

The Most Important Current Affairs May 2020

Prime Minister announces Economic Package of Rs 20 Lakh Crore

Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** addressed his countrymen and announced an **Economic Package of Rs 20 Lakh crore**, giving stress on **land, labour, liquidity and law**. PM stressed on the local products and urged his countrymen to be **"Vocal About Local"**. Prime Minister also mentioned 5-Pillars to make India self-reliant. These **5 pillars** are:

1. **Economy:** An economy that brings quantum jump along with incremental change.
2. **Infrastructure:** An infrastructure that becomes the symbol of modern India.
3. **System:** A system which will be based on technology.
4. **Demography:** A vibrant demography which would be the strength as well as the source of energy for self reliant India.
5. **Demand:** To improve demand and supply chain in India to enhance the Indian economy.

Economic Relief Package announced for "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan"

Highlights of measures announced as 1st tranche of Economic Relief Package for "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan":

1. For Standard MSMEs:

- Rs 3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loan for Businesses including MSMEs. This scheme can be availed till 31st Oct, 2020.
- Loans facility would be available for those firms with Rs 25 crore outstanding loans and annual turnover of Rs 100 crores.
- This loan facility would be having a tenor of 4 years along with moratorium of 12 months.
- 100% credit guarantee would be provided to banks and NBFCs on principal as well as interest.
- There will be no guarantee fees as well as no fresh collateral required.
- These reforms are expected to benefit 45 lakh business units in order to resume their business activities and safeguard jobs.

2. For stressed MSMEs:

- GoI has announced a Subordinated Debt of Rs 20000 crores which is expected to benefit about 2 lakh MSMEs.
- The functioning of MSMEs which are NPA or are stressed would be eligible to avail this facility.
- GoI has announced to provide Rs 4000 crore as its contribution to Credit Guarantee Fund Trust For Micro And Small Enterprises (CGTSME).

- The CGTSME will provide partial credit guarantee support to Banks in order to benefit the stressed MSMEs.
- The promoters of the MSME will be given debt by banks, which would be infused by the promoter as equity in the unit.

3. For MSME having potential and which are viable:

- A fund of fund has been created to infuse equity of worth Rs 50,000 crore in the MSME.
- Fund of Fund with corpus of Rs 10,000 crores would be set up to provide equity funding to MSMEs with growth potential and viability.
- This FoF would be operated via a mother fund including some daughter funds.
- FoF is expected to benefit MSMEs by expanding size along with their capacity.
- It will also encourage MSMEs to get listed on main board of Stock Exchanges.


4. New definition of MSMEs:

The definition of MSME has been revised by increasing the investment limit of MSME, introducing an additional criteria of turnover as well as removing the distinction between manufacturing and service sector MSME. The new definition is as follow:

- For **Micro enterprise:** Investment of upto Rs 1 crore and turnover of upto Rs 5 crore.
- For **Small enterprise:** Investment of upto Rs 10 crore and turnover of upto Rs 50 crore.
- For **Medium enterprise:** Investment of upto Rs 20 crore and turnover of upto Rs 100 crore.

5. For **government** procurement, tenders upto **Rs 200 crores** will no longer be on global tender route.

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6. E-market linkage would be provided to the **MSMEs** in order to enable them to access the markets as they would not be able to participate in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions which are difficult to organised because of COVID-19. The CPSEs and GoI will clear all the receivables of MSMEs within next 45 days.

7. Employees Provident Fund:

Liquidity relief is being given for all EPF establishments. Under Pradhan Mantri Garib kalyan Package (PMGKP), payments of 12% of employer and 12% employee contribution was made into EPF accounts of eligible establishments.

- EPF contribution has been extended for the month of June, July & August and would be paid by the GoI, providing a liquidity support of Rs 2500 Crore and benefitting 72.22 lakhs of employees.
- To provide more take home salary to employees and also to give relief to employers, the statutory PF contribution of both employer and employee will be reduced to 10% each from existing 12% each for all establishments covered by EPFO for next 3 months. The CPSEs and State PSUs will continue to contribute 12% as employer contribution.
- It would be applicable for workers who are not eligible for 24% EPF support under PM Garib Kalyan Package and its extension.
- It will provide liquidity of Rs 6750 Crore to employers and employees over 3 months.

8. For Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs)/ Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)/ Micro finance Institutions (MFIs)

- Government will launch a Rs 30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme under which investment will be made in both primary and secondary market transactions in investment grade debt paper of NBFCs/HFCs/MFIs.
- It will supplement RBI/Government measures to increase liquidity.
- All the securities under this scheme would be fully guaranteed by GoI.

9. Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme 2.0 for NBFCs

Existing PCGS scheme would be extended to cover borrowings such as that of primary issuance of Bonds/ Commercial Papers (liability side of balance sheets) of such entities.

- In this, first 20% of loss will be borne by the Guarantor i.e. the Government of India.
- Under this scheme, AA paper and below, including unrated paper would also be eligible for investments (esp. relevant for many MFIs).
- This scheme is expected to result in liquidity of Rs 45,000 crores.

10. In order to help Power Distribution Companies (**DISCOMS**), **PFC/REC** will infuse liquidity of **Rs. 90,000 Crore** to DISCOMs against receivables.

- Loans would be given against state guarantees for exclusive purpose of discharging liabilities of Discoms to Gencos.
- Central Public Sector Generation Companies shall give rebate to Discoms which shall be passed on to the final consumers (industries).

11. For Contractors:

All Central Agencies such as **Railways, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**, Central Public Works Dept, etc will provide extension of up to 6 months without costs to contractor. This extension will cover:

- construction/works and goods and services contracts.
- obligations like completion of work, intermediate milestones etc. as well as extension of Concession period in PPP contracts.

12. For Real Estate Sector

Some measures have been announced to de-stress real estate developers and ensure completion of projects so that home buyers are able to get delivery of their booked houses with new timelines. Accordingly, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will advise States/UTs and their Regulatory Authorities to the following effect:

- Treat COVID-19 as an event of 'Force Majeure' under RERA.
- Extend the registration and completion date suo-moto by 6 months for all registered projects expiring on or after 25th March, 2020 without individual applications.
- Regulatory Authorities may extend this for another period of upto 3 months, if needed
- Issue fresh 'Project Registration Certificates' automatically with revised timelines.
- Extend timelines for various statutory compliances under RERA concurrently.

13. Liquidity of **Rs 50000 crore** through Tax Deduction at Source (**TDS**)/Tax Collection at Source (**TCS**) rate reduction.

- To provide more funds at the disposal of the taxpayers, the rates of Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) for non-salaried specified payments made to residents and rates of Tax Collection at Source (TCS) for the specified receipts shall be reduced by 25% of the existing rates.
- Payment for contract, professional fees, interest, rent, dividend, commission, brokerage, etc. shall be eligible for this reduced rate of TDS.
- This reduction shall be applicable for the remaining part of the FY 2020-21 i.e. from 14th May, 2020 to 31st March, 2021.

14. Other Direct Tax Measures

- All pending refunds to charitable trusts and non-corporate businesses & professions including proprietorship, partnership, LLP and Co-operatives shall be issued immediately.
- Due date of all income-tax return for FY 2019-20 will be extended from 31st July, 2020 & 31st October, 2020 to 30th November, 2020 and Tax audit from 30th September, 2020 to 31st October, 2020.
- Date of assessments getting barred on 30th September, 2020 extended to 31st December, 2020 and those getting barred on 31st March, 2021 will be extended to 30th September, 2021.
- Period of Vivad se Vishwas Scheme for making payment without additional amount will be extended to 31st December, 2020.

Highlights of measures announced in 2nd tranche, as part of Economic Relief Package for “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”:

Migrant Workers:

1. Free Food Grain supply to migrants for 2 months

- Those migrants who are neither under National Food Security Act nor the holders of any State Card, will be provided 5 Kg of grains per person and 1 kg Chana per family per month for a period of two months. With this, about 8 crore migrants are expected to be benefitted from the above facility.
- This intervention will cost about Rs 3500 Crore which would be completely borne by the Government of India.
- State governments would be responsible for the implementation, identification of migrants as well as the food distribution

2. To benefit migrant workers, GoI is coming up with National Portability of Cards i.e. “One Nation One Ration card”

- This scheme will enable the migrant workers to access Public Distribution Ration from any Fair price Shop in the country.
- This scheme is expected to benefit around 67 crore beneficiaries i.e. 83% of the PDS population by August, 2020. This is expected to cover 100% i.e. all the state and UTs will complete full FPS automation by March 2021.

3. Affordable Rental Housing Complexes for Migrant Workers & Urban Pooors

To provide houses to migrant workers & urban pooors at affordable prices, the Government of India is going to launch a scheme under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**. This would be done by:

- Converting government funded housing in the cities into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) under PPP through concessionaire agreements.

- Incentivizing manufacturing units, industries, institutions, associations to develop ARHC on their private land and it would be operated by the same.
- Incentivizing state government agencies as well as central government organizations to develop ARHC on their private land and it would be operated by the same.

4. MUDRA-Shishu loans:

This will be launched to benefit the smallest of small credit takers from the bank. Under **MUDRA-Shishu** loan, one can take loan of only upto **Rs 50,000**. RBI has already granted a laon moratorium of 3 months to this loan scheme.

- After their return from moratorium period, GoI will provide interest subvention support of 2% to prompt payess for a period of 12 months.
- This will provide relief of **Rs 1500 crore** to MUDRA-Shishu loanees.

5. Street Vendors:

Considering the adverse impact on the livelihoods of the street vendors due to COVID-19, GoI will launch a special scheme within a month to facilitate easy access to credit to street vendors that would be about Rs 5000 crores and will support around 50 lakh street vendors.

- Initial working capital of upto Rs 10,000 will be provided to the street vendors.
- Those vendors who would be accepting digital payments would be incentivized through monetary rewards.
- Enhanced working capital credit would be made available to the vendors for showing good repayment behaviour.

6. Housing:

- GoI has decided to extended the tenure of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Group (Annual Income: Rs 6-18 Lakhs) which was operationalized in May 2017 and was extended to 31st March 2020. It has been extended to 31st March 2021, hence benefitting 2.5 lakh middle income families.
- This extension will lead to investment of Rs 70,000 crores in the housing sector and is expected to stimulate demand for steel, cement, transport and other construction material.

7. For Employment Generation:

- Plans of worth Rs 6000 Crores will be approved shortly to generate employment by pushing the use of CAMPA funds i.e. Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority, which was set up under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act 2016.

- These funds would be used by state governments for employing tribal people for Afforestation and plantation works, including in urban areas; artificial regeneration & assisted natural regeneration, forest management, soil & moisture conservation works.
- Hence it will create job opportunities for tribals/advansis in urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

8. For Farmers:

- Government of India is providing Rs 30,000 crores Additional Emergency Working Capital Funding for farmers through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for crop loan requirement of Rural Co-op Banks & Regional Rural Bank (RRBs).
- The additional refinance support of Rs. 30,000 crore would be over and above Rs 90,000 crore to be provided by NABARD through the normal refinance route in 2020.
- This additional amount of Rs. 30,000 crore would be released immediately to meet post harvest (Rabi) & current Kharif requirement in the month of May/June.
- This additional amount is expected to benefit around 3 crores small and marginal farmers.
- 33 State Co-operative banks, 351 District Co-operative banks and 43 RRBs have come forward to avail this on tap based lending.

9. To boost the farming activities, **Rs 2 lakh crore** Concessional credit boost will be offered to **2.5 crore** farmers through **Kisan Credit Cards**.

- A Special drive would be undertaken to provide concessional credit to PM-KISAN beneficiaries through Kisan Credit Cards. This drive will also include Fishermen and Animal Husbandry farmers.
- This credit flow of about Rs 2 lakh crores will enable these farmers to gain access to institutional credit at concessional interest rate.

Highlights of measures announced in 3rd tranche, as part of Economic Relief Package for “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”:

1. Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund for farm gate infrastructure for farmers

- Due to lack of adequate cold chain and Post Harvest Management infrastructure in the vicinity of farm-gate, the Government of India is launching financing facility of Rs 1 lakh crore to fund Agriculture Infrastructure Projects at farm-gate and aggregation points such as Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producer Organisation, Agriculture Entrepreneurs, Start-ups, etc.

- It will help in providing stimulus to the development of farm-gate & aggregation points, affordable and financially viable Post Harvest Management infrastructure.
- This fund of Rs 1 lakh crore would be created immediately.

2. For Micro Food Enterprises

As the un-organised Micro Food Enterprises (MFEs) units requires technical upgradation to attain FSSAI food standards, building brands and marketing purposes.

- To achieve this, Government of India will launch a Rs 10,000 Crore scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises which is expected to benefit 2 lakh MFEs.
- This scheme will be based on a cluster based approach and will support the existing micro food enterprises, Farmer producer organisations, Self Help Groups as well as the cooperatives.
- The scheme will help in reaching untapped export markets in view of improved health consciousness, and will also lead to improved health and safety standards, integration with retail markets as well as improved incomes.

3. Logistics capacities and other provision of facilities under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana** (PMMY)

- Government of India has announced the support of Rs 20,000 crore for Fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana which would be launched for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries.
- From Rs 20,000 crore, amount of Rs 11,000 crore would be used for activities in Marine, Inland Fisheries and aquaculture.
- The remaining amount of Rs 9,000 crore would be used for Infrastructure such as fishing harbours, cold chain, markets, etc.
- Cage culture, seaweed farming, Ornamental Fisheries as well as new fishing vessels, traceability, laboratory network, etc will be the key activities.
- During the ban period i.e. the period when the fishermen are not allowed to enter the sea and the fishing is prohibited, there would be a provision of Ban Period Support to fishermen in the form of Personal insurance as well as Boat insurance.
- This is expected to give employment to over 55 lakh persons and will double the exports to Rs 1,00,000 Crore, and lead to additional fish production of 70 lakh tonnes over a period of 5 years.

4. National Animal Disease Control Programme

- National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis launched with total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crores.
- It ensures 100% vaccination of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig population (total 53 crore animals) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and for brucellosis.
- Till date, 1.5 crore cows & buffaloes in the country have been tagged and vaccinated.

5. For building capacities in Animal Husbandry

- Government of India has planned to spend Rs 15,000 crores for the development of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure with special focus on dairy sector.
- GoI has decided to set up an Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs 15,000 crore. It also aims to support private investment in the Dairy processing, value addition and cattle feed infrastructure.
- Government will also offer incentives for establishing plants for export of niche products such as cheese, processed milk, milk powder, cream etc.

6. For promotion of Herbal Cultivation

- Government of India has decided to allocate Rs 4000 crore to cover 10,00,000 hectares area under the Herbal Cultivation in next two years.
- National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) has already supported 2.25 lac hectare area under the cultivation of medicinal plants.
- This will lead to generate about Rs 5000 crores of income generation for farmers.
- NMPB will bring 800 hectare area by developing a corridor of medicinal plants along the banks of river Ganga.
- A network of regional mandis would be set up for the Medicinal plants.

7. Beekeeping Initiatives

- Government of India has announced Rs 500 crores scheme to increase the income of 2 lakh beekeepers and will help in providing quality honey to the consumers.
- It has been launched to increase yield & quality of crops through pollination, and will also provide honey and other beehive products like wax.
- Government will implement a scheme for the development of infrastructure related to Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres, Collection, Marketing and Storage Centres, Post Harvest & Value Addition Facilities etc.

- It will lead to implementation of standards, development of traceability systems; and development of quality nucleus stock as well as bee breeders.
- It will also lead to capacity building with special focus on women.

8. From TOP to TOTAL

- Government of India has decided to extend the Operation Greens from Tomatoes, Onion & Potatoes (TOP) to All Fruit and Vegetables (TOTAL). Amount of Rs 500 crore has been allocated to this scheme.
- This scheme will be on pilot basis for next 6 months and will be expanded and extended accordingly.
- The scheme will provide 50% subsidy on transportation from surplus to deficient markets. It will also provide 50% subsidy on storage including cold storages.
- It is expected to result in better price realization to farmers, reduced wastages as well as affordability of products for consumers.

Governance & Administrative Reforms

9. Amendment in Essential Commodities Act

- Essential Commodities Act was enacted in 1955. Government of India has decided to amend the Essential Commodities Act to enable better price realisation for farmers. This will be done by attracting investments and making agriculture sector competitive.
- Agriculture food stuffs including cereals, edible oils, oil seeds, pulses, onions and potato to be deregulated.
- Stock limit will be imposed under very exceptional circumstances such as national calamities, famine with surge in prices, while no such stock limit shall apply to processors or value chain participant, subject to their installed capacity or to any exporter subject to the export demand.

10. Agriculture Marketing Reforms

- Government of India has decided to formulate a central law to provide adequate choices to farmer to sell produce at attractive price, a barrier free Inter-State Trade, and a framework for e-trading of agriculture produce.

11. Agriculture Produce Price and Quality Assurance

- Government of India has decided to create a facilitative legal framework to enable farmers for engaging with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters etc. in a fair and transparent manner.

The integral part of the legal framework will include risk mitigation for farmers, assured returns and quality standardisation.

Highlights of measures announced in 4th tranche, as part of Economic Relief Package for “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”:

1. Coal Sector:

The Government of India has decided to bring in Commercial Mining in the coal sector in order to introduce competition, transparency and private sector participation in this sector.

- This would be done by introducing revenue sharing mechanism instead of regime of fixed Rupee/tonne. After its implementation, any party would be able to bid for a coal block and sell in the open market.
- Entry norms will be normalized and nearly 50 blocks will be offered immediately without any eligibility conditions. This would be done with only an upfront payment with a ceiling.
- Exploration-cum-production regime for partially explored blocks by auctioning partially explored blocks.
- Entry of private sector will be allowed in the participation of exploration of coal blocks.
- Production completed before the scheduled time will be incentivized by the government through rebate in revenue share.
- Coal Gasification/Liquefaction will be incentivised via rebate in revenue share, resulting in significantly lower environment impact. It will also aid India in switching to a gas based economy.
- Government of India will spend about Rs 50,000 crore for the development of infrastructure. It will also include Rs 18,000 crore investment in mechanized transfer of coal (conveyor belts) from mines to railway sidings.
- Coal Bed Methane (CBM) extraction rights to be auctioned from Coal India Limited’s (CIL) coal mines.
- Ease of doing business measures like Mining Plan simplification will be taken and therefore, allow for automatic 40% increase in annual production.
- Concessions will be provided in commercial terms given to CIL’s consumers (relief worth Rs 5000 cr will be offered).
- Reserve price in auctions for non-power consumers will be reduced, credit terms will be eased, and lifting period will be enhanced.

2. Minerals Sector:

Private Investments will be increased in the Minerals Sector to boost growth, employment and bring state-of-the-art technology especially in exploration. This will be achieved by:

- Introducing a seamless composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime.
- By offering 500 mining blocks through an open and transparent auction process.

- By introducing joint auction of Bauxite and Coal mineral blocks to improve competitiveness in the Aluminum Industry. This will also help in reducing the electricity costs in the aluminium industry.
- Distinction between the captive and non-captive mines will be removed to enable transfer of mining leases and sale of surplus unused minerals, leading to better efficiency in mining and production.
- Ministry of Mines will develop Mineral Index for different minerals.
- There will be rationalisation of stamp duty that is payable at the time of award of mining leases.

3. Defence Production:

- ‘Make in India’ will be introduced for Self-Reliance in the Defence Production. For this, a list of weapons/platforms which shall be not allowed for import, will be notified with year wise timelines.
- Indigenisation of imported spares will be done along with a separate budget provisioning for domestic capital procurement. This will help in reducing the huge Defence import bill.
- Corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board will be done to improve the autonomy, accountability and efficiency in Ordnance Supplies.
- FDI limit will be raised in the defence manufacturing under automatic route from 49% to 74%.
- Time-bound defence procurement process including faster decision making will be initiated by setting up Project Management Unit (PMU) to support contract management, realistic setting of General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQRs) of weapons/platforms and overhauling Trial and Testing procedures.

4. Civil Aviation:

(i) Aerospace Management

- Restrictions on utilisation of the Indian Air Space will be eased to make civilian flying more efficient.
- Government of India will bring a total benefit of about Rs 1000 crores per year for the aviation sector.

- Will ensure optimal utilization of airspace as well as reduction in fuel use & time, hence creating a positive impact on the environment.

(ii) World-class Airports through PPP

- 6 more airports will be auctioned by the Airports Authority of India on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis.
- AAI will also get a down payment of Rs 2300 crores.
- Additional Investment will be made by private players in 12 airports in 1st and 2nd rounds expecting to get around Rs 13,000 crores.

(iii) Making India a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Hub

- Tax regime for MRO ecosystem has been rationalized by the government to make India a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) Hub.
- Aircraft component repairs and airframe maintenance to increase from Rs 800 crores to Rs 2000 crores in next three years.
- In the coming years, engine repair facilities would be set up in India by the major engine manufacturers of the world.
- Convergence will be established between the defence sector and the civil MROs in order to create economies of scale.
- This will led to reductions in maintenance cost for airlines.

5. Power distribution companies in the Union Territories:

Power distribution companies in the Union Territories will be privatised in the line of Tariff Policy Reforms which will be announced shortly. This Tariff Policy will be released with three pillars i.e.

(i) Consumer Rights:

- The inefficiencies of DISCOMs will no more be a burden on the consumers.
- There will be standards of service as well as associated penalties for the DISCOMs.
- DISCOMs will have to ensure adequate power and the load-shedding will be penalized.

(ii) Promote Industry

- Progressive reduction in cross subsidies
- Time bound grant of open access
- Generation and transmission project developers to be selected competitively

(iii) Sustainability of Sector

- No Regulatory Assets
- Timely payment of Gencos
- DBT for subsidy & Smart prepaid meters

In line with the above Tariff Policy Reforms, Power distribution companies in the Union Territories will be privatised and hence, will lead to better service to consumers and, improvement in operational and financial efficiency in Distribution.

6. Social Infrastructure Projects

- For the creation of Social Infrastructure Projects, government has made the provision of Rs 8100 crores which will go in the form of Viability Gap Funding Scheme.
- For the creation of Social Infrastructure Projects, Government will enhance the quantum of Viability Gap Funding upto 30% each of Total Project Cost as VGF by Centre and State/Statutory Bodies. While for other sectors, VGF support of 20% each from GoI and States/Statutory Bodies shall continue.
- These projects will be proposed by the Central Ministries/ State Government/ Statutory entities.

7. Space Sector:

- In order to provide level playing field to the private entities in the Space sector i.e. in satellites, launches and space-based services, government has made the provision to allow private players to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capacities.
- Government of India has announced to provide predictable policy and regulatory environment to the private players.
- Government has also made it open for the private sector to participate in future projects for planetary exploration, outer space travel etc.
- Liberal geo-spatial data policy for providing remote-sensing data to tech-entrepreneurs.

8. Atomic Energy:

- Government of India has announced to establish research reactor in PPP mode for production of medical isotopes in order to promote welfare of humanity through affordable treatment for cancer and other diseases.
- Government will also establish facilities in PPP mode to use irradiation technology for food preservation such as increasing the shelf life of onion; and also to compliment agricultural reforms and assist farmers.
- Will link India's robust start-up ecosystem to nuclear sector.

- Technology Development cum Incubation Centres will be set up for fostering synergy between research facilities and tech-entrepreneurs.

Highlights of measures announced in 5th tranche, as part of Economic Relief Package for “Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan”:

1. Allocation for MGNREGS:

- Government of India has decided to allocate an additional amount of Rs 40,000 crore under MGNREGS which will help in generating total work of nearly 300 crore person days.
- With this allocation, GoI will ensure to address the need for more work including returning migrant workers in Monsoon season as well.
- It will also led to the creation of larger number of durable and livelihood assets including water conservation assets.
- Hence it is expected to boost the rural economy through higher production.

2. For Health Sector:

Government of India has decided to increase the Public Expenditure on Health. It will also include the investments in grass root health institutions in order to ramp up Health and Wellness Centres in rural as well as urban areas.

In order to prepare India for any future pandemics, **following measures** will be taken:

- Will open Infectious Diseases Hospital Blocks in all districts.
- Will strengthen the lab network and surveillance by setting up Integrated Public Health Labs in all districts, Block Level Labs as well as Public Health Unit to manage the future pandemics.
- Will also encourage Research National Institutional Platform for One health by ICMR.
- National Digital Health Mission will be implemented and National Digital Health Blueprint will also be prepared.
- To provide Technology Driven Education:

Government of India has decided to launch **PM-eVIDYA** programme immediately for multi mode access to digital/online education. This programme will consist the following:

- A DIKSHA programme will provide “one nation, one digital platform” for school education in states/UTs. It will also include the launch of Energized Textbooks for all grades.
- Will launch one earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12 following the concept of “one class, one channel”.

- Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and Podcasts to provide education.
- Special e-content will be launched for visually and hearing impaired students.
- Will permit top 100 universities to automatically commence online courses by 30th May, 2020.
- An initiative titled “**Manodarpan**” will be launched immediately to provide psychosocial support to students, teachers and families for their mental health and emotional well being.
- Will launch New National Curriculum and Pedagogical framework for school, early childhood as well as teachers, which would be integrated with the global and 21st century skill requirements.
- National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission will be launched by December 2020 to ensure that every child attains learning levels and outcomes in grade 5 by 2025.

3. IBC related measures:

- Government of India will exclude the COVID-19 related debt from the definition of “default” under the Code for the purpose of triggering insolvency proceedings.
- Fresh initiation of insolvency proceedings will be suspended up to one year depending upon the situation of pandemic.
- For MSMEs, a “Special insolvency resolution” framework under the Section 240A of the Code, will be notified soon.
- The minimum threshold to initiate insolvency proceedings has been raised from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore to largely insulate the MSMEs.

4. Decriminalisation of Companies Act defaults:

- Government of India has decided to decriminalize the Companies Act violations involving minor technical and procedural defaults such as shortcomings in CSR reporting, inadequacies in board report, filing defaults, delay in holding AGM.
- Majority of the compoundable offences sections will be shifted to internal adjudication mechanism (IAM) and the powers of RD for compounding will be enhanced. Hence, 58 sections will be dealt with under IAM as compared to 18 earlier.
- The above amendments are expected to de-clog the criminal courts and NCLT.
- 7 compoundable offences altogether will be dropped and 5 will be dealt with under alternative framework.

5. Further key reforms for Ease of Doing Business for Corporates includes:

- Direct listing of securities by Indian public companies in permissible foreign jurisdictions.
- Private companies which list Non-Convertible Debentures on stock exchanges will no longer be regarded as listed companies.
- The provisions of Part IXA (Producer Companies) of Companies Act, 1956 will be included in the Companies Act, 2013.
- Power to create additional/ specialized benches for NCLAT.
- There will be lower penalties for all defaults for Small Companies, One person Companies, Producer Companies Start Ups.

6. Public Sector Enterprise Policy:

Government of India will launch a new coherent policy where all sectors are open to the private sector while public sector enterprises will play an important role in defined areas.

Accordingly government will announce a new policy in which:

- List of strategic sectors requiring presence of PSEs in public interest will be notified.
- In strategic sectors, at least one enterprise will remain in the public sector but private sector will also be allowed in that sector.
- In other sectors, PSEs will be privatized (timing to be based on feasibility etc).
- In order to minimize wasteful administrative costs, number of enterprises in strategic sectors will ordinarily be only one to four while others will be privatized/ merged/ brought under holding companies.

7. Supporting state governments:

Centre has consistently extended generous support to states in this hour of need amid COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Devolution of taxes Rs 46,038 crore in April was given fully as if Budget Estimates were valid even though actual revenue shows unprecedented decline from Budget Estimates
- Despite Centre's stressed resources, the Revenue Deficit Grants of Rs 12,390 crore was given to states on time in the month of April as well as May
- SDRF funds of Rs 11,092 crore was released in first week of April
- Release of over Rs 4,113 crores from Health Ministry for direct anti Covid activities

Also, at Centre's request to the Reserve Bank of India, the RBI has increased:

- Ways Means Advance limits of States by 60%.
- Number of days state can be in continuous overdraft from 14 days to 21 days.
- Number of days state can be in overdraft in a quarter from 32 to 50 days.

States net borrowing ceiling for 2020-21 is Rs 6.41 lakh crores, based on 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP):

- 75% thereof was authorised to them in March 2020 itself and timing is left to the States.
- States have so far borrowed only 14% of the limit authorised 86% of the authorised borrowing remains unutilized.
- In view of the unprecedented situation, Centre has decided to accede to the request of state governments and has increased the borrowing limits of States from 3% to 5% for 2020-21 only, which will give States extra resources of worth Rs 4.28 lakh crores.

Part of the borrowing will be linked to specific reforms (including recommendations of Finance Commission) to:

- ensure sustainability of the additional debt through higher future GSDP growth and lower deficits.
- promote welfare of migrants and reduce leakage in food distribution
- increase job creation through investment
- safeguard the interests of farmers while making the power sector sustainable
- promote the urban development, health and sanitation
- Reform linkage will be in four areas universalisation of 'One Nation One Ration card', Ease of Doing Business, Power distribution and Urban local body revenues

Department of Expenditure will notify a specific scheme on the following pattern:

- Unconditional increase of 0.50%.
- 1% in 4 tranches of 0.25% with each tranche linked to clearly specified, measurable and feasible reform actions.
- Further 0.50% will be made available if the milestones are achieved in at least three out of four reform areas.

Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Statement for 2020-21

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Reserve Bank of India's** Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to advance the **Bi-monthly Monetary Policy** meet which was scheduled to be held on 03rd June 2020 and the announcement was meant to be made on 05th June 2020. The meeting was advanced to 20th, 21st and 22nd May 2020. During the Monetary Policy meet, the MPC analysed the current & evolving macroeconomic and financial conditions and has decided to take an accommodative stance and hence reduced the policy repo rate to revive growth as well as to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. With its decisions, MPC aims to keep inflation within the target and hence to preserve financial stability.

The key decisions taken in the Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:

- The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) has been reduced by 40 basis points from 4.40% to 4.00%.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF has been reduced by 40 basis points from 3.75% to 3.35%.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate have been reduced from 4.65% to 4.25%.

Some more announcements from the press conference held by the Reserve Bank of India:

- A special refinance facility of Rs 15,000 crore to SIDBI was offered by the Reserve Bank of India. It was made available at RBI's policy repo rate for a period of 90 days for onlending/refinancing. To provide greater flexibility to SIDBI, RBI has decided to roll over the facility at the end of the 90th day for another period of 90 days.
- To enable EXIM bank (Export-Import Bank of India) to meet its foreign currency resource requirements, RBI has decided to extend a line of credit of Rs 15,000 crore to the EXIM Bank for a period of 90 days (with rollover up to one year) in order to enable it to avail a US dollar swap facility.
- Earlier on two separate occasions (March 27 and April 17, 2020), the RBI had earlier announced following regulatory measures:
 - (a) granting of 3 months moratorium on term loan installments
 - (b) deferment of interest for 3 months on working capital facilities
 - (c) easing of working capital financing requirements by reducing margins or reassessment of working capital cycle
 - (d) exemption from being classified as 'defaulter' in supervisory reporting and reporting to credit information companies

- (e) extension of resolution timelines for stressed assets
- (f) asset classification standstill by excluding the moratorium period of 3 months, etc. by lending institutions.

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to extend the above measures by another three months i.e. from June 1, 2020 till August 31, 2020, hence taking the total period of applicability of the measures to six months (i.e. from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020).
- The lending institutions are also permitted to restore the margins for working capital to their original levels by March 31, 2021. Similarly, the measures pertaining to reassessment of working capital cycle are being extended up to March 31, 2021.

Nikkei Asia Prize 2020

An IIT Madras Professor **Thalappil Pradeep** has been selected for the **Nikkei Asia Prize 2020** in the category of '**Science and Technology**' for his pioneering work in nanotechnology-based water purification. The Nikkei Asia Prizes recognize those individuals who have contributed to the region's sustainable development and to a creation of a better future of Asia. The prize is conferred annually in three areas i.e. "**Economic and Business Innovation**", "**Science and Technology**", and "**Culture and Community**".

Complete list of winners of the prize is as follows:

- Science and Technology: Professor **Thalappil Pradeep** (India)
- Culture and Community: **Ram Prasad Kadel** (Nepal)
- Economic and Business Innovation: **Anthony Tan** (Malaysia) & **Tan Hooi Ling** (Malaysia)

Union Cabinet Approves "Scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises"

"**Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises**" has been **approved** by the **Union Cabinet**. "Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises" is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme that was announced recently by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as a part of 3rd tranche of Economic Relief Package for "**Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**". It has been announced for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore, the expenditure of which will be borne by the Government Of India and the States in ratio of **60:40**.

Objective of “Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises”:

“Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises” is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which has been announced to benefit 2,00,000 micro-enterprises, Farmer producer organisations, Self Help Groups as well as the cooperatives. It has the following objectives:

- To increase the accessibility of finance to the micro food processing units.
- To increase in revenues of target enterprises.
- To enhance compliance with food quality and safety standards.
- To strengthen capacities of support systems.
- To convert the unorganized sector to the formal sector.
- To encourage Waste to Wealth activities.

Implementation of “Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises”:

The scheme will be implemented for over a 5 year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 on All India basis, providing credit linked subsidy to 2,00,000 units. At the central level, monitoring of the scheme would be done by an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee (IMEC) under the Chairmanship of Minister, FPI. And, at the state or Union Territory level, the Chief Secretary will chair the State/ UT Level Committee (SLC) to monitor the implementation of the scheme. Also, for the implementation of scheme, a Nodal Department and Agency would be notified by the State/ UT Government. To enable the applicants/ individual enterprise to participate in the scheme, a National level portal would be set-up. This portal would also be responsible for undertaking all the scheme related activities. Government of India will approve the Annual Action Plans prepared by the States/ UTs for implementation of the scheme.

Features of the scheme:

The scheme will provide Seed capital to Self Help Groups for loan to members for working capital and small tools. It will also provide grant for backward/ forward linkages, common infrastructure, packaging, marketing & branding along with skill training & Handholding support. Under the scheme, Micro enterprises will be offered credit linked subsidy @ 35% of the eligible project cost with ceiling of Rs 10 lakh.

Centre launches scheme to solarise Konark sun temple & Konark town

- A **scheme** has been launched by the **central government** for complete **solarization of Konark Sun Temple and Konark town** in **Odisha** to develop the historical Sun Temple town of Konark as **Surya Nagri**.
- As a part of scheme, **10 Mega Watt grid** connected solar project along with various solar off-grid applications such as solar trees and solar drinking water kiosks would be set up in the area.
- **Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency** would be responsible for the **implementation** of this project.
- For the execution of project, Government of India will provide a 100% Central Financial Assistance (CFA) support of around **Rs 25 Crores** through Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.

“The Saras Collection” launched on Government e-Marketplace portal

“The Saras Collection” has been launched on the Government e-Marketplace portal by the Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar. The new initiative has been launched with an objective to provide Self Help Groups in rural areas with market access to Central as well as State Government buyers.

About “The Saras Collection”

“The Saras Collection” is a unique initiative of Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development. Under this initiative, the daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs) are exhibited and provided with the market access to Central and State Government buyers. According to initiative, the products of the SHG sellers can be listed in 5 product categories, i.e.:

- Handicrafts
- Handloom
- Office accessories
- Grocery and pantry
- Personal care and hygiene

Maharashtra to provide free insurance cover premium to its people

- The **Maharashtra government** has announced the inclusion of state’s whole population under the **Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Aarogya Yojana**. According to the announcement, state will provide free health treatment to cent per cent population of the state. With this inclusion, Maharashtra has become India’s first state to provide free and cashless insurance premium to the people of the state.

- At present, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana is covering **85%** of the state's population. With the latest announcement, the benefits of the scheme have been extended towards the **remaining 15% people of state**. The latest announcement enables the state government, semi-government employees as well as

the white ration card holders to apply for this scheme. Under the scheme, people in the state can avail the benefits of free and cashless health insurance. People needs documents such as ration card and domicile certificate to apply for the scheme.

Indian journalists wins Pulitzer Prize 2020 in feature photography

Indian journalists namely **Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan** and **Channi Anand** have been honoured with the 2020 Pulitzer Prize. These journalists have won the award in the field of feature photography. All the three journalists belongs to Associated Press. They have been awarded for the lockdown coverage. The Pulitzer announced that the Indian journalists have been awarded for the contested territory of Kashmir as India revoked its independence, executed through a communications blackout. The Pulitzer Prize is considered as the highest honour that United States-based journalists and organisations can receive.

Here is the complete list of winners

S.No.	Category	Winner
JOURNALISM		
1	Public Service	Anchorage Daily News with contributions from ProPublica
2	Breaking News Reporting	Staff of The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.
3	Investigative Reporting	Brian M. Rosenthal of The New York Times
4	Explanatory Reporting	Staff of The Washington Post
5	Local Reporting	Staff of The Baltimore Sun
6	National Reporting	Dominic Gates, Steve Miletich, Mike Baker and Lewis Kamb of The Seattle Times and T. Christian Miller, Megan Rose and Robert Faturechi of ProPublica
7	International Reporting	Staff of The New York Times
8	Feature Writing	Ben Taub of The New Yorker
9	Commentary	Nikole Hannah-Jones of The New York Times
10	Criticism	Christopher Knight of the Los Angeles Times
11	Editorial Writing	Jeffery Gerritt of the Palestine (Tx.) Herald Press
12	Editorial Cartooning	Barry Blitt, contributor, The New Yorker
13	Breaking News Photography	Photography Staff of Reuters
14	Feature Photography	Channi Anand, Mukhtar Khan and Dar Yasin of Associated Press
15	Audio Reporting	Staff of This American Life with Molly O'Toole of the Los Angeles Times and Emily Green, freelancer, Vice News
BOOKS, DRAMA & MUSIC		
16	Fiction	The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead (Doubleday)
17	Drama	A Strange Loop, by Michael R. Jackson
18	History	Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America, by W. Caleb McDaniel (Oxford University Press)
19	Biography	Sontag: Her Life and Work, by Benjamin Moser (Ecco)

S.No.	Category	Winner
20	Poetry	The Tradition, by Jericho Brown (Copper Canyon Press)
21	General Nonfiction	The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America, by Greg Grandin (Metropolitan Books) and, The Undying: Pain, Vulnerability, Mortality, Medicine, Art, Time, Dreams, Data, Exhaustion, Cancer, and Care, by Anne Boyer (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
22	Music	The Central Park Five, by Anthony Davis
SPECIAL CITATIONS		
23	Special Awards and Citations	Ida B. Wells

Outbreak of African Swine Fever in India

- Assam has noted the first instance of African swine fever in the country. The outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) amid the **COVID-19 pandemic** has claimed more than 2900 domestic pigs across **306 villages of the state**. It is being noted that the swine fever was started in April 2019 at a village in Xizang province of **China bordering Arunachal Pradesh**. Earlier in April, there were reported deaths of pigs dying from the classical swine fever (CSF).
- ASF and CSF are different from **Swine flu (HINI)** and do not affect humans. CSF can be prevented by proper vaccination but there is no vaccination for ASF. The ASF mortality rate is almost 100%.

International Energy Agency (IEA) Releases “Global Energy Review 2020”

International Energy Agency (IEA) has released its report with title **“Global Energy Review 2020”**. This report comprises of estimates for **how energy consumption and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions** trends are expected to develop over the rest of 2020.

Key findings of the Global Energy Review 2020: The report forecasts that energy demand will fall down by **6%** in 2020 i.e. seven times the decline after the 2008 global financial crisis. Due to the crisis posed by COVID-19 pandemic, demand of all fuels will be affected in the following manner:

- Oil demand is expected to drop by 9% which will return oil consumption to 2012 levels.
- Coal demand is expected to decline by 8%.
- Gas demand has been projected to fall much further across the 2020 accompanied by reduced demand in power and industry applications.
- Nuclear power demand would also face downfall of 3% in response to lower electricity demand.

- Renewables demand is expected to increase due to low operating costs as well as preferential access to many power systems. Hence, it will be the only energy source that will grow in 2020.
- It has been forecasted that global demand for biofuels is set to drop substantially in 2020 due to restrictions on transport and travel reduce road transport fuel demand, including for blended fuels.
- The report has also projected that electricity demand will fall by 5% globally.

UNICEF Publishes “LOST AT HOME” Report

“LOST AT HOME” report is published by the **United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**. The report says that almost **33 million** new **displacements** were recorded in **2019** in which around **25 million** were due to **natural disasters** and **8.5 million** as a consequence of **conflict and violence**.

According to the report, there were 12 million new displacements involving children, including around 3.8 million of them caused by conflict and violence, and 8.2 million due to disasters linked mostly to weather-related events. According to the report, natural disasters resulted in more new displacements than conflict and violence. Almost 10 million new displacements in 2019 were recorded in East Asia and the Pacific (39 %) — and almost the same number in South Asia (9.5 million). The report looks at the risks internally displaced children face in which child labour, child marriage, trafficking among them — and the actions urgently needed to protect them.

INDIAN SCENARIO:

- India, the Philippines, Bangladesh and China all suffered from natural disasters leading to displacement in the millions, which accounted for 69% of global disaster-induced displacements.
- These were overwhelmingly caused by extreme conditions created by dangerous storms and floods.
- In India, the total number of new internal displacements in 2019 stood at 5,037,000: 5,018,000 due to natural disasters and 19,000 because of conflict and violence.

GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT:

- India is closely followed by the Philippines, Bangladesh and China.
- The Philippines alone accounted for 4.27 million new internal displacements due to natural disasters, conflict and violence, Bangladesh 4.08 million and China 4.03 million.
- The largest number of internally displaced children due to conflict is found in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Internally displaced persons are concentrated in two regions: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and West and Central Africa.
- The Middle East and North Africa region recorded over 12 million internally displaced people as a result of conflict and violence at the end of 2019. Almost all of them lived in just three countries: Syria, Yemen, and Iraq and around 5 million were children.
- This includes 2.4 million children. Together with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.9 million) and Yemen (1.7 million), these three countries account for one in three (36 %) of all children internally displaced due to conflict and violence, it said.

WHO Releases “State Of The World’s Nursing Report 2020”

The “**State Of The World’s Nursing Report-2020**” has been released by the **World Health Organization**. The report outlines the role and contributions of nurses with respect to the WHO “triple billion” targets.

This is the **first State of the world’s nursing report** and it presents much to celebrate about the nursing workforce. The report has been **developed** by the **World Health Organization** in partnership with the **International Council of Nurses** and the **global Nursing Now campaign** along with the support of governments and wider partners.

Key findings of the report:

- According to the report, nursing is the largest occupational group in the health sector which accounts for around 59% of the health professionals.
- It states that the global nursing workforce is 27.9 million, of which 19.3 million are professional nurses.
- The global shortage of nurses, estimated to be 5.9 million nurses in 2018.
- It also identified the ageing health workforce patterns in some regions which is threatening the stability of the nursing stock.

- To address the shortage of nurses by 2030 in all countries, the report suggested an increase of total number of nurse graduates by 8% per year on average including an improved capacity to employ and retain these graduates.
- It also identifies that the nursing remains a highly gendered profession with associated biases in the workplace.

DW Freedom of Speech Award 2020 announced

17 journalists from 14 countries have been named for **Deutsche Welle Freedom of Speech Award 2020** for showing “outstanding commitment to human rights and freedom of expression in the media”.

Here is the complete list of Winner:

S.No.	Winner	Country
1	Siddharth Varadarajan	India
2	Ana Lalic	Serbia
3	BlazZgaga	Slovenia
4	SergejSazuk	Belarus
5	Elena Milashina	Russia
6	Darvinson Rojas	Venezuela
7	Mohammad Mosaed	Iran
8	Beatific Gumbwanda	Zimbabwe
9	David MusisiKaryankolo	Uganda
10	NurcanBaysal	Turkey
11	İsmetCigit	Turkey
12	Fares Sayegh	Jordan
13	Sovann Rithy	Cambodia
14	Maria Victoria Beltran	The Philippines
15	Chen Qiushi	China
16	Li Zehua	China
17	Fang Bin	China

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Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge awards

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh has presented the award to the winners of “Startup India-Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge”. Here is the list of winners:

S.No.	Category	Winner
1	Value Added Products	Krushak Mitra Agro Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
2	Eliminating Milk Adulteration	White Gold Technologies LLP, Mumbai
3	Product Traceability	EmerTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
4	E-commerce Solutions	MoooFarm, Gurugram, Haryana
5	Breed Improvement & Animal Nutrition	Adis Technologies, Belagavi, Karnataka

UN releases report “World Economic Situation and Prospects”

- According to the report, the **growth rate of India** has been projected to grow at **1.2%** in fiscal year **2020**. While the report has also indicated a slight recovery in the **growth rate of India** for fiscal year **2021** and stated that it would clock a **5.5%** growth rate in **2021**.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has paralysed the world, the **UN** has projected that the global economy will contract sharply by **3.2%** in fiscal year **2020**, with only a gradual recovery of lost output projected for fiscal year **2021**.

MOHUA announced results of Star rating of garbage-free cities

Union Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri** has announced the results of **the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities 2019-2020**. According to the result, **6 Cities were rated 5 Star, 65 Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star out of 141 cities**. Union Minister also launched the revised protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities.

What is Star Rating Protocol?

The **Star Rating Protocol** was launched by the Ministry in **January 2018** to institutionalize a mechanism for cities to realize Garbage Free status and to motivate cities to realize higher degrees of cleanliness. The core of the protocol is on Solid Waste Management (SWM) & also ensures certain minimum standards of sanitation through a group of prerequisites defined within the framework.

It'll consider ward-wise geo-mapping, monitoring of SWM value chain through ICT interventions like **Swachh Nagar App and zone-wise rating in cities with a population of quite 50 lakh**. The performance of cities under the Star Rating Protocol is crucial because it carries significant weightage when it involves their final assessment in **Swachh Survekshan**.”

List of cities with 5 Star Rating:

Urban Local Bodies	Category	Winner
Ambikapur	Chhattisgarh	5 Star
Rajkot	Gujarat	5 Star
Surat	Gujarat	5 Star
Mysore	Karnataka	5 Star
Indore	Madhya Pradesh	5 Star
Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	5 Star

Finance Minister rolls out facility of Instant Allotment of PAN

The facility for **instant allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN)** has been **formally launched** by the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman**. This facility has been rolled out on near to real time basis. The PAN applicants who has a valid Aadhaar number and have a mobile number registered with Aadhaar will be able to avail the recently launched facility. After the launch of this new facility, the allotment process is paperless and **an electronic PAN (e-PAN)** will be issued to the applicants free of cost. Launching this facility will create further ease of compliance to the taxpayers.

The process of applying for instant PAN is as follows:

- The instant PAN applicant will access the e-filing website of the Income Tax Department to provide her/his valid Aadhaar number
- The applicant is required to submit the OTP received on her/his Aadhaar registered mobile number.
- After successful completion of this process, the applicant will receive a 15-digit acknowledgment number.
- The applicant will be able to check the status of the request anytime by providing her/his valid Aadhaar number
- After the successful allotment, the applicant will be able to download the e-PAN.
- The e-PAN will also be sent to the applicant on her/his email id, if it is registered with Aadhaar.

What is Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)?

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has been recently **approved by the Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The scheme has been stated to be **implemented from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25** i.e. for a period of **5-years** in all States/Union Territories. As the name suggests, PMMSY is a **fisher centric umbrella scheme** in which the key stakeholders would be fishers, fish farmers, fish workers and fish vendors.

What is Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)?

PMMSY is a scheme which has been launched by the central government to bring about Blue Revolution via sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India. The scheme intends to address critical shortfalls in the fish production as well as productivity, technology, modernisation and strengthening of value chain, traceability, quality, etc.

Structure of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

PMMSY is a **umbrella scheme** constituting two separate components such as: **Central Sector Scheme** and **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**. PMMSY has been approved at a total estimated investment of **Rs 20,050 crores**. The composition of investment is as follows:

1. Central Share of Rs 9407 crore
2. State Share of Rs 4880 crore
3. Beneficiaries Share of Rs 5763 crore

Objective Of The Scheme:

- The scheme aims to harness the fisheries potential in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive as well as equitable manner.
- It aims to improve fish productivity via expansion and intensification.
- It has a target of modernizing and strengthening of value chain through post harvest management & quality improvement
- It also aims to ensure social, physical and economic security for fish farmers and fishers.

Some activities to be undertaken under PMMSY:

Following activities will take place to achieve the objectives of the PMMSY: Genetic improvement programmes and Nucleus Breeding Centres; Training, awareness, exposure and capacity building; setting up Aquatic Quarantine Facilities; Modernization of fishing harbours of central government and its entities; setting up Fish Farmer Producer Organizations/companies, etc.

Implementation Of The Scheme: Following will act as the End Implementing Agencies for the implementation of PMMSY:

- Central Government and its entities such as National Fisheries Development Board
- State/Union Territory Government as well as their entities such as state fisheries development board
- Any other End Implementing Agencies as decided by the Department of Fisheries
- Beneficiaries of the PMMSY:
- PMMSY will have a very wide coverage and will include the following as the beneficiaries: Fishers, fish farmers, fisheries development corporations, Self Help Groups, Fisheries Federations, fish workers and fish vendors, fish farmers producer organisations, etc.

Impact Of The PMMSY:

The investment of Rs 20,050 crores is the highest ever amount allocated for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector. PMMSY is expected to enhance the fish production from 13.75 million metric tons (2018-19) to 22 million metric tons (2024-25). It also envisages to double the export earnings by 2024-25 to about Rs 1,00,000 crores, hence doubling the incomes of fishers as well as the fish farmers. The huge amount of investment in the sector will also generate about 55 lakhs of gainful employment opportunities along with supply and value chain.

Andhra Pradesh CM releases 1st tranche of "ReStart Package"

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has released the **1st tranche** of **"ReStart Package"** to help the lockdown-hit Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**) to reopen and become functional. The first tranche is of Rs 450 crore which will be used in clearing the pending industrial incentives that would benefit nearly 98,000 units. While the second tranche of Rs 454 crore will be cleared on 29 June 2020.

Under the **"ReStart Package"**, government will waive of all the **minimum power demand charges** of **MSMEs** of the months of April, May and June. This cost has been estimated as a amount of **Rs 188 crore**. AP government will also provide **input capital of Rs 200 crore** to the firms at low-interest rates in order to bring the MSMEs back on rails. This will be done by providing loans in partnership with the Small Industrial Development Bank of India at a low-interest rate.

Andhra Pradesh government has also announced to give **preferential market access to MSMEs** in government procurement and it has identified **360 items** that will be purchased from MSMEs and all those payments will be cleared in a period of 45 days.

The composition of purchases will be as follows:

- almost 25% of the purchases will be done from micro and small enterprises
- 4% of the purchases will be done from SC-ST community enterprise
- 3% of the purchases will be done from women entrepreneurs

World Steel Association Releases “April 2020: Crude Steel Production Update”

World Steel Association has released the “**April 2020: Crude Steel Production Update**”. For this, **64 countries** reported to the World Steel Association about the production of steel took place in all the respective countries. As the whole world is battling with the COVID-19 pandemic, many of April 2020’s figures are estimates that may be revised with next month’s production update.

Key results of the “April 2020: Crude Steel Production Update”:

- World crude steel production for the 64 countries reported to the World Steel Association was 137.1 million tonnes (Mt) in April 2020 which shows a 13.0% decrease as compared to April 2019.
- In April 2020, 85.0 Mt of crude steel was produced in China citing an increase of 0.2% compared to April 2019.
- **In April 2020, 3.1 Mt of crude steel production took place in India, indicating a downfall of 65.2% as compared to that of April 2019.**
- Crude Steel production in Japan amounted to 6.6 Mt in April 2020 i.e. down by 23.5% as compared to that of April 2019.
- Crude Steel Production in the European Union (EU) is estimated to be 10.7 Mt in April 2020, facing a downfall of 22.9% on April 2019.
- In April 2020, the US produced 5.0 Mt of crude steel which is a decrease of 32.5% as compared to that of April 2019.
- Crude Steel Production in the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.) is estimated to be 6.6 Mt in April 2020, down 22.6% on April 2019.
- In April 2020, the crude steel production in Brazil was 1.8 Mt, experiencing a downfall of 39% as compared to that of April 2019.

GoI launches initiatives towards Conservation of Biodiversity

During the virtual celebration of the **International Day for Biological Diversity 2020**, the Government of India launched key initiatives towards **Conservation of Biodiversity**. These **initiatives** are as follows:

- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “**Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme**” were launched by the Union Environment Minister. This program envisages to engage 20 students with postgraduate degrees for a duration of one year via an open, transparent, online competitive process. These students will learn about natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. Hence they will be supporting the projects of NBA in various State and Union Territories. They would also be responsible to technically help the State Biodiversity Boards/UTs Biodiversity Council in discharge of their mandates.
- **Not all Animals Migrate by Choice:** UNEP Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species: ‘Not all Animals Migrate by Choice’ was also launched during the celebration. This campaign was launched by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in association with UNEP. The launch of campaign aims to address the environmental challenges, to raise awareness, and to recommend solutions.
- **Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** A Webinar Series on ‘**Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002**’ was launched during the virtual event.
- **WWF Model Conference of Parties (MCoP):** An initiative “WWF Model Conference of Parties (MCoP)” was launched during the virtual event. This initiative includes the younger generation so that they can participate in conversations regarding the impact of humanity’s footprint on biodiversity, as well as the importance of sustenance of biodiversity for our own survival.
- During the virtual event, an **awareness campaign** was launched to highlight the crucial role played by nature via its free ecological services offered to humankind. This campaign was launched with the support of WWF.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has launched a loan scheme ‘**Vikas Abhaya**’ to provide some relief to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (**MSME**) **borrowers** whose business activities are disrupted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic in Dharwad, Karnataka.
- **HDFC Bank** has released a song titled **#HumHaarNahiMaanenge** to keep hopes up amidst the ongoing national lockdown and **Covid-19 pandemic**. The lyrics of the song has been penned by Praseon Joshi and music has been composed by AR Rahman.

- A customer engagement technology provider, **Ameyo** has launched **video KYC engagement platform** for the banking and finance sector. The newly launched platform will eliminate the businesses' requirement of physical KYC in accordance with latest RBI guidelines issued in January 2020. It is expected to decrease the customer onboarding process from the present 5-7 days to less than 3 minutes.
- The licence of The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai to carry on banking business has been cancelled by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** with effect from the close of business on **April 30, 2020**.
- **INR-USD Futures and Options contracts** have been launched on International Exchanges viz. **BSE's India INX and National Stock Exchange, NSE's NSE-IFSC**, at GIFT International Financial Services Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **SBI General Insurance** has launched the standard health insurance policy "**Aarogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy**" which provides **hospitalisation** cover anywhere in India with sums insured ranging from **Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs**.
- **Canara Bank** has started a special **business vertical dedicated to gold loans** to meet the financial needs of its customers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bank has launched a gold loan campaign till 30th June 2020 with an interest rate as low as 7.85% per annum.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** becomes 1st bank in India to allow video **Know your customer (KYC) facility** for customers opening savings accounts on **Kotak 811 – the banks digital banking platform**. The initiative is presently being launched on a pilot basis for savings accounts, Kotak Mahindra.
- "**iTurmeric FinCloud**" is a cloud-ready, API-first, microservices-based platform which has been launched by the Intellect Design Arena Ltd. This platform has been launched through IBM public cloud and will enable the new digital banks' systems to be tested and run in isolation or in parallel with core legacy systems.
- An **Artificial Intelligence** based chatbot "**PAi**" has been launched by the **National Payment Corporation of India** to create awareness around NPCI's products such as FASTag, RuPay, UPI, AePS on a real time basis. The chatbot has been developed by startup **CoRover Private Limited**.
- **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has announced the launch of the **modified Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**, a social security scheme for senior citizens. **LIC** is **solely authorised** to work this scheme, which works as a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Pension Scheme subsidised by the Centre.

Economy Current Affairs

- **Moody's** cuts down India's Gross Domestic Product(GDP) growth to "**zero**" for the current **fiscal 2020-21**. Its previous estimate was 2.6%. In 2021-22 India's GDP growth rate will bounce back to **6.6%**.
- **S&P Global Ratings** has slashed **India's** GDP growth rate to **5%** in the Fiscal Year **2021**.
- **Fitch Ratings** has released its latest **Global Economic Outlook (GEO)**. Fitch Ratings has slashed India's GDP growth rate to **5%** for the Fiscal Year **2021**. While the **Global GDP growth** rate has been forecasted to fall by **4.6%** in **2020**.
- **India's** gross domestic product (**GDP**) grew by **4.2%** in 2019-20, according to data released recently by the **National Statistical Office**.

Business Current Affairs

- A car manufacturing corporation, **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.** has rolled out an end to end, online vehicle ownership solution titled '**Own-Online**' to offer its customers a transparent, seamless and contactless experience from selection to the delivery of the vehicle.
- An **e-commerce major, Flipkart and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company** have tied-up to offer a digital motor insurance policy to **Flipkart's customers**. The will provide seamless, accessible as well as flexible insurance solution to the customers of **Flipkart** in order to safeguard their vehicles.
- **Reliance Industries Ltd** has launched a "**WhatsApp chatbot**" to address rights issue queries of its 2.6 million shareholders on the offering. It has been developed by **Jio Haptik Technologies**.
- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has been penalised with amount of **Rs 7 lakh** by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) for delay in disclosing half yearly financial results between FY16 and FY19. It has been penalised on the basis of SEBI's **listing obligation and disclosure norms (LODR)** according to which half yearly results have to be filed within 45 days from the end of the half year.
- Airtel Payments Bank has collaborated with Mastercard to create customised financial products for Indian farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- Fintech startup **Zaggle** has partnered with payments technology major "**Visa**" to launch **innovative payment solutions** for small and medium enterprises (**SMEs**) and **startups**.

International Current Affairs

- **Russia** has planned to launch the 1st satellite named **Arktika-M** to monitor the Arctic climate and environment by the end of 2020. The launch will take place on Soyuz -2,1b carrier rocket with frigate booster.
- Former intelligence chief of Iraq **Mustafa al-Kadhimi** becomes new Iraqi prime minister. Former PM **Adil-Abdul Mahdi** resigned in November last year.
- **China** has successfully launched a new rocket named **“Long March 5B”** into space as it steps up **Moon landing plans**. This rocket is launched in Wenchang launch site that is located on the island of Hainan, china.
- Government of Iran recently took a decision of changing the name of its currency to a **“Toman”**. Under the bill, Iran national currency is going to be changed from the rial to the **Toman**, which is adequate to **10,000 rials**.
- **Slovenia** has become the **1st coronavirus-free** country in **Europe**.
- The **Italian Institute of Technology (IIT)** has developed **‘iFeel-You’ bracelet** for **social distancing**, and will help users respect social distancing rules.
- **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA)** have jointly released **commemorative Postage Stamp** on the **40th** anniversary of the eradication of **smallpox**.
- **World Health Organisation** will initiate Independent Inquiry in the handling of **COVID-19** and hence it will launch **“Resolution on COVID-19 response”** to put an end to the international blame game in the origin of COVID-19. The resolution was taken at the 73rd World Health Assembly that was held through video conference. India was represented by the Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.
- **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has won the Israeli national elections, securing a record fifth term in office, after a controversial power-sharing deal with rival-turned-partner **Benny Gantz**.

- China has announced to provide **USD 2 billion** over two years to fight the coronavirus pandemic at **WHO assembly**.
- Lesotho Prime Minister, **Thomas Thabane** has formally resigned from the post. Lesotho’s Finance Minister **Moeketsi Majoro** has been named by parliament as the **interim PM of the country**.
- **UNICEF** and **Airtel Africa** has partnered to support children & families affected in **13 countries** across **sub-Saharan Africa** due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to provide children with access to remote learning and enable access to cash assistance for their families through mobile cash transfers.
- **European Union** proposed **750 billion Euros** as COVID-19 recovery fund to help the countries to recover from deep recession caused by the COVID-19. The money would be divided in the following manner: **500 billion euros** given to **EU countries** as **grants** while the remaining **250 billion euros** would be available as **loans**.

National News

- **Project Monitoring Unit (PMU)** has been launched by the **Ministry of Coal (MoC)** to facilitate early operationalisation of coal mines which have been allocated by the Central Government.
- National Council for Science & Technology Communication and Department of Science & Technology has launched a programme on health and risk communication **‘Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)’** with focus on COVID-19.
- **Government of India** has **increased** the Minimum Support Price (**MSP**) for Minor Forest Produce (**MFP**) of 49 items. The increase in MSP across various items of minor forest produce varies from **16% to 66%**.
- CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) has developed **“Kisan Sabha App”** to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system.
- Nation celebrates **480th birth anniversary** of **Maharana Pratap** on **9 May**. He was Born on **9 May, 1540**.
- National e-commerce marketplace **‘bharatmarket’** will be launched by the traders’ body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). **‘Bharatmarket’** will be launched for all retail traders, by CAIT in collaboration with several technology partners.
- **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** under the Ministry of Jal Shakti has jointly organised an **IDEathon** on **“The future of River Management’** with the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)**.

TEST SERIES

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- **Bamboo Conclave** was held through Video Conference and featured the participation of representatives of **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and various other stakeholders from different sectors.
- **Chandigarh government** has launched a new mobile app named “**CHDCOVID**” to provide COVID-19 related information. The app has been developed in-house by the **Society for Promotion of IT in Chandigarh (SPIC)**.
- **NITI Aayog** has virtually launched a campaign titled as “**Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan**”, in association with Piramal Foundation to protect senior citizens during COVID-19. The campaign targets to cover 2.9 million senior citizens in 25 #AspirationalDistricts across various states such as Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh.
- **Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Alumni Council** has launched a “**COVID-19 test bus**” in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. It will reduce 80% of the testing cost without compromising on the testing capacity.
- **Styrene gas** leaked from **LG Polymers Plant in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**. The changes in temperature inside a storage tank resulted in a leak.
- **Government of India** has launched its biggest-ever evacuation exercises named the “**Vande Bharat Mission**” in which the government will bring back nearly **15,000 Indian nationals** stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan has recently launched the mobile application ‘**AYUSH Sanjivani**’ App and two AYUSH based studies related to COVID-19 situation.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated new 80-km road in Uttarakhand which connects close to the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and opens a new route for **Kailash Mansarovar yatra via Lipulekh Pass**. Border Roads Organisation achieved road connectivity from Dharchula to Lipulekh (China Border) known as **Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route**.
- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** has approved a loan worth of **\$500 million for India’s ‘COVID-19 Emergency Response**.
- Government of India has started “**Mission Sagar**” to provide assistance to **Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations** amid the coronavirus crisis. The mission is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region). Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Kesari** has been deployed.
- **Supreme Court of India's** bench of 5-judge, headed by **Justice Arun Mishra** has **ruled** that the **provisions** of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (**SARFAESI**) **Act, 2002**, will now be **applicable to state and multi-state cooperative banks**.
- “**CHAMPIONS** (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength)” portal has been launched by the **Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**. It aims to make the smaller units big.
- **Emergency Assistance Program** Loan of **USD 1 billion** has been approved by the **New Development Bank (NDB)** to India to support India in its attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- **Indian Railways** has made the **Aarogya Setu app** mandatory for the **passengers** to travel by **train**.
- An **assistance of \$3.6 million** to India has been committed by the **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** to enhance India’s response to the COVID-19 epidemic.
- In wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **World Bank** has announced **\$1 billion social protection package for India**.
- The **COBAS 6800** is the **first fully automated**, high-end machine for performing **RT-PCR tests** for COVID-19, procured by the Government of India for testing **COVID-19** cases and has been installed at the **National Centre for Disease Control in Delhi**.
- “**GOAL (Going Online As Leaders)**” programme has been launched recently to offer mentorship to **tribal youth** via **digital mode** and intends to act as a catalyst to explore hidden talents of the tribal youth. It is a joint initiative of **Facebook India** with **Ministry of Tribal affairs**.
- The Government of India flagship social security scheme ‘**Atal Pension Yojana**’ (APY) has successfully completed five years of implementation.
- An online dashboard “**National Migrant Information System (NMIS)**” has been developed by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** to secure information regarding the movement of migrants and to facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States.
- India has provided **USD 2 million** aid for the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency** working for the welfare of Palestinian refugees. This aid is given for **UNRWA core programmes and services**, including education and health, amidst the coronavirus crisis.

- Ministry of Human Resources Development has launched a new mobile application called “**National Test Abhyas**” that was developed by the National Testing Agency to help the candidates to take mock tests for exams such as **JEE Mains, NEET, etc.**
- **Indian Railways** has operationalised its **1st 12,000 hp electric Locomotive- WAG12**. The loco is named WAG12 with Number 60027. This Locomotive has manufactured by **Madhepura Electric Loco Factory in Bihar**.
- **IGNOU's Online Master's Programme in Hindi** has been launched by the Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' via Facebook Live session.
- As part of **rehabilitation package**, the Government of India has announced **financial assistance of Rs 1,000 crore** for cyclone hit **West Bengal** along with an **ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh** for the next of kin of the dead, and **Rs 50,000** for the injured.
- As part of **rehabilitation package**, the Government of India has announced **financial assistance of Rs 500 crore** for cyclone hit **Odisha** along with an **ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh** for the next of kin of the dead, and **Rs 50,000** for the injured.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs flagship programme ‘**Hunar Haat**’ will restart from September 2020 with the theme of “**Local to Global**”. There will be a special “**Jaan Bhi, Jahaan Bhi**” pavilion to create health awareness among the people with the theme of “Say no to panic, yes to precautions”.
- Department of Science and Technology, Government of **Rajasthan** has organized a webinar on “**Van Dhan Scheme: Learnings for post COVID-19**” in association with **TRIFED**, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
- **TRIFED** has partnered with **UNICEF** to initiate “**Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyaan**” under which tribals will be provided with relevant information regarding COVID-19 along with several guidelines, nationwide and state-specific webinars and instructions on safety measures to be followed.
- Union Minister for Road Transport, Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the **440 metre-long tunnel** as part of the **Chardham Connectivity Project in Chamba**. The tunnel has been developed by the Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**).
- **Manipur's "Khudol"** has been listed among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The listing was done by the **United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth**.
- **Indian Navy** has formed “**NavRakshak**” PPE kit with innovative breathable fabric material to provide comfort to healthcare workers working against COVID-19 pandemic wearing multi-layered coverall PPE treating patients within the hot and humid condition. This PPE kit **made by Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Arnab Ghosh**.
- Former Supreme Court judge Justice, A K Sikri has inaugurated the **Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC)** in New Delhi that will provide a completely paperless dispute resolution environment. The centre offers offline as well as e-alternate dispute resolution (ADR) facility through its state-of-the-art e-arbitration, e-mediation and e-conciliation software portal.
- **India** has **handover** the war game centre named as “**INDIA**” to **Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF)**. The centre was conceptualised by the Indian Military Team and built by the IAU in Jinja district, at a cost of over 1 billion Ugandan shillings or **\$2,65,000**.

States Current Affairs

- **Chhattisgarh** has topped the list of states in terms of providing jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MGNREGA**) after providing employment to 18.52 lakh labourers amid the nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Cabinet of Himachal Pradesh has decided to start the “**Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna**”. In this Yojna, “120 days” assured employment will be provided to people living in urban areas.
- Himachal Pradesh government plans to launch a new programme ‘**Nigah**’ in which it will educate the family members of the people coming to the state from other parts of the country.
- An “**Exit App**” has been launched by the **West Bengal** government for people from other states who are stucked in West Bengal amid the nationwide lockdown and desires to return to their native place.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has become the 1st state in the country to provide mid-day meal ration. Distribution of the mid-day Meal ration with the help of **Anganwadi workers, Panchayat** representatives and local teachers was taken in sending ration to the students at their home after the school closing in April.
- **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched a “**Pravasi Raahat Mitra**” App to connect migrants with schemes and jobs. The app, developed in coordination with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to keep a watch on the migrants’ health, will also connect them to government schemes and collect their data to help them get a job in accordance with their skills.

- **Jharkhand government** has banned **11 brands of Pan Masala** for one year in the state.
- **West Bengal Government** has launched '**Matir Smristi**' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts to generate income activities in horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals.
- **Uttarakhand Government** has launched "**HOPE**" (**Helping Out People Everywhere**) portal to help unemployed youth to get jobs opportunities.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir** administration and **Haryana Government** have **framed** a plan to implement the **Jal Jeevan mission** to provide tap connections to every rural household by **2022**.
- The **Sohrai Khovar** painting of **Jharkhand** and **Telia Rumal** of **Telangana** have received the **Geographical Indication** (GI) tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.
- A programme named "**Pranavayu**" has been launched by the **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Karnataka** to create awareness on the need to self examine the respiratory health for Bengaloreans.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has launched country's **1st ever 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana'** in Bhopal. FIRs in complaints of general nature will be lodged on the spot.
- A **loan agreement** for a **US\$145 million** project has been signed by the **Government of India**, the **Government of West Bengal** and the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area in **West Bengal**.
- "**Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojana**" as been launched by the **Gujarat Government** to provide an interest subsidy, a moratorium as well as a collateral free **loan of up to Rs 1 lakh**. Loan would be available at **2% annual interest** while the remaining **6% interest** would be borne by the **state government**. A moratorium period of **6 months** would be provided to the beneficiary.
- "**Charan Paduka**" **campaign** has been launched by the **Madhya Pradesh** for the migrant labourers moving through the state. Under this campaign, shoes and slippers will be offered to those labourers going barefoot in order to reduce their pain.
- "**Mee Annapurna**" **initiative** has been launched in Maharashtra by an IRDA licensed insurance intermediary "Integrated Risk Insurance". "**Mee Annapurna**" is a commitment of Integrated Risk Insurance to the **Bhoomiputra's of Atmanirbhar Maharashtra** in order to uplift the farming community by providing them long term sustainable programme for the continuity of their income.
- "**Didi Vehicle Service**" has been launched by the women of Rural Livelihood Mission in the tribal-dominated **Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh**. The service has been launched for rural women for the safe delivery, hence proving to be a lifeline for pregnant rural women in tribal areas.
- **Uttar Pradesh** government has set up '**UP Start-up Fund**'. An MoU has been signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India, and the fund will be managed by SIDBI. Initial contribution of Rs 15 crore has been made to the fund. This fund will take part in Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved Alternative Investment Funds and would not be invested directly into start-ups.
- **Chhattisgarh** government has launched "**Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana**" to stimulate the rural economy in the state. Amount of **Rs 10,000 per acre** would be paid to the farmers for paddy, corn and sugarcane crops, based on the registered and procured area for the kharif season.
- **R Sreelekha** has become **Kerala's first woman** IPS officer to reach the Director General of Police (DGP) post when she was promoted as the Director General, Fire and Rescue Department.
- **Mizoram Cabinet** has granted "**industry**" status to "**sports**" to invest more in sports in order to generate employment and increase value.
- **Uttarakhand government** has inaugurated the "**Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana**" for returnee migrants in order to provide self-employment opportunities to youth and a boost to reverse migration, especially entrepreneurs returning to Uttarakhand.

Schemes/Committees

- **Government of India** has constituted an Empowered Group for coordinating response activities **with Private Sector, NGOs** and International Organisations related to **COVID-19**.
- **Rice Export Promotion Forum (REPF)** has been set up by the **Government of India** under the aegis of the Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority (**Apeda**), to **provide stimulus to the rice exports**.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) has constituted a committee to reform the Drug Regulatory System. The **committee** is being **headed** by **Rajesh Bhushan**, Officer on Special Duty to the Union health minister. The committee has been tasked with examining the current drug regulatory system and to give recommendations for reforms in order to bring the system more efficient and to streamline it with global standards.

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB)**, constituent lab of CSIR, has signed an MoU with **TATA Sons** for licensing of KNOWHOW for **FELUDA** in order to execute rapid diagnosis of COVID-19.
- An MoU has been signed by the **PNB Housing Finance with IIT Delhi** in order to support Research & Development for reusable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be supplied to government hospitals.
- **Coal India** signed MOUs with **two Russian entities** within the areas of **coking coal mining** within the Russian Far East and therefore the Arctic Region. The first MoU was signed with **Far Eastern Agency for Attracting Investments and Supporting Exports (FEAAISE)**, Russia and the second MoU was signed with **Eastern Mining Company (FEMC) of Russian Federation** for exploring, identifying, sourcing, negotiating and consummating interdependent investment opportunities within the mining sector within the Russian Far East.
- The **Ministry of Defence** has signed a pact with the **TATA POWER SED** to modernize infrastructure of **37 airfields of Indian Air Force**. The total cost of the project is estimated to be around Rs **1,200 crore**.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research** has tied-up with the **India Post** for delivery of its **coronavirus COVID-19 testing kits**. These kits are taken from ICMR 16 regional depots to 200 additional labs designated for coronavirus testing across the country.
- **Federal Bank Limited** tie-up with **MoneyGram Payment System** to offer a cost-effective **direct-to-bank account credit** option for customers in **India**.
- **National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI)** has partnered with **fintech start-up DotPe** to build its own tech platform. This platform enables them with online payments for digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining.
- **Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), Ministry of Defence and eGov Foundation** has inked an MoU for Online Management of Cantonment Boards. These services will be delivered under a **cloud-based platform DIGIT (Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact & Transformation)**. These services will be provided under the program named e-Chhawani.
- An MoU has been signed by **NTPC Limited**, and **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited** to set up a Joint Venture Company for Renewable Energy business.

- **Asian Development Bank & the GoI** has signed a **\$177 million loan** to upgrade the 450 km of state highways and major district roads in the state of **Maharashtra**.
- **Flipkart** has signed a MoU with **Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation**, to empower mango farmers to sell their produce online.
- **Power Finance Corporation** has signed an MoU with **Narmada Basin Projects Company Ltd** to fund various power projects to be executed in **Madhya Pradesh**. The funds of worth **Rs 22,000 crore** will be deployed to set up hydroelectric projects of 225 MW along with power components of 12 other major multipurpose projects.
- **REC Limited** has partnered with **TajSATS** to provide nutritious meals to **frontline healthcare workers**.
- **World Health Organization** and the **International Olympic Committee** has signed an agreement to work together to promote health through sport and physical activity in order to fight the battle against Covid-19.

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **Shikha Sharma** has been named as advisor to **Google Pay India**.
- **Giridhar Aramane** has taken over the charge as **Secretary** to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- **Sanjeev Ranjan** has been appointed as **secretary** in the Ministry of Shipping.
- **Arvind Kumar Sharma** has taken over the charge as **Secretary** to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- **Max Bupa Health Insurance** has appointed **Krishnan Ramachandran** as its new MD and CEO. He will replace **Ashish Mehrotra**.
- United States President, **Donald Trump** has nominated Indian-American **lawyer Ashok Michael Pinto** as US representative to World Bank's lending arm International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Economic Affairs Secretary, **Tarun Bajaj** has become new director on Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India. He will replace **Atanu Chakraborty**, who retired on April 30.
- **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** has been reappointed as chairperson of the Parliament's public accounts committee (PAC). He was reappointed the chairman of the committee by Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**.

- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Art Of Living (AOL)** has signed a MoU to collaborate in programmes of each organisation for promoting Tribal Enterprises. The Art of Living Foundation has agreed to provide Free Ration Kits to Needy Tribes India Artisans. TRIFED Regional Offices have compiled the list of needy tribal artisans and have identified 9,409 needy tribal artisans located across the country for distribution of ration kits under **"I Stand With Humanity campaign"** of AOL.
- The Director General of the **World Trade Organization, Roberto Azevedo** has decided to **step down** from his post on 31st August 2020 .
- Indian boxer **Akhil Kumar** has been re-inducted into the Disciplinary Panel of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- IAS officer **V. Vidyavathi** has been appointed as the new Director-General of **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- **Manoj Ahuja** has been appointed the new **chairman** of the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. He will replace Anita Karwal as the chairman of the CBSE.
- **Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi** has taken the charge as **Secretary** of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**. He has succeeded **Anand Kumar**, who has been appointed as the **Secretary of Ministry of Culture**.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Harsh Vardhan** will take charge as the chairman of the **World Health Organization (WHO) 34-member Executive Board**. He will replace Dr **Hiroki Nakatani** of Japan.
- **Zubair Iqbal** has been appointed as new managing director of **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** by Jammu and Kashmir Government.
- **Alibaba** co-founder Jack Ma will be resigning from **SoftBank board of directors**. He was serving for nearly 13 years in the board. Ma is expected to resign from the **Group's board on June 25**.
- **Indian Steel Association** has appointed **Dilip Oommen** as its new President. He is presently the CEO of **Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India**. He will replace Tata Steel CEO TV Narendran, who stepped down as President on May 1.
- Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet has appointed **Govinda Rajulu Chintala** as the Chairman of **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**.
- **World Bank Group** has appointed Carmen Reinhart as its new **Vice President and Chief Economist**.
- **Leo Puri** has been announced to become the new **Chairman** of **JP Morgan South Asia** and **South East Asia**. He will replace Kalpana Morparia.
- **Murali Maiya** will become the new **CEO** of **JP Morgan South and South East Asia**.
- **Aiman Ezzat** has become the new **CEO** of French technology major **Capgemini Group**. He has replaced the presently serving Paul Hermelin who will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board.
- **Thierry Delaporte** has been appointed by the IT major **Wipro** as its new **CEO & MD**. He will replace Abidali Neemuchwala.
- Indian Olympic Association (**IOA**) president **Narinder Batra** has been designated as a **member from the Olympic Channel Commission**.
- **SN Rajeswari**, has been selected as the **Chairman and MD** of the **Oriental Insurance Company (OIC)** by Banks Board Bureau (BBB). She will replace AV Girija Kumar.
- **Marcos Troyjo** has been elected as next President of **New Development Bank (NDB)**. He will replace K. V Kamath.
- **Anil Kishora** from **India** has been elected as next **Vice President and CRO** of the **NDB**. He will replace Sarquis J. B. Sarquis.
- The government of India has announced the appointment of **Prem K Nair** as **Indian Ambassador** to the Republic of **Niger**.
- **FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO)** has appointed Assam-based entrepreneur **Jahnabi Phookan** as its **National President**. She has replaced Harjinder Kaur Talwar.
- Indian economist **Abhas Jha** has been appointed as **World Bank's Practice Manager** for **Climate Change** and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has extended the tenure of **Sandip Pradhan** as **Director General** of the Sports Authority of India (**SAI**) by two years.
- **Venkataramani Sumantran** has been appointed the **independent director** of airline company **IndiGo**.

Ranks and Reports

- **India** has been ranked at **74th** position on the **Global 'Energy Transition Index'** by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**. **Sweden** has **topped** the index while Switzerland and Finland were on 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.
- **Uttarakhand** became the **1st state** in India to release a report highlighting its conservation efforts to save over **1,100 rare plants** from extinction.

Sports Current Affairs

- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has launched a campaign called “#WeWillWin” to pay tribute to health workers and other professionals who ensure the society continues to function among COVID-19 pandemic.
- **World Anti-Doping Agency** has banned Indian discus thrower **Sandeep Kumari for 4 years** after failing a drug test. **National Dope Test Laboratory (NDTL)** had failed to detect the banned substance “steroid” which was present in her blood sample.
- Swimming world governing body, **Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA)** rescheduled the **2021 Fukuoka aquatics world championships** to May 2022 to avoid a clash with the postponed Tokyo Olympics.
- **The Tennis Integrity Unit** has banned the Egypt’s tennis player **Youssef Hossam** from professional tennis for life. He has been banned from the game following his conviction on multiple match fixing and associated corruption charges.
- The **badminton World Championships 2020** has been postponed to November 2021. World Championships will be held at the **Carolina Marin Stadium** in Huelva, Spain.
- French cyclist **Remy Di Gregorio** has been **banned for 4 years** by the International Cycling Union for using a form of banned blood-boosting hormone **EPO (Erythropoietin)**.
- **China** has **won the 1st edition of FIDE Chess.com Online Nations Cup** beating USA in the finals.
- **FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup India 2020** has been **postponed** to 2021 due to coronavirus pandemic.
- Para-athlete **Deepa Malik** has announced her **retirement** from Paralympics games in order to serve as the office-bearer in the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).
- International Hockey Federation (FIH) has extended the term of **Narinder Batra** as **President of FIH** until May 2021.
- **International Cricket Council’s (ICC)** Cricket Committee has recommended banning on the use of saliva to shine the ball. This committee is chaired by former India leg-spinner Anil Kumble. Apart from this, the committee also recommended increasing the use of DRS review per innings from two to three.
- **Bundesliga primary football league of Germany** becomes the world’s first major sports event to resume **after COVID-19 lockdown**. The Bundesliga games began with empty stadium though the stadium had the capacity to hold more than 80,000 players.

- Two Indian Powerlifters namely **Savita Kumari & Ankit Shishodia** have been provisionally suspended by the **National Anti Doping Agency**. The powerlifters have been provisionally suspended for violating the anti-doping rules.
- **36th National Games**, planned for October-November in Goa, has been deferred indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sri Lankan fast bowler, **Shehan Madushanka** has been suspended from all forms of cricket with immediate effect for alleged possession of heroin.
- American tennis player **Jamie Hampton** has announced her **retirement** from the professional tennis.
- Spanish football player and Athletic Bilbao striker **Aritz Aduriz** has announced his **retirement** citing medical reasons.
- India’s long-distance runner, **Kiranjeet Kaur** has been handed a four-year ban by **World Athletics’ anti-doping body** for testing positive for a banned substance (Enobosarm).

Summits And Conferences

- An **Extraordinary Virtual G20 Digital Economy Ministers summit** was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.
- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** took part in the online **Summit of Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group**, held with an objective to discuss response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis as well as to promote international solidarity in the fight against the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The summit was hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of Republic of **Azerbaijan HE Ilham Aliyev**, with the theme “**United against COVID-19**”.
- 2nd edition of **Extraordinary G20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministerial Meet** was held under the **presidency of Saudi Arabia**. The meeting was chaired by the Saudi Minister of Commerce, Majid Al Qasabi, in the presence of the Minister of Investment, Khalid Al-Faleh.
- A virtual conference of **Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** member countries was held to deliberate on cooperation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference was held under the **presidency of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**.
- The **32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers’ Meeting** was held through Video Conference with a **theme: Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response**.
- Video conference was held by the Minister of Tribal Affairs, **Shri Arjun Munda** on “**Tribal livelihoods and safety**”.

- Technology Development Board (TDB) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have jointly organised a Digital Conference “RE-START (Reboot the Economy through Science, Technology and Research Translations)”.
- Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has organised the Indo-Bangladesh “Virtual Conference”.
- The 73rd session of World Health Assembly was held via video conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It featured the participation of the delegations from all WHO Member States and focused on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. During the session, India was represented by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.
- The Special Board of Governors meeting of the NDB was held through the video-conference. India was represented by the Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh chaired the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) E-conclave which was held with theme ‘Business Continuity for MSMEs in Defence & Aerospace Sector’. It was organised jointly by the Department of Defence Production, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).
- The meeting of the Heads of Tax Authorities of the BRICS countries, was held on 29 May and was hosted by the Federal Tax Service of Russia, which currently holds the BRICS Presidency. Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey represented India at the meeting.
- IIT Bombay Professor Saurabh Lodha has been honoured with the Young Career Award in Nano Science & Technology for the year 2020.
- Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar has been awarded the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020.
- The Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru has won the SKYTRAX Award 2020 for being the Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia. Changi Airport, Singapore was voted the World’s Best Airport; Tokyo Haneda Airport was voted the World’s Cleanest Airport; Paris Orly Airport was voted the World’s Most Improved Airport; Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai was voted as Best Airport Staff in India & Central Asia.
- Indian tennis player Sania Mirza becomes 1st Indian to win Fed Cup Heart Award 2020 for Asia/Oceania zone. Other winners are: Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia (wins Qualifiers award), Estonian Anett Kontaveit (Europe/Africa I zone) and Mexico’s Fernanda Contreras Gomez (Americas I zone).
- India’s Chief Hydrographer of Indian Naval Hydrographic, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar has been awarded the Alexander Dalrymple Award 2019. This award is given to him for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the broader Indian Ocean region. The award was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence.
- South African HIV researcher, Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been awarded Christophe Merieux Prize or her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA).
- Indian-American IBM scientist, Rajiv Joshi has bagged the prestigious NYIPLA “Inventor of the Year award” for the year 2020 for his contribution to advance the electronic industry and improving artificial intelligence capabilities.

Awards & Recognition

- Manipuri doctor, Thangjam Dhabali Singh has been conferred with ‘Order of Rising Sun’ by Japan government for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.
- Shobhana Narasimhan has been elected as an International Honorary Member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for her distinguished work in the field of sciences.
- Joseph J Landsberg, Richard H Waring and Nicholas C Coops, share the 2020 Marcus Wallenberg Prize for forest sector’ for 3-PG (Physiological Principles Predicting Growth), a model to predict forest growth in a changing climate. The prize 2020 will be presented by King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden during a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has awarded North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un a commemorative war medal marking the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

- Indian Army officer Major **Suman Gawani** is going to be awarded the **UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2019**. This will be the first time that an Indian Peace Guard will receive this award. Brazilian military officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo will also receive this award.

Important Days

- **International Labour Day 2020** observed globally on **1st May** every year. It is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day.
- United Nations observes **World Tuna Day** globally on **2nd May** every year to raise awareness about the importance of tuna fish.
- **World Press Freedom Day** is observed globally on 3 May every year. It is also known as World Press Day. The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2020 is "**Journalism without Fear or Favour**".
- **International Firefighters' Day** is observed globally on **May 4** every year to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.
- **International Day of the Midwife** is observed globally on **5 May** every year **since 1992**. The theme for 2020 International Day of the Midwife is **Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite - our time is NOW!**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has marked **5 May** as World Hand Hygiene Day. The theme of the campaign is "**SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**".
- **World Asthma Day** is observed every year on the **1st Tuesday of May**. This year, World Asthma Day is observed on May 5, 2020. The theme for 2020 is '**Enough Asthma Deaths**'.
- **Vesak Day 2020** is observed globally on **7 May**. Vesak, the Day of Full Moon is the most sacred day to the Buddhists all over the world. On this day, Lord Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment. The Day is commemorated by the United Nations every year.
- The **World Athletics Day-2020** is observed on the **7 May**. The date is subject to adjustment, the date of **World Athletics Day** is decided by **the IAAF**, however, the month stays the same as May. The first World Athletics Day was observed in 1996.
- **World Red Cross Day** is observed globally on **8 May** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founder, Henry Dunant, who was the winner of Nobel Peace prize.
- Every year during May 8-9, the **United Nations** marks the Time of Remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War. The day pays tribute to all the victims of the **Second World War**. This year is the **75th Anniversary of World War II**.
- **World Thalassaemia Day** is observed globally on **8 May** every year. The World Thalassaemia Day 2020 theme: "**The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients**".
- **The International Astronomy Day** is celebrated twice a year (bi-annual), once in the spring (in May 2, 2020) & another in autumn (in October 5, 2020).
- **World Migratory Bird Day** is observed globally on **9 May** every year. The theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2020 is "**Birds Connect Our World**".
- **Mother's day** is celebrated on every **second Sunday** of **May** month and this year, it was celebrated on **10th May 2020**.
- **India** celebrates **National Technology Day** on **11 May** every year to mark the successful testing of **Shakti-I nuclear missile** at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan.
- **International Nurse Day** is observed globally on **12 May** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. **Theme** for year 2020 is "**Nursing the World to Health**".
- **International Family Day** observed globally on **15th May** every year.
- The **International Day of Light** is celebrated every year on **16th May**.
- **Armed Forces Day** is observed on the **third Saturday in May** every year to pay tribute to the men and women who served the United States Armed Forces. In 2020, it was celebrated on the **16th of May**.
- **Endangered Species Day** is observed on the **third Friday of May** every year. In 2020, it was celebrated on **15th May**.
- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** is observed globally on **17th May** every year. The theme of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day of 2020: "**Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**".
- **World Hypertension Day** is observed globally on **17th May every year**. The theme for World Hypertension Day 2020: **Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer**.

- **International Museum Day** is celebrated every year on **18 May** to raise awareness about the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples." The International Museum Day 2020 was celebrated with the theme "**Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion**".
- **World Bee Day** is observed globally on **20th May every year**. On this date, 20 May, the pioneer of **beekeeping Anton Janša** was born in 1734 in Slovenia. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual event was held under the theme "**Bee Engaged**".
- **International Tea Day** is observed globally **May 21** on the recommendation of India.
- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** is observed globally on **21 May every year**.
- **World Metrology Day** is observed globally on **20th May every year**. This year theme for **World Metrology Day: Measurements for global trade**.
- **Anti Terrorism Day 2020** is observed on 21st May every year in India. The day marks the death anniversary of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on **21 May 1991**.
- **HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (HVAD)** is observed globally on 18 May every year. This day is also known as World AIDS Vaccine Day. This day provide an **opportunity** to educate communities about the importance of preventive HIV vaccine research.
- United Nations celebrates **International Day for Biological Diversity** on **22 May** every year to raise awareness about the issue of significant reduction in biological diversity due to certain human activities. Theme for year 2020 is "**Our solutions are in nature**".
- **World Digestive Health Day** is observed globally on **29th May** every year. Theme for the **World Digestive Health Day 2020** campaign is "**Gut Microbiome: A Global Perspective**."
- **World Hunger Day** is observed globally on **28 May** every year to raise awareness about more than **820 million people** living in chronic hunger worldwide.
- **International Day of Action for Women's Health** is observed globally on **May 28** every year to promote the **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** of all women all over the world.
- **International Day of UN Peacekeepers** is observed globally on **29 May** every year to honour all the women and men who have served as military, police or civilians in UN Peacekeeping operations. Theme for year 2020: "**Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace**".

- **World Thyroid Day** is observed globally on **25 May** every year to aware of the importance of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.
- **International Missing Children's Day** is observed globally on **25th May** every year.
- **International Everest Day** is being observed on **29th May**.

Defence Current Affairs

- Lieutenant General **Raj Shukla** has assumed the command of the **Army Training Command (ARTRAC)**.
- An operation named "**Samudra Setu**" has been launched by the Indian Navy. "Samudra Setu" means "Sea Bridge". This operation is a part of India's effort to bring back Indian citizens who are stranded overseas amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has commissioned **Indian Coast Guard Ship "Sachet"** and **2 interceptor boats (IBs) C-450 and C-451** in Goa.
- **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)** has been approved by the **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** with an outlay of **Rs 400 crore**. It has been approved to offer private sector defence and aerospace companies affordable facilities to test as well as validate the weaponry designed by them.
- **Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57'** commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair. It has been built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE). The "**INLCU L57**" is the **seventh LCU Mark IV class warship**.
- **Tejas Mk-1 FOC** aircraft has been inducted by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** into the recently resurrected No 18 Squadron the "**Flying Bullets**" at Air Force Station Sullur.
- The **Army Commanders' Conference** commenced in **New Delhi** to brainstorm on current emerging security as well as administrative challenges, and will also find out the future course for Indian Army.
- The foundation stone for a missile park "**Agneeprastha**" was laid at **INS Kalinga**, Naval base in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Science and Technology

- The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune has developed **microwave steriliser** named as "**ATULYA**" to disintegrate the COVID-19 virus with the help of differential heating.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR's Scientific Instruments Organisation, Chandigarh has developed an **Electrostatic Disinfection Machine** which is effective in the **disinfection** and **sanitization** and has been developed to fight with COVID-19 pandemic.

- 17-year-old, Indian-origin girl, **Vaneeza Rupani** has been honoured of naming the **NASA's 1st Mars helicopter 'Ingenuity'**. she submitted her essay into NASA's "Name the Rover" contest.
- An **Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Tower** has been developed by the **Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC)**, a premier laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation. It has been developed to achieve rapid and chemical free disinfection of high infection prone areas.
- **Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL)** has inked pact with IIT Kanpur to make large-scale ventilators developed by **NOCCA Robotics (incubated start-up of IIT Kanpur)**.
- Indian Council for Medical Research (**ICMR**) has tied-up with **Bharat Biotech** to develop indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.
- **DRDO's** Research Centre Imarat lab, Hyderabad has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitisation cabinet named **Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitiser (DRUVS)** to sanitise mobile phones, iPods, laptops, currency notes, cheque leafs etc.
- **India's first** indigenous antibody testing kit "**ELISA**" has been successfully developed by the National Institute of Virology, Pune. It consists of a blood test which detects antibodies in the blood to find out if an individual was infected with COVID-19 infection or not. Hence, the test has been named as "**COVID KAVACH ELISA**".
- A Non Invasive BiPAP Ventilator "**SwasthVayu**" has been developed by **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories**, Bangalore to treat COVID-19 patients.
- The **Sundaram Ventago** is a low-cost, **automated respiratory assist device** which has been developed jointly by the **TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation** and **IIT-Madras**.
- An interactive dashboard "**MIR AHD Covid-19 Dashboard**" has been developed by the researchers at **IIT Gandhinagar**, to provide key information to stakeholders and the public in order to make research-backed decisions during the time of crisis.
- **International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI)** and **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)**, Thiruvananthapuram have jointly developed new generation Iron-Manganese based alloys for biodegradable metal implants for use in humans.
- Two mobile indoor Disinfection Sprayer units namely **Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection (POMID)**, and **Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS)** have been developed by the scientists at **CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI)**, Durgapur.
- An accelerator programme branded as "**H.A.C.K**" has been launched by the Karnataka's Centre of Excellence in cyber **security (CySecK)**.
- **NASA** has renamed its **next-generation** space telescope "**Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST)**", which is set to launch in 2025, in **honour of Nancy Grace Roman**.

Books & Authors

- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has launched a multimedia guide on the Covid-19 disease named 'COVID Katha'. The guide is launched on the occasion of the 50th DST (Department of Science and Technology) Foundation Day.
- Union Culture Minister launched an e-book titled "**Prof. B.B. Lal: India Rediscovered**" on the occasion of centenary year of great archaeologist **Professor B.B. Lal**.
- The book titled '**Vijyant at Kargil: The Life of a Kargil Hero**' has been released. This book is a biography of Vir Chakra awardee (posthumously) Captain Vijyant Thapar. This book is authored by Vijyant's father Colonel **VN Thapar** and writer **Neha Dwivedi**, a martyr's daughter.
- The first **biopic** on Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's life, titled '**Finding Freedom: Harry and Meghan and the Making of A Modern Royal Family**' has been written by royal reporters **Omid Scobie** and **Carolyn Durand**.
- The book called "**Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City**" authored by Chinese literary writer Fang Fang, is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19.
- **Ruskin Bond's** new book titled '**Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes**' was released on his 86th Birthday in an e-book format. The book narrates some of his memorable travel adventures on boats, trains and planes from his childhood.
- **JK Rowling** will release her latest book, "**The Ickabog**", online for free, for the children during this lockdown period. The Ickabog' is a story about truth and the abuse of power.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- A joint programme was organised by All India Institute of Ayurveda, under Ministry of **AYUSH**, and **Delhi Police**, with a title **AYURAKSHA "Corona Se Jung: Delhi Police Ke Sang"** to fight against the COVID-19 by undertaking the simple and time tested Ayurveda immunity boosting measures.

- **India's** epic mythological saga of 1980s, '**Ramayan**' has created the world record of **Highest Viewed Entertainment Programme** Globally. On 16th April, 2020, the mythological show was watched by 7.7 crore viewers all over the world.
- **Black rice** of **Manipur**, also called the Chak-Hao has bagged the **Geographical Indication tag**.
- **Gorakhpur Terracotta** of **Uttar Pradesh** has bagged the Geographical Indication tag.
- **Kadalai Mittai** of Kovilpatti, **Tamil Nadu** has bagged the Geographical Indication tag.
- **Kashmir saffron** gets **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. The spice is grown in some regions of Kashmir, including Srinagar, Pulwama, Budgam and Kishtwar.
- **Facebook** has launched a home-to-home fundraiser concert, '**I For India**'. Facebook has collaborated with some of the biggest stars in India and Bollywood for this.
- **National Gallery of Modern Art**, New Delhi has presented a virtual program "**NGMA KE SANGRAH SE**". For the current week, the theme of the virtual program is "**ARTIST BY ARTISTS**" and dedicated it to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore as it coincides with his 159th birth anniversary on 7th May 2020. During the program "**NGMA KE SANGRAH SE**", NGMA will display the rarely seen jewels from its repository.
- National Gallery of Modern Art has organised a virtual tour to commemorate the **159th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore**. The Virtual Tour has been titled as "Gurudev: Journey of the Maestro through his visual vocabulary".
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** extended the term of Bollywood actress and environmentalist **Dia Mirza** as the Goodwill Ambassador of India till 2022. The actress is also the United Nations Sustainability Development Goal Advocate. As a Goodwill Ambassador, Mirza will continue work with the UN to further spread the message on key areas including clean air, clean seas, wildlife protection and climate change.
- Indian Meteorological Department has begun to include **Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Ladakh and Muzaffarabad into its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Former Sri Lanka skipper **Kumar Sangakkara** is set to serve his **second term as the president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**. He became the first non-British President of the club when he assumed office on October 1 last year.
- **Central Armed Police Forces** will sell only **indigenous products** in their **canteens** from **01st June 2020**.
- A musical creation titled "**United we Fight**" has been unveiled by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- In order to boost immunity during pandemic, **Spirulina groundnut Chikki** has been developed by the Mysuru-based Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI).
- Union HRD Minister has launched Central University of **Odisha Helpline "Bharosa"** with an objective of relieving the student community from the distress caused during the troubled time of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Israel** has named a street in **Tel Aviv** as '**Tagore Street**' after the celebrated Indian poet **Rabindranath Tagore** as a tribute on his 159th birthday on 08 May.
- **Delhi Police** has launched "**Thermal Corona Combat Headgear**" in collaboration with **Indian Robotics Solution** to protect the frontline corona warriors from the COVID-19.
- **Delhi Police** has launched "**Thermal Corona Combat Drone (TCCD)** in collaboration with **Indian Robotics Solution**.
- Under the corona studies series published by National Book Trust India, **7 titles** based on "**Psycho-Social impact of pandemic & lockdown and how to Cope With**" have been e-launched as print and e-edition.
- **India Post** has released a Special Postal Cover dedicated to the migrant workers with an objective of paying tribute to them. The Special Postal Cover was released during an event at the Bicentennial Hall of the historic Mumbai GPO building.
- **Union Territory, Ladakh** has become corona virus free as the region have not reported any fresh case since 3rd May 2020.
- South Central Railway zone has developed a robotic device, "**RAIL-BOT (R-BOT)**" to assist in the functions of hospital management to provide better health care to the **COVID patients**.
- **Cyclone Amphan** intensified into a super cyclone with wind speed above 200 kmph moved further North-Northeastwards over West Central Bay. Amphan is the first super cyclone to hit the region in the last two decades since a super cyclone-hit Odisha in 1999 causing widespread damage and loss of life.
- Legendary singer **Lata Mangeskar** has sung a song titled as **JAYTU BHARATAM** saluting the spirit of **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**. She has dedicated the song to people of India and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- **Department of Information and Public Relations, J&K** has started an initiative "**SUKOON – COVID-19 Beat the Stress**" programme to spread awareness about the psychological impact of lockdown and measures to be adopted to overcome them.

- The name of Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) has been changed to **Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology** (CIPET).
- **IIT Madras** along with the **University of North Texas** and **United States Army lab**, have developed a **magnesium alloy** to replace the steel and aluminium in the automobile industry to reduce the carbon footprint and increase fuel efficiency.
- A **calling application** named as **“CatchUp”** has been launched by the social media major **Facebook**.
- **National Gallery of Modern Art** organised a virtual tour to commemorate the **115th Birth Anniversary** of iconic artist Ramkinkar **Baij**.

Obituaries

- Freedom fighter and Padma Shri **Gandhian Hema Bharali** passed away. She was well known as **Freedom Activist**, social worker & Sarvodaya leader.
- Former **India Football captain Chuni** Goswami who was the captain of Indian Football Team that won the 1962 Asian Games gold medal, passed away.
- Veteran **South African** anti-apartheid activist **Denis Goldberg** passed away.
- Eminent historian, author and columnist **Ronald Vivian Smith** passed away. He was born in Agra in 1938.
- Judicial Member, Lokpal of India, Justice **Ajay Kumar Tripathi** passed away after getting infected from novel Coronavirus. He took oath as a Judicial Member of Lokpal of India in March 2019 and played an instrumental role in establishing the Institution of Lokpal of India.
- Renowned Kannada poet KS Nisar Ahmed passed away. He was popularly known as **“Nityotsava Kavi”**.
- Former Union Minister **Dalit Ezhilamalai** passed away. He was a leader of the Pattali Makkal Katchi party and was Union Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare (Independent Charge) during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1998–99.
- Veteran director, story artist and writer of many Pixar films **Rob Gibbs** passed away.
- Founder of Kodava Family Hockey Tournament, **Pandanda Kuttappa** passed away.
- Film actor, model, voiceover artist and an entrepreneur, **Sai Gundewar** passed away.
- The Grammy-winning soul singer, **Betty Wright** passed away. She received her first Grammy Award for Song, “Where is the Love?”, at the age of 23.
- US comedian **Jerry Stiller** passed away. He was renowned for his recurring role as George Costanza’s father on TV’s Seinfeld for which he was also nominated for Emmy Awards in 1997.

- TV actor **Shafique Ansari** passed away. He was best-known for his appearance in TV series ‘Crime Patrol’.
- Former India national table **tennis** champion **Manmeet Singh Walia** passed away.
- Former Lok Sabha MP and senior Janta Dal(S) leader **Raja Rangappa Naik** passed away. He had represented the Raichur Lok Sabha constituency in the Indian state of Karnataka.
- Founding father of Rock ‘n’ roll, **Little Richard** passed away. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as part of its first group of inductees in 1986.
- Eminent historian **Hari Shankar Vasudevan** passed away. He was internationally acclaimed for his work on Russian and European history and Indo-Russian relations.
- Bangladesh’s Noted literary personality, educationist and national **Professor Anisuzzaman** passed away. He was conferred the Padma Bhushan award by the government of India in 2014.
- Veteran Bengali author **Debesh Roy** passed away. He was awarded with the **Sahitya Akademi award** for his novel ‘Teesta Parer Brittanto’.
- **Iran’s** representative at Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), **Hossein Kazempour Ardebili** passed away.
- Veteran Marathi writer and playwright, **Ratnakar Matkari** passed away after being diagnosed with COVID-19. He was considered a pioneer of the children’s drama movement in Marathi.
- Former Tamil Nadu footballer and coach **R. Shanmugam** passed away. He was born in Burma in 1943.
- **Padma Shri** awardee Noted Urdu author, humorist and satirist **Mujtaba Hussain** passed away.
- Classical musician **Shyamala G. Bhawe**, who was having an equal command over Hindustani as well as Carnatic music, passed away.
- Former Inter Milan coach, **Gigi Simoni**, who led a Ronaldo-inspired team to **UEFA** (Union of European Football Associations) Cup glory in 1998, passed away.

- Bollywood actor **Mohit Baghel** passed away due to cancer.
- Japanese professional wrestler, **Hana Kimura** passed away.
- Former No. 1-ranked player and Australian tennis star **Ashley Cooper** passed away.
- Former Indian hockey player **Balbir Singh Dosanjh**, who was a part of three-time Olympic gold medal-winning Indian hockey team, passed away.
- Rajya Sabha (RS) MP from Kerala and Loktantrik Janata Dal (LJD) Leader, writer and journalist, **M.P. Veerendra Kumar** passed away.
- Veteran lyricist **Yogesh Gaur** passed away.
- Renowned astrologer, **Bejan Daruwalla** passed away.

Static Takeaways

- Union Minister for Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Lt. Governors of Chandigarh: V.P. Singh Badnore.
- Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog: Rajiv Kumar.
- Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant.
- Pan IIT Alumni India is an organisation representing alumni of all IIT.
- Pan IIT Alumni Headquarters: IIT Delhi, New Delhi.
- Chairman of IIT Alumni: Ramnath S Mani.
- Vladimir Putin is President of Russia.
- Moscow is the capital city of Russia.
- The Russian ruble is the currency Russia.
- CEO of PNB Housing Finance Limited: Neeraj Vyas.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is a department within the Ministry of Science and Technology in India.
- Department of Science and Technology Founded: May 1971.
- Department of Science and Technology Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Managing Director of HDFC Bank: Aditya Puri.
- Chief Executive Officer of Ameyo: Bishal Lachhramka.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikanta Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Max Bupa Health insurance established: 2008.
- Max Bupa Health insurance Headquarters: New Delhi, India.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington D.C., US.
- World Bank President: David Robert Malpass.
- The motto of World Bank: Working for a World Free of Poverty.
- Headquarters of RBI: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das.

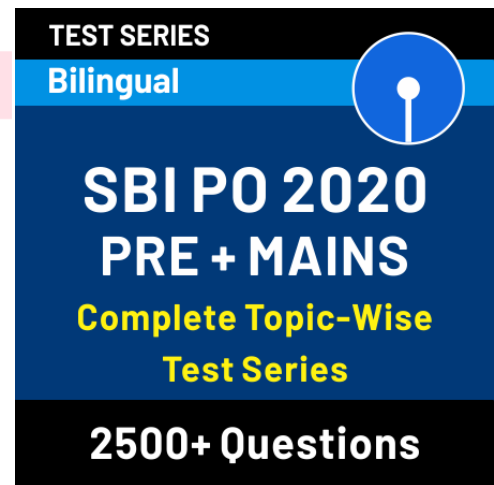
- 28th Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- The motto of Indian Army: "Service Before Self".
- Headquarters of Indian Army: New Delhi.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- North Korean capital: Pyongyang.
- North Korea currency: North Korean won.
- Headquarters of WADA: Montreal, Canada.
- President of WADA: Witold Banka.
- President of FINA: Julio C. Maglione.
- Founded of FINA: July 29, 1908.
- Headquarters of FINA: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Badminton World Federation Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Badminton World Federation Founded: 5 July 1934.
- Badminton World Federation President: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen.
- Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- The United Nations (UN) is an organization between countries established on 24 October 1945 to promote international cooperation.
- Director-General of the World Health Organization: Tedros Adhanom.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art: Adwaita Charan Gadanayak.
- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Lt. Governors of Jammu and Kashmir: Girish Chandra Murmu.
- The administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): Jim Bridenstine.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- Head Office of Bharat Dynamics: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Chairman & Managing Director(MD) of Bharat Dynamics: Siddharth Mishra.
- Capital of Iraq: Baghdad.
- The currency of Iraq: Iraqi dinar.
- The headquarters of IAAF is located in Monaco.
- President of IAAF: Sebastian Coe.
- IAAF was founded in Sweden in 1912.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister: Y. S.Jaganmohan Reddy.
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.
- President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): Peter Maurer.

- Headquarters of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): Geneva, Switzerland.
- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation: Hardeep Singh Puri.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon.
- Headquarters of United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP): Nairobi, Kenya.
- Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP): Inger Andersen.
- China Capital: Beijing; Currency of China: Renminbi.
- President of China: Xi Jinping.
- Iran Capital:Tehran; President of Iran: Hassan Rouhani.
- Headquarters of Indian Meteorological Department: New Delhi.
- Indian Meteorological Department Founded: 1875.
- Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH): Shripad Yesso Naik.
- Headquarters of Coal India: Kolkata.
- CEO of Coal India: Anil Kumar Jha.
- Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Founded: 1787.
- Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- Headquarters of Moody's: NewYork, United States.
- President & CEO of Moody's: Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr.
- Headquarters of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Beijing, China.
- Membership of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: 78 Members.
- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Jin Liqueun.
- Headquarters of Defence Ministry: New Delhi.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence: Shripad Yesso Naik.
- Minister of Defence: Raj Nath Singh.
- Headquarters of TATA Power SED: New Delhi, India.
- TATA Power president: Natarajan Chandrasekaran.
- Director-General of ICMR: Balram Bhargava.
- Headquarters of ICMR: New Delhi.
- Indian Post Founded: 1 April 1854
- Headquarters of Indian post: New Delhi.
- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren.
- Governor of Jharkhand: Droupadi Murmu.
- Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand.
- Jharkhand was created on 15h November 2000.
- Minister of Tribal Affairs: Arjun Munda.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Renuka Singh Saruta.
- Founder of Art of Living: Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- Art of Living Founded: 1981.
- Art of Living Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- National Centre for Disease Control Founded: 1909.
- National Centre for Disease Control Headquarters: New Delhi.
- National Centre for Disease Control Director: Sujeet Kumar.
- President of World Bank: David Malpass; Headquarter: Washington DC.
- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- Minister of State of Railways: Angadi Suresh Channabasappa.
- President of New Development Bank: K V Kamath.
- New Development Bank was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS.
- Union Home Affairs Minister: Amit Shah.
- Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Nitin Jairam Gadkari.
- Ministers of State (I/C) of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises: Pratap Chandra Sarangi.
- The present Chief Justice of India is Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director-general of WHO: Tedros Adhanom.
- President of Italy: Sergio Mattarella Trending.
- Capital of Italy: Rome.
- The currency of Italy: Italian lira.
- Capital of Slovenia: Ljubljana.
- The currency of Slovenia: Euro.
- Prime Minister of Slovenia: Janez Janza.
- Chairman of State Bank of India: Rajnish Kumar.
- Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Minister of State (I/C) for New and Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh.
- CBSE was established on 3 November 1962; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Archaeological Survey of India Founded: 1861; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Motto of National Anti-Doping Agency: Play fair; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Director-General of National Anti-Doping Agency: Navin Agarwal.
- World Trade Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Founded: 1 January 1995.

- Union Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Sanjeev Kumar Balyan.
- International Tennis Federation Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- President of International Tennis Federation: David Haggerty.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation which brings together the leaders of both developed and developing countries from every continent.
- The members of the G20 group are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union (EU).
- FIH Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Paralympic Committee of India Secretary-General: Gursharan Singh.
- President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Founded: 21 May 1904; Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland.
- International Cycling Union (UCI) Headquarters: Aigle, Switzerland; President: David Lappartient.
- Federal Bank Limited Chairperson: Grace Elizabeth Koshie; MD & CEO: Shyam Srinivasan.
- Federal Bank Limited Headquarters: Aluva, Kerala.
- MoneyGram Chairman & CEO: Alex Holmes.
- Managing Director & CEO of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd: Pawan Goenka.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka : B.S. Yediyurappa; Governor: Vajubhai Vala.
- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Hemant Soren; Governor: Shrimati Droupadi Murmu.
- Chief Minister of Telangana: K Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor: Tamilisa Soundararajan.
- Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti: Rattan Lal Kataria.
- Chief Minister of Uttarakhand: Trivendra Singh Rawat.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- Chairman of World Economic Forum: Klaus Schwab; Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Capital of Israel: Jerusalem; Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu; Currency: Israeli Shekel.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: Jin Liqun.
- Director-General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay.
- Chairman of National Book Trust India: Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma.
- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani; Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat.
- Union Minister of Home Affairs: Amit Shah.
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency Headquarters location: Amman, Jordan
- Nations Relief and Works Agency Commissioner-General: Christian Saunders
- Union Minister of Human Resources Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- Minister of State of Railways: Angadi Suresh Channabasappa.
- Capital of Israel: Jerusalem.
- The currency of Israel: Israeli shekel.
- China Capital: Beijing; Currency of China: Renminbi.
- President of China: Xi Jinping.
- Lesotho is the southern African mountain kingdom.
- Lesotho Capital: Maseru.
- Lesotho Currency: Lesotho loti.
- Headquarters of WHO: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Director-general of WHO: Tedros Adhanom.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Lal Ji Tandon.
- Chief Minister of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray; Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
- President of National Restaurants Association of India: Riyaaz Amlani.
- National Restaurants Association of India Founded: 1982.
- National Restaurants Association of India Headquartered: Delhi.
- DotPe was founded by the erstwhile PayU co-founder and Managing Director: Shailaz Nag.
- DotPe Headquarters: Gurgaon, Haryana.
- Chief Executive Officer of eGov Foundation: Viraj Tyagi.
- Director General Defence Estates: Smt Deepa Bajwa.
- Canara Bank Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka.

- Canara Bank Chairman: T.N. Manoharan.
- Canara Bank MD and CEO: L.V. Prabhakar.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Establishment: 2003.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer: Uday Kotak.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Tagline: Lets make money simple.
- Jammu and Kashmir Bank Headquarters: Srinagar.
- Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited was incorporated on 1st October 1938 and commenced its business from 4th July 1939 at in Kashmir (India).
- SoftBank CEO: Masayoshi Son.
- SoftBank Headquarters: Minato City, Tokyo, Japan.
- SoftBank established: 3 September 1981.
- Indian Steel Association Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Steel Association Established: 2014.
- Union Minister of Defence: Rajnath Singh.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Director of International Hydrographic Organisations: Abri Kampfer (South Africa) & Mustafa Iptes (Turkey).
- International Hydrographic Organisations Established: 1921.
- International Hydrographic Organisations Headquarters: Monaco.
- Chairman of ICC: Shashank Manohar; Chief Executive: Manu Sahney; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- The Bundesliga is the primary football league in Germany.
- The game was begun in 1963.
- Director General of National Anti Doping Agency: Navin Agarwal.
- The National Anti Doping Agency was established by the Government of India, with the objective of acting as the independent Anti-Doping Organization for India having a vision of dope free sports.
- International Telecommunication Union Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- International Telecommunication Union Head: Houlin Zhao.
- International Telecommunication Union Founded: 17 May 1865.
- International Society of Hypertension President: Alta Schutte.
- International Society of Hypertension Established: 1966.
- President of International Council Of Museums: Suay Aksoy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General: QU Dongyu.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food and Agriculture Organization Founded: 16 October 1945.
- Director-General of UNESCO: Audrey Azoulay.
- UNESCO formation: 4 November 1946.
- UNESCO headquarters: Paris, France.
- International Organization of Legal Metrology Headquarters: Paris, France.
- International Organization of Legal Metrology Founded: 1955.
- Director General of India Post: Arundhaty Ghosh.
- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh: Radha Krishna Mathur.
- Headquarters of South Central Railway zone: Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.
- General-Manager of South Central Railway: Gajanan Mallya.
- Lieutenant Governor Jammu and Kashmir: Girish Chandra Murmu.
- International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana.
- International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials Chairperson: Dr Anil Kakodkar.
- International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials Director: Dr G. Padmanabham.
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology Headquarters: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology President: Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat.
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology Director: Dr Asha Kishore.
- Chief Minister of Karnataka: B.S. Yediyurappa; Governor: Vajubhai Vala.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Union Minister of Human Resources Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
- Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Africa: Raghunath Mandava.
- Executive Director of UNICEF: Henrietta H. Fore.
- Secretary-General of United Nations: António Guterres.
- Chairman & Managing Director of Intellect Design Arena Limited: Arun Jain.

- Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC Limited: Gurdeep Singh.
- Chairman & Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited: Shashi Shanker.
- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.
- Ministers of State for New and Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh.
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh : Bhupesh Baghel; Governor: Anusuiya Uikey.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Aditya Nath; Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- President of Sri Lanka: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- Prime Minister of Sri Lanka: Mahinda Rajapaksa.
- Capital of Sri Lanka: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
- The currency of Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan rupee.
- Indian Olympic Association President: Narinder Dhruv Batra.
- Indian Olympic Association Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Chairman of Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC): Mehar S Rathi; Head Office: New Delhi.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- United Nations Envoy on Youth: Jayathma Wickramanayake.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways: V. K. Singh.
- Minister of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs: Kiren Rijiju.
- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee; Governor: Jagdeep Dhankhar.
- Founder & CEO of CoRover: Ankush Sabharwal.
- MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India: Dilip Asbe.
- President of World Bank: David Malpass.
- Headquarter of World Bank: Washington DC.
- Capital of Niger: Niamey.
- Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art: Adwaita Charan Gadanayak.
- Chief Executive Officer of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg.
- Facebook Headquarters: California, US.
- IIT Madras Director: Bhaskar Ramamurthi; Established: 1959.
- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers: DV Sadananda Gowda.
- The administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): Jim Bridenstine.
- Headquarters of NASA: Washington D.C., United States.
- Headquarters of International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC): Alexandria, Virginia, US; Chairman: Dr Franz B. Humer.
- Headquarters of Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR): Amsterdam, Netherlands; Founded: 1984.
- Headquarters of World Gastroenterology Organisation: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States; Founded: 1958.
- President of WADA: Sir Craig Reddie; Headquarters: Montreal, Canada; Founded: 10 November 1999.
- Indigo Airlines Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana; Established: 2006.



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