

PRACTICE
MOCK



BAZOOKA

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

AUGUST-2020 COVERAGE



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NATIONAL

1. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEF&CC**), Prakash Javadekar, has participated in the **6th BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Environment Ministers' Meeting under the presidency of Russia along. **India** will assume the Presidency of BRICS in 2021.
2. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal**, inaugurated the National Digital Conference on "**Easing Doing Business for Atmanirbhar Bharat**" organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to improve the business environment of India.
3. **NITI** (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**), has launched **AIM iCREST** – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Start-ups in collaboration with **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation**, which will provide global expertise.
4. **Narendra Singh Tomar**, Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, released a booklet on '**Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)**' prepared by Department of Land Resources (**DoLR**), Ministry of Rural Development.
5. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), **Hardeep Singh Puri** released the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes Pack. He also launched the mobile application of Credai – Awaas App and an E-Commerce Portal, "HousingforAll.com" of NAREDCO.
6. **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) launched the compilation '**India Report – Digital Education June 2020**' prepared by the Digital Education Division

of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in consultation with Education Departments of States and UTs.

7. **Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare announced the completion of 1st **Pan-India 1000 Genome Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2**. He reviewed the COVID-19 activities of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
8. Union Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology **Harsh Vardhan** has launched **Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan**, a national level programme for popularizing pure science among school students of Class 6th to 11th. It is an initiative of Vijnana Bharathi (**VIBHA**) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
9. Ministry of Defence publicized a draft '**Defence Production & Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020**' for public. The policy aims to achieve a manufacturing turnover of \$25 bn or Rs 1,75,000 crore, including exports of \$5 bn or Rs 35,000 Crore in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025. The **Department of Defence Production** will be the nodal department for coordination on various components of the DPEPP 2020.
10. A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **IIT Kanpur, Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR & PG)** to develop **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) Techniques** to conduct exploratory and predictive analysis of Public Grievances received on the web based Centralized Public Grievances Redress & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) pertaining to the MoD.
11. For the first time in India, Railway is **using New Track Construction (NTC)** machine for the entire track laying of the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The projects will be implemented by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (**DFCCIL**) by 2022.
12. The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (**eVIN**), which is used for efficient vaccine logistics management has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs). National Health Mission (**NHM**) by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is the implementing agency of eVIN.
13. India's 1st snow leopard conservation centre is to be set up in **Lanka, near Bhaironghati** bridge in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand.
14. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways and Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare flagged off the **India's 1st Kisan Rail**, a Special Parcel Train **from Maharashtra's Devlali to Bihar's Danapur Railway** station through video link.

15. National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) signed an agreement **with IIT Delhi** to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in data driven decision making and Advance Data Management System for Highways (ADMS Highways).
16. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) recognizes Venkatraipur and Noliasahi, villages of Odisha as 'Tsunami Ready' for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.
17. Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has received a mass fever screening system to enhance the screening process of passengers which has been provided by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in coordination with **Asian Development Bank** funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**).
18. The Supreme Court (SC) has made it mandatory for all municipal corporations and state pollution control boards to use the '**COVID19BWM** App' to track biomedical waste on a daily basis.
19. Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh launched "**SRIJAN**", an online portal to promote indigenization of Defence production. Highlights The portal is to display those items that are currently being imported by Indian Defence Industry. This will help domestic industries of the country to learn and focus more on these specific items.
20. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways announced that the Electric Vehicles shall be sold and registered without pre-fitted batteries. This will reduce cost of Electric Vehicles by 50%.
21. **NITI Aayog** announced that it has selected **Oracle Corporation** to modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts under its **Aspirational Districts Programme**. The selected 112 districts constitute 28% of Indian population. The Oracle Corporation will provide new cloud solution and will aid the District Magistrates to transform the lives of the citizens in these Aspirational districts and also to improve their overall performance.
22. the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah**. The scheme aims to shift India towards local manufacturing and aid "Make in India" initiative. The idea of the scheme is to give importance to domestic production in the country. The idea of observing a week will provide impetus to Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
23. On August 15, 2020, PM Modi launched **Project Lion and Project Dolphin** during his speech at the 74th Independence Day celebrations.
24. Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched **National Portal on Human Elephant** conflict called "**SURAKHSYA**". The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.

25. The NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission along with the collaboration of **NASSCOM** launched the "**ATL AI Step Up Module**". It was launched on the eve of independence-day. The module is to drive AI education and innovation to next levels in schools all over India.
26. On August 15, 2020, PM Modi announced the **Optic Fibre Linking of Lakshadweep Islands** with the mainland during his address at the 74th celebrations of Independence Day. The undersea Optical Fibre Cable link to be established between Lakshadweep and the mainland is second in the country. The first of its kind was established between Chennai and Port Blair. The Lakshadweep Undersea project is to be completed in 1,000 days. It will help to boost communication between India and Lakshadweep. The **Department of Telecommunications** is to implement the project.
27. The **Central Water Commission** along with **Google** has launched **flood forecasting initiative**. Under the initiative, numerous alerts can be sent to the public regarding flood situation in the region. Also, people can learn about current water level in the flood affected regions in the country.
28. Lok Sabha has launched a new **French Course** at beginner level for the staff and officials. Around 57 officials have been registered under the course. The course is being launched as its is essential to acquire knowledge of French language in the interconnected world. The initiative is to be implemented by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy (**PRIDE**).
29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK)** an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission. PM launched 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat' – week long (Aug 8-15, 2020) campaign for Swachhata. Railways to observe cleanliness week from August 10-15 to mark Independence Day.
30. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Jal Shakti launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Academy, an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) based free mobile online training course with modules on the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus programme at an event in New Delhi. It is launched as part of 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat', the ongoing week-long behaviour change campaign.
31. The **Indian Railways** observed **Cleanliness Week** between **August 10, 2020 and August 15, 2020**. The week will give the message of significance of cleanliness. During the week, the Indian Railways is to launch special cleanliness drive that will focus on cleanliness in the station offices, tracks, worksites, colonies and other areas in and around railway stations. The drive will focus on plastic waste collection from the tracks.
32. The Ministry of Textiles has disbanded **All India Powerloom Board** after All India Handicrafts and Handloom boards. Also, all of the eight Textiles Research Associations in the country will now cease to be "affiliated bodies" of the ministry. The Textile Research Associations will now act as approved bodies to conduct tests, researches and development activities of textiles sector. The decision has

been made to stick to the principle of "Minimum Government Maximum Governance". The Handloom Board was scrapped on the National Handloom Day (August 7).

33. The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India** recently announced that sale of junk and unhealthy food should be restricted within **50 metres** schools and education institutions. The FSSAI has made the announcement to provide safe foods and balanced diet to children in schools. The foods referred to as HFSS (High in Fat, Salt and Sugar) cannot be sold in mess premises and school canteens. The FSSAI operates under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It was established as statutory body under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
34. The **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** is to set up the first of its kind **training cum production centre of silk** in the state of **Arunachal Pradesh**. The centre is to be launched in the first week of September, 2020. The KVIC will provide machinery such as handlooms, warping drums and silk reeling machines. The centre is to provide training to 25 local artisans and will boost weaving activities in the region.
35. On August 8, 2020, India commemorated the 78th anniversary of Quit India movement. On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched Quit India Movement at the session of All India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
36. The Indian Railways is to operate first parcel special train to **Bangladesh under Ahmedabad division**. The train is to traverse 2,110 km to reach Benapole in Bangladesh. The Western Railways sent goods train earlier with loaded wagons of onion to Bangladesh.
37. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**) in collaboration with Dell Technologies has launched the 2nd edition of Student Entrepreneurship Program (**SEP 2.0**) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). The objective of the programme is to accelerate the entrepreneurial journey of young innovators who can play a major role in creating a new innovative India.
38. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) announced that **the nine Tribal Freedom Fighters Museums** that are under development by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to recognise the contribution of the tribal freedom fighters will be completed by the end of 2022. The Museums will utilise latest technologies like Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, 3 dimensional (3D) and 7 dimensional (7D) holographic projects and others.

39. Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched **Tribal Health and Nutrition portal** called "**SWASTHYA**". Also, the ministry launched the "**ALEKH**" e-newsletter on health and nutrition. SWASTHYA portal is first of its kind. It provides information related to health and nutrition of tribal population in India.
40. National Highway Authority of India launched the mobile application called "**Harit Path**" for geo tagging the trees along the highways. So far 7,800 plants have been geo-tagged using the application.
41. During his speech at the 74th Independence Day celebrations, PM Modi announced that GoI is to unveil a new National **Cyber Security Policy, 2020** soon. It envisages to create secure cyber space in India and is to be ready by the end of 2020.
42. The Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day address mentioned the mega plan of "**One Sun One World One Grid**" project. It is a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power project. The idea of the project was first introduced by PM Modi in 2018 during the International Solar Alliance.
43. The Indian Railways is constructing **world's tallest pier bridge** in the state of **Manipur**. The bridge is 141 metres high. It has surpassed the record of 139 metres tall Mala-Rijeka bridge in Montenegro, Europe. The bridge is a part of the 111 km long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway line project.
44. United Kingdom launched **3 million pounds of Innovation Challenge Fund in India**. The funds were launched to support Indian scientists in industries and academia to tackle COVID-19 and climate change. The funds invite innovators to connect to the Artificial Intelligence Clusters in Karnataka and future mobility cluster in Maharashtra.
45. Ministry of **Railways** announced that the **drone-based surveillance system** is to be introduced for the purpose of railway security. The Railway Protection Force has so far procured drones at a cost of Rs 32 lakhs. The drones are to be implemented in Central Railway, South Eastern Railway, Central Railway and South Western Railway.
46. Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) on August 20 said that the second lunar mission of India **Chandrayaan-2 has completed one year** around the Moon in the lunar orbit
47. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the "**Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge**". The challenge is being launched to achieve self-reliance or Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The challenge aims to design microprocessors that has the ability to address global challenges. These challenges mainly include technological glitches and security.
48. National E-Governance Division and the Common Service Centres (**CSC**) signed a pact to facilitate the delivery of **UMANG** application services through CSCs. UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New Age Governance.

49. The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has recently released a report on construction waste, according to which, India recycles only **1%** of its demolition and construction waste.
50. The CSIR-CMERI operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology has developed **world largest solar tree**. The tree has an annual capacity of generating 12,000 to 14,000 units of Clean and Green power.
51. The **NITI** Aayog recently launched **Nationally Determined Contributions Transport Initiative for Asia** (NDC-TIA). The initiative was launched to **decarbonize transport** and provide technical support on Green Gas emission reduction measures. The initiative is supported by International Climate Initiative of German Ministry of Environment.
52. The Indian **Railways** has **solarised** more than **960 railway stations**. This is being done to achieve the objective of becoming 100% self-sustainable for all its power needs.
53. The **New Delhi Railway Station** is to be redeveloped by the Rail Land Development Authority at Rs 6,500 crores.
54. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch **mental health rehabilitation centre**. The helpline number "1800-599-0019" will help in providing psychological support, psychological crisis management, early screening, mental wellbeing, first-aid, and will also help to prevent deviant behaviour.
55. **Ahmedabad** Railway Division launched the **Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping Machine** at the Ahmedabad Railway station to ensure safe travel for the passengers during the Pandemic. The railways have taken this initiative under the New Innovative Non Fare Revenue Idea Scheme (NINFRIS).

STATES

56. Madhya Pradesh has launched a public awareness campaign "**Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi**" from August. The state planned to establish Mask Banks, where people can donate masks which in turn will be distributed free to poor people.
57. The **Maharashtra** has approved the Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (**MagNet**) project worth about Rs 1,000 crore (USD 142.9 million). The project aims to help farmers across all districts in the state for the next 6 years. 70% of the project cost will be funded by Asian Development Bank (**ADB**).
58. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy** launched a one-month long virtual cybercrime awareness programme '**E-Raksha Bandhan**' in **Amaravati**.

59. The Government of **Rajasthan** approved the **5% reservations** to the More Backward Classes (**MBC**) in the state judicial service.
60. Andhra Pradesh has signed a MoU with three International **FMCG** (Fast-moving consumer goods) companies- Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL), **ITC** and Procter and Gamble (P&G) to provide marketing and technological support for the economic empowerment of the women and to make them self-reliant.
61. The Education department of Daman Administration launched the **E-Gyan Mitra** mobile application to support students for their online education.
62. **Haryana** government has launched two schemes "**Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana**" to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families, and initiated "**Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana**" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.
63. Chhattisgarh has launched a social security scheme namely "**Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangraha Samajik Suraksha Yojana**" for tendu leaves collectors in the state covering over 12 lakh families, mostly tribals and forest dwellers
64. Punjab has launched the '**Pride of Punjab**' programme. The programme is a partnership programme between the Department of Youth Services and Sports and YuWaah – a joint initiative of UNICEF, other UN agencies, civil society organisations and the private sector.
65. **Maharashtra** became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.
66. Gujarat Government launched a new scheme called the **Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana**. The scheme will replace Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the state for the current year alone.
67. The Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced about the launch of "**Indira Van Mitan Yojana**" on the eve of International Day of World Indigenous People. It is an initiative to support forest dwellers of Chhattisgarh and achieve self-reliance.
68. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched "**Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy**". Under the new policy, the State Government of Delhi will waive registration fee and road tax. Also, it will provide an incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakhs for new cars in the NCR region.
69. the Assam Government is to identify beneficiaries of new scheme called "**ORUNODOI**". The scheme is being launched to help in **women financial empowerment**. Highlights The ORUNODOI will be the biggest scheme in Assam that will benefit more than 17 lakh families.

70. The **Andhra Pradesh Government** has launched a new **State Industrial Development Policy** for the year 2020-23. The policy aimed to create employment for youth and match national average in industrial GVA per capita. The previous Industrial Development Policy of the state was implemented between 2015-20.
71. On the occasion of International Youth Day and Janmastami (August 12, 2020), Captain Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of **Punjab** launched the "**Punjab Smart Connection Scheme**" worth Rs. 92 crores to provide free smartphones to the students of class 12 and he also handed over the smartphones to 6 students.
72. On the occasion of International Youth Day August 12, 2020, the **West Bengal** government launched the '**Karma Sathi Prakalpa**' scheme under which 1 lakh unemployed youth will be provided soft loans and subsidies so as to make them self-reliant. The West Bengal (WB) Government launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts for income-generating activities.
73. YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched "**YSR Cheyutha**" a scheme to ensure the **sustainable livelihood of women** by providing a financial assistance of Rs. 18750 per year for 4 years. The scheme benefits around 23 lakh women of age group 45-60 belonging to the minority community like SC, ST, BC.
74. The Government of Telangana has launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Agricultural Innovation Programme (AI4AI) in collaboration with Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) & World Economic Forum (WEF) – India. Agriculture Innovation Program is being launched as part of Telangana's year of AI (2020) programmes.
75. The **Gujarat State Government** launched the "**Industrial Policy 2020**". The policy aims to provide Rs 40,000 subsidies to the industries in the state in the next five years.
76. **Himachal Pradesh** Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate "**Atal Tunnel**" by the end of September 2020.
77. On August 14, 2020 the Arunachal Pradesh Government formed a committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein to discuss possible solutions of the Patkai Autonomous Council and Mon autonomous Region.
78. The E-commerce platform Flipkart signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Uttar Pradesh** Government's One District, One Product (**ODOP**) scheme. As part of the MoU, artisans, weavers and craftsmen under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme will be brought into the '**Flipkart**

Samarth' initiative. This partnership will enable the under-served communities to showcase their specialised products and crafts in the e-commerce platform.

79. State Minister of Assam, Siddhartha Bhattacharya is to inaugurate India's longest ropeway across river **Brahmaputra**. The ropeway is to cut short the travel time by almost an hour. It is 2 km long and the distance is covered in 7 minutes. One-way ride is to cost Rs 60.
80. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister announced that the State Government is to build an **industrial corridor between Mysuru and Bidar**. This is being done to augment the development of commerce and industry in the state.
81. **Nuakhai Juhar** festival was celebrated in **Odisha, Chhattisgarh** and other neighbouring states. It is celebrated to welcome the **new crop of the season**. It is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat. Highlights During the festival, food grains are worshipped.
82. Uttar Pradesh Government launched the **Electronics Manufacturing Policy**. It aims to bring in Rs 40,000 crores of investment in five years. The policy aims to develop **Bundelkhand and Purvanchal** regions. The policy aims to make Uttar Pradesh a global electronics hub.
83. **Rajasthan** Government has launched the '**Indira Rasoi Yojna**' in order to pay special tribute to the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 76th birth anniversary on August 20. Indira Rasoi is a scheme to provide nutritious food to poor people in urban areas at affordable prices.
84. **Madhya Pradesh** will be offering jobs based on the marks secured by candidates in the common eligibility test (**CET**) by National Recruitment Agency (NRA). With this, Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to offer jobs on the basis newly approved CET.
85. **Kerala** is to set up its first **International Women Trade Centre** as per terms defined under United Nations Sustainable Development goals. This is first of its kind in India.
86. **Gujarat** Government has announced that the first **sea plane services** of India is to begin from October 31. The first seaplane is to take off from Sabarmati river front to Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district.
87. **Assam** Cabinet passed a resolution to set up a **Skill University** at **Mangaldoi** in Assam with an investment of Rs 900 crores.
88. The **Karnataka** Government will build **transit homes for migrant workers**. The homes aim to provide better living conditions for the migrant workers. The project is being launched with an inspiration from "Apna Ghar" project of Kerala.

89. **Arunachal Pradesh** State Government passed the resolution to bring the state under **Schedule VI** of Indian Constitution. The sixth schedule of the constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram.
90. **Kerala** has launched **Marine Ambulance** services named **PRATHEEKSHA** to provide more efficient rescue. The Marine Ambulance specializes in providing first aid and also rescue operations.
91. **Odisha** launched a new scheme '**Promotion of Intensive Aquaculture** through Introduction of Bio-flocTechnology during the year 2020-21'.
92. **Delhi** Government launched the Fitness Campaign – "**Healthy Body, Healthy Mind**", for the students who are confined in their homes because of the lockdown imposed on Schools and colleges due to COVID-19 pandemic. As a part of the "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" campaign, a YouTube channel has been started.
93. In order to promote the trading of **GI-tagged Kashmir Saffron**, the Department of Agriculture operating under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare has created an **e-auction portal** in collaboration with NSE-IT.

INTERNATIONAL

94. The United Kingdom (**UK**) and **India** tied up for five new medicinal research projects to tackle the anti-microbial resistance to support the combat against antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes during his 'virtual visit' to India.
95. Government of India has contributed USD 15.46 million to the India-UN (United Nations) Development Partnership Fund as a support to fellow developing nations for their 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related projects.
96. António Guterres Secretary-General of United Nations (UN) launched the report titled "**Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond**" states that around **23.8 million additional children and youths may drop out or not have access to school in 2021** due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.
97. Sri Lanka ruling party led by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has won the general elections.
98. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (**FAO**) unveiled a new Platform, "**Technical Platform on the Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste**" to support the global reduction of food loss and waste.

99. the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that the Indian Government will provide **100 million USD** of grant and **400 million USD of line of credit to Maldives**. The funds are to be used for connectivity projects.
100. The **Bangladesh** Government is to construct **war memorial** for Indian soldiers killed in 1971 war. The memorial is to be constructed in Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria bordering **Tripura**.
101. On August 8, 2020, the island **of Mauritius has declared environmental emergency** due to oil spill caused by Japanese owned ship that was stranded off the coast days ago.
102. The USA Presidential Candidate Joe Biden has chosen **Kamala Harris** to run for Vice President. As a running mate, she will be the first black woman and the first person of Indian origin to be nominated for the national office of a majority party in the US.
103. the **United States Food and Drugs Administration** authorised the emergency use of saliva based diagnostic test for COVID-19. This is to be a game changer as it provides the results rapidly. The testing method has been named **"SALIVA DIRECT"**.
104. The planet hunter of NASA called the **TESS** (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) has found **66 new Exo planets**. TESS is Transitioning Exoplanet Survey Satellite. It scanned about 75% of the starry sky during its mission.
105. The **COVAX** Facility of the **World Health Organization** recently renewed its invitation to countries to join its COVID-19 vaccine facility. The COVAX facility is a mechanism designed to guarantee fair, rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. CAVAX is COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. The facility is backed by Bill Gate Foundation. The foundation is working to make COVID-19 vaccines available to poor countries.
106. **Russia** becomes the World's 1st country to officially register a COVID-19 vaccine and declare it ready for use. The vaccine will be marketed in foreign markets under the name '**Sputnik V**', after the world's first satellite Sputnik. The vaccine has been developed jointly by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Defence Ministry.
107. As per the latest report, '**Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in school's** Special focus on COVID-19' released by World Health Organization (**WHO**) and United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme(JMP), around 818 million children across the world lacked basic hand-washing facilities in their schools which makes them prone to the COVID-19 and other transmittable diseases.
108. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the **fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**. The conference was **organized by Parliament of Austria** and **Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva** with

the support of United Nations. The Conference was conducted under the theme: **Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and the planet.**

109. The International Solar Alliance will hold **World Solar Technology Summit** for the first time on September 8, 2020. The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.
110. **India and Israel** signed a new **cultural agreement** to strengthen people-to-people exchanges. This agreement was signed by India's Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla and Israel's Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi.
111. The **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative** is proposed by Japan. The initiative aims to reduce the dependency in China. Japan is to be joined by India and Australia. It is a direct response to companies that are concerned about Chinese political behaviour and disruption to supply chain.
112. On August 20, 2020, the External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar attended **ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT)**. It was the sixth-round table conference between India and AINTT.
113. **India and UAE** held their 13th Joint Commission Meeting virtually. The five sub-committees from India and UAE participated in the meeting.
114. The **World Wide Fund** along with the **Bombay Natural History Society** launched the third edition of **Dragonfly festival, 2020**. The festival aims to create conservation of these insects. For the first time, the festival is to be organised in **Kerala as "Thumbi Mahotsavam 2020"**. This is a part of the National Dragonfly Festival.
115. The **UAE** Government launched **AGRIOTA**, a new technology driven agricultural commodity trading platform that will bridge the rural farmers from India and the gulf Food Industry. The E-Market place allows the farmers to connect with the UAE food industry directly bypassing intermediaries.
116. World Health Organization announced that the health care workers are to receive COVID-19 vaccine after senior citizens.
117. World Health Organisation declared **Africa polio-free**. The disease is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
118. **India and Bangladesh** will open new **inland waterway** from September 3, 2020. This is based on the agreement signed by the countries in May 2020 on Inland Water Transit and Trade. The number of IBP (Indo-Bangladesh Protocol) routes were increased from eight to ten.

119. The Industrial Ministers of **BRICS** countries attended video **meeting on 5G, industrial internet and Artificial Intelligence**. During the meet, China urged the BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation on digital transformation
120. On August 28, 2020, the longest serving Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe resigned due to health issues.
121. The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** addressed the Association of South East Asian Nation-India (ASEAN) Business Council meet. During the meet, minister emphasized on **3Cs namely Cooperation, Collaboration and Commitment**.
122. **Russia** released a 40-minute video of detonation of the world's most powerful **hydrogen bomb**.
123. **China** launched its **fifth Gaofen-9 series** satellite named "Gaofen-9 05" along with two smaller payloads viz. Tiantuo-5 and Duo Gongneng Shiyan Weixing through Long March-2D carrier rocket from its Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre (JSLC) in northwest China.
124. The United States Food and Drug Administration (**USFDA**) recently authorized the use of blood plasma therapy for COVID-19 patients. Other countries Plasma Therapy India is already using plasma therapy as a cure to COVID-19.
125. **Google** launched '**The Anywhere School**' initiative in more than 250 countries around the world. The initiative is expected to benefit millions of students who have switched to learning from home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the initiative, Google will roll out over 50 new features across products like Google Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products.

REPORTS & SCHEMES

126. Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (Mo**MSME**) approved a programme under "**Gramodyog Vikas Yojana**" for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of **Agarbatti** and to develop village industry.
127. **Nitin Gadkari**, Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSME**), approved the Khadi Agarbatti Aatmanirbhar Mission proposed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to increase the production of Agarbatti (incense sticks) and to generate employment.
128. On August 15, 2020, PM Modi launched the **National Digital Health Mission** during his address at the 74th Independence Day celebrations. Under the mission, every Indian is to get a **Health ID card**. The ID card will contain all relevant information about the person's past medical condition, treatment and diagnosis. The mission is completely technology based. The mission aims to **improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health care** in India. It is to operate under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or Ayushman Bharat.

129. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recently released ranking of states under AMRUT scheme. Odisha has secured first position by scoring 85.67%. AMRUT is Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Scheme. The scheme aims to provide piped water supply to households in urban areas of the state. It also aims at construction of sewerage treatment plants and improving green spaces in the cities. This year, **Odisha has topped the ranking** followed by Chandigarh, Telangana, Gujarat and Karnataka in the implementation of the scheme.
130. Indian PM has launched financing facility of **Rs 1 lakh crore** under **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund** via video conferencing. Along with the facility the Prime Minister will also release sixth installment of funds of **Rs 17,000 crores**. This is to benefit more than 8.5 crore farmers under PM-KISAN scheme.
131. The International Animal Welfare Organization, World Animal Protection on the eve of World Elephant Day (August 12) released its report, "**Elephants. Not Commodities**". According to the report, over 200 elephants in India are kept in severe inadequate conditions. According to the report, **India is home to second-highest number of elephants used in tourism in Asia**. There are 21 venues in India that houses 509 elephants that are used in Tourism. The report says that of these 509 elephants, 45% (225) are in inadequate conditions. The World Animal Protection is working to phase out Elephant rides in Amer fort in Jaipur. Over 100 elephants here provide daily rides to 1000s of tourists.
132. The NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission along with the collaboration of **NASSCOM** launched the "**ATL AI Step Up Module**". It was launched on the eve of independence-day. The module is to drive AI education and innovation to next levels in schools all over India.
133. Central Government has directed to the State governments and the Union Territories that **all the disabled persons** should be included under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.
134. The **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana** is being implemented by Employee State Insurance Corporation. The scheme was approved under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. The **scheme aims to support the people who have lost their jobs due to changing employment pattern** due to an international crisis or a domestic crisis. Currently, the change in employment pattern is due to COVID-19. The scheme was introduced in 2018. The scheme provides **25% of average per day earning** in the previous four contribution periods.
135. On August 20, 2020, the results of Swachh Survekshan, 2020 were announced. For the fourth consecutive time, **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh bagged the **cleanest** city in the country. It was followed by Surat of Gujarat and Navi Mumbai of Maharashtra. Varanasi bagged the best "Ganga Town" in the survey. Mysuru won the award of cleanest city in India. The survey was held by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
136. Union Cabinet approved to set up **National Recruitment Agency**. The agency is to conduct Common Eligibility Test for Public Sector Banks and Government Jobs. The Common Eligibility Test (**CET**) is to be

conducted for non-gazetted posts in public sector banks and central government. The score of CET is valid for **three** years. Candidates qualifying the test can apply for higher level of examination.

137. The **Bureau of Indian Standards** has prepared a **draft standard for the supply of piped drinking water**. It has been named "**Drinking Water Supply Quality Management System-requirements for piped drinking water supply service**". The draft was prepared by the BIS Public Drinking Water Supply Services Sectional Committee.
138. On August 19, 2020, the **National Commission on Population** submitted its report on population projections for the period of 2011-36. The commission was set up by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The report says that the sex ratio of the country is to increase from 943 (2011) to **957 (2036)**.
139. The **International Labour Organization** and the **Asian Development Bank** prepared a joint report on "**Tackling COVID-19 Youth employment crisis in Asia and Pacific**". The report says that around **41 lakhs of Indian youth** are to lose their job due to COVID-19 crisis.
140. Indian Council of Medical Research released "**National Cancer Registry Programme Report**", 2020. According to the report, the number of cancer patients in India are to **increase to 15.7 lakhs by 2025**. The report also says that by the end of 2020, there will be 13.9 lakh cancer patients in India. The highest incidence of cancer in India was observed in **North East region**. According to the report, one out of four persons between the age of 0 and 74 years in **Arunachal Pradesh** had the possibility of developing cancer.
141. Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA), 2020 was released, recently. The rankings were announced by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. The Vice President announced the top ten institutes in public funded and five institutes in private and self-reliance categories. **IIT Madras emerged as the best institute** under the institute of national importance category. The ARIIA is implemented by All India council for Technical Education (AICTE). Top 10 The institutions were:
1. Rank I-IIT Madras
 2. Rank II-IIT Bombay
 3. Rank III-IIT Delhi
 4. Rank IV-IISc Bengaluru
 5. Rank V-IIT Kharagpur
 6. Rank VI-IIT Kanpur
 7. Rank VII-IIT Mandi
 8. Rank VIII-NIT Calicut
 9. Rank IX-IIT Roorkee
 10. Rank X-University of Hyderabad.
142. The Government of India has decided to provide **smart rural water supply** system under Jal Jeevan Mission, Digital India, Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and Make in India. The Jal Jeevan Mission is being

implemented in the country with the aim of providing clean tap water connection to every rural household by 2024.

143. Ministry of Civil Aviation sanctioned **78 new routes** under **4th round of regional connectivity scheme** (RCS). So far 766 new routes have been sanctioned under the scheme. The fourth round of UDAN scheme was launched in December 2019 focusing on North Eastern Regions, Islands and Hilly states. The operation of seaplanes and helicopters were also incorporated under the scheme.
144. Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare decided to integrate electronic pension payment order with Digi Locker. This will enhance Ease of Living of the Central Government Pensioners. The system has been created with "*Bhavishya Software*".
145. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has launched National **GIS** (Geographic Information System) enabled **Land Bank System**. The platform is to provide database of industrial clusters all over India. It will serve as one-stop solution to free and easy accessibility of industrial information. The platform is to be supported by National Centre of Geo-Informatics, Invest India, National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Application and Geo-Informatics.
146. On August 28, 2020, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completed **six years**. The scheme is a national mission for financial inclusion. Around **40.35 crore beneficiaries** benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana since 2014. As on August, 2020, of the accounts opened under the scheme, 63.6% were rural accounts and 55.2% were women accounts. A total of 29.75 crore RuPay cards were issued to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana account holders.
147. Government of India announced that it will track the illegal beneficiaries of PM-KISAN scheme. The Ministry of Agriculture is to carry out the process.
148. An analysis of data available at the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (**NREGS**) portal says that the share of women in the NREGS is the lowest since 2013-14. It has dipped to 52.46%.
149. The World Health Organization recently reported that at least half of 25 kinds of health services experienced disruptions due to COVID-19.
150. The United Nations recently released the first ever **guidelines to social justice** for people with disabilities in order to make it easy for them to access justice systems in the world.
151. NITI Aayog has released the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** in partnership with Institute of Competitiveness. **Gujarat** has topped the index followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. This is mainly because of their location near the coast. Among the land locked states, **Rajasthan** was the top performer followed by Telangana and Haryana. In the category of Himalayan states, **Uttarakhand**

topped the list followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh. The report says that the 70% of exports of India are dominated by five states namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

152. Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) in association with **TransUnion CIBIL Limited** has launched a comprehensive financial education and one-stop knowledge platform for micro, small and medium enterprises "**MSMESaksham**", which will guide MSMEs seeking quick access to finance and will also support them in managing their credit obligations.
153. **Reliance** Power and Japanese energy major **JERA** have inked a pact with a group of banks for full financing for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh.
154. **Bharti** Airtel announced the multi-year strategic collaboration with Amazon Web Services (**AWS**) to provide a comprehensive set of cloud solutions to the large enterprises and Small and Medium Enterprises (**SME**) customers in India.
155. As per the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) published report, if the economic impact of Covid-19 persists throughout the year then global remittances may fall by \$108.6 billion in 2020
156. As per **FutureBrand Index 2020**, Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**), Oil and Gas Company ranked as the **Second Biggest Brand** for its recognition associated with its growth, innovative products and customer service after Apple which topped the index.
157. The Reserve Bank of India recently released its report of Consumer Confidence Survey. According to the survey, consumer confidence has dropped to a record low. The current index dropped to **53.8 in July, 2020** from 63.7 in May. The survey was conducted through telephonic interviews in thirteen major cities.
158. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that **India** ranks **first in Organic Farming**. Also, India ranks **ninth in terms of areas under Organic Farming**. **Sikkim** was the first state in the world to become completely organic. The other states that have similar targets include Uttarakhand and Tripura.
159. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has received several proposals to make Solar **Equipment for over 10 GW**. India has set its target to set up 100 GW of solar energy by 2022. India has already achieved 31 GW by October 2019. Currently, the country is focusing on domestic manufacturing to reduce dependency on imports.
160. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a new platform called "**Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest**". This was earlier announced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as "Tax Charter" in Budget 2020-21.

161. The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently launched **National Infrastructure Pipeline online dashboard**. The dashboard is to act as a one-stop solution for all stakeholders who are looking for information about infrastructure projects. The Finance Minister had announced an outlay of Rs 100 lakh crore for infrastructure projects in the country for the next 5 years in her Budget Speech 2019-20. The dashboard is to be hosted by **India Investment Grid (IIG)**. IIG is a dynamic online platform that showcases real time investment opportunities in the country.
162. On August 12, 2020, the panel formed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) made its proposals on **Business Responsibility Report**. The panel was formed in 2018 in efforts to have a single source for all the non-financial disclosures made by the corporates. The panel comprises of representatives of MCA, SEBI, etc. The panel proposed that the Business Responsibility Report shall be called as **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report**. This is to help in reflecting better intent and scope of the report.
163. According to the National Statistical Office (NSO) officials, in spite of agricultural production going up in the country, **the GDP is contracting**. This is the first time India is witnessing fall in GDP in spite of agricultural production going up.
164. Marine Products Export Development Authority (**MPEDA**) opened a Quality Control Laboratory in **Porbandar**. The laboratory is to test seafood processors and exporters.
165. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that the **CAMPA** funds shall be used only for plantation drives and afforestation. Also, the forest-based devolution funds are to be increased from 7% to 10%. CAMPA is Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management.
166. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review preparations for National Master plan on Multi-modal Connectivity of Economic Zones Project. This will boost infrastructure, productivity, economic progress and opportunity for youngsters.
167. The State-Owned Technology Parks in India (**STPI**) are to have the largest ecosystem to incubate new technologies. This is to be achieved by setting up **21 Centres of Excellence in these parks**. India has centres of excellence (CoE) for Internet of Things, electric vehicles, block chain, animation and gaming, etc.
168. **Ramesh Chand task force by Niti Aayog** has recommended to **link sugarcane prices to sugar rates**. The task force highlighted that it is essential to keep the industry in a good financial health. In its report, the task force has recommended for a one-time increase in the minimum **sugar price at Rs 33 per kg**.
169. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation announced that around **412 infrastructure projects each of worth Rs 150 crores** have been hit with cost overrun of Rs 4.11 lakh crores.

170. According to the data provided by Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, **Tamil Nadu** topped the list in availing MUDRA loans to women. It was followed by West Bengal and Karnataka.
171. The Government of India launched "**Chunauti**", the next generation **start up challenge** contest. Around 300 start ups working in select areas are to be identified and provided with seed fund up to Rs 25 lakhs. The challenge is launched with a special focus on Tier-II towns.
172. The Indian **Railways** have generated more than 6,40,000-man days under Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan in six states. They are Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh.
173. National Health Authority released the Draft **Health Data Management Policy** under the National Digital Health Mission. The main objective of the policy is to provide adequate guidance and set framework to secure processing of personal and sensitive personal data of individuals.
174. Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri Prahlad Joshi announced at a webinar that India aims for **100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030**. This is to be achieved through investments worth Rs 4 lakh crores.
175. According **National Statistical Office**, in spite of agricultural production going up in the country, the GDP is contracting. This is the first time India is witnessing fall in GDP in spite of agricultural production going up.

FINANCE AND BANKING

176. The RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at **4%**, reverse repo rate at 3.35%, and marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25%. Resolution Framework for COVID-19-related Stress: RBI sets up panel under KV Kamath for onetime restructuring of loans RBI announces additional special liquidity facility of Rs 5000 cr each for NHB & NABARD. RBI introduced ASISO facility to help banks manage liquidity in COVID-19 scenario. RBI to set up '**Innovation Hub**' to promote financial inclusion, efficient banking.
177. **Kotak** Mahindra Bank has launched a special two-month campaign, '**Kona Kona Umeed**' with offers and discounts across its suite of products to make banking and shopping more rewarding for the customers.
178. **MobiKwik** launched '**mpay.me**', a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payment link service that allows users to send and receive money from any UPI payment app. Through mpay.me, users and merchants can set up a personalized link using their mobile number.
179. National Bank of Bahrain (**NBB**) and **Infosys Finacle** has announced that the NBB has decided to adopt the Finacle Cash Management Suite to digitally transform its transaction banking business.

180. **Airtel Payments Bank** has entered into a partnership with **Bharti AXA General Insurance** to offer the latter's affordable and newly launched shop insurance product namely "Smart Plan Shop Package Policy" for financial protection of the bank's retailers and merchants.
181. Export-Import (**EXIM**) Bank on behalf of Indian Government, extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 250 million (about Rs. 1,870 Crores) to **Mozambique** to improve the power supply quality of the country.
182. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has signed a **USD 200 million** financing deal with the Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited (RBLPL) to build and operate a 718 megawatt combined-cycle gas fired power plant in Bangladesh.
183. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy board of India recently amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Regulations. This is the second amendment. The amendment has made major changes to the voluntary liquidation process. The amendment allows the **corporate persons to replace the liquidator with another liquidator** or insolvency professional to initiate voluntary liquidation process.
184. The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a panel under former ICICI bank CEO **K V Kamath**. The panel will make recommendations on **financial parameters that are to be considered to structure loans** that are impacted by COVID-19.
185. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the guidelines applicable for Core Investment Companies (**CICs**) on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group (WG) to Review the Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies (CICs), constituted under the Chairmanship of **Tapan Ray**, former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). In this regard, RBI has made the guidelines stricter for CICs by mandating more disclosures, better risk management and a simpler group structure w.e.f. August 13, 2020. The existing entities have been given time till 31 March 2023 to reorganize their business structure.
186. On August 18, 2020, the **Asian Development Bank** approved **1 billion USD loan** to support construction of modern high-speed **Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System** in India. The system is first of its kind. The system aims to help improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options connecting Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. The system is the first of the three priority rail corridors in the integrated transport network of NCR Regional Plan 2020-21.
187. Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has launched the National Strategy for Financial Education (**NSFE**) to be implemented for the period of next five years i.e. **2020 to 2025**. This is the second national strategy; the first NSFE was launched in 2013. NSFE 2020-25 has been launched with an aim of achieving a financially aware and empowered India. The bank came up with 5-Core Actions approach with this

second national strategy. The five Cs highlighted by NSFE 2020-25 are **Capacity, Content, Communication, Community, and Collaboration.**

188. Union Cabinet approved redevelopment of three airports in Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati. The projects are to be developed by Adani Enterprises Limited. The Union Cabinet approved to provide Rs 1,070 crores to handle the redevelopment projects.
189. Reserve Bank of India released Framework for Authorisation of Pan-India Umbrella Entity for retail payments. The RBI will set up a new pan-India umbrella entity with a minimum paid-up capital of Rs **500 crores**. The entity will set up, operate, manage new payment systems that comprises of ATMs, Aadhaar based payments, label Point of Sales, remittance services. Also, it will develop standards, payment methods and technologies related issues. The entities are to be incorporated under Companies Act, 2013. Also, the entities are to be authorized under **Section 4 of Payment and Settlement Systems act, 2007.**
190. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced that the businesses with annual turnover of up to **Rs 40 lakhs** are exempted from GST. Earlier the limit was Rs 20 lakhs.
191. Reserve Bank of India released its annual report 2019-20. According to the report, the total income of RBI in 2019-20 has increased by 28.97%. The Gross Non-Performing Ratio of banking system have declined to 9.1% as compared to 11.2% in March 2019. The currency in circulation has soared 17%. It was Rs 21.10 trillion in 2019-20. Bank frauds more than **double** in FY20 to Rs 1.85 trillion.
192. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) announced that subscriber for Atal Pension Yojana has crossed **21 million**. The PFRDA also announced that the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the National Pension Scheme is set to touch Rs 5 lakh crores by the end of September.
193. Government of **Maharashtra** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** signed loan agreement of **500 million USD** to improve **service quality, safety and network capacity of suburban railway system** in Mumbai.
194. On August 27, 2020, the finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman chaired the **41st GST Council** meet. The council discussed states' compensation and revenue losses. In the fiscal year 2020-21, the GST shortfall is Rs **2.35 lakh crores**.
195. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has introduced, 'Structured Finance and Partial Guarantee Program for Non-Banking Finance Companies (**NBFC**)-Micro Finance Institutions (**MFIs**)', a dedicated debt and credit guarantee product. NABARD has signed a pact with Vivriti Capital and Ujjivan Small Finance Bank on 14 August 2020 to introduce the initiative.

196. **Axis Bank**, India's third-largest private sector bank, has introduced '**Liberty Savings Account**' for the Indian Youth, to address the ever changing lifestyle needs of young and digitally interested Indians.

197. **HDFC** Bank announced a strategic partnership with **Adobe** to enhance the Digital Experiences of its Customers.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

198. SKOCH Gold Award was presented to MoTribal Affairs for its project of Scholarship Division – "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" & eSamadhan. The Dutch author **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** has become the youngest to win the **International Booker Prize**. He won the prize for his debut novel "**The Discomfort of Evening**". The author is to share the prize along with the book's translator Michele Hutchinson.

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PERSON IN NEWS

200. **Ram Nath Kovind**, President of India has appointed Girish Chandra (GC) **Murmu** as 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

201. Union Public Service Commission (**UPSC**) appointed Professor **Pradeep Kumar Joshi** as its new Chairman.

202. Ivory Coast's **Hamed Bakayoko** Appointed as new Prime Minister.

203. **Paytm Money** has appointed **Varun Sridhar** as the New Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

204. **PNB** Housing Finance, promoted by Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced **Hardayal** Prasad as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

205. Guyana has appointed **Mohamed Irfaan Ali** as the President of the country.

206. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has approved **Sashidhar Jagdishan** as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank under Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.

207. President of India has appointed **Manoj Sinha** as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

- 208.Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved another extension of **Ajay Tyagi's** term as Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for **18 months**.
- 209.Former president of Sri Lanka Shri Mahinda Rajapaksa was sworn in as the new **prime minister**.
- 210.On **August 16**, 2020, India commemorated death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- 211.Former Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir **Girish Chandra Murmu** took oath as Comptroller and Auditor General of India. He is the first tribal to take oath as CAG of India. The oath was administered by the President Ram Nath Kovind.
- 212.Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has become the **world's fourth richest person** surpassing Bernard Arnault. As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Ambani's net worth is now at \$80.2 billion (approx Rs 6 lakh crore). Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (\$187 billion), Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates (\$121 billion) and Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg (\$102 billion) were in top 3 respectively.
- 213.The former finance secretary, **Rajiv Kumar** was appointed as the **Election Commissioner**. The outgoing Election Commission Ashol Lavasa is to join the Asian Development Bank as its vice president.
- 214.**Satya Pal Malik** was appointed as the **Governor of Meghalaya**. He replaced Tathagata Roy. Mr Malik served as Governor of Goa previously. With his transfer, the Governor of Maharashtra Bagat Singh Koshyari is to discharge the functions of Governor of Goa.

OBITUARIES

- 215.**Folk** musician and Padma Shri awardee **Sonam Tshering Lepcha** has died in Kalimpong, West Bengal.
- 216.Former **Taiwan** president, **Lee Teng-hui** dubbed as "Mr. Democracy" passed away in Taipei City, Taiwan.
- 217.Malayalam **Actor Anil Murali** passed away.
- 218.Sahitya Akademi Awardee **Sa. Kandasamy** passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- 219.The former Samajwadi party leader and Rajya Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) **Amar Singh** had passed away.
- 220.Padma Bhushan Awardee & Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor **Ram D Pradhan** passes away.
- 221.Former Maharashtra CM, **Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar** passed away in Pune.
- 222.Father of Modern Indian theatre & Padma Awardee **Ebrahim Alkazi** Passed Away.
- 223.Padma Shri awardee and exponent of Mewati gharana **Mukund Lath passes away** in Jaipur.
- 224.**Pandit Jasraj**, an **Indian classical vocalist**, belonging to the **Mewati gharana** (a musical apprenticeship tribe of Hindustani classical music) passed away at 90 in his home in New Jersey due to

cardiac arrest. He was born on January 28, 1930 in **Pili Mandori**, a village in the **Hisar** district of **Haryana**.

225. On August 31, 2020, the former President **Pranab Mukherjee** and Bharat Ratna, passed away at 84 after testing positive for COVID-19. The Government of India has announced seven-day state mourning.

IMPORTANT DAYS

226. World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated annually in the first week of August (from 1st of August to 7th of August) around 120 countries in the World. The global campaigning was first organized by the **WABA** (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action). The theme for the year 2020 is, "**Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet**"

227. The **World Sanskrit Day** is celebrated **on 3rd August 2020**.

228. August **6th of every year is observed as Hiroshima Day** to mark the world's first atomic bombing on Hiroshima, Japan during World War II which instantly killed more than 70,000 people.

229. **National Handloom day** is celebrated on **August 7**, to create awareness about the Handloom Industry amongst the public at large and its contribution to socioeconomic development. The Union Government had declared 7th August as the first National Handloom Day in July 2015. The day chosen in order to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement, launched on August 7, 1905.

230. The United Nations (UN's) **International Day of the World's Indigenous** People is annually observed on **9th August**. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People also known as World Tribal Day. The First International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples was celebrated on 9th August 1995. The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 is celebrated under the theme – "**COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience**"

231. Every year **International Youth Day** is celebrated on **August 12** by the United Nations and other organizations. The first International youth Day was celebrated in 1999. This year, the day is celebrated under the following theme: **Youth Engagement for Global Action**.

232. Every year, **World Elephant Day** is celebrated on **August 12**. It is an international event that is dedicated to preserve and protect world elephants. The idea of World Elephant Day was conceived by Canadian film makers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark in Thailand. The main objective of celebrating World Elephant Day is to create awareness about the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants. The African Elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian Elephants as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

233. **Earth Overshoot Day 2020** is observed on **August 22, 2020**. Earth Overshoot Day is the date when the demands of biological resources and services of the year by humanity exceeds the generation capacity of Earth in that year. The first Global Earth Overshoot Day campaign was launched in 2006.
234. Every year 20th August is celebrated as the **Sadbhavana Diwas** to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, **Rajiv Gandhi**.
235. The **World Mosquito Day** is observed on **20th August** every year to raise awareness about the Causes and Prevention of Malaria and to commemorate the discovery made by **British Doctor Sir Ronald Ross** in **1897** that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit Malaria between humans.
236. The **World Photography Day** also known as **World Photo Day** is observed annually on **19th August** with an aim to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a purpose of sharing their world to the world. The day celebrates the arts, crafts, science and history of Photography.
237. Every year, India celebrates **National Sports Day on August 29** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand. He was born on August 29, 1905. About Dhyan Chand Dhyan Chand was known as "The Wizard" and had scored more than 1000 goals during his international career.

SPORTS

238. Formula One Champion **Mercedes Lewis Hamilton** of Britain has won British Grand Prix (GP) 2020 held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK). By this win, he created record by winning the British Grand Prix title 7th time.
239. **13th** edition of Indian Premier League (**IPL**) to be rescheduled in the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) from September 19 to November 10, 2020.
240. **Red Bull's** 22 years old driver **Max Emilian Verstappen** from Netherland had won F1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix (officially called as Emirates Formula 1 70th Anniversary Grand Prix 2020) at the Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, United Kingdom and became the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in the 2020.
241. Indian Cricket players **M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina** announced their retirement from International Cricket. This means that they shall still play for games conducted within India.
242. Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** claimed his 156th Podium with a victory in **Spanish Grand Prix**. Lewis Hamilton now holds the **record for most podium finishes in F1** history surpassing Former F1-Great Michael Schumacher's record.

243. On August 22, 2020, the Government of India announced the National Sports Awards, 2020.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award: The award is presented to sportspersons with most outstanding performance in the field of sports for a period of four years. The following persons have been selected for the award for the year 2020

- i. Rohit Sharma
- ii. Para-Athlete Mariyannapn Thangavelu
- iii. Wrestler Vinesh Phogat
- iv. Indian Women Hockey Team Captain Rani Rampal

244. West Indies All-Rounder Dwayne John Bravo became the first bowler in Cricket to scalp 500 wickets in Twenty20 (T20s).

245. England pacer James Anderson (38) has become the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets.