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National News

December 2020

- India tested its first indigenously developed air-droppable container SAHAYAK-NG.
- Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile app were launched by the Government of India to connect the Indian Diaspora spread all over the world.
- Indian Railways has completed the trial run of new Vistadome tourist coaches at the speed of 180 km per hour.
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information (INCOIS) developed Digital Ocean Platform under which Digital Ocean Applications were launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to share information on marine data and forecast services.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the export of the Akash Missile System in the cabinet meeting. A committee was formed for fast approvals of export of the missile system.
- Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the New Bhaupur-New Khurja Section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor - EDFC on December 29.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) established the country's highest meteorological centre in the Union Territory of Ladakh. It is located at a height of 3,500 metres.
- India's first indigenously build pneumococcal conjugate vaccine 'Pneumosil' was approved for the use by the government for the use. The vaccine was developed by the Serum Institute of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National common Mobility Card on December 28, 2020. The National Common Mobility Card will allow passengers with RuPay debit card to be swiped for Metro level.
- Indian Naval Ship Kiltan reached Sihanoukville Port, Cambodia under Mission Sagar III. The ship is a part of Mission Sagar III and delivers 15 tonnes of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) for flood-affected Cambodia.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail of India on December 28, 2020. The train carried vegetables and fruits from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal.
- The Delhi Metro added another feather in its cap. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first driverless Metro in New Delhi. This driverless Metro ran from Janakpuri West to Botanical Garden.
- The scientists have discovered a new species called Portulaca lajii. It is a wild Sun Rose found in the Eastern Ghats. Portulaca lajii was discovered in the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the New Bhaupur-New Khurja Section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor - EDFC on December 29.
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police have launched the Internet-based liquor distribution system for the retired personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana SEHAT in Jammu and Kashmir on December 26, 2020. The scheme will provide free-of-cost health insurance up to Rs 5 lakh per family of the newly created Union Territory.
- Government of India launched e-Sampada portal. The portal will work as a single-window system for the government office allocations across the country.

- India's first Lithium refinery will be set up in Gujarat. Manikaran Power Limited is to invest Rs 1,000 crore to set up the refinery.
- Good Governance Day was celebrated on December 25 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Good Governance Day was established in 2014.
- "Swachhata Abhiyan" mobile application was launched on December 24, 2020, by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment. The application was developed to geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers.
- Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, West Bengal completed 100 years on December 24, 2020. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan.
- Defence Secretary of India launched the Director-General of National Cadet Corp (DGNCC) Digital Forum to provide a platform for the NCC cadets all over the country to share their experiences.
- National Consumer Rights Day was observed on December 2 with the Theme 'New Features of Consumer Protection Act, 2019'. The act was passed on this day in 1986.
- Kiren Rijju flagged off the 917-kilometre long Brahmaputra Amantran Abhiyan. The month-long expedition was organised by the Brahmaputra Board under the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- India's first indigenously build pneumococcal conjugate vaccine 'Pneumosil' was approved by the government for the use. The vaccine was developed by the Serum Institute of India.
- NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant announced DigiBoxx. DigiBoxx is first of its kind under "Make in India, Store in India" policy of India. DigiBoxx is a file sharing and cloud storage platform.
- National Water Mission was launched under the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan II: Catch the Rain Awareness Generation Campaign" in New Delhi under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.
- National Farmers Day was celebrated on December 23 to honour the fifth Prime Minister of India Choudhary Charan Singh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Legion of Merit for his role in bringing up India as a global power.
- The Government of India recently signed a pact with World Bank to develop Green National Highway Corridors in the country. These corridors are to be developed in Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Government of India released the "Status of Leopard in India, 2018" report. The key finding of the report suggests India has 12,852 leopards in 2018 compared to 7,910 leopards in 2014.
- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) recently began oil production from Ashokenagar-1 well located in the Bengal Basin. With this, Bengal Basin has become the eighth oil-producing basin in India.
- The Government of India recently approved the Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission to set the minimum standard for data protection.
- The Standing Committee of Rajya Sabha submitted a report "Management of COVID-19 pandemic and related issues". The committee suggested that an Aadhaar-based National Migrant Workers Database should be collated at the earliest.
- India ranked 111 in the Human Freedom Index, 2020. In 2019, India's rank was 94.
- The Government of India recently introduced the E20 fuel to promote green fuel such as Ethanol.

- Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project is expected to be completed by 2023. The Japanese E5 Series Shinkansen trains are to be used to implement the project.
- India ranked 131 in the Human Development Index (HDI).
- The Sports Ministry has formally recognised Yogasana as a competitive sport in India.
- Goa Liberation Day is celebrated on December 19 in India every year. The day is celebrated to mark the victory of Indian armed forces to free Goa from 450 years of Portuguese rule.
- Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's first advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Facility on December 19, 2020. It makes India the third country after Russia and the United States to have such a facility.
- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the digital payment app 'DakPay'.
- Central Government has approved the GPS-based technology for toll collection intending to ensure seamless vehicle movement and make the country tollbooth free.
- S Jaishankar, Union External Affairs Minister of India, launched the Economic Diplomacy Website to showcase the country's economic and sectoral strengths.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Communications Satellite CMS-01 from PSLV-C50 on December 17, 2020.
- On December 16, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lighted up the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' at National War Memorial, Delhi to mark the celebrations of 50th anniversary of India's victory in Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.
- Government of India authorised the defence forces to stock weapons and ammunition for 15 days in case of an intense war. The authorisation comes amid India's border conflict with China.
- BSNL, on December 10, 2020, launched the world's first satellite-based Narrowband IoT (Internet of Things) Network in partnership with Skylotech India.
- The Government of India will roll out the National Digital Health Mission across the nation in January 2021. The health mission would provide unique health IDs to each individual. These IDs will hold the health account of the citizen and comprise their past medical records, including conditions, treatment and diagnosis. The National Health Authority (NHA) will be the nodal agency for the mission.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, on December 10, laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building at Sansad Marg in Parliament Complex.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually addressed the International Bharat Festival, 2020 on December 11. The event was organised by the Vanavil Culture Centre in Chennai and saw the participation of several international and national poets and artists.
- Government of India approved the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) on December 9 to boost the employment and incentivise the creation of new employment opportunities.
- On December 9, Union Cabinet approved the setting up of public Wi-Fi networks across the country. The networks will be established under the PM WANI or Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface project.
- India ranked 10th in the Climate Change Performance Index 2021 down by one rank from its last year position.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually addressed the inaugural session of India Mobile Congress 2020 on December 8. The theme of the IMC 2020 was Inclusive Innovation-Smart, Secure and Sustainable.

November 2020

- Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu chaired the 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of States summit virtually on November 30, 2020.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on November 30 took part in the world-famous Dev Deepawali Festival in Varanasi along with UP CM Yogi Adityanath.
- Union Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari, virtually addressed the first-ever 2020 Horasis Asia Meeting on November 30, 2020.
- The Union Government of India launched 'Mission COVID Suraksha' on November 29 to facilitate the development of more than 1 COVID-19 vaccine candidates.
- Shameless will be India's entry to the Oscar Awards 2021. Shameless will be India's official entry at the 93rd Academy Awards in the 'Live Action Short Film' category.
- Prakash Javadekar, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, virtually launched 'India Climate Change Knowledge Portal' on November 27, 2020. Eight major components in Knowledge portal:
 - National Policy Framework
 - India's climate profile
 - Adaptation Action
 - India's NDC goals
 - Bilateral and Multilateral cooperation
 - Mitigation actions
 - Reports and Publications
 - International Climate Negotiations
- Invest India and UNDP jointly launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Investor Map for India. The map has identified 18 Investment Opportunities Areas in six critical SDG enabling sectors that can help India push its Sustainable Development efforts.
- Hetero pharmaceutical will be manufacturing over 100 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine per year in India. A deal for such manufacturing was signed between the company and RDIF Sovereign Wealth Fund of Russia.
- Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, virtually launched a national portal for Transgender Persons and Garima Greh (a shelter home for Transgender Persons) on November 27.
- The Special Purpose Vehicle of the Government of India, Gujarat and Maharashtra, National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) signed the nation's largest-ever public-funded civil contract worth Rs 24,000 crore with infrastructure major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) on November 26, 2020, for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually addresses the concluding session of the 80th All India Presiding Officers Conference on November 26, 2020. The two-day conference had begun on November 25 at Kevadia in Gujarat.
- All India Presiding Officers Conference was inaugurated by President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
- Prime Minister of India Modi virtually inaugurates the 3rd edition of the Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (Re-INVEST 2020) on November 26, 2020.
- The Government of India approved an equity infusion by the government of Rs 6,000 crore in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). The Union Cabinet on November 25, 2020, approved an equity infusion in NIIF.

- Government of India declared November 26 as the Constitution Day on November 19, 2015. The day, also known as *Samvidhan Divas*, is celebrated every year since 2015 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- Malayalam film *Jallikattu* will be India's official entry for Oscars 2021 in the foreign-language film category. The film is based on a short story by S Hareesh.
- Netflix's web series Delhi Crime won the best drama series award at the 48th International Emmy Awards 2020. The award ceremony held virtually for the first time in the history due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government of India through a notification from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology blocked the access to 43 mobile apps for the users under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act on November 24, 2020.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, virtually launched the international version of the UMANG App on the third anniversary of the UMANG app. The UMANG app provides various services to the users.
- G-20 Group leaders declared that India will now host the Group of 20 Summit in 2023, a year later as planned earlier. Earlier, India was set to host the summit in 2022 which was also coinciding with the 75th anniversary of Indian independence.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi took part in the 15th G20 Leaders Summit on November 21, 2020. The two-day summit was convened by Saudi Arabia, chair of G20 for this year. G20 Summit 2020 Theme: "Realizing Opportunities of 21st Century for All".
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated and addressed the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020 on November 19, 2020. Prime Minister said that his governance model is 'Technology First' and through technology his government managed to enhance human dignity.
- Indian Navy received the ninth edition of P-8I surveillance plane from Boeing on November 18, 2020.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch the first crewless Gaganyaan Flight by the end of 2021.
- Maharashtra's Parbhani district will have the Asia's first solar powered Textile Mill. The Jai Bhawani women's cooperative textile mill will become the first Solar Powered textile mill in Asia.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) on November 17, 2020, selected Indore, Faridabad, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad among the 36 other cities of the globe that have agreed to pioneer a roadmap for safely adopting new technology as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful test of the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile air defence system on November 17, 2020.
- Prime of India Narendra Modi virtually attended the BRICS Summit hosted by Russia on November 17, 2020. The summit was held in the backdrop of the United Nation's 75th anniversary and amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government of India announced a new scheme-Operation Green on November 11, 2020. Under the Operation Green scheme, the government will provide 50 percent subsidy to the Himalayan and North-Eastern states for air transportation of 41 notified fruits and vegetables to any place in the country.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 17th ASEAN-India Summit (first virtual) along with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc on November 12, 2020.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated Ro-Pax ferry service between Hazira in Surat region of South Gujarat and Ghogha in Bhavanagar of Saurashtra, Gujarat on November 8, 2020.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched earth observation satellite named as EOS-01 as primary satellite and nine customer satellites aboard PSLV-C49 on November 7, 2020 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Mark Zuckerberg-led WhatsApp Inc. launched its payment feature, United Payments Interface (UPI), for all its users in India after receiving due approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). In the first phase the services of the company will be restricted to 20 million users only.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually chaired the Global Investor Roundtable Conference. Virtual while addressing the conference mentioned that the nation bravely fought the global pandemic through this year and the world saw India's true strengths and its national character.
- Government of India has set up a committee to review guidelines on Television Rating agencies in India. The committee will be chaired by Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati.
- Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh inaugurated the day-long 13th Urban Mobility India Conference on November 9, 2020, through video conference. The theme of the conference was 'Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility'.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test-fired the advanced version of the Pinaka Rocket System on November 4, 2020, at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- The Government of India launched a new employment scheme Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana on November 12.
- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi virtually unveiled a life-size statue of Swami Vivekanand at the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on November 12, 2020.
- Government of India issued an order on November 11, 2020, bringing digital content providers such as Netflix and news portals under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- In the wake of poor air quality in the northern India, National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered a total ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in NCR from November 9 to November 30, 2020.

October 2020

- October 31 was commemorated as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel. On the occasion, Narendra Modi also inaugurated the seaplane service from Sabarmati riverfront to Kevadia.
- Indian Air Force tested the air version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on October 30, 2020.
- Ministry of Railways launched the Meri Saheli initiative focused on the safety of women passengers travelling through trains across all the zones.

- Government of India extended the income tax exemption available under the leave travel concession (LTC) cash voucher scheme to non-central government employees as well. The decision was taken to boost the consumer spending amid the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Indian Organisation the Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) won the prestigious UN Global Climate Action Award 2020 for its hard work and efforts to tackle climate change amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day national conference on vigilance and anti-corruption virtually on October 27, 2020. The theme of the conference is 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India'.
- Minister of State for Ministry of Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the single male government employees would also be entitled to Child Care Leave (CCL). The communication was made on October 26, 2020.
- Indigenously designed and built Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kavaratti was commissioned in Indian Navy on October 22.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the anti-tank guided missile – Nag on October 22, 2020.
- Government of India approved the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989. The Act provide for the elections of the local bodies of Jammu and Kashmir but it was never notified by the state government.
- Government of India on October 21 approved bonus for Central government employees for the year 2019-20.
- The Central Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the CuRED (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs), a website created to provide a comprehensive information about the COVID-19 vaccine trials.
- National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued a statement, on October 20, related to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in Telangana that the environment clearance given to the project was not in accordance of law.
- In alignment with Aatma Nabahr Bharat, India is experimenting with Hing (Ferula Asafoetida) cultivation for the first time. The first Hing (Ferula Asafoetida) plantation was done in the cold and dry region of Lahaul and Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh.
- World Food Day was organised on October 16, 2020. The theme of this year event was 'Grow, Nourish, Sustain Together'. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations celebrates the World Food Day across the world.
- India was ranked 94 out of 107 countries in the recent Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020. The index put India in the serious hunger category with the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. In 2019, India's rank in the Hunger Index was 102 out of 117 nations.
- Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad hosted the 7th Justice Minister's meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states virtually on October 16, 2020.
- Prime Minister of India on October 16, 2020, Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs 75 to mark the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

- Union Government of India notified the Director-General of Shipping as the National Authority for Ships Recycling under Sector 3 of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019. The decision was conveyed to the press on October 15, 2020.
- Government of India on October 14, 2020, approved a special package worth Rs 520 crore for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories for a period of five years till fiscal year 2023-2024.
- Eight Indian beaches received Blue Flag Certification by an international jury comprising eminent members including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar informed about this achievement through a social media post on October 11, 2020.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on October 12, 2020, released Rs 100 commemorative coin in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on the occasion of her 100th birth anniversary.
- The Finance Minister of India announced the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) Cash Voucher scheme for the central government employees on October 12, 2020.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on October 11, 2020, virtually launched the distribution of property cards under the Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) scheme.
- Anti-radiation missile 'Rudram' was successfully test fired from the Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft off India's east coast at ITR, Balasore in Odisha on October 9, 2020. The missile was designed and developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Indian Air Force celebrated its 88th anniversary of Air Force Day on October 8, 2020. President Ram Nath Kovind presided over the ceremony.
- Indian Public Service Broad Caster Prasar Bharati and IFFCO-The Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote and broadcast the new agriculture technology and innovations.
- Supreme Court of India stated on October 7, 2020, the public protest should restrict to the designated places and the government should not allow Shaheen Bagh like protests in future. Any protest or demonstration cannot block the public place.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually launched a behavioural change campaign 'Jan Andolan' for appropriate behaviour for COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government of India extended the deadline for the new emission norms for new tractors and construction equipment vehicles such as bulldozer, crane and the other heavy vehicles, till October 2021.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) from the Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha on October 5, 2020.
- The health subsidiary of the Reliance Industries limited (RIL), Reliance Life Sciences has developed a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) kit named as 'R-Green Kit' that can detect the COVID-19 infection in two hours.
- The Indian Army built a war memorial in Galvan Valley, Ladakh to honour the 20 Indian soldiers who lay their lives in the India-China violent clash on June 15.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020, inaugurated the world's longest tunnel at the height of 3,000 meter in Rohtang. The all-weather tunnel was named as Atal

Tunnel, The 9.02 kilometres-long tunnel will connect Manali in Himachal Pradesh to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year.

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Ambedkar Social Innovation and incubation Mission under the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SC) on September 30, 2020.
- The Indian Space Agency, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is all set to launch its Venus Mission in 2025. ISRO in participation with its French counterpart French Space Agency -The National Centre for Space Studies (CNES).

September 2020

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on September 30, launched SAMVEDNA, a toll-free tele-counselling child helpline for children affected during coronavirus pandemic. SAMVEDNA means Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.
- CBI Judge Surendra Kumar Yadav pronounced the Babri Masjid Demolition case verdict on September 29, 2020, after 28 years of Babri Masjid demolition. All 32 accused in Babri Masjid Demolition Case were acquitted in the final verdict. The Judge said that the demolition was spontaneous and not pre-planned.
- Rajnath Singh, Union Defence Minister of India, on September 29 released the guidelines for Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX).
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs sanctioned three more branches of National Investigation Agency (NIA). These three new branches will be situated at Chennai, Imphal and Ranchi. These new branches will augment the NIA's capacity of the terrorism-related and National Security related investigation in India.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on September 28, unveiled the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) – 2020 in New Delhi.
- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) vaccine web portal and the National Clinical Registry for the coronavirus vaccine trials.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi stated about the newly passed Agriculture Act in the Radio Programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on September 27 that the Act ended all the restriction on the farmers to sell their produce in the nearest Agriculture Mandis.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi addressed the 75th United Nations General Assembly session on September 26 a pre-recorded video statement.
- Lok Sabha on September 23 passed the Major Ports Authorities Bill. This bill is aimed to replace the Major Port Act, 1963, and aims at improving the efficiency and competitiveness of India's major ports. The bill seeks to provide greater autonomy to the major ports and reduce their turnaround time in Cargo handling.
- Laser-guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) was test-fires by the Defence Ministry on September 22. The Defence Ministry officials conducted the test fire from the Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun at Ahmad Nagar.
- Lok Sabha passed the Jammu and Kashmir Official Language Bill, 2020, on September 22. The Bill will make the Dogri, Kashmiri, and Hindi, in addition to Urdu and English as the official language of the newly created Union Territory.
- Union Government of India is planning to set up a Neutrino Observatory in the country. The Neutrino Observatory will employ world-class technology and tools to its working. The government has finalised its site in Theni district, Tamil Nadu.

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)-ABHYAS on September 22, 2020. The test was conducted from the Interim Test Range in Balasore, Odisha. The ABHYAS will be used as a target for the evaluation of various missile systems in India.
- Rajya Sabha passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020, on September 22. The bill aims to bring the rural and urban cooperative banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India. The bill will replace the ordinance issued on June 26, 2020.
- Lok Sabha passed the Foreign Contribution (Regulation), Amendment Bill, on September 21, 2020, which aims to restructure the provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.
- Lok Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, on September 21. The bill is already passed by the Upper House on September 19, 2020.
- Lok Sabha passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020, on September 22, 2020, guaranteeing the protection of the health workers engaged in the duties related to the epidemic. Earlier, the bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on September 19, 2020.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of AYUSH on September 20, 2020, to join efforts to eradicate the cases of malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- TATA Group's Clustered Regulatory Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPER) COVID-19 test was approved for the commercial launch by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on September 19, 2020.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation was feeling the need for a separate private jet terminal to handle the private jets. In the consequent of the need felt, Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated country's first exclusive private jet terminal at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi.
- Lok Sabha on September 17, 2020, passed the two farm bills aims at liberalising the market and attract investment in the farm sector. The bills were passed amid strong opposition of the opposition parties and the opposition by farmers of northern India and Punjab in particular. The two bills include:
 - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and
 - Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.
- Tata Group won the contract for construction of India's new Parliament building beating various bidders, including the Larsen & Toubro. Union Government is working to convert the present Parliament building and the adjoin areas into Museum and move into a new Central Vista.
- With a marginal increase in the score from 0.44 in 2018 to 0.49 this year, India ranked 116th position in the Human Capital Index which includes the data from 174 countries.
- Lok Sabha, on September 15, passed the bill aiming to reduce the salaries of Member of Parliaments (MPs) by 30% for one year starting this financial year.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a virtual lecture in the conclave on "School Education in 21st Century" under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The two-day conclave was organised by the Ministry of Education as a part of Shiksha Parv 2020. The conclave started on September 10.
- Government of India amended the Visa rules for the Chinese nationals. The rules are amended to make them stricter for the Chinese citizens to get the Indian visa.



- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) issued ‘The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality’ report 2020 stating that the Child Mortality Rate in India has declined substantially between 1990 and 2019.
- The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) which comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is actively engaged in skilling the youth of India and it is a front runner in the Skill India campaign launched by Government of India. CIPET will be inaugurating the two new Centres for Skilling and Technical Support (CSTS) at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Bhagalpur (Bihar).
- India joined the league of few developed nations after successfully testing the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) on September 7, 2020, from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar chaired a webinar on September 7, 2020, on the occasion of first-ever International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. During the webinar, the minister also reviewed the progress of activities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which was launched in 2019 by the Government of India.
- Union Minister of State for Department of Space Dr Jitendra Singh informed that India could send the third instalment of its Moon mission – Chandrayaan-3, in the first quarter of next year. The Union Minister also stated that Chandrayaan-2 had an orbiter in addition to the rover and lander but the latest mission will not include the orbiter.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on September 5, 2020, released new advisory by adding the instructions to allow on-demand COVID-19 testing by the private laboratories without the doctor’s prescription in the country.
- Union Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Water Heroes Contest 2.0- Share Your Stories’ to increase the awareness about water conservation. Under the contest, the contestants can share their stories with the ministry and in turn, if it gets selected, it will be displayed to the public. The contest will be held from September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021.
- India jumped four places to get the rank 48 in the Global Innovation Index 2020 released by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). By moving up four positions since 2019, India became the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world.
- The French fighter jet Rafale formally inducted in the India Air Force on September 10 at the Ambala airbase in Haryana. The ceremony was attended by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) organised the first World Solar Technology Summit on a virtual platform on September 8, 2020. Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, Dharmendra Pradhan attended the summit virtually.
- The official account of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was hacked on September 3, 2020.
- Government of India banned PUBG and 118 other Chinese mobile applications on September 2, 2020.
- Government of India is always ready to bring reforms in the Civil Services to provide a more professional outlook to the steel frame of the administration. Mission Karmayogi is one such initiative approved by the Union Cabinet on September 2, 2020. The cabinet decision was conveyed by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar.
- Government of India informed that the Indian astronomers discovered one of the farthest star galaxies in the Universe. The star galaxy is called AUDFs01.

August 2020

- India's GDP contracted by 23.9% in the first quarter of the year April-June Quarter of the financial year 2020-21. As per the data of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation the Indian economy registered its worst-ever performance in the last four decades.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the radio programme Mann Ki Baat, on August 30, announced that from now on September will be observed as 'Nutrition Month' every year. PM shared the information while talking about the importance of following a nutritious diet.
- The Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued a new order on August 31 that the international commercial flight operations will remain suspended till September 30, 2020.
- The Union Ministry of Information Technology launched the "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest for the next generation start-ups on August 28, 2020. This initiative will boost the startups and software products in the Tier-II towns of India.
- Government of India virtually launched the national GIS-enabled land bank system on August 27, 2020. The Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal launched the initiative for ascertaining the real land availability for industrial use.
- Government of India approved the 78 new routes under the 4th round of Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) –Regional Connectivity Scheme.
- The Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot launched 'Kiran' helpline for the mental health patients. 'Kiran' is the name of the toll- free helpline number -1800-599-0019 for mental health rehabilitation.
- Government of India has decided to divest up to 15 per cent of its stake in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) through an offer for sale (OFS) on August 27-28, 2020.
- On August 25, Government of India removed the restrictions on the export of PPE kits, masks and face shields. This move came after the manufacturing of these products exceeded the domestic demand.
- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the Harit Path app to monitor plantation along national highways on August 24.
- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'Corona Fighters', an interactive first-of-its-kind video game on COVID-19. The Union Minister also launched two new videos urging people to adhere to COVID Appropriate Behaviours on August 20, 2020.
- Indian short film 'Am I?', directed by Abhijit Paul, won the first prize in an Online Short Film Contest organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in collaboration with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The first-prize winner received a cash award of Rs 1 lakh. The second prize of this contest went to 'Ab India Banega Bharat' directed by Debojo Sanjiv.
- Chandrayaan-2 orbiter completed one year in the lunar orbit on August 20, 2020. The orbiter had escalated to the lunar orbit on August 20, 2019.
- Election Commission of India on August 22 issued guidelines for elections and election campaign. The title of the issued guideline was 'Conduct of General Elections/ By-elections during COVID-19'.
- The Indian government relaxed the unemployment allowance rules on August 20. The government offered to pay 50 per cent of the salary for three months as unemployment allowance to the industrial workers who were the members of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of Ram Mandir on August 5. The formal construction of Ram Mandir started on August 20.
- Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Hardeep Singh Puri released the ranking of Indian cities under the Swachh Survekshan 2020 survey. Indore was adjudged as the cleanest city in India for the fourth consecutive time. Surat was on the second spot, followed by Navi Mumbai urban municipal area at third place.
- Government of India has decided to supply the COVID-19 vaccine to Bangladesh on a priority basis once the mass production starts. Foreign Secretary to Government of India Harsh Vardhan Shringla said during his first visit to the neighbouring country during the pandemic that Bangladesh is always a priority country for India.
- Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, approved the setting up of 'National Recruitment Agency'. This will be a specialised agency specially meant to conduct the Common Eligibility Test. In a statement made by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar during a media briefing on August 19, conveyed the Cabinet's decision.
- Supreme Court of India on August 18, refused to give any directions to move the funds from the Pradhan Mantri Care Fund to National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- Government of the United Kingdom, through its High Commission, launched a 3-million Pound innovation challenge fund in India on August 17.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech announced the Union Government will launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin using modern technology to replicate the success of Project Tiger.
- On August 15, during his speech on India's 74th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Digital Health Mission.
- The Chandrayaan 2 mission of India recently reached the undiscovered locations of Moon. It had captured an image of a crater on Moon recently which was not known to the world. ISRO released the image of the crater on August 12, 2020. ISRO named the crater after the Indian astrophysicist Vikram Sarabhai on the occasion his birth centenary.
- Union Ministry of Sports organised the 'Fit India Freedom Run' from August 15. The event will continue till October 2, 2020. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched the mega-event on August 14. It was the largest country-wide run, held from August 15 to October 2, 2020.
- Rajnath Singh, on August 13, launched the establishment of Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) through an online ceremony. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was also present at the event.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 13 launched the Transparent Taxation-Honoring the Honest platform through a video conferencing facility. The Honest platform embraces three major reforms- faceless assessment, faceless appeal and the taxpayers' charter.
- Google launched its new People Cards feature in India on August 12. This new Google service will let users create their virtual visiting card and build their public profile for Google.

July 2020

- Union Cabinet approved the new National Education Policy (NEP) on July 29, 2020. As per the new policy, the Ministry of Human Resource Development will be renamed to the Ministry of Education.
- Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established in New Delhi on July 24, 2020. It will work from the premises of the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

- The first five Indian Air Force (IAF) Rafale aircraft started from Dassault Aviation Facility, Merignac, France on 27 July, 2020. These aircraft reached India on the afternoon of July 29, 2020, with a planned stopover en-route at Al Dhafra airbase in the UAE.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) Shri Raj Kumar Singh, on July 2020 in a virtual ceremony, dedicated Sembcorp's state-of-the-art SECI 1, 2 and 3 projects to the nation. The cumulative power capacity of these three wind power projects is 800 MW.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU signed with Zimbabwe in Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy on November 3, 2018.
- Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Civil Aviation and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat simultaneously inaugurated the first Pawan Hans flight under the 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik' (UDAN) – Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on July 29, 2020.
- The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), a PSU under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has started using Coastal Shipping as a new mode of transport for the movement of fertilizers to East and the West coast of the country.
- Union Minister for HRD Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launches India Report – Digital Education June 2020 on July 28.
- United Nations (UN) has issued a report about the reduced level of Nitrogen Dioxide in New Delhi during the lockdown period. According to the UN Policy brief, the levels of nitrogen dioxide fell by over 70% during the lockdown in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on its 82nd raising day celebrations. The CRPF was established as Crown Representative's Police on July 27, 1939.
- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri DV Sadananda Gowda on July 27, 2020, launched four schemes for the promotion of domestic manufacturing of bulk drugs and medical devices parks in the country. This is a step towards the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat in the pharma sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated high throughput COVID-19 testing facilities at Kolkata, Mumbai and Noida on July 27, 2020.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences proudly launched the mobile App "Mausam" for India's Meteorological Department on July 27, 2020. Mausam app will be available at play store and apple store.
- India had supplied the tuberculosis medicine worth one million dollars to North Korea on July 27, 2020, in response to the request received from the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Indian Railways on July 27, 2020, handed over ten broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh.
- Indian Railways has planned to fit the radio frequency identification (RFID) tag on all its wagons by December 2022. Currently, Indian Railway is maintaining and tracking the physical location of wagons manually.
- Union Government of India on July 23 formally approved the permanent commission to women in the Indian Army.
- National Broadcasting Day is celebrated on July 23 all over India to commemorate the first-ever radio broadcast aired in India. The first radio broadcast was made on July 23, 1927, from Bombay Station.

- India sent its first trial shipment of goods to the North-Eastern states of India via Chittagong port of Bangladesh. The goods ship was flagged off from Kolkata Port on July 16 to deliver good to Agartala in Tripura via Chittagong port of Bangladesh.
- India had successfully test-fired indigenously developed “Dhruvastra” anti-tank guided missiles. The missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- India and tourist destination nation Maldives signed an agreement for instituting Emergency Medical Services in Male. Emergency Services will be financed by India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Nuclear Scientists associated with the Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant – 3, Surat, Gujarat for achieving criticality on July 22, 2020.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti issued a status report for the Jal Shakti Mission, launched in August 2019, on July 21, 2020. The report was released almost after one year of the launch of the program.
- Union HRD Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on July 21, 2020, launched the MANODARPAN initiative of HRD Ministry to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being.
- The Ministry of Shipping on July 21, 2020, has separated the operation routes of merchant's vessels and fishing vessels in South West Indian waters, considering the safety and efficiency of navigation.
- Indian Naval ships and the United States Ship (USS) ‘Nimitz’ hold the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) near Andaman Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean Region. PASSEX is an exercise done between two navies to ensure that the navies can communicate and cooperate in times of war or humanitarian relief.
- Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy Shri R K Singh inaugurated first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza at Chelmsford club in New Delhi on July 20, 2020.
- Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came into force from July 20, 2020, replacing the old Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The new Act provided three levels of Consumer Grievance redressal mechanism. The e-commerce entities will also be covered under this act.
- International Trade Union Confederation released its ranking of 144 countries on degree of respect for workers’ rights On July 20, 2020. India was among the least performing countries in the ranking.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Hardeep Puri on July 16, 2020, announced that India is all set to resume the international commercial flights with the United States and France.
- Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Shripad Naik on July 15, inaugurated the conference on Defence Manufacturing Technologies and Aerospace. The theme of the conference was “Empowering India with Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission”.
- Bharat Biotech Ltd. has started the first phase trial of indigenously and inactivated vaccine, developed for Corona, ‘Covaxin’ on July 14, 2020.
- Indian Army is all set to get the hand-launched, remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) Raven from the United States of America.
- Supreme Court on July 13, uphold the rights of erstwhile Travancore Royal family to administer the operations of the temple.

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, on July 12, launched the nationwide Central Armed Police Force's (CAPFs) nationwide tree plantation drive at the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) campus in Gurugram.
- Tiger Census 2018, India's tiger estimation, has entered the Guinness Book of World Record for being the largest camera-trap wildlife exercise. India had 2,967 Tigers as per the Tiger census 2018. More than half of them are in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.
- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 750 MW Rewa Solar Power plant on July 10, 2020. The Rewa Solar Project is the first solar project in the country to break the grid parity barrier.
- Indian Navy launched the operation 'Samudra Setu' on May 5, 2020, to bring back the Indians staying overseas and struck due to coronavirus pandemic. Indian Navy Ship Shardul, Airavat, Magar and Jalashwa took part in this operation.
- ASEEM – Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM), Artificial Intelligence based digital portal, was launched by Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship on July 10, 2020. The platform is aimed to increase the information flow of the work available to the skilled workers.
- SMARTgirl Chat line is a 24X7 WhatsApp chat line made by the research team of Cambodian NGO – KHANA. The SMARTgirl Chat line is all time on chat support against the gender-based violence to the female entertainment workers in Cambodia.
- Amazonia-1 is the first Earth observatory satellite developed by Brazil. It will be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in August. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) will launch Amazonia-1 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota–Andhra Pradesh.
- The Union Government of India, on July 7, removed the Hand Sanitizer and Face Mask from the list of essential commodities as notified in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- Vice President of India, Shri M Vankaiya Naidu on July 5, 2020, launched Elements social media app.
- MyGov Corona Helpdesk has won two prestigious awards at the CogX2020 held in London. The Artificial Intelligence enabled help desk won the 'People's Choice COVID-19 Overall Winner' and the 'Best Innovation for COVID-19 Society'.
- Accelerate Vigyan was launched by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) to provide a single platform for research internships, capacity building programs and workshops across the nation. The SERB has incorporated through the Act of Parliament, i.e. the Science and Engineering Research Board Act 2008.
- Railway ministry decided to make Indian Railway a "Net Zero" emission network by 2030 by using its vacant land renewable energy generation purposes.
- National Green Tribunal ordered Oil India limited to deposit an interim fine of Rs 25 Crore with the local administration of Tinsukia, Assam. The uncontrollable fire broke out in well number 5 at Baghjan, Tinsukia district on June 9.
- The Union Government has approved the International status to the non-functional Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh. Kushinagar is an important Buddhist site in India.
- Government of India banned 59 mobile apps and sent the orders to the google play store and Google India limited to do the needful.
- NITI Aayog launched a behaviour change campaign 'Navigating the New Normal'. The campaign was launched in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF),

Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC), Ashoka University, and the Ministries of Health and WCD.

- Rohini Commission was appointed in October 2017 to examine the issue of sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC), got its Ninth extension for six months. The commission is expected to give its recommendations in January 2021.

June 2020

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on June 30 extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana till November end to support the poor and migrant labourers.
- India banned 59 Chinese mobile apps under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act 2000. The apps were deemed as a threat to the national security of the nation.
- Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism decided to celebrate 'Sankalp Parv' from June 28 to July 12, 2020, for tree plantation.
- 'Navigating the New Normal' is a behavioural change campaign launched by NITI Aayog on June 25.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan launched eBlood Services mobile app in partnership with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) on June 25.
- The Union Minister of State, Jitendra Singh announced the constitution of a new space agency Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to guide the private industries in the space activities with the help of encouraging policies in a friendly regulatory environment.
- Indian Army Chief General, Manoj Mukund Naravane, while visiting the forward locations in the Eastern Ladakh area, awarded the commendation cards to the soldiers who fought with the Chinese troops in face-offs.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the setting of Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth Rs 15,000 crore.
- Supreme Court of India on June 19 put a stay on the annual Rath Yatra amid this novel Coronavirus outbreak, considering the safety of people.
- International Yoga Day (IDY) 2020 was celebrated on June 21, 2020, across the globe. The 'Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family' campaign has been launched in line with this year's theme of the Yoga Day.
- Indian and Chinese army was engaged in a violent face off on the night of June 15 when the troops of both the armies fired at each other in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh. India reported 20 casualties whereas the Chinese side did not provide any figures of casualties.
- India ranked at the 43rd position in the World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD). Singapore topped the index.
- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to provide its training partners access to the TCS iON Digital Class Room.
- Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Dr Jitendra Singh, launched India's first cost-effective, indigenous, wireless physiological parameters monitoring system COVID BEEP on June 7, 2020.
- Indian Air Force has designed, developed, and inducted an Air Borne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT) to rescue the critical COVID-19 patients.
- Government of India will set up the coal trading platform - coal exchange.
- Nitin Gadkari virtually launched the UNDP and MoRTH national awareness campaign on 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways' on June 5, 2020.

- At the launch, the union minister underlined the need to generate awareness and education for the masses that aims at reducing mortality on the roads, he also mentioned that the sustainability and ecology are most important for the human life.
- The Union Cabinet approved the re-establishment of the Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy. The commission will be set up as a subordinate office under the AYUSH Ministry.
- The Union Power Minister, R K Singh on June 3, 2020, launched the pan-India real-time market in electricity allowing the consumers to buy power just one hour before the delivery.
- Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a dedicated portal for Artificial Intelligence (AI) on May 30, 2020.

May 2020

- Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued new guidelines for unlock 1 from June 1, 2020. Under the new guidelines, the lockdown has been extended in the containment zones till June 30.
- Char Dham road project was forwarded with BRO digging up a 440m long tunnel below Chamba town. The project aims to connect the *char dham*, the four pilgrimage places that are highly revered by the Hindus- Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri.
- NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on May 26, 2020, announced that Government of India's Aarogya Setu app, used for COVID-19 contact tracing, has now become open-source.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 22, 2020, visited the states of West Bengal and Odisha to take the view of damage and destruction caused by Cyclone Amphan and provided relief aid of Rs 1000 crore for West Bengal and Rs 500 crore for Odisha.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the domestic flights will resume operations from May 25, 2020, in a calibrated manner. The flights were banned from March 25.
- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced that Indian Railways will start to run 200 non-Ac trains daily from June 1, 2020.
- Government of India launched the 'National Migration Information System' on May 16 to facilitate the smooth movement of migrant workers travelling across the country.
- Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) sacht and two interceptor boats C-451 and (IBs) C-450 on May 15 in Goa.
- India ranked 74th by moving up two ranks on a global energy transition index released by WEF.
- CSIR- National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL), Bangalore has developed 'SwasthVayu' a non-invasive BiPAP ventilator.
- National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune developed indigenous human IgG ELISA antibody test kit -"COVID KAVACHH ELISA".
- Rajnath Singh on May 8 inaugurated 80km long road that will curtail the Kailash-Mansarovar pilgrimage time. The road link is from Dharchula (Uttarakhand) to Lipulek (China Border).
- The India Meteorological Department started showing the weather forecasts of Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad from May 8.
- Nitin Gadkari announced that the union government was working on an agro MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) policy that will mainly focus on the entrepreneurship development in the tribal, rural, forest and agricultural areas.
- The Central government launched Aarogya Setu Mitr portal on May 4, 2020, to offer free online Covid-19 related consultation to its users.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed an Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower that will help in the chemical-free and rapid disinfection of high infection-prone areas.

- In propagation to the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) announced that it will be launching 'Bharat Market', a new national e-commerce marketplace, for all the retail traders.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) launched the Kisan Sabha application on May 1, 2020.
- India ranked at 53rd position in the Open budget survey in terms of budget accountability and transparency. The survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) released the ranking on April 29, 2020.

April 2020

- Supreme Court of India on April 27 directed the Government of India to consider adopting 'one nation, one ration card' scheme during the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown.
- Lucknow based King George Medical University become the first state-owned hospital in India to provide Plasma Therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
- Government of India declared the banking industry as a public utility service till October 21 under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi launched two portals E-Gram Swaraj Portal & Swamitva Scheme on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day 2020 on April 24, 2020.
- President promulgated an ordinance to amend the Epidemic Disease Act 1897 on April 23, 2020, to stop the violence against the health workers working in the COVID related duties and ensure their safety.
- India ranked 142 in the Global Press Freedom index dropped two places from last year.
- The Union government launched an interactive platform 'COVID India Seva' on April 21.
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala developed a low-cost diagnostic test kit to detect COVID-19 virus called 'Chitra Gene LAMP-N'.
- The Central government launched Krishi Rath app on April 17 to facilitate the easy transportation of agricultural products.
- The government on April 17, 2020, lifted a ban imposed on the export of formulations made from Paracetamol amid COVID-19 outbreak.
- Government's Aarogya Setu App became the world's fastest app to reach 50 million users.
- In a study done by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology, pathogenic coronaviruses have been found in Indian Flying Fox and Rousettes (old world fruit bats) for the first time.
- Ministry of Tourism launched Dekho Apna Desh a webinar series to provide information on several destinations and culture and heritage of India.
- Government of India extended the nationwide lockdown till May 3, 2020, on April 14, 2020.
- Prime Minister announced SAPTPADI to contain the spread of COVID-19 virus.
- CollabCAD a 3D designs digital software system that will help students in creating 3D designs has been jointly launched by Atal Innovation Mission, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and NITI Aayog on April 13, 2020.
- The Central Human Resources Development Ministry launched the Bharat Padhe online campaign on April 11, 2020, to crowdsource ideas for improving the online education ecosystem of India.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) approved the usage of TrueNat, a diagnostic machine for Tuberculosis, for COVID-19 tests on April 10, 2020.

- Shri Vallabhbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, a farmer scientist of Junagarh district of Gujarat developed a biofortified carrot variety 'Madhuban Gajar' with high Beta-Carotene & iron.
- Supreme Court of India asked the governments to make COVID-19 tests by private laboratories free of charge.
- Indian Railway at its Kapurthala rail coach factory developed a low-cost ventilator 'Jeevan' for the COVID-19 patients.
- The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance on April 6, 2020, reducing the salaries and pension of the members of Parliament by 30 per cent for one year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government of India launched a National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID 19 Grievances on April 1, 2020. The dashboard has been developed and implemented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- IRDA launched Arogya Sanjeevani insurance policy, the standard health insurance policy of all general and health insurance companies that will COVID-19 hospitalisation expenses on April 1, 2020.
- The merger of 10 state-run banks into 4 larger banks was implemented from April 1, 2020.

March 2020

- Government of India approved a hike in the wages given under Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The hike will vary from Rs 13 to Rs 34 differing from state to state.
- Government of India launched 'Stranded in India' portal "strandedinindia.com" to propagate the information to all foreign tourists who are stranded in India.
- Government of India on March 29, 2020, approved a free insurance scheme of Rs 50 Lakh for health workers who are working hard to treat COVID-19 patients and save lives.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development through National Book Trust launched an initiative called #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks to encourage people to read books while staying at home during the lockdown.
- Government of India launched Garib Kalyan Package on March 26. Under the package, 80 crore poor people will be given 5 kgs of wheat or rice for three months.
- Government of India in collaboration with Whatsapp launched a MyGov Corona helpdesk for the citizens of India.
- Election Commission of India allowed health officials to use non-erasable ink to identify home quarantine people infected with COVID-19 virus.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) set up India's first 100-bed dedicated COVID-19 hospital at Mumbai.
- The construction of Ram Mandir begun in Ayodhya on March 25, 2020.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 24 announced a healthcare package worth Rs 15,000 crore to combat COVID-19.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced 21 days complete lockdown in India till 14 April 2020 to contain the spread of Coronavirus in the nation.
- Rajnath Singh released the draft of Defence Procurement Procedure Policy 2020 on March 20, 2020.
- All the four convicts of Nirbhaya were hanged to death in Tihar jail on March 20, 2020.
- Union Government of India on March 19 decided to give bonus marks to the NCC certificate holders in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) exam conducted by UPSC.

- Government of India established National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) bench in Chennai to consider appeals from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.
- ISRO designed an Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System NavIC for the fishermen to send warning messages.
- 'Innovate for Accessible India' campaign was launched on March 17, 2020, by Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation. The initiative was launched in partnership with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Science and Technology and ERNET, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and other departments.
- Government of India declared the Masks and Hand Sanitizers as Essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 till June 30, 2020.
- India secured 'C' rank in Animal Protection Index 2020. Countries like Spain, New Zealand, France, and Mexico also attained 'C' ranking in the index.
- India first time appeared at 23rd position in the global list of Arm exporter published by SIPRI.
- Government of India decided to make sanitary napkin disposal bags mandatory for all the manufacturers from January 2021.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over all of his social media accounts to seven women achievers on the occasion of International Women Day on March 8, 2020.
- Jan Aushadhi Divas (Generic Medicine Day) was observed on March 7 to create awareness about the use of generic medicines.
- Sikh leader Maharaja Ranjit Singh has been named as the greatest leader ever in the world in BBC World History Magazine survey.
- TIME Magazine named Rajkumari Amrit Kaur as the women of the year for 1947 and Indira Gandhi as women of the year for 1976.
- The launch of Geo Imaging Satellite-GISAT-1 was postponed due to technical reasons. The satellite was scheduled for the March 5 launch.
- Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II was launched on March 4, 2020.
- Government of India declared the National Chambal Sanctuary an eco-sensitive zone on March 2, 2020.
- Suposhit Maa Abhiyan was launched by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently launched in Kota, Rajasthan on March 1.

February 2020

- February 28 was celebrated as the National Science Day across the country to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect. India's CV Raman won Nobel Prize for the same.
- Government of India on February 26, 2020, launched a new Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) portal to monitor the prices of TOP crops – Tomato, Onion and Potato.
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) launched three ocean-based advanced warning systems -Swell Surge Forecast System (SSFS), Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS) and the Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS).
- Government of India declared the formation of the 22nd Law Commission on February 25, 2020.
- Supreme Court of India on February 17, 2020, ruled that the women officers in Short Service Commission (SSC) are eligible for the permanent commission in the Indian Army.

- Government of India and World Bank signed a USD 450 million loan agreement to improve India's groundwater requirements under the Atal Bhujal Program.
- Rajnath Singh laid the foundation of Thal Sena Bhawan in New Delhi.
- India became the first country in the world that provides 100 per cent digital Haj going process.
- The official communication from the Income Tax Department announced that the Permanent Account Number (PAN) will become inoperative if it is not linked with Aadhaar on or before March 31, 2020.
- Government of India renamed the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra to Sushma Swaraj Bhawan on February 13, 2020. Foreign Service Institute, the training institute for the IFS trainees, was also renamed to Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.
- February 13 was celebrated as the National Women's Day of India. Sarojini Naidu was famous as 'Bharat Kokila'. She was born on February 13, 1879.
- Government of India on February 12, 2020, launched the School Health Ambassador Initiative to spread awareness about the preventive health aspects. Two teachers will be identified in every government school as 'health and wellness ambassadors' under this new initiative.
- Union Cabinet approved the Pesticide Management Bill 2020 on February 12, 2020, to promote the use of organic pesticides in the country.
- Government of India renamed the Indian Revenue Service training institute, National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM).
- Government of India launched 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' on February 10 to promote cultural unity among various states of the country. It is 18-days long campaign that will continue till the 28th of February 2020.
- The Supreme Court on February 3, directed all the states to set up 'Gram Nyayalayas' within four weeks. The states have been directed to issue notification regarding the same.
- The government announced that the following five archaeological sites will be developed as 'iconic sites'. The five archaeological locations are – Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu), Dholavira (Gujarat), Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh), Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Sivasagar (Assam).

January 2020

- India observed 72nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 2020. It was the 72nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on January 30, 1948, in Birla House.
- The Government of India confirmed the first positive case of Coronavirus in Kerala.
- Rajnath Singh awarded the Republic Day Parade 2020 awards at Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in Delhi on January 28, 2020. Assam's tableau was adjudged the best among all the 16 participating states and union territories.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launched Web Portal 'GATI.' GATI was prepared by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- India slipped to 80th position in the Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index-2019. India was at 78th place in the 2018's ranking.
- Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the 'NIC Tech-Conclave 2020' at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
- Amit Shah signed a historic pact for permanent solution of Bru refugees' issue. More than 30,000 Bru tribes who fled Mizoram and residing in Tripura's refugee camps will no longer be forced to return.

- India celebrated 72nd Army Day on January 15, 2020. First Indian Field Marshal KM Cariappa took command of the Indian Army from General Francis Butcher on this day in 1949.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the communication satellite 'GSAT-30' from French Guiana on January 17, 2020.
- The Kerala government filed a petition against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the Supreme Court on January 14, 2020, under Article 131.
- The government released a policy draft on rare diseases on January 13, 2020, with an objective to provide Rs 15 lakh to help the poor people who can't afford the expenses of treatment.
- The Union Government of India notified the Citizenship Amendment Act and it came into effect from January 10, 2020.
- On January 10, 2020, the Supreme Court pronounced that access to the internet is a fundamental right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it comes under Article 19 of the Constitution of India.
- The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on January 8 approved Rs 5559 crores funding to set up a natural gas pipeline grid in the North East.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 was launched in Uttar Pradesh on January 6, 2020. The mission aims to achieve 90 per cent vaccination coverage among children below the age of 2 years.
- Uttarakhand's Disaster Mitigation & Management Centre was conferred with the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2020 on January 23, 2020. The award was conferred to Kumar Munnan Singh in the individual category.
- India climbed eight ranks and secured the 72nd rank in the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2020 index.
- Smriti Irani, Union Women and Child Development Minister of India, launched the Yashaswini Scheme for women entrepreneurship and Swasthya Sakhi project in Goa on January 11, 2020.
- The Supreme Court stayed the NCLAT's order reinstating Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of Tata Sons.
- World Hindi Day 2020 was celebrated on January 10 with the objective to create a suitable environment for the promotion of Hindi worldwide.
- The first lunar eclipse of the year 2020 was sighted on January 10. This was a penumbral lunar eclipse or 'Wolf Moon Eclipse'.
- Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Centre (VSCIC) will be set up soon in Gujarat.
- The 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 3, 2019, at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru.
- General Bipin Rawat, India's first Chief of the Defence Staff, proposed the establishment of an integrated Air Defence Command to boost the security of India's skies.

Economy News

December 2020

- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority recently announced that the subscribers can use online mode to exit from National Pension System.
- The report, “Foreign Direct Investment Trends and Outlook in Asia and the Pacific” recently said that India could be the most resilient economy in the region of South and South-West Asia. The report was compiled by UNESCAP.
- As per the report of the Centre for Economics and Business Research, India will become the fifth-largest economy in 2025. India had overtaken the UK in 2019 to become the fifth-largest economy after the US, China, Japan and Germany. However, it was pushed back to the sixth position in 2020.
- Indian Economy reached a new high with the increase in the Forex Reserves. As per the new data, the Foreign Exchange Reserve of India has increased by USD 2.563 billion. The gold reserves increased from USD 1.008 billion to USD 37.020 billion. The Special Drawing Rights with the International Monetary Fund increased by USD 12 million.
- Reserve Bank of India cancelled the license of Subhadra Local Area Bank in Kolhapur on December 24, 2020.
- The government allowed 100 % FDI in Direct to Home broadcasting services. Moreover, the license period was also increased to twenty years.
- Indian Army tested the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile on December 23, 2020.
- Vigyanika International Science Literature festival 2020 was launched by CSIR, Ministry of Earth Science and Vijnana Bharati jointly on December 22, 2020. The festival was launched to mark the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The Ministry of Finance announced that the GST taxpayers should compulsorily pay at least 1% of their tax in cash. This is to come into effect from January 1, 2021.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce the “Positive Pay System” from January 1, 2021, for cheque transactions above Rs 50,000.
- India signed a \$400 million agreement with the World Bank to protect India’s poor and vulnerable population affected by the adverse economic crisis caused by the pandemic.
- Reliance Petroleum and British multinational Oil and Gas Company begun production of gas from R Cluster, an ultra-deep-water gas field in block KG D6 off the east coast of India. This was informed on December 17, 2020.
- Ola signed a deal with the state government of Tamil Nadu to build a factory in the state. It will also be the largest electric scooter manufacturing facility in the world.
- RBI to establish the country’s first Automated Banknote Processing Centre in Jaipur.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of Maharashtra-based Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked the private sector bank HDFC to stop its digital launches as well as new sourcing of credit card customers on a temporary basis.

November 2020

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade shared the foreign Direct Investment data for the first six months of the FY 2020-21. United States of America emerged as the second-biggest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for India during April-September 2020.
- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India contracted by 7.5 per cent in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2020-21 (July to September). The Government of India released the quarterly data on November 27, 2020.
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister of India, the Union Cabinet approved the amalgamation of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) with the wholly-owned subsidiary of Singapore-based DBS Bank in India on November 25, 2020.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) became the first central bank of any nation that passes 1 million followers mark on its official Twitter Handle. The count of followers on the social media account of RBI has almost doubled from March 2019 to March 2020.
- Government of India received Rs 72,480 crore in taxes through Vivad se Vishwas scheme from 45,855 cases. Vivad se Vishwas is a direct tax dispute resolution scheme.
- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) working under the Union Ministry of Finance signed an agreement with the World Bank on November 16, 2020, to provide advisory services for asset monetisation.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for ten major sectors including pharmaceutical drugs, auto components, and automobiles for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and export. The scheme was launched on November 11, 2020.

Sector Name	Outlay for next 5 years (in Cr)
Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery	18,100
Technology/Electronic Products	5,000
Automobile and auto component	57,042
Pharmaceuticals and drugs	15,000
Telecom and Networking Products	12,195
Textile Products	10,683
Food Products	10,900
High Efficiency solar photovoltaic modules	4,500
White Goods (LEDs and ACs)	6,238
Specialty Steel	6,322

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) increased the overseas investment limit for individual mutual funds from USD 300 million to USD 600 million. The decision was communicated on November 5.

October 2020

- The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister approved the extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials. The committee decided for 100 per cent packaging of food grains and 20 per cent of sugar in diversified jute bags.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on October 27, 2020, directed all the lending institutions, including non-banking financial companies to implement the waiver of interest on interest schemes for loans up to Rs 2 crore.

- The Government of India through an official statement of Ministry of Commerce and Industry on October 20, 2020, informed that India received its highest-ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in April-August 2020, the first five months of the financial year.
- The Government of India on October 15, 2020, banned the sale of natural gas and the coal-bed methane (CBM) to self-company under its newly notified gas marketing guidelines. These guidelines imply that the natural gas/ CMB producers will no longer be able to buy their own produce.
- The trade deficit of India narrowed in September because of the surge in exports. India's trade deficit narrowed to \$2.72 billion, in absolute terms, in September 2020. India's trade deficit for September 2020 was estimated to be USD 2.72 Billion as against the deficit of USD 11.67 billion in September 2019, which is a decline of (-) 76.66% if we talk about the absolute value of trade deficit.
- The Government of India has approved the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) projects aided by the World-Bank aides. The STAR projects will help and support the states implementing, developing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improve quality of education.
- As per the World Bank estimates, India's economy is expected to contract by 9.6 % in the current fiscal year (2020-21) because of coronavirus pandemic. The World Bank released its forecast on October 8, 2020. After China, India is the largest economy in South Asia.
- The Government of India has put a mechanism in place to scrutinise the Chinese investment proposals in the country. The screening panel will be headed by the home secretary and has the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) secretary as a member.

September 2020

- General Atlantic will invest Rs 36.75 billion in the Indian Giant Reliance Retail. India's Reliance Industries Ltd. Informed about this investment on September 30, 2020.
- Government of India released the COVID-19 Safe workplace guidelines for the industries on September 29, 2020.
- United Kingdom's telecom giant Vodafone Group won the long-pending arbitration case against India in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague. The Court held that India had violated the bilateral treaty rules by amending the tax laws retrospectively and demand over Rs 20,000 crore from the company.
- The Union Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises released the new guidelines for two schemes which include Beekeeping activity and Pottery activity. The guidelines will help the MSME sector to get aligned with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ESG funds are very common around the globe. ESG means the environment, social and governance. The ESG funds are the portfolios which took integrate the environment, social and governance factors into the investment process and results.
- The Government of India issued a notice on September 17, 2020, regarding the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Defence Sector. In the note, Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued a note permitting (FDI) up to 74% in the defence production through automatic route.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package Insurance Scheme for the COVID-19 health workers was further extended for six months. The PMGKP insurance scheme was launched on March 30, 2020, for 90 days. The insurance scheme was further extended by 90 days from September 25, 2020.

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimated that the Indian Economy will shrink by 9 per cent in the financial year 2020-21. The ADB released the report on September 15, 2020, estimating the fall. ADB estimated a four per cent contraction four months back but overriding its previous estimations, ADB released new data.
- On September 14, Government of India sought Parliament's approval for infusing Rs 20,000 crore in public sector banks in the current financial year to meet regulatory requirements. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2020-21.
- Credit Analysis and Research Limited (CARE) released the report stating that the employment growth rate has declined to 3.5% in the Financial Year 2020 from 3.8% in the previous fiscal. However, the absolute number was increased from 48 lakh to 50 lakh.
- Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman launched Doorstep Banking Services by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India on September 9, 2020.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Indian government signed an agreement for USD 500 million loan for the National Capital Region's (NCR) first Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor. This will be the first part of the One Billion dollar loan approved for the RRTS.
- Five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) which are actively involved in the renewable energy propagation will soon join the International Solar Alliance Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action (ISA-CSCA) as the Corporate Partners. The list of the PSUs joining the International Solar Alliance Coalition is given below.
 - Oil and Natural Gas Limited (ONGC)
 - Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
 - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
 - Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
 - GAIL (India) Limited
- The Vodafone Idea Limited, the joint telecom entity, released the rebranded identity of the joint conglomerate on September 7. The new brand will be called as 'Vi'. The 'i' is placed upside down in the brand logo.
- Government of India approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with and Japan to improve the quality and testing of Indian textiles and clothing for the Japanese market. India exports a major chunk of textiles to Japan.
- Coal Mines Minister, Prahlad Joshi announced that Coal India Ltd (CIL) has decided to invest over Rs. 1.22 lakh crore on the development of approximately 500 projects that are related to infrastructure, coal evacuation, project development, clean coal technologies, and exploration in the country.
- Adani Green Energy Limited was adjudged as the world's No. 1 solar firm in terms of the capacity. The company has 2.3 GW of Solar energy capacity in its portfolio. Adani Green Energy Limited has additional 2 GW projects under construction and 8 GW in the form of awarded projects (with contracted PPAs) which augmented the total capacity of the company to 12.3 GW.

August 2020

- The subsidiary of Reliance industries, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) on August 29, 2020 announced that it is acquiring the retail, wholesale business, logistics and warehouse business of India's largest retail chain Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on August 28 announced that it has launched a new forum on Artificial Intelligence which will be chaired by the Managing Director IBM India and South Asia, Sandip Patel.
- The Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) released its report in August stating that the average income of MGNREGA workers has doubled during the government - imposed Coronavirus lockdown.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made projection about the state of the Indian Economy for the current fiscal. RBI pegged the country's growth rate at (-) 4.5 percent for 2020-2021. In its annual report released by the RBI on August 25, 2020, the global growth rate has been projected between (-) 6.0 percent and (-) 7.6 percent.
- Government of India, state government of Maharashtra and Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) had signed a loan agreement of \$500 million dollars with the Asian Infrastructure Investment bank (AIIB) for Mumbai Urban Transport Project-III.
- Reliance industries Limited (RIL), on August 18, announced that its subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) has acquired the managing stakes in Vitalic Health Pvt. Ltd and its subsidiaries, which is the parent company of the medicine app 'Netmeds' for approximately Rs 620 crore.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) on August 18 approved a loan of \$1 billion for the construction of the high-speed, modern Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.

July 2020

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves proposed acquisition of 49% of the total equity share capital of Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC) by Adani Power Limited (APL).
- In pursuance of Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision of PM Narendra Modi, IRCTC launched the co-branded credit card in association with SBI on RuPay platform. The card will support the contactless payment system.
- Coronavirus pandemic has pushed the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) evaluation of India's anti-money laundering regime and legal measures framed to check financial crimes, scheduled for this year, to next year.
- Flipkart on July 23, 2020 declared that it has acquired Walmart Inc's Best Price wholesale cash-and-carry business in India. Walmart is the parent company having a majority share in Flipkart. This move aligns with the Flipkart plan of launching the Flipkart Wholesale soon.
- The Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani announced that Google will invest Rs 33,737 crore for a 7.7 per cent stake in Jio Platforms.
- Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai announced to invest USD 10 billion in India on July 13, 2020, in the Google for India virtual event.

- In an official communication of the Department for International Trade (DIT) inward investment statistics for 2019-2020 found India became the second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment in the United Kingdom (UK).
- Reliance Industries announced that Qualcomm Ventures, the investing arm of Qualcomm, bought a 0.15 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for Rs 730 crore.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a sharp contraction of 4.5% of Indian GDP for the current year.

June 2020

- The procurement platform of the Government of India, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), made it mandatory for the sellers to mention the country of origin while registering all new products on GeM.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan on June 20 in six states.
- Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund invested Rs 11,367 in Jio Platforms and Reliance Industries on June 18. Saudi Arabia's PIF investment will translate into a 2.32% equity stake in Jio Platforms.
- Petronet LNG Ltd and Gail India Limited joined India's first natural gas online exchange on June 15, 2020.
- As per the data shared by RBI, India's foreign exchange reserves has crossed the milestone \$500 billion mark for the first time ever in the country's history. The foreign exchange reserves had risen to \$8.2 billion in the week of June 5.
- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) invested of Rs 5,683.50 crore in the Reliance Jio to bag 1.16% stake in Jio platforms.
- Reserve Bank of India announced on June 5 that it has set up a Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) of Rs 500 crore.
- Abu Dhabi-based firm, Mubadala Investment Company has recently invested Rs 9,093.60 crore into Reliance Jio Platforms to acquire 1.85 percent stake in the company.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 3, 2020, approved the Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, that will pave the way for the creation of 'One India, One Agriculture Market'.
- The Indian Government will conduct a skill mapping exercise under SWADES initiative to map the skills of the Indian workers returning from overseas. SWADES stands for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.
- Government of India launched PM SVANIDHI - Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi- scheme on June 1.

May 2020

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based chatbot named 'PAI' for creating awareness about its products like RuPay, FASTag, AePS and UPI.
- As per the recent Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) report, the current recession in India induced by the COVID-19 is the worst recession till date.

- New York-based private equity firm KKR announced to invest Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms for a stake of 2.32%.
- India became the second largest producer of the PPE kits in May.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced that it released Rs 20,500 crore to regional rural banks and co-operative banks for on-lending to the farmers.
- US investment firm General Atlantic invested Rs 6,600 crore in Jio Platforms for a 1.34% stake.
- Government of India and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed an agreement to provide funds worth USD 500 million to support India's "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project".
- Vista Equity Partners of United States to invest Rs 11,367 crore in Reliance's Jio Platforms for 2.32 percent stake.
- Centre for Monitoring India Economy (CMIE) published that the unemployment rate in India has reached 27.11% for the week ending on May 3 from the level of 6.74% in the week that ended on March 15, 2020.
- Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Saras Collection on government's e-Marketplace (GeM) portal on May 4.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) board on April 30 approved the rights issue for raising over Rs 53,000 crore.

April 2020

- Because of the lockdown and consequent economic slowdown, mutual fund market was struggling to pay the redemption amount to the MF holders. Reserve Bank of India on April 27, 2020, announced a special liquidity facility for mutual funds worth Rs 50,000 crore.
- Government of India put a bar on the hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners till July 2021 to mobilise funds for COVID-19.
- SIDBI launched the liquidity support scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.
- Facebook invested Rs 43,474 crore in Reliance Jio to acquire 9.99 percent stake on April 22. It is the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's tech sector.
- RBI launched its 49th round of OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on April 16, 2020. The survey covers the reference period between January-March 2020.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has developed double-layered Khadi masks amid the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.
- People's Bank of China acquired 1.01 percent shares in HDFC Ltd.
- Government of India deposited Rs 500 in all Jan Dhan Yojana Accounts held by women.
- Government of India extended the data collection period for the 7th economic census by 6 months till September 30, 2020.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will now accept Aadhaar Card as a valid birth proof online. The announcement was made by the labour ministry on April 5, 2020.

March 2020

- ADB will be making an investment worth USD 100 million in Indian infrastructure through government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). ADB reassured its commitment amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ministry of Finance announced that the spending of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to tackle Coronavirus outbreak will be eligible for CSR activity.
- SIDBI announced to start a Swavalamban Express from Lucknow from June 5. The train will touch 11 cities.
- Full banking services of YES Bank were restored on March 18, 2020.
- Parliament of India passed the direct tax dispute resolution scheme Vivad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020, on March 13.
- Supreme Court of India on March 4 lifted the RBI imposed ban on trading in virtual currencies such as Bitcoin.

February 2020

- As per the IMF data, India overtook France and the UK to become the world's fifth-largest economy.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the last week of February ordered banks to link all their new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with an external benchmark from April 1, 2020.
- As per the media reports, Flipkart shut down its acquired fashion platform Jabong.com after four years of operation.
- The Union Cabinet on February 5, 2020, approved the amendments to the Banking Regulation Act to bring cooperative banks under the regulatory mechanism of Reserve Bank of India.

January 2020

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on January 8, 2020, released 'Market Study on E-commerce in India: Key Findings and Observations' report on the performance of e-commerce in India.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amended the norms for Know Your Customer (KYC) for banks and other financial institutions. The new norm, after amendment, allows these financial institutions to use video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).
- The central government and Assam state government signed a USD 88 million loan agreement with the World Bank on January 16, 2020, to implement the Assam Inland Water Transport Project.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Michael Debabrata Patra as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The project aims to modernise the infrastructure and services of Assam's passenger ferry sector, which operates on its rivers, including the Brahmaputra.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched 'MANI' mobile app to help the visually challenged persons to identify the denomination of Indian currency notes. The application was launched by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and other officials on January 1, 2020.

International News

December 2020

- China and the European Union recently signed a New Investment Treaty after seven years of negotiations. The EU-China Comprehensive Agreement in Investment is the most ambitious agreement China has ever concluded.
- Vietnam and the permanent member of UNSC the United Kingdom recently signed an agreement to eliminate 99% of tariffs within seven years.
- Government of India approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bhutan for peaceful use of outer space. The MoU was signed on November 19.
- India and its all-time friend France planned to conduct SKYROS exercise in Jodhpur in January 2021.
- United Nations celebrated the first International Day of Epidemic Preparedness on December 27, 2020.
- Japan confirmed to join the Five Eyes network, which comprises five nations namely Australia, Canada, Britain, the US and New Zealand. After the joining of Japan the Five Eyes network will become Six Eye network.
- The official financial regulator of China asked the Ant Group to return to its original business of payment service provider to curb the unfair competition in the country.
- India and Vietnam concluded two-day passage exercise in South China Sea on December 27, 2020.
- European Union and Britain published the details of the post Brexit trade agreement that aimed to govern their relationship after the UK leaves the EU on December 31, 2020. The details were made public after Britain approved the Brexit deal.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that a new strain of Coronavirus has been detected in eight European countries. The transmission of the new strain is 70% faster than its predecessor.
- Naegleria Fowleri is a single-celled amoeba. It is also called the brain-eating Amoeba. The amoeba is now rapidly spreading in the US.
- India has challenged Vodafone Group in Singapore against an International Arbitration Court Verdict. Three months ago, a verdict was pronounced that India cannot seek Rs 22,100 crore retrospectively from Vodafone. Also, India was asked to pay legal fees of about USD 5.3 million.
- Indian cargo ship Jag Anand, taking cargo from Australia to China, was stuck at the Chinese port since June 2020. China is not allowing to unload the vessel.
- European Union announced that it will completely ban the exports of unsorted plastic to poor countries. The new rules of the European Union will amend the 2006 Waste Shipment Regulation.
- Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar virtual held the meeting with his Spanish counterpart Arancha González. The leaders exchanged notes about the pandemic situation.
- India and several other countries have suspended their flights from the United Kingdom because of the discovery of the new strain of COVID-19 virus which is expected to be 70% faster than the original virus, though less deadly. The recent infectious wave in the UK, prompting fresh lockdown measures, is associated with a mutant variant of the SARS CoV 2 called N501Y.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the sixth India-Japan Sanwad Conference. In his address he proposed a library of traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures.
- Indian Navy and its Indonesian counterpart conducted the 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) from December 17 to 18, 2020.
- World witnessed a rare celestial event, the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter on December 21, 2020. The next time, the two giants will come this close is only on March 15, 2080.
- “Hawker” culture of Singapore was recognised by the UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and included it under the list of intangible cultural heritage. The list also includes Chinese Calligraphy, Yoga and Flamenco.
- India and Bangladesh will reopen the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link after more than five decades to enhance the connectivity between the two countries.
- India will open the ‘Swadhinata Sarak’, a road connecting India and Bangladesh. It will be inaugurated on March 26, 2021.
- Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli recommended to dissolve the Parliament on December 20, 2020. The proposal was ratified by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari who also announced the dates for the elections to be held in 2021.
- A team of World Health Organisation will visit China in January 2021 to investigate the origins of novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).
- As per the journal Earth System Science Data the global carbon dioxide emissions reportedly dropped by 7 per cent in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Madagascar replaced Maldives to host Indian Ocean Island Games 2023.
- On December 11, 2020, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the first virtual summit to discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral relationship.
- Government of India on December 9, 2020, approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the Republic of Suriname on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.
- Indian Premier League (IPL) was India's most-searched word on Google in 2020, as per Google India's 'Year in Search' results released on December 9, 2020.
- Asian Development Bank launched Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX-) for its developing members.
- Fusion reaction based ‘Artificial Sun’-HL-2M Tokamak reactor of China was activated though briefly for the first time on December 4, 2020.
- The Southern hemisphere nation New Zealand declared a climate emergency on December 2, 2020 and pledged that its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025.
- India and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on December 3, 2020, for the cooperation in Intellectual Property Examination and Protection.

November 2020

- Cambridge Dictionary named ‘Quarantine’ as the word of the year. The word defeated other words like 'lockdown' and 'pandemic' to take the top crown.
- Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart General Ngo Xuan Lich held a bilateral meeting virtually on November 27, 2020.

- India and Finland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for developing and strengthening cooperation between the two nations in the field of environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The MoU was signed on November 26 by the Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, and his counterpart from Finland, Krista Mikkonen.
- India unveiled Phase-IV of High Impact Community Development Projects for Afghanistan on November 26.
- Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 for their roles in establishing the strategic and diplomatic ties between the two nations.
- Republic of China on November 24, launched an unmanned spacecraft, Long March-5, to collect samples and bring them back to Earth.
- The United States officially withdrew itself from the Treaty of Open Skies in May 2020. The US Department of State spokesman on November 22, 2020 informed that six months had passed since the US notified the countries part ways to the agreement.
- India-Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise (SIMBEX) is a series of exercises that are being conducted every year since 1994 between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Indian Navy hosted the 27th edition of India-Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise (SIMBEX-20) from November 23-25, 2020, in the Andaman Sea.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering virtually launched RuPay Card Phase- II on November 20, 2020, in Bhutan.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel held a virtual summit on November 19, 2020. This is the first stand-alone summit between India and Luxembourg in the past two decades.
- The United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that a virus called Chapare can now be transmitted from human to human.
- External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar and his Canadian counterpart participated in third India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue. The dialogue which was hosted by Ontario-based Centre for International Governance Innovation and Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations.
- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on November 17, 2020, spoke with US President-elect Joe Biden and congratulated him on winning the US Presidential elections.
- External Affairs Minister of India S. Jaishankar took part virtually in the 15th East Asia Summit on November 14, 2020. The summit was chaired by Vietnam's Prime Minister, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party- National League for Democracy (NLD) won a clear majority in the Myanmar General Elections 2020. Union Election Commission (UEC) of Myanmar officially declared NLD as the majority party on November 15, 2020. The National League for Democracy (NLD) secured a total of 396 seats, which is higher than its 2015 tally of 390 seats.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Elon Musk-led SpaceX Corporation launched four astronauts into outer space on November 15, 2020.
- Republic of China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's biggest free trade deal, was signed by 15 Asian-Pacific nations on November 15, 2020.
- Republic of China launched the first 6G experimental satellite on November 6, 2020. It went into orbit along with 12 other satellites from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi

Province. The satellite will test the technology of terahertz waves in space. Terahertz waves are high-frequency waves, which allow data to travel at 50 Gbps.

- The Australia-India Water Centre was virtually inaugurated on November 6, 2020, through a webinar in the view of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Australia-India Water Centre is an initiative led by IIT Guwahati, University of Western Sydney, Australia and 21 other partners from India and Australia.
- India welcomed the removal of Sudan from US State Sponsors of Terrorism List. The Government of India through its diplomatic channel congratulated the Transitional Government of Sudan and its people on signing of the Juba Peace Agreement.
- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte took part in a virtual bilateral summit on November 6.
- Republic of China temporarily banned the entry of Indian nationals in the country due to concerns over COVID-19 pandemic. The decision came after almost 20 passengers boarding Delhi-Wuhan flight on October 30 tested positive for COVID upon arrival.
- United States Navy and its Bangladeshi counterpart jointly launched the 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020' on November 4, 2020. The joint operation was launched to broaden relationships and expand maritime awareness between the two nations.
- Malabar Naval Exercise 2020 was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from November 3 to November 6, 2020. The Navy of United States, India, Japan and Australia participated in the naval exercise. The 24th edition of the naval exercise was scheduled in two phases in November 2020.
- Duarte Pacheco, Member of Parliament of Portugal, was elected as the new President of IPU-Inter Parliamentary Union for 2020-2023. The election process for the selection of IPU President took place through remote electronic secret ballot, with a window of 24 hours for casting votes.
- India in persuasion to its soft power provided 270 metric tonnes of food aid to Eritrea, Sudan, and Djibouti. The Ministry of External Affairs informed on November 12, 2020, informed about India's gesture.
- The Denmark government decided to kill every mink in the country to stop the spread of mutated Coronavirus to humans. The total estimated population of minks in Denmark is around 15 million. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen made the decision public on November 4, 2020.
- Kamala Harris made various first when Joe Biden announced that Kamala Harris will be his Vice President. Kamala Harris made history by becoming the first female, Black and Asian American vice President-elect of the United States.

October 2020

- The Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar held virtual talks with Foreign Minister of Greece Nikos Dendias, to boost ties between both the countries. The bilateral discussion covered whole gamut of bilateral issues in trade and technology transfers.
- At the largest international forum United Nations Security Council (UNSC), India stated over 1.3 million women representatives were elected in India and they actively participate in the public policy making and lead in the implementation at the grassroots level.

- Global community condemned the terrorist attack in France which occurred on October 29, 2020. France suffered a fatal terror attack at the Notre-Dame Basilica in Nice killing two women and a man and injured several others. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi strongly condemned the attack.
- India and Mexico virtually held their 8th Joint Commission Meeting on October 29, 2020. The joint meeting reviewed the bilateral cooperation in several areas, including agriculture, trade, investment, education, and health.
- Union Cabinet approved the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Cambodia in its meeting on October 29, 2020. The MoU was signed on cooperation in the field of health and medicine.
- Although international flights were suspended, India and Bangladesh resumed their services on October 28, 2020. The international flights were resumed under the air bubble agreement between the two south Asian neighbours.
- In the recent development in the search of water on Moon, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) observatory - Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) discovered water molecules on the moon's sunlit surface.
- It was the third occasion when the world's two largest democracies involved in the 2+2 dialogue on October 27, 2020. India and the United States of America discussed cross-border terrorism and peace in Indo-pacific region. Indo-pacific region became the hot bed of world politics nowadays and the partner countries are willing to reduce the tensions in the region.
- The two Soviet members and Asian neighbours agreed to the "Humanitarian Ceasefire" in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict effective from October 26, 2020.
- In the COVID-19 times, the Bangladesh government has mandated the use mask to avail any kind of government service in the country.
- President of United States Donald Trump helped to normalise the bilateral relations between Israel and Sudan. US President helped Israel and Sudan to arrive at a peace deal. In the process, Sudan became the third country which signed the peace deal with Israel which was signed on October 23, 2020.
- Environment is one of the most important subject for the European Union (EU) and its members are willing to cut down their emission levels to become the carbon negative economies as soon as possible. The EU environment ministers arrived at a common deal to make 2050 a common zero emission target legally binding for the Economic Bloc.
- India elected to the chair of one of the most important global body-International Labour Organisation after the period of 35 years. Apurva Chandra, Labour and Employment Secretary was elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of ILO from October 2020 to June 2021.
- NASA, the US space body, selected Nokia to build first ever cellular network on the surface on Moon. In an official statement posted on its website, Nokia stated that "Nokia Bell Labs' pioneering innovations will be used to build and deploy the first ultra-compact, low-power, space-hardened, end-to-end LTE solution on the lunar surface in late 2022".
- NASA' Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-Rex) successfully touched the surface of the Bennu asteroid and collected the dust and pebbles from the asteroid on October 20, 2020. This was the first time when such experiment was carried out. The collected sample particles will reach Earth by 2023.

- The Islamic country Pakistan lifted the ban on the Chinese short video app TikTok after the Chinese app maker ByteDance promised to moderate the app content. Pakistan official watchdog Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on October 19, 2020 lifted the ban.
- Tsunami alert was issued after a major earthquake of 7.5 magnitude struck off the coast of Alaska on October 19, 2020. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued the tsunami warning for the southern coast of the remote state of the US, which includes the thinly populated Alaska Peninsula.
- Bangladesh invited Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi to witness the 50 years independence celebration of the country. The news was shared by Foreign Minister of Bangladesh AK Abdul Momen. Bangladesh will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of its independence on March 21, 2021.
- The Navy of India and Sri Lanka carried out the bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20. The exercise was carried from October 19 to 21 in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. Ministry of Defence released the official statement regarding the exercise and also mentioned the Indian Navy will be represented by indigenously built ASW corvettes Kamorta and Kiltan.
- Union Minister for Agriculture and Food Processing Industry Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the India-International Food & Agri Week on October 16, 2020. Tomar stated that Indian food processing sector is 32% of India's food market.
- Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov stepped down from his constitutional post on October 15, 2020. This will bring an end to the political turmoil that has gripped the nation after the disputed parliamentary elections.
- Government of India decided to transfer one of its Kilo-class submarine – INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy. It is a part of the various initiatives taken by India to strengthen the relations with the neighbours. It will be the first such submarine for the Myanmar Navy.
- Pakistan and China were re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on October 12, 2020.
- India is one of the founding members of International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA Foundation conference was organised at New Delhi. The organisation has the secretariat at Gurugram. India and France has been re-elected to the post of President and Co-president of the ISA's third Assembly respectively. The term of both the offices is two years.
- World War II was the biggest event of tragedy in the history of mankind. The war ended with the nuclear attack of the US on Japan. On October 12, 2020, Tallboy, a massive World War II bomb, exploded underwater in Poland during a delicate operation by the Polish Navy.
- The international team of scientists discovered that the snow-caps on the mountains of Pluto are very much different from the snow-caps on the mountains of Earth. The discovery by the team led by CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) scientists was made while conducting an exploration of the New Horizon space probe which was held in early 2015.
- World Health Organization Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus appreciated the efforts made by Government of India and praised the Aarogya Setu App.
- Government of Bangladesh approved capital punishment for rape cases and sexual assaults in the country. Earlier, the maximum punishment for those convicted of rape and sexual assault was life imprisonment.
- Government of India and island nation Maldives signed a Line of Credit Agreement of USD 400 million on October 12, 2020.

- Johnson & Johnson halts the advance clinical trial, ENSEMBLE, of one of its vaccine of COVID-19 vaccine. The step was taken by the company after an unexplained illness was found in one of the volunteers of the clinical trial.
- Government of India donated 1.8 million N95 masks to Philadelphia. It is the largest city in the US state of Pennsylvania.
- Russia declared that it has successfully tested a new hypersonic anti-ship cruise missile named Tsirkon. It is important to note that the missile touched the top speed of 8 mach in its way to hit the target. The range of the missile was 450 km.
- The top decision making body, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of cyber-security with Japan on October 7, 2020. The decision was taken under the leadership of Narendra Modi.
- Government of Kuwait under Prime Minister Sabah Al Khalid Al Sabah, on October 6, 2020, resigned to Emir Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah in the expectancy of general elections in November 2020.
- Government of India and its Myanmar counterpart, on October 5, 2020, mutually agreed to operationalise the Sittwe Port in the first quarter of 2021.
- On October 4, the French space agency CNES announced that it will jointly launch a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites with India. This constellation will trace illegal spillage of oil by ships in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on October 5, 2020, inaugurated a mega virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'.
- India and South Africa asked waiver of the intellectual property rules in order to make it easier for the developing countries to import or produce the drugs for COVID-19. It is a very pertinent demand and just like a PIL on behalf of all the poor countries. The demand was raised in a letter to World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- Origin Space in Beijing, a private company in China is all set to send world's first asteroid mining robot into space in November 2020. The robot will be named 'asteroid mining robot' by the space start-up in China.

September 2020

- India strongly opposed Pakistan's announcement of holding the elections in the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan region and make it country's fifth province. The communication was released by Government of India on September 29, 2020.
- The 6th round of India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting 2020 decided that PM Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina will hold a virtual bilateral summit in December 2020.
- India's top policy suggestion making body National Institution of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and Embassy of the Netherlands, New Delhi, on September 28 signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to support the decarbonisation and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.
- India-Japan jointly conducted the 4th edition of maritime bilateral exercise- JIMEX-2020. The naval exercise was jointly conducted by Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) and the Indian Navy in the North Arabian Sea from September 26 to 28, 2020.

- Ministry of External Affairs released the news that Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen held a virtual bilateral summit on September 28, 2020.
- The federal district judge of Columbia Carl Nichols blocked United States President Donald Trump's ban on TikTok downloads. The decision was pronounced hours before it was coming into effect.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa held their first virtual Bilateral Summit on September 27. PM Modi opened his address at the summit by thanking Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa for accepting his invitation for the virtual summit.
- External Affairs Minister of India, S Jaishankar, participated in the virtual meeting of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) nations on September 24, 2020.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), space agency of the United States of America, released a statement mentioning that a bus-sized asteroid just safely passed Earth on September 24, 2020. Asteroid 2020 SW was discovered on September 18, 2020, by the Catalina Sky Survey at the University of Arizona in Tucson.
- India and Australia conducted a two-day naval exercise in the Indian Ocean from September 23. The joint exercise involved a range of anti-aircraft drills, complex naval manoeuvres, and helicopter operations.
- Saudi Arabia suspended all the air travel with the countries like India, Brazil and Argentina to prohibit the spread of COVID-19 in the Arab country. The decision was taken on September 23 to protect the country from another wave of COVID-19 infection.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually addressed the 75th anniversary of the United Nations on September 26, 2020. He addressed the UN General Assembly in Hindi. PM said, the reforms in the UN Security Council is overdue and without the reforms in the structure of UN, the international body will face the crisis of confidence.
- India and the United Kingdom participated in the Water Partnership on September 22, 2020. The Water Partnership Forum was conducted virtually to discuss the collaboration on the issues pertaining to infrastructure development and water conservation.
- Government of India extended a USD 250-million loan to island nation Maldives. The Indian High Commission shared this news on September 20, 2020. The loan was extended in pursuance of the neighbour first policy of India.
- The three developing nations India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) through the trilateral meetings jointly called for the comprehensive reforms of the United Nations Security Council. The three nation grouping IBSA held a virtual meeting before the 75th anniversary of the UN General Assembly.
- Israel, UAE and Bahrain signed historic Abraham Accords on September 15. The historic accord was signed in the presence of President of United State of America.
- After the resignation of Shinzo Abe, Yoshihide Suga won the leadership vote of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to become the Prime Minister of Japan. Suga secured 377 votes to become the new leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan on September 14, 2020.
- India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval stormed out of the SCO, held on September 16, virtual meeting of national security advisors after the neighbour country Pakistan displayed

its controversial map showing Indian territories as its part. The virtual meeting was hosted by Russia.

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientist discovered the signs of extra-territorial life on the inner planet Venus. The Scientists communicated that they detected potential signs on life on the unfriendly Venus.
- India beat China to become the member of United Nation's Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on September 15. India will remain a member of the prestigious UN body from 2021 to 2025.
- A private American global aerospace and defence technology company Northrop Grumman announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named "S.S. Kalpana Chawla", a renowned NASA astronaut of the Indian origin who died in 2003 while returning to Earth from Space in the space shuttle Columbia.
- India and China on September 10, reached on a five point consensus on the ongoing border standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after detailed talks between Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Russia on the side-lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- India, Australia and France co-chaired a first trilateral dialogue on September 9, 2020, discussing the emerging situations after the recent development arose after the Coronavirus pandemic and the Chinese counter to India and Australia at the Economic and Border level.
- September 8, 2020, was celebrated as the International Literacy Day across the globe. The event was organised to promote and remind the international community of the significance of literacy for the societies, communities, and individuals.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced that the humanitarian body will be the leading the global procurement and supply of the COVID-19 vaccine in order to ensure that all the countries have safe, equitable, and fast access to the initial doses when they are available. The UN body will ensure the supply of the vaccine to the poor countries unable to afford the cost of mass immunisation.
- In the defence ministers' talk between Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian counterpart Gen. Sergey Shoigu, Russia reaffirmed its policy of 'No arms supply to Pakistan'. India and Russia also approved to escalate the engagement of their defence industries and finalised a major deal, under which an AK203 assault rifles factory will be established at Amethi.
- The most populous country of the world, China, added another feather in its cap. Amid the increasing engagement of Chinese navy in the Indo-Pacific region and South-China Sea, China was adjudged as the largest navy in the world. China became the world's largest navy on September 1 as declared in the Pentagon report to the US Congress.

August 2020

- United Arab Emirates has launched 'Agriota', an e-market platform to bridge the gap between Indian farmers and its national food industry.
- India's Permanent Mission to United Nations, on August 28, stated that it has decided to co-sponsor a United Nation's Security Council resolution that calls for the full, effective, and meaningful participation of women personnel in peacekeeping operations.

- Japanese Premiere Shinzo Abe on August 28, has resigned from his position due to his deteriorating health. He resigned citing the reason of ill health and did not names his successor. He left the decision to the party.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Africa as a Polio-free nation in August 2020. It is a great milestone for Africa which is reeling under Polio since decades.
- Turkey discovered huge Natural Gas Reserve in the Black Sea. Turkish estimates is pegging this huge discovery as the largest ever discovered Natural Gas Reserve. The estimated volume of the said reserves is 320 billion cubic meters. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made this announcement on August 21, 2020.
- Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita resigned from the top post of the country dissolved the Parliament on August 19. The news came after he was reportedly apprehended at gunpoint by mutinying soldiers.
- India, Australia, and Japan are mulling the idea to launch a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) to reduce the dependency on China. Originally the idea came from Japan that an alternative supply chain needs to be operationalise to reduce the dependency on China.
- The US space exploration agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that its Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered 66 new exoplanets.
- In a rare occasion, a Greek and Turkish warship collided in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea on August 12, 2020. The Greek Defence sources described this as an accident. Turkey sent a survey vessel in the Eastern Mediterranean region to map out the sea territory for possible oil and gas reserves.
- Mustapha Adib is all set to become Lebanon's next Prime Minister. He is currently serving as Lebanon's Ambassador to Germany. Adib was named by four former Lebanon prime ministers as their choice for the post.
- The United Arab Emirates and Israel signed a peace agreement on August 13, 2020. The peace agreement was signed between the two arch-rivals because of the mediation done by the most powerful person of the world, the President of the United States.
- India committed \$500 million assistance to the networking projects in Maldives. This amount will be provided in two-phased manner. Over USD 400 million will be provided as line of credit and USD 100 million will be provided as grant for the projects. Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made this announcement at the public forum.
- India provided USD 1 million assistance to Antigua, Barbuda to mitigate the impact of Coronavirus pandemic. The provided assistance is aimed at augment the health infrastructure and capabilities in the Caribbean country.

July 2020

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on July 28, 2020, informed that the AIIB board of governors has elected Jin Liqun for a second term as the president.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth virtually inaugurated the new Supreme Court building in Mauritius on July 30, 2020. The new Supreme Court building is in Port Louis, Northern Mauritius.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 28, 2020 attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) through video

conferencing. The discussions at the meeting broadly covered official business including the election of the President of the AIIB and a roundtable discussion on the theme 'AIIB 2030-Supporting Asia's Development over the Next Decade'.

- The American private operator Space X launched South Korea's first Military Satellite ANASIS-II from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida on July 22, 2020.
- China launched its first Mars Mission on July 23, 2020 from Wenchang spacecraft launch site on the coast of southern China's island province of Hainan. The Mars probe has been named Tianwen 1. China is now the fifth country which launched the Mars mission after the USA, Russia, EU and India.
- US House of Representatives on July 22, 2020 passed bipartisan legislation to de-escalate the situation along Line of Actual Control. The act slammed China's aggression against India in the Galwan Valley.
- The United Arab Emirates became the first Arab country to launch its Space mission. The UAE launched its Mars Mission named 'HOPE' from Tanegashima Space Center in Japan on July 19, 2020.
- India and Israel on July 15 signed an agreement to expand their cooperation in cybersecurity.
- Tunisian Prime Minister Elyes Fakhfakh resigned from his post on July 15, 2020. He resigned after a dispute with Ennahdha party that had withdrawn its support for government earlier in the day. Fakhfakh wrote his resignation to Tunisian President Kais Saied.
- Farhad Montaser, one of the deputy in Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, said that Iran had never signed any deal with India for the construction of the Zahedan-Chabahar Railway project. He clarified that "Iran has only signed two agreements with Indians for investment in Chabahar: one is related to the port's machinery and equipment, and the second is related to India's investment to the tune of USD 150 million.
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recognised July 15 as the World Youth Skills Day in 2014. This year marked as the fifth anniversary of the event. This day also marked the launch of 'Skill India Mission'. The Theme for 2020 was "Skills for a Resilient Youth in the Era of COVID 19 and Beyond". This year's event was focussed on the importance of developing skilled youth.
- Poland's incumbent President Andrzej Duda won the presidential vote by a narrow margin. The National Elector Commission announced that Duda had won 51.2% votes.
- Russia's Sechenov University Moscow has claimed that they have completed the human trial of COVID-19 vaccine. Russian news agency TASS shared the details about the COVID-19 vaccine trials on human volunteers. The news agency stated that the first stage of trials started on June 18 when a group of 18 volunteers got vaccinated. The second set kicked off with 20 volunteers vaccinated on June 23.
- The Singapore ruling party People's Action Party (PAP), which is in power since 1965, won the Singapore election 2020, though with a reduced number of seats. The PAP won 83 of the 93 parliamentary seats in the country. The opposition Workers' Party secured 10 seats.
- Kuaizhou-11, meaning 'Fast Ship' in China's Mandarin language, suffered a failure during its maiden flight. The solid fuel propelled low-cost rocket was originally planned to be launched in 2018 but due to technical snags, its launch was delayed.
- The Nepal multichannel broadcasters banned all the news channels of India except the state-owned news channel DD News.

- Russians through the plebiscite decided to approve the constitutional amendment which permits Vladimir Putin to seek two more terms as the President of Russia. This was the first time, polls were kept open for the week to increase the turnover.

June 2020

- The Republic of China passed the controversial national security law for Hong Kong on June 30, 2020. The law was expected to come into force on July 1, 2020.
- Islamic Republic of Iran issued an arrest warrant for US President Donald Trump for killing the Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in January.
- NASA renamed its headquarter in Washington DC after the NASA's first African-American female engineer Mary.W. Jackson.
- Russia's Energia Space Corporation signed a contract with US's Space Adventures. As per the contract, the Russian Company is planning to send first space tourist in 2023.
- US upper house Senate passed a bill on June 25 that seeks to impose sanctions on China for its decision to implement the controversial national security law in Hong Kong.
- Indian tri-service contingent participated in the Russian Victory Day Parade at the Red Square, Moscow on June 24, 2020. The parade marked the 75th anniversary of the victory of the then Soviet Union during the Second World War.
- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted a resolution on June 23 pointing Myanmar to create conditions that will ensure a safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingya Muslims.
- China launched the final Beidou Navigation Satellite (BDS) by a Long March 3B rocket into the orbit on June 23.
- India has pledged USD 10 million for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) over the coming two years while attending the Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA.
- Non-permanent member of the Security Council-India will serve as president of the powerful 15 nation UN body in August 2021.
- A near total Solar eclipse took place on June 21, 2020
- India joined Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) as its founding member on June 15, 2020.
- The Oscar Wards conducting body, Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and the ABC Television Network on June 15 announced that the 93rd Oscars has been postponed and will now be held on April 25, 2021. The prestigious Academy Award was earlier scheduled to be held on February 28, 2021.
- As per the World Bank's June 2020 Global Economic Prospects, the Global Economy is predicted to shrink by 5.2 percent in 2020, which is the deepest plunge since the Second World War. Though India and China will do better.
- India and Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a deep, strong, and long-term cooperation in the power sector.
- Southern hemisphere country New Zealand declared itself COVID-free on June 8, 2020 after the recovery of its last coronavirus patient.

- Eight countries including the US and UK came together to form a new International Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC). The alliance aims to counter China's growing threat to global trade, human rights and security.
- Pakistan witnessed the highest inflation in the world during the fiscal year 2020, as per a statement by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on June 7, 2020.
- Russia declared a state of emergency on June 4, 2020 after a massive fuel spill in the Arctic Circle. The major diesel spill reportedly took place on May 29, 2020 after a fuel tank at a power plant ruptured in the Siberian city of Norilsk.
- India and Australia relations saw a new zenith on June 4 when Australia showed its strong support for India's permanent membership to Nuclear Supplier Groups.
- World Environment Day observed in June 5 every year across the globe. This year's theme of Environment Day is 'Biodiversity'.
- India and Australia signed a landmark agreement on June 4, 2020, that will allow the reciprocal access to military bases for the logistics support besides firming the six more pacts to further broaden the ties between the two countries.
- NASA's Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) revealed that five Asteroids are going to pass by the Earth today on June 3, 2020 at different intervals. Among these five asteroids, 2020 KE4 asteroid will pass by Earth on June 3 within a distance of 0.01966 astronomical units as per the NASA.
- India re-elected as a Non-permanent member from the Asia Pacific region of the UNSC in June 2020
- World Health Organization has launched COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) with an objective at making tests, vaccines, treatments and other health technologies to fight COVID-19 as well as to make them accessible to all the countries.
- International team of researchers has confirmed the existence of an Earth-like planet named Proxima b. With the use of state-of-the-art astronomical instruments, it has been informed that Earth-like planet has been orbiting the closest star to our solar system, Proxima Centauri.

May 2020

- The United States formally terminated its relationship with the World Health Organisation on May 29, 2020.
- World Health Organization (WHO) on May 27 announced the creation of the WHO foundation, an independent grant-making entity, to support critical health needs.
- Indian and Israel discussed joint research and development on Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and Big Data in the diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Sonamura-Daudkandi route on the Gomti River in Tripura and Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi route in Bangladesh, were added to the list of Indo-Bangladesh protocol routes on May 20, 2020.
- Scientists reported that the sun has gone into the 'Solar Minimum' state and is about to enter the deepest period of the sunshine recession. As per the reports, sunspots are not visible at all and it has almost been 100 days of 2020 when the sun has shown zero sunspots.
- Nepal Cabinet endorsed a new political map showing Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura under Nepal's territory. It aggravated the dispute between India and Nepal.

- Moderna Coronavirus Vaccine became the first in the world to show positive results by generating immune response against the SARS-CoV-2 Virus (COVID-19).
- Benjamin Netanyahu-led government was sworn into office in Israel on May 17, 2020. This marked the beginning of Netanyahu's fifth term in office.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) warned the countries spraying disinfectants on the street to eliminate the Coronavirus and said that it can be harmful to public health.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) released a postal stamp on May 8 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of smallpox eradication.
- Government of India on May 10 launched Mission Sagar to provide assistance to the five island nations amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The five island nations are Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar, Seychelles, and Comoros.
- Iran replaced its existing currency 'Rial' to 'Toman' on May 4.
- Mustafa Al Kadhimi was voted to become the next Prime Minister of Iraq on May 7, 2020.
- United States Geological Survey (USGS) released the first comprehensive geological map of the Moon.
- Arktika-M satellite will be launched by Russia to monitor the Arctic climate and environment later this year.

April 2020

- As per the estimates released by the APEC secretariat, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region is expected to post an economic decline of 2.7 per cent in 2020 because of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- As per the latest report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India became the third country in spending on military after US and China.
- Saudi Arabia ended the provisions of death penalty for minors.
- Because of the lockdown across the globe, the largest hole in the Earth's Ozone layer over the Arctic has closed.
- China's Tianwen-1' will be the first Mars exploration mission of the country.
- China on April 23, 2020, committed an additional \$30 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) in a battle against COVID-19.
- President of United States Donald Trump signed an executive order on April 22, 2020, to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States.
- Iran has successfully launched its first-ever military satellite into the orbit, according to a statement by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps on April 22, 2020. The satellite launch comes amid heightened tensions with the United States over Iran's nuclear programme.
- Iran launched its first military satellite 'Noor' on April 22.
- India co-sponsored the United Nations Assembly resolution on equal access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- World Earth Day was celebrated virtually across the globe on April 22, 2020.
- NASA's Kepler Space Telescope discovered an earth-size exoplanet called Kepler-1649c.
- The ruling Democratic party of South Korean President Moon Jae-in won the parliamentary elections of the country.
- The United States stopped the funding of the World Health Organisation on April 14.

- The United States approved the sale of Harpoon Block II air launched missile and torpedo to India in a USD 155-million defence deal.
- The International Day of Human Space Flight 2020 was observed on April 12, 2020.
- Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces declared a two-week ceasefire in Yemen to combat COVID-19 threat.
- Democratic Party presidential candidate Bernie Sanders dropped out from the race of the US Presidential elections 2020 on April 8 clearing the way for Joe Biden.
- Japan declared a state of emergency for Tokyo and six-other prefectures till May 6.
- China ended 76-day lockdown in Wuhan on April 8, 2020.
- The United States of America announced a donation of USD 2.9 million for India in the battle against COVID-19.
- NASA is working on the 'Artemis Program' that aims at landing humans on the Moon by 2024.
- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution titled 'Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)' calling for intensive international cooperation to combat COVID-19 pandemic.
- World Bank approved a USD 1-billion emergency fund for India to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.

March 2020

- World Health Organisation (WHO) begun the global mega trial of four most promising drug-Solidarity.
- United States Space Force launched the Lockheed Martin Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite by Atlas V551 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida on March 26, 2020.
- Government of India approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) signed between India and Germany for technological cooperation in Railway Sector.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched a policy tracker to track the policy responses by various governments to fight the coronavirus pandemic.
- China reported its first fatal case of Hantavirus its Yunnan Province on March 23, 2020.
- Government of India approved the Extradition Treaty between India and Belgium.
- NASA discovered a giant asteroid 52768 (1998 OR 2) which will pass through 64 km from Earth on April 29, 2020.
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) celebrated World Meteorological Day 2020 on March 23, 2020. This year the theme of day was 'Climate and Water'.
- World Sparrow Day was celebrated on March 23 to bring awareness about the conservation of Sparrows in the world and the decreasing number of Sparrow.
- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Center has launched a website www.covid19-sdmc.org to provide information about COVID-19 pandemic in the region.
- Union Defence Ministry signed a capital acquisition contract with Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) to procure 16,479 light machine guns.
- March 20 was celebrated as the International Happiness Day (IHD) across the globe.

- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) approved the peace deal signed between the United States and the Taliban for the complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan. The deal was signed on February 29 in Doha, Qatar.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has named its Mars rover Perseverance. The mission was scheduled to be launched in July 2020.
- Zero Discrimination Day 2020 was observed across the globe on March 1, 2020, to challenge the discrimination and inequality faced by women and girls.
- Muhyiddin Yassin took the charge as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia on March 1, 2020 despite opposition from former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad.

February 2020

- India and Myanmar on February 26 exchanged 10 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in various fields, including energy, infrastructure, health, transport and communication and conservation of Tigers and other Wildlife.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and visiting President of United States Donald Trump signed defence deals worth USD 3 billion on February 25, 2020.
- Sri Lanka on February 26, 2020, withdrew from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution for investigating alleged war crimes.
- Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad submitted his resignation to the Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah on February 24, 2020.
- President of United States Donald Trump along with his wife Melania Trump arrived in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on February 24, 2020. Their daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner also accompanied them.
- International Mother Language Day (IMLD) was celebrated as a worldwide annual observance of UNESCO on February 21.
- World Radio Day celebrated all over the world on February 13 every year.
- First-ever 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' was held in Mumbai on February 16, 2020, to promote artistic and cultural ties between India and Israel.
- World Health Organization on February 11, 2020, officially renamed the Coronavirus as COVID-19.
- The United States government has approved the sale of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IDWS) to India in February 2020.
- American Senate acquitted US President Donald Trump of all the charges of Impeachment on February 5, 2020.
- Bhutan introduced 'Sustainable Development Fee' for regional tourists.
- India-Bangladesh conducted the 9th edition of joint military exercise Sampriti at Umroi, Meghalaya on February 3, 2020.
- Islamic state Pakistan declared a state of emergency because of the Locust attack in the wheat-producing state of Punjab (Pakistan).
- India and its island neighbour Maldives on February 2, 2020, signed an MoU to establish the Addu tourism zone on the five islands of Addu Atoll in the Maldives.

January 2020

- The titular head of Great Britain Queen Elizabeth II approved the British government's Brexit Law on January 23, 2020. The Bill became a Law on January 31.
- India launched 'Operation Vanilla' on January 28 to provide relief and assistance to the cyclone-hit population of Madagascar. Indian Navy Ship (INS) Airavat reached at Madagascar's Port Antsiranana on January 30 with the relief material.
- India slipped 10 places to 51 in the Global Democracy Index 2019 published by the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- China became the biggest weapon producing country after the USA according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) annual report on weapons.
- Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, announced citizens of Israel will not be allowed to visit the nation, despite the Israeli authorities allowed them to do so.
- One Trillion Trees Initiative was launched by the World Economic Forum to grow, restore and conserve 1 trillion trees across the world by 2030.
- Katerina Sakellaropoulou was elected as the first woman president of Greece on January 22, 2020.
- Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Medvedev submitted his resignation to President Vladimir Putin on January 15, 2020.
- The Shanghai Corporation Organization (SCO) included the Statue of Unity, Gujarat in the SCO list of eight wonders.
- Haitham bin Tariq al-Said on January 11, 2020 sworn in as the new Sultan of Oman after the death of long-time ruler Qaboos bin Said Al Said.
- The Government of Iran admitted that it had 'accidentally' and 'unintentionally' shot down a Ukrainian Boeing 737-800 aircraft on January 8.
- Forbes released 20 people to watch for in 2020. Indian names Kanhaiya Kumar, Prashant Kishor, and Mahua Moitra found a place in the Forbes' list of people to watch in the 2020.
- Iran passed a bill designating all forces of the United States as terrorists on January 7, 2020.

State News

December 2020

- The Ministry of Home Affairs recently declared Nagaland as “Disturbed Area” for the next six months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.
- The State government of Gujarat announced the new solar power policy, 2021 on December 29, 2020. As per the policy, any developer or person or industry can set up a solar project in Gujarat. The policy mainly aims to reduce the power cost of industrial units by around 50%.
- The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create the first Social Impact Bond of India. A Social Impact Bond is also called pay-for-success bond or pay-for-success financing. A Social Impact Bond is a contract with public sector authority where it pays for better social outcomes. A Social Impact Bond is also called pay-for-success bond or pay-for-success financing. Assam state government recently proposed a bill to abolish all the state-run Madrasahs and convert them into schools from April 1, 2021. The bill was called Assam Repealing Bill, 2020.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on December 28, 2020, inaugurated Mayiladuthurai, the 38th district of the state. The district was carved out from the Nagapattinam district.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet approved the Freedom of Religion Bill 2020 against the forced conversions. The bill seeks strict punishment for forcible conversions.
- The Greater Vishakhapatnam Municipal Corporation was adjudged as the best performing civic body in India for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - 'Housing for All Scheme'
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) established the Monpa handmade paper making unit in Arunachal Pradesh. It is locally called as Mon Shugu.
- Bihar was awarded as the best state for the digital innovation and initiatives under the COVID-19 pandemic conditions. Bihar took the help of the digital platform to help its stranded residents.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on December 27, 2020 announced that the history of Sikh Gurus will be included in the school curriculum of Uttar Pradesh. The announcement was made during the celebrations of “Sahibzada Diwas”.
- The Jharkhand government approved a loan waiver up to Rs 50,000 for 9.07 lakh farmers. The cabinet has earmarked Rs 2,000 crore for the purpose.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched the first hot air balloon safari of India in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of India in MP.
 - The Assam government approved the bill to make Bodo an official language of the state. The bill was in line with the Bodo Peace Accord signed between Government of India, Assam Government, four Bodo rebel groups and two Bodo organisations.
 - Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa launched the “Bengaluru Mission 2022” to improve the basic infrastructure of the city and minimise the problem faced by the citizens.
 - Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh launched Varasat Campaign in the state to curb property and land-related disputes in the rural areas.

- Rourkela of Odisha has been selected as the second venue for the 2023 edition of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.
- Lakshadweep became the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all the farming in the region is carried out without the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.
- Nitin Gadkari virtually inaugurated the three-lane 1.5 km long Koliwar Bridge over the Sone River in Bihar on December 10, 2020.
- Uttarakhand builds its first eco-bridge for small animals across Kaladhungi—Nainital Highway.

November 2020

- The Himachal Pradesh government on November 24, 2020, launched 'Him Suraksha Abhiyaan' to sensitise people about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Indian Meteorological Department informed that Cyclone Nivar crossed the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry as a very severe cyclonic storm with a speed of 120-135 kmph and weakened into a severe cyclonic storm with wind speed dropping to 100-110 kmph.
- Uttar Pradesh cabinet under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath passed the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion ordinance on November 24, 2020.
- The Maharashtra state government on November 20, 2020, launched a new rural housing project named 'Maha Awas Yojana'. Under this, state government plans on building 8.82 lakh rural houses in a period of 100 days.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone of rural drinking water projects in Sonbhadra and Mirzapur districts in Vindhyaachal, Uttar Pradesh. The event took place on November 22, 2020.
- Jharkhand on November 11, 2020, in a special one-day assembly session passed a resolution on Sarna Code. Jharkhand assembly resolution seeks the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 Census.
- The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won majority in Bihar Assembly Elections 2020. Tejashwi Yadav-led Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) emerged as the single-largest party in the state with 75 seats, followed by BJP with 74 seats.
- The state government of Haryana passed a bill to provide 75 percent reservation to local candidates in the private-sector jobs in the state that pay less than Rs 50000 per month. The bill was passed on on November 5, 2020.
- Delhi government launched the Jeevan Seva App for the safe and timely transportation of Corona patients to the healthcare facilities and hospitals. The Health Minister of Delhi, Satyendar Jain on November 12, 2020, launched the Jeevan Seva App.
- Sarbananda Sonowal, the Chief Minister of Assam along with Ambassador of Israel to India, Ron Malka laid the foundation stone of the Indo-Israel Centre of Excellence for Vegetables Protected Cultivation at Khetri, Assam on November 2, 2020.

October 2020

- Karnataka state government banned government servants from acting in films and television programmes. It further added that the government servants must not accept any free service/services from individuals or companies.

- Chief Minister of National Capital Territory (NCT) Arvind Kejriwal on October 29, 2020, launched the Green Delhi mobile application. The app can be used by citizens to bring pollution causing activities to the government's notice.
- Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha, launched two web portals - Sumangal Portal and Integrated Odisha State Scholarship Portal on October 28, 2020. The objective of the Sumangal Portal was to help inter-caste married couples to avail incentives within 60 days of application.
- The Government of Uttar Pradesh has secured the first rank by disbursing the highest number of loans under PM-SVANidhi Scheme in the whole country. It is one of the most ambitious schemes of Government of India which is aimed at benefitting street vendors in rural, urban, and pre-urban areas.
- On October 24, 2020, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, virtually launched three key projects in the state of Gujarat. The newly launched projects include 'Kisan Suryodaya Yojana' which was recently announced by Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani. Under the scheme, farmers will be able to avail of power supply from 5 am to 9 pm.
- Haryana ranked at the top in the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index among the 29 states in India. The news was shared during the State Health Society of the National Health Mission's 8th Governing Body Meeting in Chandigarh.
- On October 20, 2020, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, laid the foundation stone for India's first-ever multi-modal logistic park in Assam.
- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Mission Shakti' programme on October 17, 2020 to ensure safety of women in the most populous state of India.
- The state government of Gujarat declared to set up world's biggest zinc smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district of Gujarat.
- Delhi Government decided to exempt road tax on the battery-operated vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy.
- As per the official statement of Jal Shakti Ministry, Goa became the first state in India to provide 100 per cent tap water connections in the rural areas covering 2.30 lakh households. The announcement was made on October 9, 2020, by the Ministry.
- The state government of Delhi on October 7, 2020, informed that Delhi's restaurants will now be allowed to open round the clock and the requirement of tourism licenses will also be removed. The move will provide major relief to the city restaurants amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The state government of Gujarat launched Phase-1 of the 'Digital Seva Setu' programme for the rural areas on October 8, 2020. Under the initiative, around 3,500 village panchayats in the state were connected by 100 Mbps optical fibre network, it will further facilitate the online availability of public services.
- The state government of Chhattisgarh decided to legally challenge the Centre's farm reform laws in Supreme Court of India on the grounds that they infringed on the state subject as given in the state list of Seventh Schedule. The Chhattisgarh will become the first state to take the matter to the court.

September 2020

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated a series of development projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission through video conference on September 29, 2020.
- The southern Indian state Kerala won the United Nations award for its excellent contribution towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals. The state was awarded on September 24.
- The Madhya Pradesh government launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana' on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. As per the media reports, approximately 80 lakh farmers will be benefitted from the scheme.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated various highway projects and optical fibre projects in Bihar on September 21.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated Kosi Rail Mahasetu on September 18, 2020. The mega bridge line project in Bihar was sanctioned by the government of India in 2003-2004.
- The Uttar Pradesh state government is contemplating the idea of constituting a special force to protect courts, airports, administrative buildings, metros, banks and other government offices. This force can be said to be akin to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Moreover, the force will have the power of making search and arrest without warrant. The official statement came from the state government on September 18.
- Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi Palaniswamy launched the new Electronic Hardware and Manufacturing Policy-2020 on September 7, 2020. The policy aimed at increasing the state's electronics industry output to USD 100 billion by 2025 and it is aligned with the national dream of becoming a USD 10-trillion economy as soon as possible.
- The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir set up a Biodiversity Council to maintain a Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) with the help of representatives from local governance bodies. The decision was taken by the lieutenant governor of the newly created Union Territory on September 2.
- Assam Assembly passed a bill to protect Heritage Sites of the state. The Assam Heritage (Tangible) Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Maintenance Bill, 2020, was passed by the state assembly for the execution of the instruments required to do so.

August 2020

- Arunachal State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to include the state in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India on August 27, 2020.
- Gujarat has bagged the top position in the Niti Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2020. Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index 2020 on August 26, 2020.
- Uttar Pradesh government has imposed a complete ban on organising any religious or cultural meetings within the state boundaries till September 30, 2020.
- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and Delhi government together conducted the second serological survey in the national capital between August 1-7, 2020. The second

Sero Survey results showed that 29.1% of Delhi's population was infected by the COVID-19 virus and in response to that they developed antibodies against the novel Coronavirus.

- Sikkim became the first state in the world to become fully organic in terms of agriculture production. In 2015, Government of India launched two schemes to increase the production under organic farming. The schemes are
 - Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD)
 - Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched the 'Indira Raso Yojana' on August 20, 2020. The scheme aims to provide quality nutritious food to poor people at the expense of Rs 8.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to distribute ration at minimum price to the non-ration holders in the state from September 1 amid the pandemic. Chief Minister of the state, Shivraj Singh Chauhan informed the media regarding this decision on August 19.
- Uttar Pradesh government released new Electronic Manufacturing Policy 2020 for the next five years. The new Policy envisages the investment of Rs. 40,000 crores in the sector in the next five years. It also estimated that it will generate four lakh direct employment in the state.

July 2020

- The Jharkhand government pronounced two-year jail term and up to Rs 1 lakh fine for not wearing a face mask in public and violating the COVID-19 protocols issued by the government. The decision came in the cabinet meeting held on July 24.
- Navy commissioned a 3MW solar power plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala on July 22, 2020. This is in line with Government of India's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.
- Chief Minister of Delhi launched Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana on July 21, 2020.
- Minister of Food Processing Industry Harsimrat Kaur Badal on July 20, virtually inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Mizoram. The name of the food park is Zoram Food Park. Zoram Food Park has been established under Mega Food Park Scheme of Government of India.
- Bhanu Jayanti is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bhanubhakt Acharya. He was the first writer who translated the Ramayana. Bhanubhakta Acharya was born on July 13, 1813 in Nepal's Tanahu district.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister on July 12 told in a video conferencing event that MP has topped among all states to implement the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) yojana.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Asia's largest solar power plant of 750 MW in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh on July 10, 2020.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur informed that Himachal Pradesh became the first state in India to have LPG connection in all its households. A 100% LPG coverage was claimed by Thakur.
- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on July 8, 2020 approved the Startup Policy 2020 for the state. The policy is aimed to build up the much-required infrastructure which can felicitate the startups in the state. The policy objective is to establish 100 incubators in the state. The startup policy will be applicable for a period of five years. On May 20, the UP government also launched a startup fund in the state.

- The Haryana government passed an ordinance on July 6, 2020, reserving 75% of the state employment for the local youth.

June 2020

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated **Project Platina**, world's largest plasma therapy trial-cum-treatment facility for COVID-19 patients on June 29.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced that a Serological Survey will be conducted across the National Capital Delhi between June 27 and July 10, 2020.
- Uttar Pradesh Government decided to form Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force (UPSSF), dedicated security force on the lines of CISF, to ensure the security of courts, metro rail, airports, industrial establishments, banks and other organisations in the state.
- The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel launched 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' on June 25, 2020. The scheme aims to make animal husbandry commercially profitable.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Yojana on June 26.
- Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja was invited by the UN for a panel discussion on World Public Service Day, which was held on June 23, 2020. She represented India during the discussion.
- The state government of Jharkhand will launch Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamga), MNREGA like scheme for the livelihood security for the urban poor.
- The state government of Kerala decided on June 11 to cancel this year's Sabarimala annual festival and has indefinitely postponed the opening of the hill shrine due to COVID-19.
- The decision was taken after the state government held a closed-door meeting with Sabarimala Tantri Kandararu Mahesh Mohanaru and Travancore Devaswom Board officials in Thiruvananthapuram. The temple was earlier scheduled to be open from June 14 for the monthly pujas.
- Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra have topped Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) index on June 7.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Online waste exchange platform' of Andhra Pradesh Environment Management Corporation (APEMC) on June 5.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 5 announced financial assistance of Rs 100 crore for Raigad district which was most affected by the Cyclone Nisarga.
- Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal virtually launched 'Delhi Corona' mobile application on June 2, 2020, to help track hospital beds and ventilators for COVID-19 patients.
- Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan has announced that Kerala Fibre Optic Network Project (K-FON) project that will provide free internet access to the poor will roll out by December 2020.

May 2020

- The people of Odisha sang 'Bande Utkala Janani' to honour the corona warriors on May 30.
- The state government of Mizoram became the first Indian state to accord industry status to sport.

- The state government of Karnataka on May 27, 2020 announced that it will be launching a new project to maintain a 'State Health Register' comprising the database of all its citizens.
- Uttar Pradesh Government on May 24, 2020 announced that it will set up a Migration Commission for the welfare of migrants.
- Manipur government's initiative 'Khudol' was appreciated by the United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.
- Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel launched Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana of Rs 5,700 crore on May 21. The date marked the 29th death anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Integrated Risk Insurance, an IRDA-licensed insurance intermediary, launched 'Mee Annapurna' an inclusive programme for the welfare of farmers and Bhoomiputras in Maharashtra.
- Swiss firm Zurich Airport International AG got clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the construction of Jewar airport in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Government of Gujarat launched Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojna (AGSY) on May 14, 2020, to provide guarantee-free loan of Rs 1 lakh from banks at 2 per cent annual interest.
- Telangana became the first state to regulate the cultivation of crops by telling farmers what to grow as a part of its pilot project.
- Madhya Pradesh government launched 'FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana' in Bhopal on May 11. MP has become the first state in the country to launch such an innovative scheme.
- Uttar Pradesh on May 8 launched the 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' app for the migrant workers of the state who have been returning from other states amid the lockdown.
- The state government of Jharkhand on May 8, 2020, banned manufacturing, storage, distribution or sale of Pan Masala containing Magnesium Carbonate in the state for a period of one year.
- The Uttar Pradesh government suspended most of its labour laws for 1,000 days to attract investment and help both existing and new industrial units.
- To counter the labour shortage due to the reverse migration, the state government of Maharashtra allowed 12-hour shifts in the factories till June 30.
- The state government of Karnataka on May 6, 2020, announced Rs 1,610-crore relief package for all those in distress labour class of the state.

April 2020

- The state government of Nagaland became the first state government to impose a COVID-19 cess on diesel and petrol on April 28, 2020.
- The Kerala government decided to issue an ordinance to cut the salaries of its employees to mobilise funds for the state to tackle the COVID-19 crisis.
- Uttar Pradesh got the approval to start the pool testing of the COVID-19 swab samples and became the first state to do so.
- IMF released the advance estimates for the next year and stated that the world will slip into an economic recession in 2021.
- Delhi government on April 9, 2020, launched 'Operation Shield' in the 21 hotspot areas to combat and control the spread of COVID-19 virus.



- Uttar Pradesh decided to completely seal 15 districts of the state from April 8.
- Andhra Pradesh government started a doorstep pension delivery service for its residents from April 1.

March 2020

- State government of Jharkhand launched the Pragyam app to issue e-passes to those working in essential services during the lockdown. Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched this app on March 30, 2020.
- Uttar Pradesh Government banned the manufacture and sale of pan masala in the state on March 26, 2020 to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.
- Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh once again took oath as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on March 23, 2020.
- The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh resigned from the post on March 20, 2020.
- Delhi government launched a Chief Minister's Advocate Welfare Scheme on March 21.
- The state government of Manipur launched two new schemes - CMAST and CMAT schemes to provide benefits to the sportspersons and artistes in the state who have brought laurels to the nation.
- Himachal Pradesh signed a USD 80-million loan agreement with the World Bank and Government of India to improve water management and agricultural productivity in some selected Gram Panchayats (Village Councils) in Himachal Pradesh.
- The district of Gairsain will serve as the summer capital of Uttarakhand. Dehradun will remain as the capital of the hilly state in winters.

February 2020

- Largest state of North-East, Arunachal Pradesh celebrated its 34th Statehood Day on February 20, 2020. Arunachal Pradesh got a statehood status on February 20, 1987.
- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first intercity electric bus service between Mumbai and Pune on February 14, 2020.
- Haryana government revised the prize money for the Olympic medal holders. The state government will give Rs 6 crore to players for Olympic Gold, Rs 3 crore for Silver medal and Rs 1.5 crore for Bronze medal.
- Arvind Kejriwal took oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi for the third consecutive term on February 16, 2020.
- The Uttar Pradesh state government approved the Ground Water Act-2020 on February 11 to improve the falling groundwater level. It made registration mandatory for installing submersible pumps in the state.
- The state capital of Rajasthan, Pink City Jaipur received the UNESCO 'World Heritage City' certificate on February 5, 2020.
- The state government of Karnataka on February 4 launched a doorstep delivery scheme - Janasevaka scheme.

January 2020

- The state legislature of West Bengal became the fourth state to pass anti-CAA resolution on January 27, 2020.
- The state government of Maharashtra launched 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme on January 26, 2020. The scheme aims to provide a meal to the poor at Rs 10.
- Andhra Pradesh legislative assembly on January 27 passed a resolution to abolish the state legislative council.
- The Andhra Pradesh became the first state in the country to have three capitals. The state government passed a bill to this effect.
- Andhra Pradesh government launched the flagship scheme 'Amma Vodi' to support lakhs of mothers and guardians below the poverty line to educate their children.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on January 6, 2020, proposed to establish its first Human Space Flight Infrastructure Centre (HSFIC) in Challakere, Chitradurga district of Karnataka.
- The state government of Maharashtra launched a 'cyber safe women' campaign across the state on January 3, on the birth anniversary of Indian social reformer, Savitribai Phule.

Person in News

December 2020

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan was nominated as a member of GAVI board. GAVI is the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation.
- Italian-born naturalised-French fashion designer Pierre Cardin died at the age of 98 on December 29, 2020.
- At the age of 21, Arya Rajendran became the youngest Mayor in India. She sworn in as the Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation.
- Zhang Zhan, the citizen journalist who documented early days of COVID-19 outbreak, was sentenced four-year prison by a Chinese court on December 28. Zhang Zhan travelled from her home in Shanghai to Wuhan to cover the pandemic.
- Cristiano Ronaldo recently won the “Player of the Century” award at the Globe Soccer Awards. Bayern Munich won the Club of the Year award.
- Virat Kohli bagged the two topmost ICC awards 2020. He received the prestigious Cricketer of the Decade and Sir Garfield Sobers trophy for the best cricketer in Male category. He was also named the captain of the ICC Test Team of the decade.
- Sunil Kotahri, Dance Scholar and critic, passed away in New Delhi on December 27, 2020. He was 87 years old. He received Padma Shri in 2001 and Sangeet Akademi Award in 1995.
- Cricket Legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named the captain of ICC ODI and T20 International teams of the decade.
- The former English cricketer Robin Jackman died at the age of 75 on December 25, 2020 in South Africa.
- Banuk Karima Baloch was found dead in Toronto, Canada, on December 22, 2020. She was a Baloch Human Rights activist campaigned for independence of Baluchistan from Pakistan. She appeared in the BBC list of hundred inspirational and influential women for 2016.
- Former England opening batsman John Edrich passed away at the age of 83.
- Sugathakumari, Malayalam poet and women activist, died of COVID-19 on December 24, 2020.
- A prominent Congress leader Moti Lal Vohra passed away on December 21. He served as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in 85-88. He has also served as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh.
- Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati, was elected as the Vice-president of the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union on December 16, 2020.
- Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Amir announced his retirement from international Cricket.
- Hind Kesari Wrestler Shripati Khanchanale passed away at the age of 86 on December 16, 2020.
- Roddam Narasimha, eminent aerospace scientist, passed away on December 14, 2020, in Bengaluru. He was 87.
- Ashraf Patel bagged Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2020. He was awarded by Union Minister Smriti Irani.
- Brazilian Mathematician Carolina Araujo became the first non-Indian to win Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians.

- Prime Minister of Eswatini Ambrose Dlamini passed away in South Africa on December 13, 2020 after being hospitalised in South Africa.
- Person of Indian Origin Anil Soni, global health expert, was appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched WHO Foundation. Soni will assume his new role from January 1, 2021.
- Time Magazine named President elect Joe Biden and Vice President elect Kamala Harris as the Time Person of the Year 2020.
- NASA selected the Indian-American, Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari for its Artemis Moon-landing programme.
- Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid reappointed as Prime Minister of Kuwait by the nation's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah on December 8, 2020, following parliamentary polls in the Gulf Arab state.
- Italian Footballer Paolo Rossi, who was the top scorer for Italy during the 1982 World Cup passed away at the age of 64 years on December 10, 2020.
- Noted Hindi poet Manglesh Dabral passes away at 72 on December 9, 2020, because of the COVID-19 infection.
- Indian journalist and author Raj Kamal Jha won the 2020 Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for his novel 'The City and The Sea'.
- Narinder Singh Kapany passed away on December 4, 2020, at the age of 94. Kapany was called the 'father of fibre optics' and had more than 100 patents in his name.
- Jehan Daruvala became the first-ever Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix in Bahrain on December 6, 2020.
- Uday Shankar, President of Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific and Chairman of Star India and Walt Disney Company India, was named as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for the year 2020-21. He will be succeeding incumbent President Sangita Reddy.
- Iconic figure of MDH Masala Mahashay Dharampal Gulati passed away on December 3, 2020. The king of spices was 98 years old at the time of his death.

November 2020

- Faqir Chand Kohli, father of Indian IT Industry, passed away on November 26, 2020, due to a heart attack at his residence. He was 96.
- Former Argentina Captain and football legend, Diego Maradona, passed away on November 25, 2020, due to a heart attack. He was 60-years old.
- Former Congress MP of Rajya Sabha from Gujarat Ahmed Patel passed away on November 25.
- Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi passed away on November 23, 2020. He was 86. He had tested COVID-19 positive in August.
- Person of India Origin Mala Adiga, on November 20, was appointed as the policy director of Jill Biden who will be the first lady of the US when Joe Biden takes the office of the US President.
- Girish Chandra Murmu, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, was elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Geneva for a three-year term.
- Chief of Jamat-ud-Dawah (JuD) to Hafiz Saeed was sentenced ten years of jail by the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Pakistan on November 19, 2020. He is the mastermind behind the 26/11 Mumbai Terror Attack.

- Reserve Bank of India on November 17, 2020, appointed Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, the co-founder and former co-chairman of Infosys, as the first Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH).
- Legendary Bengali film actor Soumitra Chatterjee passed away because of the complications developed after the COVID-19 infection. Soumitra Chatterjee was the star of Bengali cinema and winner of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.
- Bahrain's longest serving Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa passed away on November 11, 2020. He was 84 years of age. He was also the longest-serving Prime Minister in the whole world.
- Priyanka Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever minister of Indian origin. She was included in the cabinet on November 2 when the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern expanded the top most cabinet. Priyanka is a native of Paravur, Ernakulam, Kerala.
- Padma Bhushan awardee TN Krishnan passed away in Chennai at the age of 92 on November 2, 2020.
- Ruskin Bond presented with TATA Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020 on November 21. Ruskin Bond is a well-known writer and in India profoundly loved for his work Jungle Book.
- Kash Patel, an Indian-American has been named Chief of Staff to the acting US Defence Secretary by Pentagon administration. He was named for the position by Acting US Defence Secretary, Chris Miller.
- Mainpur's Gyanendra Ningombam was elected unopposed as the President of Hockey India. He was the first person from the North East India to head the executive body of Hockey in India.
- Joe Biden, the President-elect of United States, announced that he will be setting up a 12-member task force for COVID-19 under Physician Vivek Murthy who was also earlier appointed as the Surgeon General in the regime of Barack Obama.

October 2020

- First James Bond, Scottish actor Sean Connery passed away at the age of 90 on October 31, 2020. Sean Connery portrayed the fictional character of James Bond for the first time in world cinema starting with Dr. No. He worked as James Bond in seven films from 1962 to 1983.
- Keshubhai Patel, former chief minister of Gujarat passed away on October 29, 2020. He was 92.
- Bhanu Athaiya, costume designer who won the India's first Oscar in 1983 for Gandhi, passed away on October 15, 2020. She was 91.
- First woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Chief of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti was released from preventive detention on October 13, 2020.
- Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) Chief Ram Vilas Paswan passed away on October 8, 2020, after a prolonged illness. He was 74.
- Harivansh Narayan Singh was re-elected as the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha on September 14. He was the candidate of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

September 2020

- The Emir of the Gulf country Kuwait Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad-al Sabah passed away at age 91 on September 29, 2020.

- The Cabinet Committee of Appointment headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer PD Vaghela as the new Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on September 29, 2020.
- Former Union Cabinet Minister Jaswant Singh passed away due to cardiac arrest on September 27, 2020.
- Famous multi-lingual singer, SP Balasubrahmanyam passed away on September 25 in Chennai. The news was confirmed by his son SP Charan.
- Former Australian batsman Dean Jones passed away on September 24, 2020, in Mumbai due to cardiac arrest. He was 59.
- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh of Varanasi was selected to fly the fighter jet Rafael. In the process, she became the first female fighter pilot in India who will fly the fighter jet. Rafael was formally inducted in the Indian Air Force on September 10, 2020.
- Union Minister of State for Railways Suresh Angadi passed away due to COVID-19 on September 23, 2020. He was the first Union Minister to die because of Coronavirus.
- First time in the history of Indian Defence, two women officers will be airborne combatants who would be operating from warships. The two women officers - Sub Lieutenant (SLT) Kumudini Tyagi and SLT Riti Singh would join as "Observers" (Airborne Tacticians) in the helicopter stream of the Indian Navy.
- Udit Singhal named in the United Nations List of 2020 Class of Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals. He has been named to the 2020 Class of 17 Young Leaders for SDGs. Udit is an 18-year-old Indian boy from Delhi.
- Takeo Konishi was appointed as the Country Director of India by Asian Development Bank Board on September 14, 2020.
- President of the United States Donald Trump was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 because of his efforts for brokering the Israel-UAE Peace Deal.

August 2020

- Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee passed away on August 31 because of Corona. The Bharat Ratna recipient was being treated at the Army Research Hospital in Delhi.
- Black Panther star Chadwick Boseman passed away on August 28, 2020, after a four-year-long battle with colon cancer. He was 43 years old. His demise was confirmed by his team through a statement shared on Twitter.
- Jeff Bezos, Chief Executive Officer of Amazon Incorporation, became the first person on Earth to have a net worth of USD 200 billion. The price of the Amazon share surged on August 28 making him to achieve this landmark in the history of mankind. During the Coronavirus pandemic, people are trusting Amazon more than ever which increased its share prices.
- TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer has resigned from the post on August 27, 2020. He just completed three months on the influential post of CEO. He announced his resignation in an email to his employees. In the mail, Mayer said that "It is with a heavy heart that I wanted to let you all know that I have decided to leave the company".
- Satya Pal Malik was appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya, replacing Tathagata Roy on August 18, 2020. Tathagata Roy completed his five-year tenure on the constitutional post.

- Classical Musical legend, Padma Vibhushan awardee Pandit Jasraj passed away in New Jersey, the United States on August 17, 2020. Pandit Jasraj belong to the Mewati Gharana. His musical career spanned for more than eight decades. His daughter Durga Jasraj informed media about his demise.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni announced his retirement from international Cricket with immediate effect. Dhoni made this announcement on his official Instagram account on August 15, 2020. He is the only captain of Indian Cricket team having two ICC World Cup (in two formats) under his belt.
- Suresh Raina, the Indian all-rounder announced his retirement soon after Dhoni made his retirement decision public. Raina retired along with Dhoni on August 15, 2020. Both took to social media to convey their decision.
- Former Cricketer and politician and minister of Uttar Pradesh Chetan Chauhan passed away on August 16, 2020, due to the COVID-19 infection. He was 73 and was admitted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram.

July 2020

- Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon passed away on July 21, 2020 at the age of 85.
- Neela Satyanarayan, 1972 batch IAS officer and the first woman election commissioner of Maharashtra, passed away due to Coronavirus. She wrote over 150 songs for the Marathi movies and composed music for several movies.
- Injeti Srinivas, 1983-batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, was appointed as a Chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- American hip-hop artist, rapper and producer Kanye West announced on July 4, 2020 that he will be contesting the elections for the US President.
- Indra Mani Pandey, a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Services Officer, has been appointed as India's next Permanent Representative to United Nations.
- K.K. Venugopal, the Attorney General of India, got an extension for one year. He was first appointed in July 2017 after Mukul Rohatgi who resigned from the constitutional office. He was reappointed by the President of India. Attorney General is the top law officer of India. Tushar Mehta, the Solicitor General of India, has three more years.
- The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi condoled the passing away of Padma Shri Ren Sonam Tshering Lepcha. The folk musician passed away at Kalimpong on July 30, 2020.
- Asian Development Bank Board on July 15 appointed the 1980 Batch retired IAS officer Ashok Lavasa as the Vice President of ADB. He is currently serving as the Election Commissioner of India. Lavasa will succeed vice president Diwakar Gupta.
- Congress removed Sachin Pilot from the post of Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan on July 14, 2020. Congress also removed Sachin Pilot from the position of state party chief.

June 2020

- President of India Ram Nath Kovind re-appointed KK Venugopal as the Attorney General of India for the period of one year from July 1, 2020. Venugopal is in the office since July 2017.
- Kashmiri separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani quits Hurriyat Conference.



- Kathy Lueders became the first female head of the human space flight program in NASA.
- Chiranjeevi Sarja, Kannad actor passed away on June 7 in Jayanagar, Bengaluru. He was 39.
- Legendary Filmmaker Basu Chatterjee passed away on June 4, 2020 due to age-related health issues. He was 93.

May 2020

- Former deputy economy minister of Brazil, Marcos Troyjo was elected as the new president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- Famous Indian Astrologer Bejan Daruwala passed away on May 29, 2020, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He was 88.
- Former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Ajit Jogi passed away on May 29, 2020. He was 74.
- Indian Army Major Suman Gawani was selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate Award (2019) for her services in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
- Wipro appointed Thierry Delaporte as a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of the company on May 29.
- J.K Rowling released the first five chapters of her new book 'The Ickabog' online for free.
- Indian-American physician and Pulitzer Prize winner Siddhartha Mukherjee was appointed as a member of New York's commission that will focus on jumpstarting the state's economy.
- Three-time Olympic-medal winner, Hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr. passed away on May 25.
- Indian economist Abhas Jha was appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia region.
- Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal of Delhi High Court Sehgal took charge as the President of the Delhi State Consumer Redressal Commission (DSCRC).
- US Treasury Department sanctioned Iran's Interior Minister, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, for his alleged role in grave human rights violation against Iranians.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan was elected to the Chair of World Health Organization's Executive Board on May 22.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took oath as a member of the Legislative Council on May 18, 2020.
- Jack Ma resigned from Softbank Group's board of directors, after serving for nearly 13 years.
- Vijay Mallya's application to appeal at the UK Supreme Court against his extradition order to India was rejected by the London High Court on May 14, 2020.

April 2020

- Suresh N Patel was appointed as the new Vigilance Commissioner on April 29.
- Legendary Bollywood actor Rishi Kapoor passed away on April 30 at the age of 67.
- International actor Irrfan Khan passed away on April 29, 2020.
- Theatre actor and director Usha Ganguly passed away on April 23, 2020. She was 75.
- Gene Deitch, Oscar winner who directed the classic cartoon series Tom and Jerry and Popeye, passed away at the age of 95.
- Chhattisgarh's final year engineering student Yogesh Sahu from Mahasamund claimed to have built an internet-controlled robot to attend to patients in place of actual doctors.

- Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey pledged 28 per cent of his wealth that is USD 1 billion to help the relief fund against Coronavirus pandemic.
- Veteran Malayalam music composer MK Arjunan passed away in Palluruthy, Kochi on April 6, 2020. He was 84.
- Co-inventor of the Duckworth-Lewis method, Tony Lewis passed away on April 1 at the age of 78 years.

March 2020

- Sameer Aggarwal was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Walmart India on March 25, 2020. He succeeded Krish Iyer.
- Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi was nominated to Rajya Sabha on March 16, 2020.
- Bimal Julka was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner of India by President Ram Nath Kovind on March 6, 2020.
- Former two time UN secretary-general Perez de Cuellar passed away on March 4, 2020. He was 100. He served as the UN secretary-general from 1981 to 1991.

February 2020

- SN Shrivastava was appointed as the new Commissioner of Delhi Police on February 28, 2020.
- Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, ousted during Arab Spring, passed away in Cairo on February 25, 2020. He was 91.
- Katherine Johnson, American mathematician, passed away on February 24, 2020. She was 101.
- Vietnam's dissident Buddhist monk, Thich Quang Do, passed away at the age of 93 years on February 22, 2020. He was under house arrest since 2003. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize multiple times for his vocal advocacy for democracy.
- Dr Niti Kumar, Senior Scientist of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology Division, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow, has received the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Women's Excellence Award-2020.
- Scientists have named a newly discovered snail species after the environmentalist Greta Thunberg. The name of the species is *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*.
- Mahant Nritya Gopal Das was elected as the Chairman of Ram Mandir Trust while vice-president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Champat Rai elected as the General Secretary of the trust.
- Supreme Court appointed Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran as mediators between the government and Shaheen Bagh protestors.
- Son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, Rishi Sunak was named as the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) of the United Kingdom by PM Boris Johnson on February 13, 2020.
- Former IAS officer of 1988 batch from Nagaland cadre, Rajiv Bansal was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India.
- An alumni of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore SS Vasan, was made the head of the team of researchers to develop a vaccine to fight the Coronavirus.

- Arvind Krishna was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of International Business Machines (IBM).

January 2020

- Senior Indian diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu was appointed as India's ambassador to the USA on January 30.
- Person of Indian origin Gita Sabharwal became UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand. UN confirmed her appointment on January 29, 2020.
- American basketball legend Kobe Bryant was killed along with her daughter in a helicopter crash in the American province of California.
- Chairman of Bajaj Group, Rahul Bajaj, stepped down from the executive role on January 31, 2020.
- Pavan Sukhdev was awarded the Tyler Prize 2020 for Environmental Achievement on January 27, 2020. He received the award jointly alongside conservation biologist Gretchen C Daily.
- Captain of Indian women's hockey team, Rani Rampal became world's first hockey player to win the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' Award.
- Deepika Padukone was awarded with the Crystal Awards by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Arjun Munda has been elected as the new President of the Archery Association of India (AAI). He was elected to the position during elections conducted on January 18, 2020.
- Team India's Captain Virat Kohli was recognised with the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award.
- Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma was honoured as ODI Cricketer of the Year 2019.
- Harish Salve was appointed as the Queen's Counsel (QC) for the courts of England and Wales.
- Kimia Alizadeh, the only female who won an Olympic Bronze medal for Iran during Rio 2016 Olympic Games, announced that she is leaving the country forever. Kimia Alizadeh has won an Olympic bronze medal during Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
- Wipro CEO Abidali Neemuchwala resigned in January 2020. He joined Wipro in April 2015 as COO and Group President.
- Newly appointed India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat took charge on January 1, 2020. The General will now serve as the principal military advisor to the Union Defence Minister.
- Indian weightlifter Sarbjeet Kaur has been banned from the weight lifting for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after being found guilty of a doping violation.

Sports News

December 2020

- India beat Australia by 8 wickets in the Boxing Day test match at Melbourne Cricket Ground.
- Chetan Sharma, Debasish Mohanty and Abey Kuruvilla are to be appointed as the National team selectors. The three were the Indian pacers at different times.
- Government of India approved the inclusion of four indigenous games-Thang-Ta, Gatka, Mallakhanba, and Kalaripayattu in Khelo India Youth Games 2021 which is scheduled to take place in Haryana.
- Doha, the capital of Qatar, was selected to host the 2030 Asian Games while the 2034 edition of the games will be hosted by Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia.
- Russia banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the Olympics or any other international championship for next two years.
- Ankita Raina won her third doubles title by claiming the ITF Doubles Title in Dubai along with Ekaterine Gorgodze on December 12, 2020.
- The ICC released the Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 date, venue and schedule. It will be held from March 4- April 3, 2022 in New Zealand.
- Indian wicket-keeper-batsman Parthiv Patel declared his retirement from all forms of cricket on December 9, 2020.

November 2020

- Greg Barclay, a commercial lawyer by profession, of New Zealand was appointed as a new independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board, on November 19 declared a minimum age policy for the players to enter in international Cricket. As per the new policy, a player must be at least 15 years old to play cricket globally.
- Women's T20 World Cup 2022 was postponed by the world cricket governing body- International Cricket Council (ICC) on November 19, 2020.
- India will host U-17 Women's Football World Cup 2022. The decision was communicated by the Bureau of FIFA Council on November 17, 2020.
- Australian all-rounder Shane Watson retired from all forms of Cricket. He will also not play the franchise cricket such as Indian Premiere League.

October 2020

- French Open is the favourite hunting ground of Rafael Nadal and this year is also not an exception. Nadal beat Novak Djokovic by 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to win his 13th French Open in tennis title.

- Young Indian Chess sensation Nihal Sarin won the World Junior Speed online Chess Championship conducted by Chess.com in Chennai. In the finals, Sarin beat Russia's world junior No. 6 Alexey Sarana 18-7.

September 2020

- The top sport's governing body of India, Sports Authority of India (SAI) had decided to resume the sporting activities for Tokyo Olympics-bound athletes and para-athletes in its National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in a phased manner.
- Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic won a record 36th Masters Title in Italian Open on September 21, 2020, by beating Diego Schwartzman in Rome.
- Austrian Tennis player Dominic Thiem Alexander Zverev from Germany to win the US Open title 2020 on September 13.
- Sumit Nagpal becomes first Indian in seven years to enter the second round of the Grand Slam Singles event (US Open). Sumit Nagpal created history by becoming the first Indian to win a singles' main draw match at a grand slam in the last seven years on September 1.

August 2020

- India and Russia were declared as the joint winners of FIDE (International Chess Federation) Chess Olympiad on August 30, 2020. The Indian Chess players Divya Deshmukh and Nihal Sarin lost connection to their games (Online) in the 2nd round and had to forfeit.
- President of India Ram Nath Kovind virtually announced the National Sports and Adventure Award 2020 on the occasion of the National Sports Day. The National Sports Day is celebrated every year on August 29. It was for the first time that Sports Award ceremony was conducted virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Awards	Winners
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariyappan T. (Para-Athletics), • Rohit Sharma (Cricket), • Vinesh (Wrestling), • Manika Batra (Table Tennis), Rani (Hockey)
Dronacharya Award (Lifetime Category)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purushotham Rai (Athletics), • Dharmendra Tiwary (Archery), • Romesh Pathania (Hockey), • Shiv Singh (Boxing), • Krishna Kumar Hoods (Kabbadi), • Naresh Kumar (Tennis), • Vijay Bhalchandra Munishwar (Para Powerlifting), • Om Prakash Dahiya (Wrestling)
Dronacharya Award (Regular category)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yogesh Malviya (Mallakhamb),

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jude Felix Sebastian (Hockey), • Jaspal Rana (Shooting), • Gaurav Khanna (Para badminton), • Kuldeep Kumar Handoo (Wushu)
Arjuna Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dutee Chand (Athletics), • Atanu Das (Archery), • Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (Badminton), • Vishesh Bhriguvanshi (Basketball), • Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty (Badminton), • Subedar Manish Kaushik (Boxing), • Ishant Sharma (Cricket), • Lovlina Bargohain (Boxing), • Deepti Sharma (Cricket), • Sandesh Jhingan (Football), • Sawant Ajay Anand (Equestrian), • Aditi Ashok (Golf), • Deepika (Hockey), • Akashdeep Singh (Hockey), • Deepak (Kabaddi), • Dattu Baban Bhokanal (Rowing), • Kale Sarika Sudhakar (Kho Kho), • Manu Bhaker (Shooting), • Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting), • Madhurika Suhas Patkar (Table Tennis), • Shiva Keshavan (Winter Sports), • Suyash Narayan Jadhav (Para-Swimming), • Rahul Aware (Wrestling), • Divya Kakaran (Wrestling), • Manish Narwal (Para Shooting), • Sandeep Para (Athletics), • Divij Sharan (Tennis)
Dhyan Chand Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jincy Phillips (Athletics), • Kuldeep Singh Bhullar (Athletics), • Pradeep Shrikrishna Gandhe (Badminton), • N. Usha (Boxing), • Trupti Murgunde (Badminton), • Lakha Singh (Boxing), • Ajit Singh (Hockey), • Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu (Football), • Manpreet Singh (Kabaddi), • Satyaprakash Tiwari (Para Badminton),

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Ranjith Kumar (Para-Athletics), • Manjeet Singh (Rowing), • Nandan B. Pal (Tennis), • Late Shri Sachin Nag (Swimming), • Netrapal Hooda (Wrestling)
Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarfraz Singh, • Anita Devi, • Taka Tamut, • Keval Hiren Kakka, • Narendra Singh, • Satendra Singh (All Land Adventure), • Maggan Bissa (Life Time Achievement), • Gajanand Yadava (Air Adventure)
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy	Panjab University, Chandigarh
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Ltd. For encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility, Lakshya Institute and Army Sports Institute for Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent, International Institute of Sports Management (IISM) for Sports for Development, Air Force Sports Control Board for Employment of Sportspersons and sports welfare measures

- England's James Anderson become first fast bowler in the history of world Cricket to take 600 test wickets. The 38-year-old pacer achieved this feat during England's third test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl cricket ground in Southampton on August 25, 2020.
- Dream 11 won the IPL 2020 tournament sponsorship bid. Dream 11 has made the bid of Rs 222 crore and proved to be ahead of Byju's and Unacademy. Dream 11 is a fantasy cricket gaming platform. BCCI was searching for the IPL title sponsor after the Chinese company VIVO withdrew from the IPL sponsorship this year.

July 2020

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju and Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar announced on July 25 that the fourth edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be hosted by Haryana in 2021.
- Indian Premier League (IPL) 2020 schedule was released by BCCI on July 24, 2020. The IPL 2020 will be organised in the United Arab Emirates from September 19 to November 8.
- ICC on July 20, 2020 officially announced to postpone the T20 World Cup 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world. The T20 was scheduled to be played in Australia from October 18 to November 15, 2020.

- Dom Sibley, the bowler of England, became the first cricketer to violate ICC's 'saliva ban' rule on Day four of England's vs West Indies second test match at Old Trafford in Manchester on July 20.
- FIFA has released the FIFA world Cup 2022 schedule of matches on July 15. This will be the first time that the FIFA world cup is organised in Qatar. Qatar is the first west Asian nation and also the smallest country to host a FIFA World Cup.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed Hemang Amin as the interim CEO of the BCCI on July 15, 2020.
- International Cricket resumed after 116-day break. On July 7, the international test match between England and West Indies was started at Southampton, England. The last International (ODI) match was played between Australia and New Zealand on March 13.
- World Karate Federation (WKF) has provisionally de-recognised the Karate Association of India with immediate effect for infighting and violating the world body's statutes during its elections last year.

June 2020

- Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, launched the National Anti Doping Agency's app on June 30. This app will provide information about the prohibited substances and in creating a bridge between the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and athletes.
- Australia and New Zealand will jointly host the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.
- Sports Ministry will establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence to create a robust sporting ecosystem in the entire country under the Khelo India Scheme.
- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) issued notices to Indian cricketers KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Cheteshwar Pujara for failing to disclose their whereabouts.
- Indian weightlifter K Sanjita Chanu was cleared of doping charge by the International Weightlifting Federation due to "non-conformities" in the handling of her sample.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) approved interim changes in the rules of playing cricket during the Coronavirus pandemic. It include a ban on the use of saliva to shine the ball.

May 2020

- ICC cricket committee on May 18 recommended the ban on the use of saliva to shine balls during matches played amid Coronavirus pandemic.
- Germany's Bundesliga has become the world's first major sports competition to resume its season post nationwide lockdown imposed to contain Coronavirus pandemic.
- The European Football League's remaining matches from the 2019-20 season kick started from May 16, 2020.
- Commonwealth Youth Games 2021 were postponed to 2023 because of the clashing of dates with the Tokyo Olympics 2021.

April 2020

- India lost hosting rights of the 2021 Men's World Boxing Championship to Serbia.

- PV Sindhu was nominated as one of the ambassador for the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) 'I am badminton' awareness campaign.
- Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand was named as the new ambassador for World Wide Fund (WWF) India's Environment Education program.
- Republic of China will host the third edition of Asian Youth Games from November 20 to 28, 2021.
- Wimbledon Tennis Championship 2020 was cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic. The tournament was set to begin from June 29.

March 2020

- First time in 124 years, Olympics Games were postponed. Tokyo Olympics 2020 will now be held from July 23 to August 8 next year.
- Second One Day International between India and South Africa was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, it was decided to play the match without spectators.
- Legendary batsman Wasim Jaffer announced his retirement from all formats of cricket recently.
- Australian women's cricket team won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup for a record fifth time after defeating India on March 8, 2020.
- Indian national Archery team withdrew itself from the upcoming Asia Cup world ranking tournament, scheduled to be held in Thailand's capital Bangkok from March 8-15 amidst coronavirus threat.
- Left arm spinner Sunil Joshi was appointed as the Chief Selector of team India on March 04, 2020.
- The national Hockey team ranked at 4th an all-time highest spot in the FIH rankings.
- Former Indian Hockey player and Olympic Bronze medallist Balbir Singh Kullar passed away on February 28, 2020.

February 2020

- India withdrew itself from the shooting World Cup 2020 scheduled to be held from March 4 in Cyprus, citing the threat of novel COVID-19 virus.
- Russian Tennis player and Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova announced her retirement from tennis on February 26, 2020.
- ICC banned Al Balushi, an Oman player, from all formats of cricket for seven years.
- Sachin Tendulkar won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2000-2020) on February 18, 2020.
- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) banned national javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years.
- Captain of Indian Hockey Team, Manpreet Singh, was named as the Player of the Year 2019 by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- Pullela Gopichand became the first Indian to receive an honourable mention at the IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards 2019 for his excellence and contribution in the field of coaching.

- Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic won the Australian Open 2020 after defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria.
- America's Sofia Kenin defeated Garbine Muguruza to win her first Australian Open 2020.

January 2020

- The World Archery provisionally waived the suspension on India on January 23, 2020. The move comes less than a week after elections were held for India's controversy-ridden Archery Association.
- International Cricket governing body International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the ICC Awards 2019. Ben Stokes was awarded as the ICC Cricketer of the Year 2019 and was conferred with Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy.
- Maharashtra became first in the Khelo India Games 2020 with 78 Gold and 256 medal in total. Haryana stood second with 68 Gold medals and Delhi stood at third place with 39 Gold medals.
- Superfan of the Indian cricket team, Charulata Patel, passed away on January 13, 2020. She was 87.
- Indian Fast Bowler Jasprit Bumrah won the Polly Umrigar Award, the highest award of Indian Cricket, on January 12, 2020.
- Poonam Yadav was given the Best International Cricketer (Female) Award at the same function.
- Irfan Pathan announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on January 4, 2020.

Summit and Conference

December 2020

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted a virtual summit with Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc on December 21, 2020.
- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi addressed the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 on December 12, 2020. In his address, he mentioned that India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets but is to exceed them beyond expectations. He also informed that India has reduced its carbon emission intensity by 21% over 2005 levels.
- Singapore will host World Economic Forum (WEF 2021) Summit. The WEF 2021 will be moved from Davos in Switzerland to Singapore due to COVID-19 concerns.

November 2020

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi addressed the 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State through video-conferencing on November 10, 2020.
- S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, virtually attended the India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave on November 5, 2020. The theme of the conclave was 'An Innovation-Driven Partnership for Growth in New World'.
- The virtual BRICS Summit will be organised on November 17, 2020. This will be the first occasion when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping will come face-to-face since the India-China border standoff in Eastern Ladakh.

October 2020

- Central Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal while addressing the 19th meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) ministers said that the partner countries should explore partnerships that can enhance the trade and investment in the region. The meeting was hosted by India on October 27.
- India and Central Asia Dialogue was held virtually on October 28. During the meeting, the two sides also discussed close cooperation in security and political matters. This was the second occasion of the India-Central Asia Dialogue held under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.

September 2020

- Union Minister of Labour and Employment Santosh Gangwar on September 10, 2020, virtually addressed the G-20 Labour and Employment Ministers. During the virtual conference, the minister called upon all the G-20 ministers to continue to work together for finding solutions to the common problem resulting from COVID-19.
- V Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs, on September 9, attended 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Minister's virtual meeting conducted through video conferencing.

The virtual meeting was attended by the participating countries of the East Asia and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam Phạm Bình Minh.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the India-US 3rd annual leadership summit of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) at 9 pm on September 3, 2020. US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is a non-profit organization that works for the partnership between India and the US. 'US-India Week: Navigating New Challenges' was the theme of the summit.

August 2020

- Commerce and Industry Minister of India Piyush Goyal on August 27, 2020, attended the virtual meeting of ASEAN-India Business Council Meet. The minister said that there is a possibility that the India-ASEAN trade can reach USD 300 billion by improving cross border relations and amending the international business guidelines.
- The industry ministers of BRICS countries attended the virtual meeting on August 24, 2020, to discuss the essential points to boost cooperation in areas of Artificial Intelligence and 5G technology. The BRICS members which includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa adopted a joint statement on cooperation in the new industries such as Artificial Intelligence, 5G, and the industrial internet.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the sixth roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT) on August 20, 2020. The former bureaucrat highlighted how India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) can shape the future of Asia and the world.
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) anti-drug working group meeting held through video conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year Russia chaired the anti-drug working group meeting. The main issue discussed in the meeting was the misuse of Darknet and other advance technologies for the drug trafficking.

July 2020

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the 10th Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRISC) trade ministers' virtual meeting on July 23. In the meeting, he stressed that the BRICS all nations need to enhance transparency in their trade and build trust to prevent losing their role as a pre-eminent trade partner.

June 2020

- Union External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar participated in the virtual RIC (Russia-India-China) foreign ministers meeting on June 23, 2020.
- Narendra Modi attended the Global Vaccine Summit hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) on June 4, 2020 and pledged to donate USD 15 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI).
- The World Economic Forum will be hosting a unique "Twin Summit" in January 2021. The world body made the announcement on June 3, 2020.

May 2020

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan virtually attended the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Minister's meeting on May 20.
- Cyclone Amphan hit Odisha and West Bengal on May 20.
- Piyush Goyal stated that India has so far provided medical supplies to 120 nations to combat COVID-19, out of which 43 countries received it as a grant. The statement was made during the G-20 trade Ministers session on May 14, 2020.
- S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, participated in a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting of foreign ministers on May 13, 2020.
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April 2020

- Eleventh session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue was hosted by Germany on April 28. The event was co-hosted by the United Kingdom. Thirty countries, including India, attended the event virtually.
- Russia conducted the virtual meeting of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs /International Relations on April 28, 2020. The member nations pledged USD 15 billion for the revival of economies after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The G-20 Extraordinary Agriculture Minister's Meeting was virtually conducted on April 21, 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on nutrition, food security and safety.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar chaired The National Conference on Kharif Crops 2020 virtually on April 16.
- India calls for stable oil market with affordable prices in the G20 Energy Ministers Meeting on April 10.
- The United Nations postponed the COP26 summit on Climate Change until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 2020

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal attended the Extraordinary G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial virtual meeting on March 31, 2020. He called for the equitable access to the medicines and easy movement of medical professionals across the borders.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 26, 2020 virtually participated in the 'Extraordinary Virtual G20 Leaders' Summit' on Coronavirus pandemic. Saudi Arabia was holding the chair of the summit. G20 leaders pledged to inject USD 5 trillion into the global economy to reduce the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.
- President of India Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 61st National Lalit Kala Akademi Award to 15 artists on March 4, 2020.

February 2020

- Thirteenth edition of the United Nation's Migratory Bird Species Conservation Conference (CMS-COP-13) was organised in India from February 17 to 22, 2020.

- Eleventh edition of DEFEXPO India (2020) was organised in Lucknow in February. During the expo, first Indian African Defence conclave was also organised. Fifty African nations adopted the Lucknow declaration.

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Places in News

December 2020

- Dzukou Valley in Manipur-Nagaland border caught huge wildfire causing severe damage to the environment.
- Jhalawar town of Rajasthan has imposed a curfew in one-km radius after it was confirmed that fifty crows died of Bird Flu.
- Storm Bella caused torrential rains in France. It made a heavy downpour and the electricity was out for hours.
- Archaeologists in Pompeii, Italian city have a hot food and drinks shop that served as a street food shop in 79 AD. The City was buried in volcanic eruption. The city depicts Greco-Roman life and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Tso Kar Lake in Ladakh was recently added to list of Ramsar convention as the 42nd site from India. India now has the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia.
- The Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii's Big Island recently erupted after an Earthquake that struck the region. The epicentre of the earthquake was located beneath the Kilauea Volcano.
- The two cities of Madhya Pradesh Gwalior and Orchha included in world heritage cities list of UNESCO under its urban landscape city programme.
- As per the new announcement made by Nepal and China, the new height of Mount Everest is 8,848.86 metres.

October 2020

- A massive bomb exploded in Peshwar, Pakistan, on October 27, 2020, killing seven people. The explosion took off in a madarsa in Peshawar's Dir Colony. As per the official sources, in addition to seven people, several children were also injured in the blast.

July 2020

- Vivekananda Yoga University will be the world's first yoga university (outside India). The yoga university will be established in Los Angeles, United States of America (USA).
- The Natanz Nuclear Site in the Isfahan Province, located south of Tehran, caught fire on July 2, 2020.

June 2020

- Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi was attacked by four unidentified terrorists on June 29, 2020.
- A massive fire broke out in the oil well of Baghjan oil fields in Assam's Tinsukia district on June 8, 2020. The oil well is owned by Oil India Limited (OIL).

May 2020

- The north eastern state Manipur experienced an earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale on May 25, 2020.
- Styrene gas leaked from LG polymers plant in Visakhapatnam on May 7, 2020 killing at least seven people.

April 2020

- Ukraine reported a large increase in radiation levels near Chernobyl nuclear site after a forest fire broke out in the restricted zone on April 4, 2020.

March 2020

- Russia's Kuril Islands experience earthquake of the magnitude of 7.5 on March 25, 2020.

February 2020

- Union Cabinet approved building India's 13th major port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra, on the 'Landlord Model'.

January 2020

- Kolkata Port Trust was renamed to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port Trust by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi during the occasion of the Trust's 150th anniversary.

Award and Prizes

- Douglas Stuart of British Origin won the UK's Booker Prize for his debut novel Shuggie Bain.
- Government of India programme 'Invest India' was adjudged the winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development- UNCTAD.
- The Nobel Prize committee decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize 2020 to the World Food Programme (WFP) for its efforts to combat hunger.
- Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson won the Nobel Prize for Economics for the year 2020. The Noble Prize was awarded for their improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats, benefiting sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world. They invented new formats for auctioning off many interrelated objects simultaneously, for broad societal benefit rather than maximal revenue.
- American poet Louise Elisabeth Glück won the prestigious Noble Prize for Literature 2020. She won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature. She was praised for "her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal".
- Roger Penrose, Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel won Nobel Prize 2020 for Physics. The Nobel prize for Physics was awarded to Roger Penrose and jointly to Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel. The official announcement for the award was done on October 6, 2020.
- Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna won Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020. The winners jointly discovered CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors, which is one of gene technology's sharpest tools. Using these scissors, researchers will be able to edit or change the DNA of animals, plants and other microorganisms with extremely high precision.
- BBC Broadcaster David Attenborough was conferred with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2019 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. David Attenborough is a renowned author and natural historian. The former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the Peace Prize in a virtual ceremony.
- Indian Air Force's Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava won the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019 in the air adventure category. Gajanand Yadava is a Parachute Jump Instructor in Indian Air Force. He is also a member of IAF's Skydiving Team Akash Ganga. He has undertaken more than 2,900 jumps till date, stated the Indian Air Force in its post.
- A physician of Indian Origin, Ravi Solanki received UK's Royal Academy of Engineering President's Special Award for Pandemic Services. He was one of the nineteen recipients of the award. The winners were selected for the exceptional achievements in tackling COVID-19 throughout the United Kingdom.
- Swedish Climate Activist Greta Thunberg was awarded the Portuguese rights award on July 21. She was awarded prize money of Euro 1 million under the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity.
- Asia's Nobel Prize-Ramon Magsaysay Awards, was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Veteran Bollywood writer and lyricist Javed Akhtar became the first Indian to receive the Richard Dawkins Award 2020.

- Kim Jong Un was presented a commemorative World War II medal by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- Yasin Dar, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand, the three photojournalists from Jammu & Kashmir, won Pulitzer Prize 2020 in feature photography.
- Government of India conferred Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019 to 15 eminent women on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 2020.
- International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy was presented to Dr NS Dharmashaktu in the individual category and the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category.
- Government of India announced first 'Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman' for several media houses. This award was conferred on January 7, 2020, to 30 media houses.

Books

- Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu virtually released the Telugu version of the book 'Ten Ideologies', named Padi Bhavajalalu. Late Shri Jaipal Reddy had written this book, stating the great asymmetry between agrarianism and industrialism. The book deals with various aspects such as democracy, capitalism, environmentalism and globalisation. Shri Naidu expressed happiness that Shri Reddy gave prominence to nationalism.
- Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu released a book 'Future of Education – Nine Megatrends' virtually through a video conference.
- Amit Shah released the book 'Karmyodha Granth', written on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on January 07, 2020. He named Prime Minister 'Raja Pratham Sewak'.