



### Current Affairs - June 2020

Month  Type



- ▶ 125 Current Affairs were found in Period - **June 1-10, 2020** for Type - **All**

### Appointments

- ▶ Govt. appointed **Brajendra Navnit** as India's new ambassador to World Trade Organization (WTO), replacing JS Deepak.
- ▶ Indian-Origin Person Krishnendu Majumdar is named as BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Chair.
- ▶ Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO Uday Kotak appointed as President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2020-21, replacing Kirloskar Systems CMD Vikram Kirloskar.
- ▶ Rajeev Topno has been appointed as Senior Advisor to Executive Director (ED) of World Bank (Aparna Subramaniam).
- ▶ Tamil Nadu girl M Nethra has been appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador for the Poor' by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace (UNADAP).

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### Awards

- ▶ Biocon Founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw has been named EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020.
  1. Kiran is 2nd woman to win this award after Olivia Lum of Hyflux, Singapore.
  2. She is 3rd Indian to win the award after Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra in 2014 and Narayana Murthy of Infosys in 2005.
- ▶ GMR Hyderabad International Airport received highest Platinum Recognition in Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific Green Airports Recognition 2020, in 15-35 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category.
- ▶ Indian writer **Kritika Pandey** honoured with Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2020 for Asia region, for her story *The Great Indian Tee and Snakes*. Other regional winners
  1. Africa - Nigerian writer Innocent Chizaram Ilo for When a Woman Renounces Motherhood
  2. Canada and Europe - British writer Reyah Martin for Wherever Mister Jensen Went
  3. Caribbean - Jamaican writer Brian S Heap for Mafootoo
  4. Pacific - Australian writer Andrea E Macleod for The Art of Waving
- ▶ Lyricist Javed Akhtar become first Indian to receive Richard Dawkins award, presented by NGO Atheist Alliance of America.
  1. Richard Dawkins is an ethologist, author and an evolutionary biologist. The Atheist Alliance International is a non-profit organization that creates awareness and educates public about atheism.

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### Books

- ▶ New Book *Dry Fasting Miracle: From Deprive to Thrive*, written by Luke Coutinho and co-authored by member of UAE's Ajman royal Family, Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Ali Bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, has been released.

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### Committees

- ▶ Expert Committees on Rationalisation/Closure/Merger of Film Media Units and on Review of Autonomous Bodies submitted their report to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Committees were headed by **Bimal Julka**.

1. Committee found overlapping activities undertaken by multiple institutes and has suggested an umbrella configuration with 4 broad verticals - Production, Festival, Heritage and Knowledge.
2. Report recommends creation of Film Promotion Fund to fund independent filmmakers for making commercial films. CFSE, Director, NFAI, Director, DFF, DG, Films Division and Joint Secretary (Films) as members.
2. ▶ Government has set up a Task Force to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues. It will be headed by **Jaya Jaitly**.
3. ▶ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) rearranged Commodity derivatives advisory committee and appointed **Ashok Dalwani** of the 17-member committee.
  1. It examines issues related to contract design and new products in segment and recommends required risk management system and regulatory framework of commodity derivatives and governance of commodities derivatives exchange.

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### Days

1. ▶ June 1 - **World Milk Day**. It has been marked by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), observed since 2001. 2020 Theme is *the 20th Anniversary of World Milk Day*.
  1. Nov 26 is observed as **National Milk Day** In India, to commemorate birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, father of India's White Revolution. India is top Milk Producer Nation, followed by US.
  2. June 1 is also proclaimed as "Global Day of Parents" by United Nations.
2. ▶ June 2 is Statehood Day of Telangana, which was formed in 2014 as India's 29th State.
  1. June 2 is also observed as International Sex Workers Day, to spread awareness on rights of sex workers so that they can lead a life of respect.
3. ▶ June 3 - World Bicycle Day, declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018. It promotes use of Bicycle for its environmental and health benefits.
4. ▶ June 4 is observed as International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.
5. ▶ June 5 - **World Environment Day**, designated by United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) in 1972. It was first celebrated in 1974.
  1. 2020 Theme is *Biodiversity and Time for Nature* is campaign Name. It hosted in Colombia in partnership with Germany. India was host Nation in 2018.
  2. On this occasion -
    1. Government announced implementation of *Nagar van*, scheme to develop 200 Urban Forests across country in 5 years.
    2. R. K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, initiated the '#iCommit' campaign, driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). Its a call to all individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system.
    3. PSU Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program, launched "Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings" initiative that will pioneer ways to make workplaces healthier and greener.
  3. June 5 is also observed as International Day for the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, observed by UN Food and Agriculture Organization since 2018.
6. ▶ June 6 is observed as UN Russian Language Day, established by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010. June 6 is also observed as World Pest Day or World Pest Awareness Day.
7. ▶ June 7 is observed as World **World Food Safety Day**, with 2020 theme - 'Food Safety, everyone's business'. It was First Observed in 2019., facilitated by World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations (UN).
  1. As per 2nd State Food safety index report released on this occasion -
    1. Gujarat topped among larger States, followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
    2. Chandigarh tops among UTs, followed by Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
    3. Goa leads smaller States, Manipur and Meghalaya.
8. ▶ June 8 - **World Oceans Day**. 2020 theme is 'Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean'. June 8 is also observed as World Brain Tumor Day.
9. ▶ June 9 is observed as World **Accreditation Day**. 2020 Theme is *Accreditation: Improving Food Safety*.

1. June 9 is also observed as Coral Triangle Day, to raise awareness of ocean conservation and protection, especially on Coral Triangle, which are world's epicenter of marine biodiversity.

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## Defence

1. ▶ As a boost to *Make in India* initiative, Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an Indent on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for supply of 156 BMP 2/2k **Infantry Combat Vehicles** (ICV) with upgraded features for use of Mechanised Forces of Indian Army.
  1. ICVs will be manufactured by Ordnance Factory Medak (Telangana) at approximate cost of Rs 1,094 crore.
  2. These ICVs will be able to reach a speed of 65 kilometres per hour (kmph) with easy steering ability in cross country terrain and 07 kmph in water.
2. ▶ Indian Air Force inducted an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT), to be utilised for evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases including COVID-19 from high altitude area, isolated and remote places.

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## Economy

1. ▶ 40th GST Council meet under Chairmanship of Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman -
  1. Recommendations on Law & Procedures changes Include
    1. Reduction in Late Fee for past Returns (Max upto 500 per return)
    2. Further relief for small taxpayers for late filing of returns for February - June 2020 Tax periods
    3. One time extension in period for seeking revocation of cancellation of registration.
2. ▶ **Moody's Investors Service** downgraded India's credit rating to lowest investment grade Baa3 from Baa2, maintaining negative outlook.
  1. Economy of India is expected to face slower growth for a prolonged period due to the financial crisis amid the COVID-19 pandemic, rising debts and weakening of debt affordability.
  2. Moody's expects India's real Gross Domestic Product(GDP) to contract by 3.1% in fiscal 2021 (2020-21).

Rating	Downgraded Rating	Previous Rating
India's Local Currency Senior Unsecured Rating	Baa3	Baa2
Short-Term Local Currency Rating	Prime-3	Prime-2
Short-Term Foreign-Currency Bank Deposit Ceiling	Prime-3	Prime-2
India's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Bond	A2	A1
Bank Deposit Ceilings	A2	A1

3. ▶ **SBI** created a separate Financial Inclusion and Micro Market (FI&MM) vertical within bank, with exclusive focus to provide financial services to people in interior of country. It will be headed by deputy managing director (DMD) Sanjeev Nautiyal.
4. ▶ Abu Dhabi (UAE) Based **Mubadala** Invested 9093 Crores INR in Reliance Jio Platforms, for 1.85 % Stake. Also, US Based Silver Lake Invested 5656 Crores INR in Jio Platforms, for 1.15 % Stake.
  1. These are 6th and 7th deal struck by Jio Since April 2020. Earlier -
    1. US Firm KKR invested Approx 11367 crores in Reliance Jio Platforms, for a 2.32% stake.
    2. US Investor General Atlantic invested Approx 6600 crores in Reliance Jio Platforms, for a 1.34% stake.
    3. US Based Vista Equity Partners invested 11367 crores into Reliance Jio Platforms for a 2.32 % stake.
    4. US Based Silver Lake partners bought 1.15% stake in Reliance Industries subsidiary Jio Platforms, for Rs 5,656 crores (\$750 million).
    5. Social Network Facebook invested INR 43574 crores in Jio Platforms, for 9.99% stake. It was Largest FDI in India's Tech Industry.
  2. Under concerned 7 deals, Jio has divested total 30.12 % Stake to 7 Firms, since April 2020.

5. ▶ As per Govt, Adjusted Gross Direct Tax Collection for FY 2019-20 saw 8.03 % Growth, with 14.02 Lakh Crores collection as compared to 12.98 Lakh Crores in 2018-19.
  1. However, 1.68 Lakh Crores of revenue (1.45 Lakh Crores Corporate Tax and .23 Lakh Crores Income Tax) was foregone due to tax reforms, making Actual Gross Direct Tax Collection for FY 2019-20 become 12.34 Lakh Crores.
  2. Reforms Included -
    1. Reduction in corporate tax rate for all existing domestic companies , through the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2019 which provided a concessional tax regime of 22% for all existing domestic companies from FY 2019-20 if they do not avail any specified exemption or incentive. Such companies were also exempted from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
    2. Incentive for new manufacturing domestic companies - Ordinance reduced tax rate to 15% for new manufacturing domestic company if such company does not avail any specified exemption or incentive, also exempted from of Minimum Alternate Tax
    3. Reduction in MAT rate - To provide relief to companies which continue to avail exemption and pay tax under MAT, rate of MAT was reduced from 18.5% to 15%.
    4. Exemption from income-tax to individuals earning income up to Rs. 5 lakh and increase in standard deduction 40000 to 50000.
6. ▶ Facebook will acquire 9.9 % stake in Jio Platforms announced in April 2020, via a new entity titled *Jaadhu Holdings LLC*.
  1. Facebook had announced an investment of \$ 5.7 billion (Rs 43,574 crore) in Jio Platforms.
  2. Jaadhu Holdings LLC is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Facebook, incorporated in March 2020 under laws of State of Delaware (US).
7. ▶ Government has allocated Rs 1,01,500 crores under MGNREGA programme in year 2020-21 so far, as highest provision of funds allocated for the scheme since its launch.
8. ▶ Government increased import duty on bamboo sticks from 10% to 25%, to boost domestic industry.
  1. It is significant as heavy import of bamboo sticks from China and Vietnam caused huge employment loss in India.
  2. At present, consumption of incense sticks (Agrabatti) is 1490 tons per day but only 760 tons per day is locally produced.
9. ▶ Government modified public procurement norms, to give maximum preference to those goods and services that have 50% or more local content. The recently issued Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 introduced Class-I, Class-II and non-local suppliers.
  1. Goods and service company that has domestic value addition of 50% and more have been classified under Class I, and are given most preference in Govt tenders. Class II have 20% and 50% range and class III less than 20% of domestic content in products.
10. ▶ Government will provide facility of SMS filing of NIL statement of FORM GSTR-1 from July 2020.
  1. GST taxpayers with NIL outward supplies would not be required to log on to the GST Portal and would be able to file their NIL statement in FORM GSTR-1 through an SMS.
  2. Facility to file NIL monthly GSTR-3B return through SMS has already been made available since June 08, 2020.
11. ▶ India will soon set up a Coal Exchange trading platform, to enable entire coal mined in country to be traded on a common platform called "Coal Exchange". It will pave way for multiple buyers and sellers in coal sector.
12. ▶ Mastercard, Axis Bank and Worldline India partnered to launch a digital point-of-sale(POS) solution 'Soft POS', the 1st financial payments service in India to transform everyday smartphones into merchant POS terminals.
13. ▶ PM Narendra Modi appointed a committee headed by Rajnath Singh to solve difficulties faced in implementation of 3 Lakh crore collateral-free loan Scheme for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises(MSME), under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package.
14. ▶ RBI Sponsered Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF) showed that Indian economy may contract by 1.5 % in FY21, and grow by 7.2 % in FY 22 (2021-22).
  1. Real gross value added (GVA) is expected to decline by 1.7 per cent this fiscal but record 6.8 per cent growth in 2021-22
  2. Real private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) is expected to decline by 0.5 % during 2020-21 but likely to record 6.9 per cent growth during 2021-22.
  3. Consumer price index (CPI) inflation is expected at 5.6 % in Q1 of 2020-21, but will moderate to 2.8 % by fourth quarter of 2020-21.
  4. RBI also released two other surveys –one on Consumer confidence and the other on Households' Inflation Expectations Survey.

1. Consumer confidence has collapsed to historic low amid coronavirus pandemic"Consumer confidence collapsed in May 2020.
2. Other Study found that households' median inflation perception and expectations increased sharply in May 2020.
15. ▶ RBI has set up a **Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIFD)** of Rs. 500 Crores, to support development of the digital payments ecosystem in northeast and rural districts in India.
  1. Initial contribution of 250 crores has been made by RBI, while other half of fund is expected to be contributed by all card-issuing banks and network operators.
  2. It aims to encourage acquirers to deploy Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure in both the digital and physical modes in tier-3 to tier-6 centers and northeastern states.
16. ▶ SEBI approved regulatory sandbox framework for stock market ecosystem, to enable live testing new financial technology solutions on customers, without having to be fully licensed, but under strict regulatory supervision.
17. ▶ Telecom and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched three incentive schemes with a total outlay of about 48,000 crores to boost large-scale manufacturing of electronics. Schemes were Approved in March 2020.
  1. Production Linked Incentive (41,000 crores) -
    1. It is targeted at mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, government initially plans to incentivise 10 firms - five global and five local.
    2. Performance-linked incentives of 4-6 per cent towards Make in India initiatives will be provided.
  2. Component Manufacturing Scheme (3,285 crores) -
    1. Financial incentive of 25% of capital expenditure for manufacturing of goods that constitute supply chain of an electronic product under Scheme for *Promotion of manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)*.
    2. Scheme will help offset disability for domestic manufacturing of electronic components and semiconductors in order to strengthen electronic manufacturing ecosystem.
  3. Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (3,762 crore) -
    1. Assistance to Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC2.0) Scheme for development of world class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs).
    2. EMCs would aid growth of ESDM sector and help development of entrepreneurial ecosystem. Outlay of proposed EMC 2.0 Scheme is 3,762 crores.
    3. Scheme will create a robust infrastructure base for electronic industry to attract flow of investment in ESDM sector and lead to greater employment opportunities.
18. ▶ To support multiple projects in India, US International Development Finance Corporation (USIDFC) will invest 350 million USD in Various sectors. USIDFC has approved \$1 billion of investments for advance development in other countries across the globe.
19. ▶ UAE Based Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) acquired 1.16% stake in Reliance Jio platforms, through investment of 5,683.50 crores.
  1. This is 8th Stake Deal in Reliance Jio Since April 2020. Earlier Deals -
    1. Abu Dhabi (UAE) Based Mubadala Invested 9093 Crores INR in Reliance Jio Platforms, for 1.85 % Stake.
    2. US Based Silver Lake Invested 5656 Crores INR in Jio Platforms, for 1.15 % Stake.
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  2. Under concerned 8 deals, Jio has divested total 31.28 % Stake to 8 Firms, since April 2020.

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### International

1. ▶ 2020 *Nature Index* Rankings by Nature Research -
  1. Global Top 5 -
    1. Chinese Academy of Sciences (China), Ranked at top since inception of this index in 2016.

2. Harvard University (US)
3. Max Planck Society (Germany)
4. French National Centre for Scientific Research (France)
5. Stanford University (US)
2. India Top 5 -
  1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (*Global Rank 160*)
  2. IISC Bengaluru (*Global Rank 184*)
  3. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) (*Global Rank 260*)
  4. Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) (*Global Rank 273*)
  5. IIT Bombay (*Global Rank 307*)
2. ▶ 8 democracies launched Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, as an international cross-party group of legislators that are working towards reforms on democratic countries approach towards China. Alliance was formed by Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands and USA.
3. ▶ Adani Green Energy Ltd won world's largest solar bid, to build a photovoltaic (PV) power plant of 8,000 MW and setting up a domestic solar panel manufacturing capacity of 2,000 MW with a total investment of roughly \$6 billion.
  1. Azure Power Global Limited also won a bid to build a PV project of 4,000 MW and solar kit manufacturing capacity of 1,000 MW under offering of domestic manufacturing-linked solar power projects from state-run renewable energy agency SECI.
  2. SECI approved project bids at a tariff of Rs 2.92 per unit.
4. ▶ As per Forbes 100 world's highest-paid celebrities 2020 -
  1. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar ranks 52nd, with estimated earnings of USD 48.5 million. He is only Indian featured on the list.
  2. List is topped by American Actress Kylie Jenner, who earned USD 590 Million, followed by American rapper Kanye West(USD 170M).
  3. Youngest on list is 18 year old American musician Billie Eilish(43rd Rank, USD 53 Million).
  4. Oldest on list is 77 years old Musician Paul McCartney (91th rank, USD 37 M).
5. ▶ As per Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings -
  1. 8 Indian institutions ranked in top 100 list this year , with 6 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)
  2. Indian Institutes are Indian Institute of Science (IISc), IIT Ropar, IIT Indore, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee and Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT).
  3. Top 3 - Tsinghua University (China), Peking University (China), National University of Singapore
  4. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is top ranked Indian Institute, ranked 36th overall, followed by IIT Ropar (47).
6. ▶ China will set up a 1,124-megawatt Kohala hydropower project in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir despite India's objection to it, Under CPEC (China Pakista Economic Corridor).
  1. It will be built on Jhelum River and aims at annually providing over 5 billion units of clean and low-cost electricity to Pakistan.
7. ▶ In latest ranking of global startup ecosystems by Startupblink, India dropped 6 places to 23rd spot, despite being 3rd largest Startup Hub.
  1. Bengaluru dropped 3 places to have 14th rank in top cities with best startup ecosystems ranking, Delhi ranked 15th and Mumbai 22nd.
8. ▶ India and Denmark signed MoU for developing long-term co-operation in power sector. For implementation of identified areas, a Joint Working Group (JWG) will be established.
9. ▶ India is to be re-elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council during elections in June 2020. India will be sole contender from Asia Pacific seat.
  1. India has launched a brochure that lists the priorities of India at UNSC. It has set out five key priorities - new opportunities for progress, reforming the multilateral system, effective response to international terrorism, comprehensive approach to international peace and promoting technologies with human touch.
  2. UNSC elections to elect five non-permanent members of 15-member Security Council for 2021-22 term will be held on June 17.
10. ▶ Pakistan witnessed highest inflation in the world during fiscal year 2020 (2019-20), as per statement by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).
  1. Pakistan witnessed 12-year high inflation at 14.6 percent in January 2020.



2. SBP increased interest rates to 13.25 % in response to rising prices. SBP was however forced to cut down interest rates to 5.25 % in just three months, after economic crisis brought by COVID-19 pandemic reduced demand, thus, lowering inflation.
11. ▶ Russia declared a state of emergency after a massive fuel spill in the Arctic Circle, with over 20000 tonnes of diesel leaked from a power plant in Norilsk into Ambarnaya River in Siberia.
12. ▶ South African National Space Agency(SANSA) has partnered with US's National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA) to host a deep-space ground station to support human spaceflight missions to Moon, Mars and beyond.
  1. South Africa became the 4th country(4th site) after US, Spain and Australia to host a deep space ground station.
13. ▶ United Nations Security Council (UNSC) extended individual sanctions, travel ban and an arms embargo in South Sudan until May 2021, to encourage developments in South Sudan's peace process as nation is emerging from a six-year civil war.
14. ▶ World Bank Global Economic Prospects (June 2020) -
  1. India -
    1. GDP growth rate of India in FY 21 (2020-21) will be -3.2 %, down from 4.2% in FY 20 (2019-20). Growth of India will raise to 3.1% in FY 22 (2021-22).
    2. In Jan 2020 GEP Update, India was expected to Grow at 5.8 % in FY 20 (2019-20), and 6.1 % in both FY 21 (2020-21) and FY 22 (2021-22).
  2. Global-
    1. Around 60 million people may be pushed to extreme poverty due to COVID-19 this year.
    2. World Economy is expected to shrink by 5.2 in FY 21 (2020-21). It is expected to grow by 4.2 % In next Year (FY 22 (2021-22)). Global Economy is going into deepest recession since Second World War.
    3. Advanced economies (US, Euro Area and Japan) are to shrink by 7 % in FY 21 (2020-21). Emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) are to shrink by 2.5 percent in FY 21 (2020-21). South Asia is to shrink by 2.7 % in 2020-21.
    4. China is expected grow at 1% in FY 21 (2020-21).
15. ▶ Yale University biennial **Environment Performance Index 2020** (180 countries) -
  1. India ranked 168th, better than 177th rank in 2018. India ranked 168th Jointly with Ghana. All South Asian countries were ahead of India except Afghanistan.
  2. Top 5 - Denmark (1), Luxembourg (2), Switzerland (3), United Kingdom (4), France (5)
  3. Bottom 3 - Liberia (180), Myanmar (179), Afghanistan (178)
  4. Neighbors - China (120), Sri Lanka (109), Pakistan (142), Bangladesh (162), Nepal (145)

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## Meetings

1. ▶ India Attended virtual Global Vaccine Summit hosted by UK. India was represented by PM Narendra Modi. India pledged 15 Million US Dollars to Gavi, the international vaccine alliance. Summit was held to raise at least 7.4 billion USD of funds for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.
2. ▶ India and Australia held their first ever Virtual bilateral summit. 7 Agreements were signed -
  1. Framework Arrangement on Cyber Enabled critical Technology.
  2. MoU on cooperation in processing of Critical and Strategic minerals.
  3. MoU on cooperation of training and vocational education
  4. MoU on understanding water resource management
  5. MoU in field of Governance Reforms and Public Administration
  6. MoU on cooperation in mining and processing of strategic minerals.
  7. Mutual Logistics Support Agreement was also signed, which will allow both countries to have access to each other's military bases.
3. ▶ US postponed G7 summit to September 2020. Also, US President Trump intends to expand G7 group to G10 or G11, and invited India and Russia for the same.
  1. G-7 is a group of seven countries namely France, Canada, Germany, Japan, US and UK.
4. ▶ World Economic Forum will host its next summit in Davos under theme "The Great Reset", in Jan 2021. The forum has named the summit as "A Unique Twin Summit". It will be WEF's 51st Summit.

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## **National**

1. ▶ 3 more states (Odisha, Sikkim and Mizoram) joined scheme on 'Integrated Management of Public Distribution System' (IM-PDS). Under this, system nation-wide portability of benefits under NFSA through "One Nation One Ration Card". It enables NFSA ration card holders to get their entitled quota of subsidised foodgrains from any ePoS enabled FPS anywhere in country.
  1. The facility so far is enabled in 17 States/UTs.
  2. By August 2020 three more States - Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Manipur will be added.
  3. By 31st March 2021, all States will be added to One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
2. ▶ *Raj Kaushal Portal* and *Online Shramik Employment Exchange* launched by Rajasthan Government, developed by Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC). *Raj Kaushal Portal* aims to improve availability of opportunities for migrated workers.
3. ▶ **AarogyaPath** has been launched by CSIR as as National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal that aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies, a URL <https://www.aarogyapath.in>. It can be helpful to customers in tackling a number of routinely experienced issues.
4. ▶ Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the first online waste exchange programme, for safe disposal of toxic wastes and promote recycling and reuse of toxic wastes.
  1. The platform is to track, audit, scrutinize the waste and encourage proper utilization of the waste, complying principles of 6Rs namely Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, Redesign, Refurbish and Remanufacture.
5. ▶ CSIR signed Letter of Intent with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, to collaborate in areas of mutual interest and foster Innovation in country.
6. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 01, 2020) -

### 1. General -

1. Approved Upward revision of MSME definition and road map for implementing remaining two Packages for MSMEs - 20000 crore package for Distressed MSMEs and 50,000 crore equity infusion through Fund of Funds, as announced under **Atmanirbhar Bharat Package**.

### 1. Revised Limits -

Category	Old Capital	Old Turnover	New Capital	New Turnover
Micro	25 Lakh	10 Lakh	1 Crore	5 Crore
Small	5 Crore	2 Crore	10 Crore	50 Crore
Medium	10 crore	5 Crore	50 Crore	250 Crore

### 2. MSME Welfare Measures also Include -

1. 3 lakh crore collateral-free automatic loans for MSMEs to meet operational liabilities
2. Revision of MSME definition to render maximum benefits to the sector
3. Disallowing global tenders in procurements upto Rs. 200 crores- to create more opportunities for domestic players, through amendments in General Financial Rules.
4. Clearing of MSME dues by the Government and Public Sector Units within 45 days.
3. To manage all measures, a robust ICT based system called CHAMPIONS has also been launched by Ministry of MSME.
2. Approved to extend repayment date upto 31-08-2020, for Standard Short-Term loans upto Rs.3 lakh advanced for agriculture and allied activities by banks, with continued benefit of 2% Interest Subvention (IS) to Banks and 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) to farmers.

### 2. CCEA -

1. Approved increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2020-21. Highest increase in MSP is proposed for nigerseed (Rs 755 per quintal), followed by sesamum (Rs 370 per quintal), urad (Rs 300 per quintal) and cotton (long staple) (Rs 275 per quintal).
  1. Increase in MSP for Kharif Crops is in line with Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average Cost of Production (CoP).

### 7. ▶ Cabinet Approvals (June 03, 2020) -

### 1. General -



1. Approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.
2. Approved to re-establish Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH by merging into it Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL) - 2 central laboratories established at Ghaziabad since 1975.
3. Approved setting up of an "Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) and Project Development Cells (PDCs) in Ministries/Departments of Government, for attracting investments in India.
4. Approved several Measures for farmers' welfare -

**1. Amendment to Essential Commodities Act -**

1. Commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes will be removed from list of essential commodities. This will remove fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations.
2. The freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply will lead to harnessing of economies of scale and attract private /foreign investment into agriculture.
3. Government has also ensured that interests of consumers are safeguarded. It has been provided in the Amendment, that in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity, such agricultural foodstuff can be regulated.

**2. Barrier-free trade in agriculture produce**

1. Cabinet approved 'The Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020'.
2. It will create an ecosystem where farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce. It will open more choices for the farmer, reduce marketing costs and help them get better prices.
3. Ordinance also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.
4. Ordinance aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition.

**3. Farmers empowered to engage with processors, aggregators, wholesalers, large retailers, exporters**

1. Cabinet approved 'The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020'.
2. Ordinance will empower farmers for engaging with processors, wholesalers, aggregators,wholesalers, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation.
3. This will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of Indian farm produce to global markets.

**2. MOUs -**

1. Bhutan - Cooperation in areas of Environment.

**8. ► Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released State of India's Environment 2020 report. CSE also publishes environment magazine called *Down to Earth*.**

1. Around 19 major events have claimed over 1300 lives in 2019 and caused over 50 lakh internal displacements. This is highest in world.
2. State wise ranking was also made on water resources management and environment, with National average as 5.16 on 10. Punjab alone had a score greater than that of the national average (5.2).
3. Report observed that India's ranking in terms of Sustainable Development Goals has slipped to 114 in 2019 as compared to 115 in 2018.

**9. ► Coal India Subsidiary Western Coalfields Ltd (WCL) opened 3 new coal mines in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, with combined annual production capacity of 2.9 million tonnes (MT).**

1. Company also launched a surveillance System named WCL EYE for monitoring of its mining operations and an App named SAMVAAD to connect with its employees and stakeholders.

**10. ► Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare released 2nd Advance Estimates of 2019-20, of Area and Production of various Horticulture Crops.**

Total Horticulture	2018-19	2019-20
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	(Final)	(2nd Advance Estimate)
Area (Million Hectare)	25.43	25.66
Production (Million Tonne)	310.74	320.48

11. ▶ Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) revised public procurement order, to encourage Make in India initiative.
  1. DPIIT has prescribed minimum of 60% procurement of local content for the year 2020-21, 70% for the years 2021-23 and 80% for the years 2023-25. This is applicable to chemicals and petrochemicals.
  2. DPIIT has identified 55 chemicals and petrochemicals that are eligible to bid for more than Rs 5 lakhs of procurement.
12. ▶ Department of Science & Technology constituted a joint Science Communication Forum with a view to facilitate interaction, cooperation, and coordination amongst various public sector science communication institutions and agencies.
  1. Forum would be served by a Secretariat at the National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC), Department of Science & Technology.
13. ▶ Emphasizing importance of *local for vocal* Campaign Under *Atmanirbhar Bharat* Mission, **Sahakar Mitra : Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP)** has been launched by Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.
  1. Scheme will provide young professionals an opportunity of practical exposure and learning from the working of NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation) and cooperatives as a paid intern.
  2. Sahakar Mitra would also provide an opportunity to professionals from academic institutions to develop leadership and entrepreneurial roles through cooperatives as Farmers Producers Organizations (FPO).
14. ▶ General Conferences (June 1 - 10, 2020)
  1. Jharkhand Govt approved Border Roads Organization (BRO) to recruit over 11,800 workers from the state for critical projects. Jharkhand signed first-of-its-kind memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the BRO for ensuring welfare of workers in all recruitments in future.
  2. iFLOWS (Integrated Flood Warning System) launched in Mumbai, which can provide flood warnings 6 to 72 hours in advance.
  3. Under Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), last and vital Markbook pump house has been inaugurated by Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao.
    1. Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project on Godavari River in Telangana. Currently, it is world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project.
  4. Manipur CM N. Biren Singh has inaugurated *Plant Health Clinic* at Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation in Imphal, to boost economic growth through agriculture and horticulture.
  5. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has released an e-booklet called 'One Year of Modi 2.0 – Towards A Self-Reliant India'.
  6. To make e-learning more constructive, NCERT and Rotary India digitally signed MoU for e-learning content telecast for class 1-12 over all NCERT TV channels.
  7. Chhattisgarh Police launched a special campaign titled "spandan" to check mental stress and depression among their personnel.
  8. Road Transport & Highways and MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari launched UNDP and MoRTH national awareness campaign on 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways'.
  9. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched its flagship programme "Turant Customs", as a mega reform for the ease of doing business.
  10. Huge petroleum gas and oil leak happened in Oil India Limited's Baghjan Oilfield operated by John Energy Pvt Ltd in Tinsukia district, Assam. It occurred due to failing pressure systems in the oil well.
  11. PM Modi launched *My Life My Yoga* video blogging contest, to be conducted as a joint effort of Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR (Indian Council of Cultural Research). It is launched to inspire people to participate in the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) that is to be celebrated in 21st June, 2020.
  12. India Attended Spic Macay's (*Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth*) International Convention via video conference.
  13. CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) announced to classify railway stations based on quantity of waste water generated by them and also disposal of untreated water.

14. 3rd India-ASEAN Youth Dialogue held in virtual mode.
15. Haryana Government will construct 1,000 water recharge bores in water deficient areas of state, to recharge the underground water with rainfall. State Government will bear 90% of cost, with remaining 10% to be borne by farmers.
16. Rajasthan Police arrested two civil defence employees on Military Intelligence inputs, for passing sensitive information to Pakistan spy agency ISI, under Operation Desert Chase. The men were arrested under Official Secrets Act, 1923.
17. Uttarakhand opened biodiversity park in Haldwani, amid rich botanical heritage of state facing threats from climate change.
18. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal formed an Expert Advisory Committee to advise the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), to address challenges faced in Delhi and also ramp up medical infrastructure.
19. Amazon announced one-year ban on allowing law enforcement agencies to use its controversial Rekognition facial recognition platform.
15. ▶ Government launched Pradhan Mantri **SVANidhi** Scheme for street vendors, as a credit facility scheme that will help more than 50 lakh urban and rural street vendors. INR 10000 credit is to be provided to street vendors, to be returned within a year.
  1. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs signed MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for implementaion of scheme.
  2. On timely or early repayment of loan, an interest subsidy 7% per annum will be credited to bank accounts of beneficiaries.
  3. Govt also launched **Mudra Shishu loan** to benefit small businesses. Beneficiaries can avail an interest benefit of 2 % for a year, on loans upto 50000. Interest subvention of 2% will be for 12 months after RBI moratorium period ends.
16. ▶ Government launched a new initiative **SWADES** (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support), to conduct a skill mapping exercise of returning citizens under Vande Bharat Mission.
  1. This joint initiative of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of External Affairs aims to create a database of qualified citizens based on their skillsets and experience.
17. ▶ HRD Ministry released *India Rankings 2020* of Institutions of Higher Education in various categories (5th Edition) -
  1. In 2020, *Dental* category has been introduced for the first time bringing the total tally to 10 categories.
  2. Overall -
    1. IIT Madras
    2. IISC Bengaluru
    3. IIT Delhi
    4. IIT Bombay
    5. IIT Kharagpur
  3. University -
    1. IISC Bengaluru
    2. JNU New Delhi
    3. BHU Varanasi
    4. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Coimbatore
    5. Jadavpur University Kolkata
  4. Engineering
    1. IIT Madras
    2. IIT Delhi
    3. IIT Bombay
    4. IIT Kanpur
    5. IIT Kharagpur
  5. Management -
    1. IIM Ahmedabad
    2. IIM Bangalore
    3. IIM Calcutta
    4. IIM Lucknow
    5. IIT Kharagpur
  6. Colleges -
    1. Miranda House Delhi
    2. Lady Shri Ram College for Women New Delhi
    3. Hindu College Delhi

## 7. Pharmacy -

1. Jamia Hamdard New Delhi
2. Panjab University Chandigarh
3. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Mohali

## 8. Medical -

1. AIIMS New Delhi
2. PGIMER Chandigarh
3. Christian Medical College Vellore

## 9. Architecture

1. IIT Kharagpur
2. IIT Roorkee
3. National Institute of Technology Calicut

## 10. Law -

1. National Law School of India University Bengaluru
2. National Law University New Delhi
3. Nalsar University of Law Hyderabad

## 11. Dental -

1. Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences Delhi
2. Manipal College of Dental Sciences Udupi
3. Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune

18. ▶ IIT Madras' Dredging Technology has helped Odisha's Chilika lake, Asia's largest brackish water body, in tripling the population of the Irrawaddy dolphins. Process of dredging consists of excavation of material from bottom, removal of loosened material to dredge vessel and transportation of material to placement area.
19. ▶ ISRO signed agreement with Nanital Based Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) for cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) and Astrophysics.
20. ▶ IT Firm *Tech Mahindra* signed joint declaration with UN Global Compact urging governments to align their COVID-19 recovery efforts with latest climate science.
  1. The company adopted low emission technology path to increase use of renewable energy from 1.7% in 2016 to 18% in 2020, targeted to be 50% by 2025.
21. ▶ Indian Railways created world benchmark by commissioning 1st high rise Over Head Equipment (OHE), which has contact wire height of 7.57 metre and successfully run double stack containers in electrified territory on Western Railway.
  1. Operations commenced on 10 June 2020, from Gujarat's Palanpur and Botad railway stations.
  2. Indian Railways has thus became first Railway to run Double Stack Container train with high reach pantograph in high rise OHE territory.
22. ▶ Karnataka Govt launched Meghasandesha App & Varunamitra web portal to provide real-time information and alerts on weather, rainfall, flooding in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) jurisdiction.
23. ▶ Kerala Government project K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network) will be implemented by December 2020, to link all houses / offices with optical fibre network. Cost is approx 1548 Crores.
  1. This will make Kerala 1st State To Provide Free Internet For The Poor, benefitting 20 Lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families.
24. ▶ Madhya Pradesh Govt started Street Vendor Registration Portal <http://www.mpurban.gov.in> and *Mukhyamantri Shahri Path Vyavsayi Utthan Yojana*. Under it small businessmen / vendors will be given Rs 10,000 in the form of working capital.
25. ▶ Madhya Pradesh emerged top state in wheat procurement on support prices. State government purchased over 1.27 crore tonnes from farmers, almost 33 % of total wheat procured in country.
26. ▶ Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari announced development of a new Greenfield connectivity to Amritsar City from Nakodar via Sultanpur Lodhi, Goindwal Sahib, Khadoor Sahib as part of Delhi-Amritsar Expressway. First phase of expressway would involve investment of about Rs 25,000 crore.
27. ▶ Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh inaugurated 18th Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
  1. Over 800 Central laws, which were not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir have been made applicable since the abolition of Article 370 and 35A on 5th August, 2019.

28. ▶ Ministry of HRD, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) jointly launched portal for *The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP)* - A program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across country.
29. ▶ Ministry of Road Transport and Highways mandated a strip of green colour of 1 cm width on top of existing sticker carrying details of registration for BS-VI vehicles of any fuel type. Currently, petrol / CNG Vehicles have a light blue colour sticker and diesel has orange colour.
30. ▶ Ministry of Shipping approved Revised Cost estimate of 124 crores for augmenting Ship Repair facilities in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, up-from 96 Crores earlier. Existing dock length will be extended by 90 meters.
31. ▶ MoU has been signed between CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology Palampur (Himachal Pradesh) and Government of Himachal Pradesh for Promoting livelihood promotion and rural development. It will promote Farming of saffron and heeng, as these spices are widely used in India and still major dependence is on imports.
32. ▶ National Statistical Office (NSO) issued annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for [July 2018 – June 2019] -
  1. This is the second Annual Report being brought out by NSO on the basis of PLFS.
  2. India's unemployment rate fell between July 2018 and June 2019 to 5.8% from 6.1% during same period of 2017-18 while economy grew 6.1% in 2018-19, slower than 7% in year before.
  3. labour force participation rate rose to 37.5% from 36.9%.
  4. Worker population ratio increased to 35.3% as against 34.7% in 2017-18,
  5. Urban unemployment reduced to 7.7% in 2018-19 from 7.8% and in rural India to 5% from 5.3%.
  6. Female participation rate improved in both urban and rural India, going up to 18.6% in 2018-19 from 17.5% in year before.
  7. Percentage of self-employed households in rural India declined from 52.2% to 51.7% in 2019. While in Urban India, self-employed households declined from 32.4% to 31.8%. Self-employed households that depend on agriculture has declined from 37.8% to 36.6%.
33. ▶ Odisha Govt adopted *Bande Utkala Janani* or *Glory to mother Utkala* as anthem of Odisha. It was written by Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra in 1912.
34. ▶ Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government and Department of Science and Technology (DST) initiated a decentralized, bottom-up, and inclusive 6 month process for the formulation of 5th national Science Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP 2020).
  1. STIP 2020 formulation process is organised into 4 highly interlinked tracks - public and expert consultation through Science Policy Forum, experts-driven thematic consultations, consultations with Ministries and States AND apex level multi-stakeholder consultation.
35. ▶ PSU IRCON International signed MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited(NIIFL) and NIIF platform company Ayana Renewable Power Private Limited(AYANA), to explore and collaborate on opportunities in the solar energy sector.
36. ▶ PSU National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) became 'Fully Digital', with launch of unique cloud based and Artificial Intelligence powered Big Data Analytics platform – Data Lake and Project Management Software.
  1. Entire project management work flow of NHAI is transformed from manual to online portal based, making NHAI first construction sector organisation to go fully Digital.
37. ▶ Population of Asiatic Lion, living in Gujarat's Gir Forest has reportedly increased 29%, with Geographically distribution area up by 36%.
38. ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched technology platform **CHAMPIONS** (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength). It aims to make smaller units big by solving their grievances, encouraging, supporting, helping and handholding.
39. ▶ R. K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy launched pan-India Real Time Market in electricity, as an organized platform to enable buyers and sellers pan-India to meet their energy requirement closer to real time of operation.
  1. It will bring required flexibility in market to provide real time balance while ensuring optimal utilization of available surplus capacity.
  2. Real time market would be for every 30 minutes in a day based on double sided closed auction with uniform price.
  3. Buyers/sellers shall have the option of placing buy/sell bids for each 15-minute time block.
40. ▶ Severe Cyclonic Storm Nisarga became strongest tropical cyclone to strike Maharashtra, with speeds up to 140 KM/H. It was also first cyclone to impact Mumbai since Cyclone Phyan of 2009.
  1. Nisarga was second cyclone to strike Indian subcontinent within 2 weeks time, after Cyclone Amphan, the first super cyclonic storm occurred in the Bay of Bengal in the 21st century, hit West Bengal.

41. ▶ Supreme Court disposed off petition seeking its directions to Centre to amend Constitution and Rename Country as *Bharat*. The plea claimed that a change of name will help citizens to get over colonial past and instill a sense of pride in their nationality.
  1. SC directed petitioner to send copy of his writ petition as representation to concerned ministries which will decide representation appropriately.
42. ▶ Under *Atmanirbhar Bharat Package*, Government will provide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to 1.5 crore dairy farmers belonging to Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies in June & July 2020. Package aims to cover 2.5 crore new farmers under the KCC scheme. This will provide an additional liquidity of Rs.5 lakh crore in hands of farmers.
43. ▶ Uttar Pradesh Govt. introduced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Monitoring Mechanism to achieve efficient implementation of investment proposals by guiding interested investors and to track signed MoUs. State Govt will launch a new MoU tracking portal integrated with Nivesh Mitra, single window system.
44. ▶ Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya declared Gairsain as new summer capital for state. Dehradun is winter capital of the state.
  1. Gairsain was suggested as it was falling on border of Kumaon and Garhwal regions, located in the Chamoli district.

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## Science

1. ▶ Amid tremendous increase in demand of transparent conducting glasses (TCG) with high light transparency, Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences Bengaluru (CeNS) has developed a novel recipe for fabrication of TCG which brings down its production cost by 80% compared to tin-doped indium oxide (ITO) based technology which is currently in use.
  1. Newly fabricated TCG consists of metal mesh on a glass substrate with thin overlayers of metal oxides. The design is attractive as hybrid electrode possesses excellent conductive property of metal mesh while offering an oxide surface finish for conductive glass.
2. ▶ Astronomers discovered a rare space object that looks like both asteroid and comet, called Active Asteroid and named 2019 LD2.
  1. It has an orbit like an asteroid and a tail like a comet. It shares orbit of Jupiter and is a part of asteroid swarm called Jupiter Trojans.
  2. This object is first that emits gas just like a comet.
  3. The asteroid was discovered by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS).
  4. This discovery also provides that Jupiter Trojans have large amounts of ice beneath their surfaces.
  5. Active Asteroids are celestial bodies that look like comet and have asteroid like orbit. The first active asteroid discovered was Elst Pizarro.
3. ▶ Fossilized millipede-like Silurian Period creature called *Kampecaris obanensis* (approximately 450 million years old) is discovered on island of Kerrera in Scottish Inner Hebrides (Scotland), which is likely to be world's oldest-known land animal.
  1. Fossils of oldest-known plant with a stem, called *Cooksonia*, were also found in the same ancient lake region as *Kampecaris*.
4. ▶ Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and Breathe Applied Sciences, a company incubated at JNCASR for transfer of technology based on lab-scale research on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> to methanol and other useful chemicals and fuels.
  1. In pilot mode, the current capacity of CO<sub>2</sub> conversion is 300 kg per day, which can be scaled upto 500 tons in an industrial scale, within a year.
5. ▶ NASA Stated that 5 Asteroids passed by Earth Safely on June 3, Including 170 feet wide 2020 KE4 as nearest flyer. It passed by Earth within a distance of 0.01966 astronomical units (1.8 Miles approx).
6. ▶ NASA and Italian Space Agency Research state that Saturn's moon Titan has been moving away from its host planet hundred times faster than previously understood, at rate of about 4 inches (11 centimeters) every year.
  1. Moon starts drifting away from its host planet because as a moon orbits, its gravity pulls on a planet which causes a temporary bulge in planet as it passes. With time, energy created by subsiding and bulging, transfers from planet to moon and nudging it farther out.
  2. Our own moon drifts 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) from the Earth each year.
  3. While scientists have known that Saturn was formed 4.6 billion years ago, there has been more of an uncertainty about planet's rings and when its system of more than 80 moons was formed.
  4. Titan is currently 1.2 million kilometers from Saturn. Revised drift Data has suggested that moon started out much closer to Saturn, meaning that whole system expanded more quickly than previously believed.



7. ▶ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) predicts that there would be a 24% increase in expansion of Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS) boundaries by 2021 and another 24% expansion by 2026 from its 2016 positions.
  1. Study would help understand ongoing changes in the ocean and atmospheric forces better. Ice shelves connect a glacier to the landmass.
  2. AIS is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in world, located on the east coast of Antarctica. AIS dynamics and mass balance help in understanding changes in the global climate.
  3. It becomes clear from study that the AIS is losing its stability owing to the impact of a downstream giant glacial drainage system over past 19 years, thereby advancing ice shelf boundaries due to higher freezing rates than basal melting.
  4. NCPOR also estimated rate at which ice shelves have extended for the last three years (2017-2019). The AIS extended by about 550 m in 2017, 1470 m in 2018, and 2200 m in 2019. If this continues, it is possible that by 2026, positions of ice shelf would closely coincide with actual boundary conditions.
  5. NCPOR observations also revealed a critical cooling of sea surface temperature (SST), resulting in an advancement of ice shelf by 88% in past 15 years. These changes would contribute in a major way to climate variability.
8. ▶ Researchers at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences Nainital (ARIES) found that aerosol radiative forcing larger than global averages, implying some amount of radiative effects, in spite of clean atmosphere over trans-Himalayas.
  1. Study shows that monthly-mean atmospheric radiative forcing of aerosols leads to heating rates of 0.04 to 0.13 C per day. Also, temperature over Ladakh region is increasing 0.3 to 0.4 degrees Celsius per decades from the last 3 decades.
  2. Atmospheric aerosols play a key role in climate system through scattering and absorption of incoming solar radiation and by modifying cloud microphysics.
  3. Team analysed variability of aerosol optical, physical and radiative properties from January 2008 to December 2018 and role of fine and coarse particles in aerosol radiative forcing (ARF) assessment.
  4. Observations show that aerosol optical depth (AOD) exhibited a distinct seasonal variation with higher values (0.07) in May and lower (0.03) in winter months.
  5. Study can help better understand aerosol optical and microphysical properties and improve modelling of aerosol effects in view of aerosol-climate implications.
9. ▶ Researchers at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have found a rare fish from the Gulf of Mannar, named *Scorpaenopsis neglecta* and locally called Scorpion Fish, for its venomous tail.
  1. Gulf of Mannar is a shallow bay in the Indian Ocean between Sri Lanka and India. A Chain of low islands and reefs called Ram Sethu separates Gulf of Mannar from Palk Bay.
10. ▶ Researchers at University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy (US) unveiled magnetic field of solar corona, outermost atmosphere of the Sun which expands into interplanetary space.
  1. Charged particles radiating from surface of sun is called solar wind and expands to fills the solar system.
  2. Corona is most easily seen during a total solar eclipse – when the Moon is directly between Earth and Sun. Magnetic field lines of solar corona were recorded for over 14 eclipses that occurred in 2 decades.
  3. Study found that pattern of coronal magnetic field lines is highly structured, which is changing with time. During periods of minimum solar activity, corona's field emanated almost straight out of Sun near equator and poles. During solar maximum, coronal magnetic field was far less organized and more radial.
  4. Earlier, it was assumed that coronal magnetic field is radial beyond 2.5 solar radii. Study found that coronal magnetic field is non-radial to at least 4 solar radii.
11. ▶ Researchers from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered a 1100-year-old monolithic sandstone Shiva linga, at Cham Temple Complex located in My Son Sanctuary of Quang Nam Province, Vietnam. It was Built by the kingdom of Champa, between 4th to 13th century.
12. ▶ Researchers from IIT Madras and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru have identified a specific microRNA (miRNAs) called 'miR-155' that is over-expressed in tongue cancer.
  1. This finding is important in that molecular strategies can potentially be devised to manipulate miR-155 expression to develop therapeutics for tongue cancer.
  2. The main function of miRNA is to silence the expression of the other genes. If the silence oncogenes then the cancer will be suppressed. On the other hand, if they suppress tumour suppressor gene, the cancer will progress.
  3. Accordingly, miRNA can act as oncogenes or tumour suppressor genes depending on what they act upon.
13. ▶ Scientists at Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) found a new process for synthesizing crystalline rubrene, a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon-based thin film which can be useful for development of optoelectronic devices and

preparation of Electronic Skin (E-Skin).

1. New synthesis is a water-free, solvent-free, environmentally friendly one-step plasma process. A highly uniform pin-hole-free thin film can be deposited by this process, which is useful for fabrication of high-end devices.
  2. Study revealed that centro-symmetric rubrene crystal has a thin amorphous oxide layer formed over crystalline film. This induces surface layer polarization effect leading to pyro-phototronic effect.
  3. Formation of crystalline rubrene at sufficiently high Radio Frequency(RF) plasma power confirmed that with increasing applied RF power, a phase transition from amorphous to crystalline rubrene can be obtained.
14. ▶ Scientists at Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology Guwahati (IASST) developed an artificial intelligence (AI) based algorithm, for rapid diagnosis of oral squamous cell carcinoma.
1. 4 candidate pre-trained models, namely Alexnet, VGG-16, VGG-19, and Resnet-50, were chosen to find the most suitable model for the classification problem, and a proposed convolutional neural network (CNN) model developed to fit the problem.
  2. Although the highest classification accuracy of 92.15% was achieved by the Resnet-50 model, the experimental findings highlight that the proposed CNN model outperformed the transfer learning approaches displaying accuracy of 97.5%.
  3. Around 16.1% of all cancers amongst men and 10.4% amongst women are oral cancer, and the picture is all the more alarming in NE India.
15. ▶ Scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) developed a rare-earth-based magnetocaloric material that can be effectively used for cancer treatment.
1. Magnetic hyperthermia tries to address issues of side effects of cancer treatment like chemotherapy. In it, magnetic nanoparticles are subjected to alternating magnetic fields of few Gauss, which produces heat. Temperature required to kill tumor cells is between 40 - 45°C. However, magnetic hyperthermia lacks control of temperature, which may damage healthy cells.
  2. These problems can be avoided by using magnetocaloric materials, as it can provide controlled heating.
16. ▶ Scientists at International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) developed new environment friendly way to shape ceramics through 3D printing with Methyl Cellulose.
1. Ceramic parts are produced from powder formulations with additives using various shaping processes followed by post thermal treatments. High-end applications require complex geometries with micro-features, which is major limitation of ceramic shaping process.
  2. 3D printing offers new possibilities for near-net shaping. However, 3D process is only a shaping procedure, and property of final part depends on composition and microstructure, which are dictated by thermal processing after printing. Hence, optimization of processing parameters with respect to flow properties and tailoring of defect-free microstructures have been challenging.
  3. ARCI team used thermal gelation property of methylcellulose (MC), and demonstrated 3D printing of advanced ceramics with  $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4$  spinel.
  4. Based on results, team carried out 3D printing using a moldable paste with a concentration of 0.25% of methylcellulose having shear-thinning rheology.
17. ▶ Scientists from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences Bengaluru (CeNS) synthesised a series of novel photo-sensitive cholesteric liquid crystals at room temperature for widest thermal range, which can be used to make optical storage devices such as optically rewritable boards, advertising boards etc.
1. Liquid crystals are widely used in devices such as computers, mobiles, TV screens, etc. If such cholesteric liquid crystals are made photo-sensitive, then these materials can be used for optical storage devices and other related applications.
  2. Team synthesised these novel photo-sensitive cholesteric liquid crystals for temperature range from -100°C to 160°C. Hence, devices made using these liquid crystals can be used in Syberia to Saudi Arabia where extreme temperatures were reported.
  3. This will help bring down cost of the devices with a simple yet powerful photoisomerisation concept.
18. ▶ Scientists from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) found out a low cost and efficient way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide as a catalyst.
1. Molybdenum dioxide ( $\text{MoO}_2$ ) nanomaterials annealed in hydrogen atmosphere can act as efficient catalysts to reduce energy input to bring about water splitting with great efficiency. Electrolytic splitting of water is a promising method to generate hydrogen but requires energy input that can be brought down in presence of a catalyst.
  2. Molybdenum dioxide can replace currently employed catalyst Pt, which is expensive and has limited resources.

3. **Need** - Hydrogen is considered as future of clean and sustainable energy as it can be generated from water and produces water on energy generation without any carbon footprint.

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### Sports

1. ▶ Asian Football Confederation confirmed that India will host 2022 Women's Asian Cup, as first time India is hosting it since 1979.

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