit RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'. RAISE-2020 will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility, among other sectors.

Hardeep Singh Puri addresses webinar on World Habitat Day 2020



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Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said that the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations member states is a guiding document for a planet and people. He said, 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets reflect the collective vision which need to be achieved by the year 2030.

Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan releases 'Ayush Standard Treatment Protocol' to fight Coronavirus

Health Minister Dr Harshvardhan released the 'Ayush Standard Treatment Protocol' through video conferencing. The protocol contains the detailed self-care guidelines for preventive health measures to help protect against COVID-19 pandemic. The upgradation of protocols by the Ministry of AYUSH has been done in sync with ICMR and CSIR.

Naval Investiture Ceremony held at Visakhapatnam

Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain PVSM, AVSM, VSM Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief(FOC-in-C) Eastern Naval Command conferred Gallantry and non-Gallantry Awards announced on the Republic Day this year to meritorious personnel, as well as citations to Naval units which have distinguished themselves during the past year at the Naval Investiture Ceremony conducted at Visakhapatnam. The ceremony was conducted at Samudrika Naval Auditorium and was witnessed by senior dignitaries of the Indian Navy and families of the awardees.

ISLRTC & NCERT to ink MoU to make education materials accessible for Deaf children

A historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed today between Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) and NCERT to make education materials accessible for Deaf children in their preferred format of communication. This MoU will be signed in the virtual presence of Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. As part of this MoU, educational print materials including NCERT Textbooks, Teachers Handbook and other Supplementary materials and resources of Class I-XII of all subjects of both Hindi and English Medium will be converted into Indian Sign Language in Digital format.

Emission norms for tractors to be applicable from October 2021

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has said that emission norms for tractors will be applicable from October next year and for Construction Equipment Vehicles, the norms will be applicable from April next year. The Ministry has notified amendment to Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989 on 30th September, 2020 deferring the applicability date for implementing the next stage of emission norms for tractors and Construction Equipment Vehicles.

IFFCO, Prasar Bharati sign MoU to broadcast & promote new agriculture technology & innovations

Prasar Bharati and Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, IFFCO have signed a MoU to broadcast and promote new agriculture technology and innovations. According to the agreement, DD



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Kisan will broadcast various innovative techniques being adopted in the agriculture field in easy language through a 30 minutes program series for the benefit of farmers. IFFCO's innovations will be shared with farmers in easy language through DD Kisan in approximately 25 episodes.

Union Cabinet gives approval for signing MoC in field of cyber-security between India & Japan

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the field of cyber-security between India and Japan. The MoC will enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest, which includes capacity building in the area of cyberspace, protection of critical infrastructure, cooperation in emerging technologies, sharing information on cyber security threats and malicious cyber activities. It will also help in addressing the cyber issues through best practices.

Smriti Irani launches first ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton on 2nd World Cotton Day

Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the first ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on Second World Cotton Day through video conferencing. Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade. The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.

Oil India begins exploration for oil and gas in Andaman sea

Oil India Ltd, the nation's second-biggest state-owned oil producer, on Thursday said it has started exploring for oil and gas in the Andaman sea. OIL said it has begun acquiring seismic data on the shallow water blocks AN-OSHP-2018/1 and AN-OSHP-2018/2, which the company had won in the third round of open acreage licensing policy.

PM Modi launches 'Jan Andolan' campaign on COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a campaign by way of a Tweet on Jan Andolan for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour in view of the upcoming festivals and winter season as well as the opening up of the economy. He urged the people to always remember to wear a mask, wash hands, follow social distancing and practice 'Do Gaz Ki Doori.' Actor Amitabh Bachchan has also appealed to the people to follow the government guidelines to fight Covid 19.

Indian Navy Ships Sahyadri and Kora adjudged as Best Ships in FAF 2020

Fleet Award Function (FAF), 2020 was organised to mark the successful culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam today. This year's edition was hosted by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, NM Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and the Chief Guest for the event was Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC).

Government announces ₹10,000 interest-free festival advance to employees

The government announced a one-time ₹10,000 interest-free festival advance to all its officers and employees as part of plans to increase consumer spending to spur demand in the economy. This



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₹10,000 advance will come as a pre-paid rupay card, which can be availed and spent by March 31, 2021. The move aims to increase consumer spending to spur demand in the economy.

AAI to develop greenfield airport at Hollongi by November 2022

State-run Airports Authority of India will develop a greenfield airport at Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi, near Itanagar, which is expected to be completed by November 2022. The upcoming airport project is expected to cost about ₹650 crore to develop, which includes construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal building, city side works, ATC , Fire station, Medical Centre and other ancillary works.

India among 3 countries having largest share of global TB burden: WHO

India is one of the three countries bearing the largest share of the global burden of Tuberculosis (TB) cases along with China and the Russian Federation, revealed the Global TB report released by the World Health Organization (WHO). India with Indonesia are also the biggest contributors to the global increase in cases in terms of estimated incidence of the disease. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has time and again said that India has set a target for complete elimination of TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.

CHILDLINE 1098 partners with Uber to provide free rides to child care profession

The CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF) has partnered with Uber by being provided 30,000 free rides to their child care professionals for reaching and attending to children in distress. The CIF said the association, worth over ₹63 lakh, for the period October to December 2020, extends across all 83 Indian cities where Uber operates. It also includes mobility support to CHILDLINE 1098 personnel in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai, where the CIF operates their contact centres.

Govt mandates only BSNL, MTNL services in ministries, public departments, CPSUs

The central government has mandated all ministries, public departments and public sector units to use telecom services of state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The memorandum dated 12 October was issued to all secretaries and departments under the Centre following consultation with the finance ministry.

Union Cabinet approves World Bank supported STARS project

The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project. The Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improved education outcomes. STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna”

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today virtually launched the second phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna” for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients. The Minister said that



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Prime Minister Narendra Modi had introduced the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana for targeted populace.

Nation pays tribute to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary

Nation pays tribute to former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam on his 89th birth anniversary. Dr Kalam is also known as the Missile Man of India. President Ram Nath Kovind ,Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Dr Kalam.

Govt bans imports of air conditioners with refrigerants

With a view to promote domestic manufacturing and cut imports of non essential items, Government has banned imports of air conditioners with refrigerants.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari initiates Asia's longest ZojiLa Tunnel works virtually

In Ladakh Union Territory, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Mr Nitin Gadkari initiated Asia's longest ZojiLa Tunnel works virtually, by igniting ceremonial blasts. The tunnel also will have all necessary safety features and avalanche protection structures, catch dams, snow galleries and deflector dams to give all weather and safe road connectivity. The Rs. 4,430 crore Tunnel will reduce the travel time in the stretch from three and half hours to just 15 minutes. ZojiLa tunnel will be a signature infrastructure in Ladakh region.

Foreign Secretary inaugurates 1st edition of Lectures designed to introduce India to foreign diplomats posted in New Delhi

The first edition of Lectures designed to introduce India to foreign diplomats posted in New Delhi was inaugurated today by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla. It has been named as Sushma Swaraj Lectures 2020.

NS Tomar virtually inaugurates the India - International Food & Agri Week

Food Processing Industries Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the India - International Food and Agri Week. Addressing the inaugural session, Mr Tomar said Indian food processing sector is 32 per cent of India's food market.

Govt. amends J&K's Panchayati Raj Law 1989

The Union Government has amended Jammu & Kashmir's Panchayati Raj Law 1989, providing for setting up of District Development Councils, delimitation of their constituencies and their elections. Every district will be divided into 14 territorial constituencies to elect members of the Council. The Council will consist of directly elected members from territorial constituencies in the district, MLAs representing a part or whole of the district whose constituencies lie within the district and the Chairperson of all Block Development Councils of the district.



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SC appoints former justice Lokur to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning

The Supreme Court appointed former justice Madan B Lokur to monitor steps taken to prevent stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh amid rising levels of pollution in the national capital and adjoining regions. The order was passed by an apex court bench headed by Justice SA Bobde while hearing a PIL filed by two environmental activities seeking directions to ensure the implementation of the complete ban on stubble burning. It has also directed that the National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts be deployed to assist the panel.

Prime Minister to inaugurate India Energy Forum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the annual India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, which gathers energy leaders to further important dialogue on the nation's new energy future. India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK, now in its fourth year, is hosted by IHS Markit, a world leader in critical information, analytics and solutions.

NCDC to launch Ayushman Sahakar scheme to fund co-operative healthcare facilities

Inspired by the successfully-run cooperative hospitals in Kerala, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has come up with a scheme, Ayushman Sahakar, to involve co-operatives in creating healthcare infrastructure. Under the scheme, to be launched by Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, the NCDC will give loans totalling 10,000 crore to prospective co-operatives to set up healthcare facilities. The NCDC set up under the Ministry of Agriculture in 1963 has, till date, financed various co-operative initiatives aggregating Rs.1.57-lakh crore.

RPF launches 'Meri Saheli' initiative on AP Express

Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam, started implementing the 'Meri Saheli' initiative in AP Express (Visakhapatnam to New Delhi) in order to provide proactive security to women passengers. The main motto of 'Meri Saheli' is to provide safety and security to women passengers travelling in trains throughout their journey. These passengers will be briefed about all precautions to be taken during the journey and inform them about help no. 182 apart from giving contact numbers of RPF to contact in case of any issue.

CSIR-IHBT makes history by introducing asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation in Indian Himalayan region

Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, a historical shift in farming practices is in the offing with farmers of the remote Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh taking up cultivation of asafoetida (Heeng) to utilize vast expanses of waste land in the cold desert conditions of the region. CSIR-IHBT brought in seeds of asafoetida and developed its agro-technology.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launches AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR. The scheme is a unique way to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the



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country. AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR scheme has been formulated by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launches indigenous software solution for vessel traffic

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya e-launched an indigenous software solution for Vessel traffic services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS). Presently, India has approximately 15 VTS systems operational along the Indian Coast and there is no uniformity of VTS software as each system has its own VTS software. Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned an amount of Rs 10 crore to IIT, Chennai for development of indigenous VTS software.

Indian spends 3.5% of average daily income on food

On an average an Indian spends 5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food as compared to 0.6% by a New Yorker and an astonishing , according to the “Cost of a Plate of Food” report released by the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP).

India took the place of world No. 2 in Migrations to OECD nations; 44th International Migration Outlook 2020

Secretary-General of OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development announced the 44th International Migration Outlook 2020. OECD is an international organisation where the governments of 37 member states work with each other to foster sustainable development.

India recorded highest air pollution exposure globally in 2019

India recorded the highest air pollution exposure annual average PM 2.5 concentration exposure in the world last year(2019), according to the State of Global Air 2020 (SOGA 2020) report. India was followed by Nepal, Niger, Qatar and Nigeria in high PM 2.5 exposures. India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O3) exposure in 2019. Qatar recorded the highest O3 exposure followed by Nepal and India.

Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) virtually launches “Life in Miniature” project

Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel virtually launched the “Life in Miniature” project, a collaboration between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & culture. Users will be able to see famous miniature collections of the National Museum, like the Ramayana, Royal Saga, Pahari style paintings in never before seen ways and in extraordinary detail, in just a few clicks at co/LifeInMiniature.

CBSE introduces facial recognition systems for accessing digital documents

Using the state of the art Facial Recognition System, CBSE will enable students, to download their digital academic documents of class X and XII. This computer application matches human face from a digital image already stored in the database. The computer and the human interact to map the



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facial features. In a similar way, a live image of the student will be matched with the photograph on the CBSE admit card already stored in repository, and once successful, the certificate will be emailed to the student. This application is now available on “Parniaam Manjusha” and Digi Locker.

Dept. of Posts to release stamp on 75th anniversary of United Nations

The Department of Posts will be releasing a stamp in the presence of External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launches India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear

Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- MSME, Nitin Gadkari launched India's first-ever high quality Khadi Fabric Footwear, designed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) through Video Conference. These footwear are made of Khadi fabric like Silk, Cotton and Wool. On the occasion, Mr Gadkari also launched the online sale of Khadi footwear through KVIC's e-portalkhadiindia.gov.in.

NIT-Trichy gets two fellowships under PM's Research Fellows Scheme

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Trichy has been awarded two fellowships under the Prime Minister's Research Fellows' (PMRF) Scheme. The fellowships have been awarded to Mr. Sundaramahalingam of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Ms. Merlin Mary N J of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. According to this scheme the scholar is eligible to get an initial fellowship of Rs.70,000/- per month for the first two years, which will be raised to 80,000 per month in phases.

Indian Railways launches Freight Business Development Portal to boost freight business

The Indian Railways launched a Freight Business Development Portal amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to boost the freight business. As per a statement, the aim of the new portal is to motivate new customers to transport goods through railways and provide better facilities to existing customers. The portal, which has been specially designed and developed on the principle of 'Customer First', shows the complete timetable of all goods trains, routes, distance from one station to another and freight fares.

Northern Command celebrates 74th Infantry Day

74th Infantry Day was celebrated by Northern Command on 27 October with traditional wreath laying ceremony at the Dhruva Shahid Smarak in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir

India hosts 19th Meeting of SCO Ministers of Foreign Economy & Foreign Trade

India hosted the 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade. In his opening remarks, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the current crisis due to Covid-19 is a clarion call to the SCO countries to leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region. The



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virtual meeting was attended by the Secretary General of SCO and Ministers from, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Arjun Munda launches two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare. These centers were launched in collaboration between the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art of Living through video conference.

Indian Railways launches 'Operation Meri Saheli' for security of women while travelling

In a move to provide focused action on security of women passengers, Indian Railways on Thursday launched "Meri Saheli" initiative across all zones for the entire journey from starting station to destination station. The women passengers will be briefed about all precautions to be taken during the journey and be told to dial 182 in case they face or see any problem in the coach. The RPF team collects only the seat numbers of the ladies and conveys them to stoppages en-route.

Cabinet approves MoU between India, Cambodia on cooperation in health sector

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Cambodia on cooperation in the field of health and medicine. The MoU will encourage cooperation between the two countries through joint initiatives and technology development in the health sector.

India retains 34th rank in Nation Brand Index

India retained its 34th position among 50 nations in the Nation Brand Index (NBI) 2020, conducted by market research firm Ipsos in collaboration with Simon Anholt, an authority on national image. The US, which held NBI's top spot on seven occasions, dropped four positions from the sixth place in 2019 to the 10th this year and China, which had remained stable at 23rd over the past four years, fell 12 spots to the 35th this year, below India.

Indian Army develops messaging application 'Secure Application for Internet'

Indian Army has developed a simple messaging application named the Secure Application for Internet (SAI). The application supports end to end secure voice, text and video calling services for Android platforms over the internet. The model is similar to commercially available messaging applications like Whatsapp, Telegram, SAMVAD and GIMS and utilises end to end encryption messaging protocol.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 'Arogya Van' in Narmada's Kevadia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Arogya Van' in Narmada's Kevadia. The Prime Minister also took a tour of 'Arogya Van' after inaugurating it. The park has hundreds of medicinal plants and herbs and also provides information about their usage and importance.



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KVIC launches 'Happy Diwali' printed face masks

Keeping in view the Diwali festival, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a Limited Edition of two-layered "Happy Diwali" printed face masks made of pure Muslin fabric. It is a high quality and ultra-fine cotton fabric handmade by traditional Khadi artisans of West Bengal. The Diwali Muslin face masks are priced nominally at 75 rupees a piece and are available for sale through the Khadi outlets in Delhi and online through KVIC's e-portal www.khadiindia.gov.in.

PM Modi launches 1st-ever seaplane services from Statue of Unity to Sabarmati

India now has its first-ever seaplane services in Gujarat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Gujarat's Narmada district and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The Prime Minister inaugurated the service by boarding the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to Sardar Sarovar Dam.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India, Bangladesh hold second edition of naval exercise in Northern Bay of Bengal

The second edition of the bilateral naval exercise Bongosagar between India and Bangladesh was held yesterday in Northern Bay of Bengal. Ships from both navies participated in surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations. Indian Navy ships Kiltan, Khukri & Bangladesh Navy ships Abu Bakr, Prottoy, helo and MPA undertook manoeuvres, surface drills, helo operations and seamanship evolutions. Bongosagar will be followed by the third edition of India Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) on 4-5 October.

Army Chief, Foreign Secretary on two-day visit to Myanmar

Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will be on a two-day visit to Myanmar. During their visit, the delegation will call on the State Counsellor of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The visit will provide an opportunity to take stock of the existing bilateral ties and strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

2nd edition of Indian, Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise 'Bongosagar' scheduled to commence

The 2nd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar is scheduled to commence in the Northern Bay of Bengal. This exercise will be followed by the 3rd edition of Indian and Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol in Northern Bay of Bengal from 4th to 5th October, wherein both the units will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line.



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India, Myanmar agree to work towards operationalization of Sittwe Port in first quarter of 2021

India and Myanmar have agreed to work towards the operationalization of the Sittwe port in the Rakhine state in the first quarter of 2021. The announcement came at the conclusion of the two-day visit of Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Myanmar.

US to open Foreign Commercial Service Office in Bangladesh

The announcement was made after a high level virtual meeting between the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Keith Krach, and Salman F. Rahman, Adviser for Private Industry and Investment to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, government of Bangladesh, the high level economic partnership consultation noted the shared vision of a free, inclusive, peaceful and secure Indo-pacific region.

Russia invites other BRICS countries to take part in Arctic oil and gas projects

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said he had invited other BRICS countries - Brazil, India, China and South Africa - to take part in joint oil and gas projects in the Arctic. He said the recovery on global energy markets would be slow in the wake of the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

India and France re-elected as the president and co- president of ISA

India and France were re-elected as the president and co- president respectively of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a two-year term at its third assembly. Fiji and Nauru chosen as vice-presidents for Asia Pacific Region, Mauritius and Niger vice-presidents for Africa Region.

World Bank approves \$12 billion for covid-19 vaccines

The World Bank had approved \$12 billion for developing countries to finance the purchase and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, tests and treatment. The money is part of an overall World Bank Group (WBG) package of up to \$160 billion through June 2021 designed to help developing countries battle the novel coronavirus pandemic.

India to deliver Kilo Class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy

India will be delivering a Kilo Class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy as part of defence cooperation. This will be the first submarine of the Myanmar Navy.

India contributes 1 million dollars to UNRWA for Palestine Refugees

India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. This aid will support the Agency's programmes and services, including education, health care, relief and social services.



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Film museum inaugurated at Bangladesh Film Archive Bhaban in Dhaka

A film museum was inaugurated at the Bangladesh Film Archive Bhaban in Dhaka on Wednesday. Inaugurating the museum, Information Secretary Kamrun Nahar said that the museum will be further enriched and expanded to benefit students, teachers, researchers and others interested in films. She said, the museum will play an important role in presenting the history and heritage of Bangladeshi films to the future generations.

India, Chile hold first joint commission meeting

India and Chile held their first joint commission meeting and agreed to add new momentum to their relations in a wide range of fields including trade and commerce, agriculture, health and social security, defence and space. Chile will also be opening its Consulate General in Mumbai.

India hosts virtual Summit of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

India hosted the virtual Summit of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, SCO. The Ministers of Justice from SCO Member States, Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad highlighted the initiatives taken by the Indian Government for providing affordable and easy access to justice for all. He mentioned Pro Bono Legal Services to provide free legal aid to marginalized sections of the society.

New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern wins second term in landslide election victory

Jacinda Ardern has won a second term as New Zealand's Prime Minister after her success at handling the country's coronavirus outbreak helped secure a landslide victory. She is to be elected as the PM for the second consecutive three-years term.

Singapore Becomes First Country to Use Facial Recognition to Pay Taxes

Singapore became the world first country to introduce facial recognition for accessing online government services. This technology is being rolled out to the city-state's SingPass digital identity scheme, offering access to no less than 400 online services, including tax declarations and public housing applications. Facial recognition is also increasingly being used to access other online services, such as banking. The function is designed to work via home computers, tablets and cell phones, as well as at public kiosks.

India , Netherlands collaborate in e-health initiative

India and the Netherlands discussed a joint thrust in the e-health sector with the purpose of providing digital health facilities and security to Indians and helping the Netherlands accelerate the digital transformation of health. Part of India's ambitious National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), this collaboration will see the two countries work closely to create capacities and put in place the requisite technology backbone to enable this revolutionary initiative.



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18th meeting of SCO Prosecutors General held via video link

India participated in the 18th meeting of the Prosecutors General of SCO via video conference. The sides inter alia agreed to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, mutual legal assistance, exchange of regulatory legal acts. Representing India, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta attended the meeting. India will host the next meeting of Prosecutors General in 2021. The eight member bloc is holding this year's SCO Council of Heads of Govt on 30th Nov which will be hosted by India.

Japan to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has said that the country will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050. As per Japan's current energy plan, 56 percent of its energy requirements come from fossil fuels.

Bangladesh govt. orders 'no mask, no service' policy

The Bangladesh government has decided that no service will be provided to people who don't wear masks. The cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided that no one will be allowed to enter offices without the mask. It decided that all offices must install notice boards saying 'no mask, no service' in order to control the spread of COVID 19 virus in the country.

India, Mexico to further work on strengthening 'Privileged Partnership'

The 8th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting was held through Video-Conference. The Meeting was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Mexican counterpart Marcelo Ebrard. Taking stock of the bilateral relations, both sides appreciated the progress made in the bilateral trade and commercial relations between India and Mexico in recent years. The two sides agreed that given their respective economic strengths, growing regional and global profile, India and Mexico will further work on strengthening their 'Privileged Partnership'.

BANKING & FINANCE

SBI, HUL partner to provide digital solutions to small retailers

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has partnered with India's top packaged consumer goods company Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) to offer digital payment and financing solutions for small store owners and distributors of the company's products. SBI will provide paperless instant overdraft facility to retailers to enable payments to distributors and UPI-based solutions to HUL's retailers to assist with cashless payments.



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Govt to pay interest on interest for sub- ₹2 cr loans, may hit pandemic services

The government said it will waive 'interest on interest' on loans of up to ₹2 crore for six months through to the end of August, but warned this will impact "pressing commitments" such as fighting the coronavirus pandemic. The announcement, made in an affidavit to the Supreme Court, was welcomed by retailers and small businesses that have been the hardest hit by the pandemic. But it came twinned with a warning. The finance ministry in an affidavit to the Supreme Court on Saturday said that if charges were waived for all categories of loans, it would lead to a ₹6 trillion burden for banks.

HDFC Bank partners with Apollo Hospitals for holistic healthcare solution

HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals have joined hands to launch The HealthyLife Programme, a holistic healthcare solution which makes healthy living accessible and affordable on Apollo's digital platform, Apollo 24|7. The programme is created exclusively for HDFC Bank customers who will get round the clock access to emergency Apollo Doctor at No Cost on Apollo 24/7 along with a plethora of benefits such as choice of payment options and ease of finance for treatments at all Apollo Hospitals.

NABARD inks 3 MoUs with SBI to extend credit support for various projects

In Gujarat, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development -NABARD has inked three Memoranda of Understanding with Public Sector Bank- State Bank of India to extend credit support for various projects. The MoUs were signed for financing joint liability groups and Self-Help Groups-support credit inflows to Farmer Producers' Organizations and economic support for watershed development projects. These will help in providing credit support to the different sections of the society including the priority sector.

Suryoday Small Finance Bank disburses its first loan under PM SVA Nidhi scheme

Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB), one of the fastest-growing small finance banks today announced disbursement of its first loan under the PMs SVA Nidhi scheme. The loan of ₹10,000 as mandated in the scheme was disbursed to "Mrs. Asha Ashok Valmiki, " a vegetable vendor ". The Bank ensured that the complete process of sanctioning the loan and withdrawal was digital and hassle-free.

PM Modi releases Rs 100 commemorative coin in honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative 100 rupee coin in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia. One of the founder members of BJP, Vijaya Raje Scindia is also popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior.

Magicbricks to offer home loan services, ties up with SBI, HDFC and 11 other lenders

Magicbricks, the popular real estate portal, on Wednesday said that it has entered into home loan services ahead of the festive season. "To enable home buyers to avail medium to long term loans to finance their dream home", Magicbricks has tied up with 13 leading lenders in the country. Customer can get a home loan from banks including SBI, PNB HFL, HDFC LTD, ICICI Bank, Bank Of Baroda,



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Cholamandalam, Hero Fincorp, Sundaram Home Finance LTD, L&T Housing Finance LTD, IIFL, IDFC First, Bajaj Finserv and Federal Bank on Magicbricks' platform.

RBI launches latest round of quarterly survey of manufacturing sector

The Reserve Bank of India launched the latest round of its quarterly Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS) of the manufacturing sector which will provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation. The survey (Round 51) is for the reference period July-September 2020 (Q2:2020-21). The RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.

Fincare Small Finance Bank disburses first loan under PM SVANidhi Scheme

Fincare Small Finance Bank (FSFB) today disbursed its first loan under Prime Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (PM SVANidhi). The scheme is aimed towards empowering and enabling the street vendors. The loan of ₹10,000 was disbursed to Lakshamma, a coconut seller in Bellandur, Bangalore. The Bank with the help of its digital initiatives was able to ensure that the total cycle of sanctioning the loan and withdrawal was hassle free.

PM Modi to release commemorative coin of ₹75 denomination to mark FAO's 75th anniversary

To mark the long-standing relation of India with the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release a commemorative coin of ₹75 denomination on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of FAO on 16 October. PM Modi will also dedicate to the nation 17 recently developed biofortified varieties of eight crops.

Paytm launches same-day bank settlement for businesses

Paytm has launched a same-day settlement facility for all kinds of fund transfers on its payment gateway. This will help business partners to settle money transfers anytime in their bank account on the same day of receiving payment, without waiting for the next day.

Axis Mutual Fund launches 'Axis Banking ETF'

Axis Mutual Fund has launched a new fund offer of 'Axis Banking ETF'. It is an exchange traded fund that offers investors an opportunity to invest in the biggest banks in India at their own pace as it gives exposure to them all in a neatly packed bite-sized exchange traded fund.

Tata Motors partners with HDFC Bank for financing of passenger vehicles

Tata Motors has partnered with HDFC Bank for financing of its passenger vehicles. Through the partnership, the company has introduced two new schemes — 'Gradual Step Up Scheme' and 'TML Flexi Drive Scheme'. The schemes will be available till the end of November 2020 and can be redeemed on the entire new BS-VI range of cars and SUVs along with the company's EV range.



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Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance launches Invest 4G plan with multiple saving options, protection cover

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched a new Unit Linked insurance plan (Ulip) titled 'Invest 4G'. New "Invest4G" offers three options to the individuals: Life Option, Care Option and Century Option. Life option ensures financial protection to a family in case of the customer's unfortunate demise. Care Option provides life coverage along with Premium Funding Benefit and Century Option is a whole life option available for the policyholder till the age of 100 years.

SEBI constitutes committee for market data sharing

SEBI has constituted a Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) – a Standing Committee – to recommend appropriate policy for access to securities market data, identify segment wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommend data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data. The committee is headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole Time Member, SEBI and has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.

Paytm to introduce co-branded credit cards in India

Paytm announced that it will be partnering with various card issuers to introduce co-branded credit cards for consumers. The company is aiming to issue two million cards in the next 12–18 months. Paytm announced that it is building 'Next Generation Credit Cards' with various instant onetouch services including "changing of the security pin number, updating the address, blocking the card in case of loss or fraud prevention, issuance of a duplicate card and viewing outstanding credit-limit."

Indian Bank launches credit scheme for start-ups in pact with IITMIC

Public sector lender Indian Bank has introduced an initiative for funding start-ups, 'IND SpringBoard', in collaboration with the IIT-Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC). The Chennai-headquartered bank seeks to bridge the gap in funding for start-ups through this collaboration with IITMIC. Under the deal, IITMIC will refer to start-ups with proven technology and established cash flows to the bank and also extend advisory to the bank on the business model. The bank will extend loans of up to 50 crore to these start-ups for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery, equipment.

Bank of Baroda ties up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has entered into a tie-up with Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), whereby the bank will be one of the preferred financiers for the entire range of vehicles sold by the latter.

Mastercard Partners with Atlantis to Expand Digital First Program in India

Mastercard in partnership with Atlantis announced the expansion of the Digital First Program in India. The Digital First Program aims to reignite users' relationships with more meaningful experiences. Users will be able to use their cards/accounts for digital transactions within minutes of application, enabled by a fully digital online application and issuance process, including video KYC (in



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collaboration with Signzy). Cardholders will no longer need to wait to receive a physical card to begin using their cards for online shopping or at physical stores.

SBI partners with edX to offer Massive Open Online Courses

In a bid to develop skill sets of career-oriented individuals in the competitive world, the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) today announced that it has entered into a strategic partnership with global non-profit education platform, edX. "As part of this association, SBI will be offering its Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the edX platform from November 2020 onwards

Reserve Bank bars payment system operators from launching new QR codes

The Reserve Bank barred Payment System Operators (PSOs) from launching any new proprietary QR code for payment transactions. Currently, there are two interoperable QR codes — UPI QR and Bharat QR.

RBI imposes ₹1 cr penalty on Jio Payments Bank over re-appointment of MD & CEO

Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on Reliance Jio Payments Bank Limited for non-compliance with RBI directions on timely submission of application in the case of re-appointment of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).

RBI launches surveys on consumer confidence, inflation expectations

The Reserve Bank has launched the latest round of surveys to capture consumer confidence and inflation expectations of households, which are useful inputs for its monetary policy. The consumer confidence survey seeks qualitative responses from households regarding their sentiments on the general economic situation. The studies will be conducted by a Mumbai-based agency on behalf of the RBI through face-to-face as well as telephonic modes.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Google extends compliance date for Play Billing to March 2022 for Indian apps

Amid growing concerns from startups about Play Billing policies, Google on Monday said it is "setting up listening sessions" with "leading Indian startups" to "understand their concerns". The move comes less than a week after Google India issued a clarification on its Play Billing policies, which was panned by big tech startups in the country, including PayTM and Razorpay.



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Adani Ports completes acquisition of Krishnapatnam port

India's largest private port operator Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has completed the acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Co Ltd (KPCL) for an enterprise value of ₹12,000 crore. This will result in APSEZ having a 75% controlling stake in KPCL, the Adani group said in a press release.

Paytm launches its own mini app store

Digital payments firm Paytm has launched a mini-app store to support Indian developers, in a direct challenge to Google's dominance in the space. The launch of the store follows the payment app being temporarily removed from Google's Play Store on 18 September for violating developer guidelines on real-money gaming.

MoHUA enters into MoU with Swiggy to take street food vendors online under PM SVANIDHI scheme

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has entered into an MoU with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform. The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses. The arrangement has been facilitated under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNibhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

Irdai to color code health insurance based on complexity

The insurance regulator is planning to make it easier for individuals to pick a health insurance policy. To make it simpler, the regulator wants each health insurance product to have a color code that would convey to the buyer the complexity of the plan. In its draft guidelines, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), has suggested three colors—green, orange and red—that will denote product complexity.

BRICS Bank approves funds for Delhi-Meerut rapid rail, Mumbai metro

New Development Bank, also known as BRICS Bank has approved infrastructure projects worth 741 million dollars in India. In a press statement, the Shanghai based bank said that its Board of Directors approved a loan of USD 500 million for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Project and a loan of USD 241 million for Mumbai Metro Rail II (Line 6) Project.

As per World Bank, India's GDP expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal

The World Bank said India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent this fiscal which is reflective of the national lockdown and the income shock experienced by households and firms due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India's GDP is expected to contract by 9.6 per cent in this fiscal that started in March, the World Bank said in the report.



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Chingari partners with NH Studioz to launch new 'Multiplex' service

Indian short-videos sharing platform, Chingari announced collaboration with content house NH Studioz to distribute Indian cinema around the globe. With this new collaboration, Chingari also announced the launch of movies. These movies will be launched on October 11, 2020, as a tribute to Amitabh Bacchan. The platform will be screening his blockbuster movies.

World GDP to drop 4.4% in 2020, rise 5.2% 2021: IMF

Global growth will collapse 4.4% this year, less than previously expected, the IMF said Tuesday, though the outlook is beset by uncertainty amid the ongoing pandemic. Massive injections of government aid kept economies from plunging further. China will see its economy expand by 1.9 percent.

PhonePe launches car, bike insurance plans

After taking a crack at health insurance, Flipkart-owned payments company PhonePe has now added car and bike insurance to its product portfolio in association with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. Two-wheeler insurance on PhonePe starts at ₹482, while car insurance at ₹2,072. PhonePe users can buy car and bike insurance from the newly added Motor Insurance page under Insurance->MyMoney. The company claims users can buy plans within 2 minutes. After the payment has been made, policy documents can be accessed instantly on the app.

CCEA approves demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant from NMDC Limited

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its in-principle approval to the demerger of Nagarnar Steel Plant (NSP) from National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) Limited and strategic disinvestment of the demerged company (NSP) by selling entire Government of India stake in it to a strategic buyer.

PepsiCo to set up greenfield potato chips production unit in UP

The multi-national food and beverage major PepsiCo is setting up a greenfield potato chips production unit in Uttar Pradesh with an investment of Rs. 814 crore. The unit is being set up in Kosi - Mathura on 35 acres of land provided by UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). This is the first time that PepsiCo is setting up a greenfield project in the state itself.

BSE joins hands with Telangana govt to help MSMEs raise equity funds

Major stock exchange BSE has joined hands with the Telangana government, along with Global Linker, to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) raise equity funds. The partnership with the BSE would help in addressing a vital challenge of access to finance and increasing credibility of the MSMEs. As part of the association, the BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to create awareness about the importance and benefits of listing.



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ACKO Partners With Finserv MARKETS To Offer Car And Bike Insurance

India's first and fastest-growing wholly digital general insurance provider, ACKO has partnered with Finserv MARKETS, a leading fintech aggregator, for offering two and four-wheeler insurance policies. Customers can now buy ACKO Insurance for their car or bike on the Finserv MARKETS platform by providing basic details. Finserv MARKETS has been launched by Bajaj Finserv Direct Limited, a subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv.

BPCL ties up with Fino Payments Bank for recharging truck drivers' fleet cards

The association between BPCL and Fino Payments Bank, the drivers would now be able to get the fleet cards recharged by paying equivalent cash at the bank's point. The digitised cash in the form of prepaid fleet cards would allow truck drivers to make payment for fuel at BPCL outlets.

India Post, US Postal Service sign agreement for electronic exchange of customs data

Department of Posts and United States Postal Service, USPS have entered into an agreement for electronic exchange of customs data related to postal shipments exchanged between the two countries. The agreement will make it possible to transmit and receive electronic data of international postal items prior to their physical arrival at the destination and would enable customs clearance of postal items in advance in line with the evolving global postal framework.

BSE inks MoU with ICCI to support SMEs, start-ups in listing

Stock exchange BSE has signed an agreement with Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI) to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, and promote their listing on the exchange. Through this association, ICCI will offer assistance in evaluating SMEs and start-ups for listing on BSE SME board.

NTPC ties up with JBIC for ₹3,500 crore loan

NTPC Ltd signed an agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on Wednesday for a loan of ₹3,500 crore. The loan proceeds shall be utilized by India's largest power producer for funding its capex for Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) and renewable energy projects.

Biocon ranked among top five biotech employers globally

Biocon Ltd said on Friday it has been ranked among the top five global biotech employers for 2020 on the U.S-based 'Science' magazine's annual 'Science Careers Top 20 Employers' list. The top five global players in this year's list are Regeneron, Alnylam, Incyte, Syngenta and Biocon.

Yamaha partners with Amazon India to sell apparels, accessories online

Good news for motorcycle riders in India as Yamaha Motor India announced it has tied up with Amazon India to sell its range of apparels and accessories online. This is for the first time in India that the company would sell its apparels and accessories online.



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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Jal Shakti Minister gives away Swachh Bharat Awards-2020

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat gave away the Swachh Bharat Awards-2020 to States, Districts, Blocks and Village Panchayats. The awards were given particularly under the drinking water and cleanliness categories.

- Under the Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shouchalaya category Gujarat bagged the first position at state level whereas Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu got the Award for cleanliness at District Level. Khachrod block in Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh was awarded the first position and Chinnanur Village in Tamil Nadu bagged the top slot at Gram Panchayat level.
- Under the Samudayik Shouchalaya Abhiyan, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh were awarded as the best performing states whereas Prayagraj and Bareilly got it for being the best performing districts.
- Under the Gandagi Mukth Bharat Mission, Haryana and Telangana were awarded the top slot.

Nobel Prize 2020 for medicine awarded to 3 scientists for Hepatitis C virus discovery

Two Americans Harvey J. Alter and Charles M. Rice and one British-born scientist Michael Houghton won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for work in identifying the Hepatitis C virus, which causes cirrhosis and liver cancer, the award-giving body said on 5 October.

Nobel Prize in Physics awarded to Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez

The Nobel Prize for Physics this year has been awarded to three physicists, including Roger Penrose for black hole discovery and to Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez. The Nobel Prize for Physics was announced by the Stockholm-based Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said that Briton Roger Penrose will receive half of this year's prize "for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity."

Two Mumbai-based Start-ups declared winners of first National Start-Up Awards-2020

Two Mumbai-based Start-ups were declared winners at the first National Start-Up Awards-2020. While Taraltech Solutions Private Limited won the award in the Urban Services category, Wealthy Therapeutics won the award in the Health care category. Both winners Taraltech Solutions Private Limited and Wellthy's Digital Therapeutic suite were shortlisted on the basis of innovation, enterprise, employment generation, and social impact. Taraltech Solutions Private Limited is working on providing clean drinking water to all, especially in rural areas. Wellthy's Digital Therapeutic suite is a combination of platforms working together for better health.

Emmanuelle Charpentier & Jennifer A. Doudna win Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna have discovered one of gene technology's sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors. Using these, researchers can change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms with extremely high precision. This technology has had a



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revolutionary impact on the life sciences, is contributing to new cancer therapies and may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true.

Louise Glück wins the 2020 Nobel prize in literature

The poet Louise Glück has become the first American woman to win the Nobel prize for literature in 27 years, cited for “her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”. Glück is the 16th woman to win the Nobel, and the first American woman since Toni Morrison took the prize in 1993. The American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan was a surprise winner in 2016.

Nobel Prize in Economics goes to Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson for improvements to auction theory

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences has been awarded to Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson “for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.” This year’s Economic Science Laureates, Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, have not just clarified how auctions work and why bidders behave in a certain way, but used their theoretical discoveries to invent entirely new auction formats for the sale of goods and services.

Aishwarya Sridhar becomes first Indian woman to win at Wildlife Photographer of the Year awards

Aishwarya Sridhar’s photo titled ‘Lights of Passion’ has won the ‘Highly Commended’ award at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020. The 23-year-old has become the first Indian to win the coveted award. Sridhar’s photo is a picture of a tree illuminated with fireflies. The fireflies and stars in the sky form a surreal galaxy around the tree. It won under the Behaviour-Invertebrates category.

Sana Hazari, founder of The Social Corporate, wins Young Achievers Award 2020

Sana Hazari, who founded – The Social Corporate (TSC) – a new-age Digital platform that partners with SMEs, NGOs, Impact Funds, and Social Enterprises (both for-profit and nonprofit) across India, Nigeria and Ghana to offer Consultancy & Staffing Solutions. Indian Achievers Award, presented to only 4 individuals in India each year under the ‘Young Achievers’ category, is one of most coveted Awards across the country recognizing individuals with proven track-record of trailblazing efforts in a particular sector.

Indian American Anika Chebrolu wins America’s Young Scientist Challenge

Anika Chebrolu, a 14-year-old Indian American student from Frisco, Texas, has won the 2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge for a discovery that may help combat the spread of COVID-19. She won a prize of \$25,000 for her discovery. Chebrolu developed an antiviral drug for COVID-19 by researching protein spikes in the novel coronavirus.



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APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Hero MotoCorp appoints former Air Chief BS Dhanoa as independent director

The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Thursday said it has appointed Air Chief Marshal (Retd) BS Dhanoa as a non-executive and independent director on the company's board with immediate effect. Dhanoa served as the Chief of the Indian Air Force from 1 January, 2017 to 30 September, 2019.

Apurva Chandra is appointed as labour secretary of the union government

Apurva Chandra is the new labour secretary of the union government, and his first big role will be to implement the three labour codes passed by the parliament, and play a key role in universalizing social security. A 1988 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Maharashtra cadre, Chandra replaced Heeralal Samariya as the new labour secretary, following the latter's retirement.

IndiGo appoints Gregg Saretsky as additional director

InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which operates the country's largest domestic airline IndiGo has appointed former chief executive of Canadian airline WestJet Gregg Albert Saretsky as additional director in the company. Saretsky, who has been inducted on the board of directors of the company on 1 October, is the nominee of promoter Rahul Bhatia-led InterGlobe Enterprise Group.

SBI appoints Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra as its chief financial officer

India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Charanjit Surinder Singh Attra, former partner at EY India, as its chief financial officer, an outcome of its recent lateral hiring exercise.

EC appoints Ex IRS officer Madhu Mahajan & B. R Balakrishnan as Special Expenditure Observers for Bihar Assembly Polls

Election Commission has appointed Ex IRS officer Ms. Madhu Mahajan and B. R Balakrishnan as Special Expenditure Observers for General Election to Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2020. They will ensure that stringent and effective enforcement action is undertaken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through C-VIGIL, voter Helpline 1950 against all persons, entities trying to induce voters by distributing cash, liquor and freebies.

Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma, Shashanka Bhide appointed as new members of MPC

The government has named three eminent economists Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Shashanka Bhide as the new members of the MPC. While Ms. Goyal is a professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research; Jayanth Varma teaches at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Mr. Bhide is senior advisor at the National Council for Applied Economic Research.



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J Venkatramu appointed as MD, CEO of India Post Payments Bank

The Government of India appointed J Venkatramu as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of India Post Payments Bank for three years. Venkatramu has over 22 years of work experience across banking services such as payments, mobile banking, retail banking products and has also managed digital financial services projects. India Post Payments Bank is a state-owned entity, under the department of posts, with 100% government equity and is governed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Dinesh Kumar Khara appointed as chairman of State Bank of India

The Government has appointed Dinesh Kumar Khara as chairman of the bank for three years effective from October 7. He has replaced SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar. The new SBI chairman will have a tough task ahead as the banking industry is going through a major crisis due to corona pandemic.

M A Ganapathy appointed as Director General, BCAS

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of M A Ganapathy to the post of Director General, BCAS, for a tenure up to his superannuation on February 29, 2024 or until further orders. He is a 1986 batch IPS officer of Uttarakhand cadre.

Chaitanya Venkateswaran becomes British High Commissioner for a day

Chaitanya Venkateswaran an 18-year-old woman from the national capital experienced this when she held the post for a day and had the unique opportunity to spend as the UK's senior-most diplomat in India under the mission's initiative aimed at empowering and highlighting the challenges faced by women across the world. The British High Commission has been organising the 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition annually since 2017, inviting young Indian women aged 18 to 23 years to take over as their most senior diplomat.

Joe Kuruvilla appointed as CEO of Raymond Lifestyle

Textile firm Raymond said it has appointed Joe Kuruvilla as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Raymond Lifestyle. Raymond Lifestyle is the flagship division of the company which includes branded textile and apparel business including brands like Park Avenue, Colour Plus, Parx, ethnix and Khadi.

Facebook India appoints Sunil Abraham as Public Policy Director for Data and Emerging Tech

Facebook India appointed Sunil Abraham as the Public Policy Director for Data and Emerging Tech to lead and shape the company's stance on tech policy issues in India. Sunil Abraham will report to Facebook India Public Policy Director Ankhi Das, and will be responsible for building partnerships and engagements with key stakeholders in the public policy area of data privacy, consumer protection, and AI-led innovation for new products and services.



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Vodafone Idea CTO Vishant Vora resigns

Vodafone Idea's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Vishant Vora has resigned. Vora has decided to return home to the US, the company said in an e-mail response to a specific query.

NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh's term extended till July 2025

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has extended the tenure of state run NTPC Ltd chairman and managing director, Gurdeep Singh till 31 July 2025, making him one of the longest serving chief at India's largest power generation utility, said two people aware of the development.

Union Bank of India CEO Rajkiran Rai is new chairman of IBA

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) said Union Bank of India's MD and CEO Rajkiran Rai G has been elected as the association's chairman for the term 2020-21. SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara has been elected as the deputy chairman of the association.

SC appoints former justice Lokur to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning

The Supreme Court on Friday appointed former justice Madan B Lokur to monitor steps taken to prevent stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh amid rising levels of pollution in the national capital and adjoining regions.

HDFC Bank board appoints Sashidhar Jagdishan as its MD & CEO

The board of directors of HDFC Bank approved appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan (Sashi) as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank for a three-year term from October 27, 2020. The Reserve Bank of India has already approved Jagdishan's appointment. Sashi joined the Bank in 1996 as Manager in the Finance function. He became business Head (Finance) in 1999 and was appointed as Chief Financial Officer in the year 2008.

Rohan Jaitley elected unopposed president of Delhi and District Cricket Association

Rohan Jaitley, the 31-year-old son of former finance minister late Arun Jaitley, has been elected unopposed as the new president of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA). Rohan is slated to remain in the post till June 30, 2021.

Vineet Nayyar resigns as Executive Vice-Chairman of IL&FS Group

Vineet Nayyar has resigned as Executive Vice-Chairman of IL&FS Group citing medical reasons. CS Rajan, MD, IL&FS, has been asked by the board to discharge Nayyar's responsibilities and, in consultation with senior management, put in place a revised organisational structure.

Parle Agro's B-Fizz ropes Priyanka Chopra Jonas as brand ambassador

Parle Agro's bold new drink, B-Fizz gets a befitting brand ambassador in global icon and superstar Priyanka Chopra Jonas. B-Fizz is a unique and refreshing apple juice based malt flavored carbonated drink that is set to revolutionize the taste experience of consumers across age groups.



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LG signs Lewis Hamilton as ambassador of LG Signature

LG Electronics has named Lewis Hamilton a global ambassador for its home solutions brand, LG Signature. Hamilton will initially star in a new campaign to communicate the brand's philosophy. In the new campaign, he will share with audiences his thoughts on how to lead a stylish, sophisticated life, and what motivates him to be the best in his field.

Vega ropes in Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador

Beauty accessories brand, Vega has announced the signing of Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador. Sharma will be endorsing the brand's men's personal grooming electronics range under the 'Vega Men' brand, and will feature in the upcoming digital campaign.

Sushil Kumar Singhal accredited as next High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands

Sushil Kumar Singhal, a 2000-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Solomon Islands.

Indian diplomat Dr Neena Malhotra appointed as next Ambassador to Republic of San Marino

Indian diplomat Dr Neena Malhotra has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino. According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Dr Malhotra, 1992-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will have the residence in Rome. Presently, she is serving as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy.

Ghanshyam Jha appointed Chairman of J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has appointed Ghanshyam Jha as Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority. Jha has formerly been the Chairman of Central Water Commission and Ganga Flood Control Committee. The appointment of Chairman shall take effect from the date he assumes the charge of the post in the Authority.

Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports appoints Bimal Julka as Chairman

FIFS India's first and only self-regulatory industry body for fantasy sports, announced the appointment of Bimal Julka as its Chairman. In his new role, Julka will work closely with all the stakeholders to further strengthen the operating standards of the Indian fantasy sports industry. Julka is taking over from John Loffhagen, who served as the Chairman of FIFS for over three years.

Ghanshyam Jha takes oath as Chairman of J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam administered the oath of office of the Chairman of J&K State Water Resources Regulatory Authority (SWRRA) to Ghanshyam Jha. Ghanshyam Jha has earlier served as the Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), and has vast experience in the field.



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Cognizant appoints Rajesh Nambiar as India CMD

Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. has appointed Rajesh Nambiar as the chairman and managing director of India and a member of its executive committee, effective 9 November. Cognizant has been scouting for a new chief to head its India operations ever since Ramkumar Ramamoorthy left the company on 17 July after spending 23 years in the company.

SBI nominee director on Yes Bank board resigns

Yes Bank said that Swaminathan Janakiraman, the nominee director appointed by State Bank of India, has resigned with effect from October 28, 2020. In his letter, Swaminathan Janakiraman conveyed that the State Bank of India will shortly nominate a replacement in his place.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan launches CSIR technologies for rural development

Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched CSIR technologies for rural development. This is a joint initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA). The event was organized through online platform on the occasion of CSIR-NISTADS 40th Foundation Day in the National Capital

ISRO to launch its Venus mission in 2025, France to take part

ISRO is scheduled to launch its Venus mission in 2025 and France will participate in it. The VIRAL (Venus Infrared Atmospheric Gases Linker) instrument co-developed with the Russian federal space agency Roscosmos and the LATMOS atmospheres, environments and space observations laboratory attached to the French national scientific research centre CNRS has been selected by the ISRO after a request for proposals, it said in a statement. ISRO chairman K Sivan and CNES president Jean-Yves Le Gall held talks and reviewed the areas driving cooperation between France and India in space.

Indian Railways unveils new Tejas locomotives, can run at speed of 160kmph

Indian Railways' electric locomotive manufacturing unit Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) had turned out the First batch of Tejas Express locos for 'push-pull' operations with aerodynamically designed WAP-5. Indian Railways' CLW manufactures Tejas Express locos for push-pull operation with aerodynamic design capable of running at 160 kmph. These locomotives shall be utilized to haul the premium express passenger trains over Indian Railways.



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Microsoft launches new 'affordable' Surface Laptop Go

Microsoft has introduced a new Surface laptop which the company claims is smaller and more affordable. The company has also introduced new updates to Surface Pro X, including new app experiences, enhanced performance and a new Platinum finish. Along with the two laptops, the company has also launched several new Surface and Microsoft accessories.

Zydus Healthcare launches generic anti-diabetic Dapagliflozin tablets in India

Drug firm Zydus Healthcare on Sunday said it has launched generic anti-diabetic Dapagliflozin tablets across the country under the brand name 'Dapaglyn' at a highly affordable price to increase patient access. The company has launched its Dapagliflozin tablets in the strengths of 10 mg and 5 mg priced at ₹17 and ₹14, respectively, in India upon patent expiry of the product.

24 planets may have more suitable conditions for life than Earth

Scientists have identified 24 planets outside our solar system that they say may have conditions more suitable for life than the Earth. The study, published in the journal Astrobiology, details characteristics of potential "super habitable" planets, that include those that are older, a little larger, slightly warmer and possibly wetter than Earth.

DRDO successfully flight tests Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo, SMART was successfully flight tested today from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha. Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO said, all the mission objectives including missile flight upto the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, release of Torpedo and deployment of Velocity Reduction Mechanism (VRM) have been met perfectly.

India successfully tests Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo

Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo, SMART was successfully flight tested today from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha. Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO said, all the mission objectives including missile flight upto the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone, release of Torpedo and deployment of Velocity Reduction Mechanism (VRM) have been met perfectly.

NIT Tiruchirappalli signs MoU with C-DAC Pune for installing state of art supercomputer

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli has signed a MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune for installing a state of the art supercomputer in the process of becoming part of the National SuperComputing Mission of the Government of India. Dr. Mini Shaji Thomas, Director, NIT, Trichy and Dr. Hemant Darbari, Director General, C - DAC signed the MoU.



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Smitch launches IoT security solutions on Flipkart

Smitch, one of India's leading consumer IoT brands, today announced the launch of their two new-age Wi-Fi enabled security cameras on Flipkart. The smart security cameras with infrared night vision, motion detection, and two-way communication, along with many innovative features are the latest addition to the vast range of smart home tech offerings available from Smitch.

General Electric targets carbon neutrality for its own operations by 2030

General Electric Co. aims to be carbon-neutral at its more than 1,000 factories and other facilities worldwide by 2030, leaving aside emissions from the fossil-fuel burning products that have defined much of the company's recent history.

Fever FM launches progressive web app

Fever FM network recently launched its Progressive Web App – Fevernetwork.FM - a clutter-breaking strategic initiative to further strengthen their digital first approach to business. Fever Network is the first radio brand to come up with a progressive web page which will urge the listener to interact digitally too.

CSIR-CMERI develops Sustainable Municipal Solid Waste Processing Facility

Decentralised Waste Management technology developed by CSIR-CMERI can result in drastic reduction of expenditure related to Transportation Logistics and can help reductions in CO2 emissions, by reducing fossil fuel usage. The Scientifically Decentralised Waste Processing Hubs will help multiply outreach for various locations and will also boost the manufacturing potential for the residents of the region.

India Conducts Successful Night Trial of Nuclear-Capable Prithvi-2 Missile From Odisha Test Range

A night trial of the indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-2 was successfully conducted as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range in Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. The trial of the missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher. The Prithvi-2 missile is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.

Nokia picked by NASA to build rst cellular network on the Moon

Nokia Oyj has been chosen by NASA to build the first ever cellular network on the The partnership will create a path toward sustainable human presence on the lunar surface, and will result in the first LTE/4G communications system in space. Nokia's Bell Labs unit is planning to build what it describes as an ultra-compact, low-power, space-hardened, end-to-end LTE solution that will be available on the moon by late 2022.



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Indigenously built ASW Corvette Kavaratti to be commissioned at Visakhapatnam

The indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes INS Kavaratti under Project 28 (Kamorta class) will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Naravane, at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. ASW corvette, Kavaratti is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design (DND), and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).

IIT Kharagpur's 'COVIRAP' – Novel Technology of COVID-19 Test Gets ICMR Certification

'COVIRAP,' the diagnostic technology developed by IIT Kharagpur researchers, has been successfully validated for its efficacy in COVID-19 detection by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). This COVID-19 Diagnostic Test has been designed to be fairly easy to conduct and affordable as well and can produce results within one hour.

DRDO successfully conducts nal trial of Nag anti-tank guided missile in Pokhran range

India successfully carried out the final trial of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)-developed Nag anti-tank guided missile with a warhead. The test was carried out at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan.

Govt launches e-Dharti Geo portal

Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs (Hardeep Singh Puri) launched the e-Dharti Geo Portal. Gol e-Dharti portal will integrate maps and also lease plans in the Management Information System (MIS). It will make the system Geographic Information System (GIS) enabled.

NATO plans to set up new space center in Germany

The NATO alliance is to build a headquarters for space operations at its air base in Ramstein in Germany, to counter a rising Russian and Chinese threat. The new center is to be a central point of contact to support NATO missions with communication and satellite images. It will also be a place to exchange information on potential threats to satellites. Currently, at least 40 percent of NATO's communications are via satellite.

ISRO-NASA satellite NISAR scheduled to be launched by 2022

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite is expected to be launched by 2022, according to a joint statement issued after a strategic dialogue between India and the US. The two sides also expressed the intent to continue the India-US Space Dialogue as well as discussions on areas of potential space defense cooperation.

Google plans to launch VPN service for consumers

Alphabet Inc's Google plans to launch a VPN service for consumers, which would be available with certain subscription plans for its Google One cloud storage services. Google said the VPN service will roll out in the U.S. in the coming weeks through the Google One app for Android users.



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SPORTS

Kiren Rijju launches new logo of Sports Authority of India

Sports Minister Kiren Rijju today launched the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) new logo at Delhi's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. The event was attended by Sports Secretary Ravi Mital, Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra and Director General SAI Sandip Pradhan, at the stadium. Many eminent athletes, coaches and other sports enthusiasts joined in from across the country through video conferences.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins gold in 10 meter air rifle event of International Online Shooting Championship

India's Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship yesterday. The 16-year-old Visnu shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points. The second place was won by world no. 27 Etienne Germond of France while Olympic quota winner Martin Strempl of Austria took the third place.

Visnu Shivaraj Pandian wins gold in 10 meter air rifle event of International Online Shooting Championship

India's Visnu Shivaraj Pandian won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship yesterday. The 16-year-old Visnu shot 251.4 to win the title by a clear margin of two points.

Nihal Sarin emerges winner in Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship

In Chess, Young Indian player Nihal Sarin emerged winner in the Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Championship in Chennai, beating Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7 in the final. The title win earned the 16-year old Sarin 8,766 US Dollars and enabled him to qualify for the 2020 Speed Chess Championship Final which will feature the world's best players.

Rafael Nadal beats Novak Djokovic to win his 13th French Open Men's Singles title

In Tennis, Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to win his 13th French Open and equal Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles last night. For world number one Djokovic, the defeat ended his hopes of an 18th Slam and of becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four majors twice.

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek becomes the new French Open Champion

In Tennis, Polish teenager Iga Swiatek has become the new French Open Champion. She beat the American Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin in the Women Singles final by 6-4, 6-1. The 19-year-old Swiatek will earn \$1,900,000 for the incredible achievement and moves to 17th position in the world ranking.



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Andrey Rublev wins St. Petersburg Open 2020

Russian third seed Andrey Rublev won his fourth ATP Tour title of the year when he beat Croatia's Borna Coric 7-6(5) 6-4 to lift the St Petersburg Open trophy. Andrey Rublev tied with Novak Djokovic as a four-time title winner in 2020.

Nozomi Okuhara clinches Women's Singles title at Denmark Open

In Badminton, former World Champion Nozomi Okuhara clinched the Denmark Open title beating three-time world champion Carolina Marin in women's singles.

OBITUARY

Senior BJD leader Pradeep Maharathy passed away

Leaders cutting across party lines have condoled the sad demise of senior leader and former minister of the Government of Odisha, Pradeep Kumar Maharathi in the early hours today. He was 65.

Former Acting Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, AS Dave passes away

Justice Anantkumar Surendraray Dave, a former judge and Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court has passed away. Prior to his retirement, Justice Anant Dave had served as an Acting Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court before present Chief Justice Vikram Nath took over the helm.

Veteran Samajwadi Party Leader And Former MLC Mulayam Singh Yadav Passed Away

Veteran Samajwadi Party leader and former MLC Mulayam Singh Yadav passed away after a prolonged illness. The 92-year-old leader breathed his last at his native village in Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh. Mulayam Singh Yadav became a sarpanch in 1949 and emerged victorious on the post five times consecutively. From 1973 to 1988, he was block chief of Bhagya Nagar and was then elected to the member of the Legislative Council for the first time in 1990.

Legendary rock guitarist Eddie Van Halen passed away

Eddie Van Halen, considered one of rock music's greatest guitar players, died of cancer Yesterday, his son said on Twitter. He was 65. Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time and his band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.

Former CBI director Ashwani Kumar passed away

Former Governor of Manipur and Nagaland and ex-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Ashwani Kumar was found dead at his residence in Shimla. Kumar, who joined the Indian Police Service in 1973, took over the reins of the office of the Director-General of Police (DGP) of the Himachal Pradesh in August 2006. After two years, Kumar was appointed to the sensitive post of CBI



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Director. He was sworn-in as the Governor of Nagaland on March 21, 2013 and as Governor of Manipur on July 29, 2013.

Nagaland Environment Minister C M Chang passed away

Nagaland Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Justice and Law C.M. Chang passed away today at Naga Hospital Authority, Kohima. He was 77. State Health officials confirmed that Chang died of COVID-19. He was the sitting MLA of NDPP from 51-Noksen Assembly Constituency.

Former Indian football captain Carlton Chapman passed away

Former Indian football captain Carlton Chapman passed away due to a heart attack in Bengaluru. He was 49 years old. Chapman was a formidable force along with Bhaichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s. He won 14 titles, including the first edition of National Football League along with I M Vijayan and Bhaichung Bhutia. Featuring alongside I M Vijayan, Jo Paul and Raman Vijayan at FC Kochi, Chapman went on to win the 1997 South Asian Football Federation Gold. Trained in Tata Football Academy, Chapman joined East Bengal in 1993.

Bihar minister Vinod Kumar Singh passed away

Bihar's backward and extremely backward classes welfare minister and BJP leader Vinod Kumar Singh, who was undergoing treatment following brain haemorrhage for over a month at Medanta Hospital in Delhi. He was 54. The BJP has fielded his wife Nisha Singh on Pranpur seat in the forthcoming Bihar elections.

Renowned Kuchipudi exponent Sobha Naidu passed away

Renowned Kuchipudi exponent Sobha Naidu, a recipient of Padma Shri and numerous other awards, passed away. Naidu, who was in her sixties, was undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed grief and sadness.

'Nightingale of Gujarat' Kaumudi Munshi passed away

Legendary singer Kaumudi Munshi, known as the 'Nightingale of Gujarat' passed away. She was 91. Rich tributes were paid to her from various parts of the country.

Renowned Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away

Renowned Malayalam poet and Jnanpith laureate Mahakavi Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away at a private hospital in Thrissur in Kerala. The 94 year old poet, was admitted to hospital due to age related ailments.



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India's first Oscar winner Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya passes away

India's first Oscar winner Costume designer Bhanu Athaiya died at her home in Mumbai after prolonged illness. She was 91. Athaiya, who won an Oscar for her work in the 1983 epic film "Gandhi", passed away peacefully in her sleep. In a career of more than five decades, Athaiya won two National Awards -- for Gulzar's mystery drama "Lekin" (1990) and the period film "Lagaan" directed by Ashutosh Gowariker (2001).

Mar Thoma Church Head Joseph Mar Thoma passed away

Joseph Mar Thoma, 21st Mar Thoma Metropolitan and current primate of the Malankara Marthoma Syrian Church passed away. He was 89.

Veteran artiste Pradip Ghosh passes away

Noted Bengali elocutionist Pradip Ghosh passed away. He was 78. He was a prominent reciter and renowned vocal artist. His most notable works included his recitation of Tagore's poems, especially those for children.

Renowned carnatic vocalist Narayanaswamy passes away

Renowned carnatic vocalist PS Narayanaswamy (87), one of the thespians in carnatic music in the country, passed away. A recipient of several prestigious awards and titles, including the Padma Bhushan and Tamil Nadu government's Kalaimamani, Narayanaswamy was the disciple of the legendary Semmangudi Sreenivasa Iyer. He had created his own style with 'Manodharma Sangeetham'.

Gujarati film superstar & actor-turned-politician Naresh Kanodia passes away

Gujarati film superstar and actor-turned-politician Naresh Kanodia passed away this morning. He was 77. Kanodia represented Karjan Assembly seat from 2002 to 2007. He worked in more than 100 Gujarati films.

Veteran Gujarati Singer Mahesh Kanodia passes away

Veteran Gujarati film musician, singer and former Lok Sabha MP from Patan constituency Mahesh Kanodia has passed away following prolonged illness. He was awarded for Best Music for the Gujarati films Jigar ane Ami, Tanariri, Jog Sanjog and Laju Lakhani.

Samsung chairman Lee Kun-hee passes away

Samsung Electronics chairman, Lee Kun-hee has passed away. He was 78. During his lifetime, Samsung Electronics also became one of the world's biggest tech firms. He was the richest person in South Korea.



Former Gujarat CM Keshubhai Patel passes away

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel passed away. He was 92. His health had deteriorated recently after recovering from Covid-19 last month. Keshubhai Patel had served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 1995 and again from 1998 to 2001. He was a member of the legislative assembly for six times.

Former James Bond actor Sean Connery passed away

Former James Bond actor Sean Connery has died aged 90. The legendary British actor starred in seven Bond films. Connery won an Oscar for supporting actor for his turn as a tough Irish cop in Brian De Palma's 1987 'The Untouchables'.



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