



May 2020

MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

USAID to Provide Additional \$3 Million to India to Fight COVID-19

- An Aid agency of United States-The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced to provide an additional \$3 million to India, for mitigating the spread of COVID-19.
- The fund will be utilized under Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.

NATIONAL NEWS

'Kisan Sabha App'—CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI)

- CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi has developed Kisan Sabha App with an aim to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management systems.

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- The Kisan Sabha App is a one-stop solution for farmers, transporters, and other entities engaged in the agriculture Industry.

"IDEathon" Titled "The future of River Management"

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga operating (NMCG) under Ministry of Jal Shakti and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) launched "IDEathon" titled "The future of River Management".
- It aimed to create awareness about the ecological importance and economic potential of the rivers to help the cities.

"The Saras Collection" Launched on GeM Portal

- The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched "The Saras Collection" on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- The collection will display daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs).

The Agro MSME Policy

- An Agro MSME policy will be launched to focus on export enhancement and import substitution to replace foreign imports with domestic production.
- It will be also focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, science and technology, research skill and experiences to convert the knowledge into wealth.

'AYURAKSHA'—By All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Delhi Police

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Delhi Police organized AYURAKSHA programme for Delhi Police personal at New Delhi.
- The programme was launched under the Ministry of AYUSH.

Ayush Kavach App- By Uttar Pradesh Government

- Ayush Kavach mobile app is launched by the state government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The app provides health-related tips and information about Ayurveda medicine on novel coronavirus infection.

'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan' Campaign—By NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with Piramal Foundation launched virtually the 'Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan' campaign to ensure the well-being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

INR-USD Futures and Options Contracts—Launched on BSE's India INX and NSE's NSE-IFSC

- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched INR-USD Futures and Options contracts on the two international Exchanges, namely BSE's India INX and NSE's NSE-IFSC, at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gandhinagar through video conference.

Vista Equity to Invest Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platform

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- Private equity firm Vista Equity is set to buy a 2.32% stake in Reliance's Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 crore.
- This investment will make Vista the largest investor in Jio Platforms after Reliance Industries and Facebook.

'PravasiRahatMitra' App—By Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh State Government has launched 'PravasiRahatMitra' App for migrant workers of state who are returning from different parts of the country amidst lockdown.
- The state revenue department in collaboration with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) has developed this app.

ICMR Partners with India Post—To Deliver COVID-19 Testing Kits

- Indian Medical Research Institute has entered into partnership with India Post to carry out the delivery of the COVID-19 testing kits.
- The kits are taken from ICMR 16 regional depots to 200 additional labs which are performing the COVID-19 test process.

Registrar General of India released Birth Rate, Death Rate and IMR Data

- The data states that India's infant mortality rate (IMR) has improved very marginally from 33 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 32 in 2018.
- Kerala has received the best IMR value in single digits at 7. Also, only Kerala state has now achieved the United Nations' sustainable development goal in this regard. Whereas Madhya Pradesh has the worst IMR in the country at 48.

SwasthVayu—By CSIR-NAL

- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore has developed a Non-Invasive Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) Ventilator.
- The BiPAP ventilator has been named as 'SwasthVayu'.

Arogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy—By SBI General Insurance

- SBI General Insurance launched the standard health insurance policy called "Arogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy".
- The policy provides hospitalisation cover anywhere in India with sums insured ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Suraksha Store Initiative— By Consumer Affairs Department

- To launch this initiative the consumer affairs department has partnered with two tech startups Safejobs and Seekify.
- The two startups will help to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level.

CHAMPIONS Portal —By Ministry of MSME

- CHAMPIONS Portal is a technology-based control room-cum-management system.
- The CHAMPION stands for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Self-Reliant India Movement

- **Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Self-Reliant India Movement is an economic package launched by Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.**
- **The package is launched with an aim to support the Indian economy in the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to fight against it.**

Pranavayu Programme—By Bengaluru City Corporation

- **The awareness will be created through advertisements in media about the need to carry out self-examination for early detection of any ailment that could aggravate the situation if contracted with the viral infection.**

Federal Bank Partners with Money Gram

- **Federal Bank has entered into a partnership with money transfer company MoneyGram Payment Systems which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Money Gram International.**
- **Both the finance entities has entered into partnership for direct-to-bank deposit service.**

2nd and 3rd Tranche of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan—By FM Minister

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a special economic package of Rs 20 lakh Crore to drive the nation in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.**
- **Centre allocated Rs.4000 crore for the promotion of herbal cultivation. Under this, 10,00,000 hectares will be covered in the next 2 years.**

GOAL Programme —By MoTA and Facebook

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Facebook launched the GOAL Programme.**
- **The GOAL Programme stands for 'Going Online As Leaders'. The launching of the programme was made by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda at a Webinar in New Delhi.**

4th and 5th Tranche of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan—By FM Minister

- **Fourth and the fifth part of the economic relief package for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.**
- **The decision to bring commercial mining under the coal sector by introducing a revenue-sharing mechanism was introduced in the fourth part of the economic relief package.**

NRAI Partners with DotPe—To Develop Tech Platform

- **National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has signed an agreement with DotPe which is and Fintech startup platform to develop its own tech platform.**
- **The tech platform will be used to support paying online bills, digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining.**

India Gives \$2 million to Support UNRWA

- **India provided support of USD 2 million that is Rs 15 crore to the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) in order to offer support to Palestinian Refugees.**
- **The amount given to UNRWA will be utilised for education and health in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.**

Indian Economy to Contract by 5% for FY21

- Goldman Sachs has predicted that Indian economy to contract by 5% for the financial year 2021. This has been marked as the worst performance by the country ever.
- It has also predicted that India's GDP will contract by 45% in the second quarter from the prior three months compared to the previous forecast which was predicted to be 20%.

'Rail-Bot' --- Developed by South Central Railway

- South Central Railway has developed 'Rail-Bot' or 'R-BOT' which is a robotic device to help in the hospitals in order to manage activities like supplying medicines, medical accessories, to serve food to the patients, thus help in reducing physical contact of doctors and health worker with the positive COVID-19 patients.

Digital Motor Insurance Policy -By Flipkart and Bajaj Allianz

- E-commerce platform Flipkart has entered into a partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer a digital motor insurance policy to the customers of Flipkart.
- This will offer seamless and accessible and flexible insurance to the vehicles of Flipkart consumers.

'SUKOON' COVID-19 Beat the Stress Initiative—By Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir have launched an initiative called 'SUKOON' COVID-19 Beat the Stress.
- It has been launched in coordination with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

'National Test Abhyas' Mobile App--- By HRD Ministry

- The Human Resource Development Ministry has launched a new mobile phone application called 'National Test Abhyas'.
- The mobile application is developed by National Testing Agency.

Charan Paduka campaign -By Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh has launched Charan Paduka campaign for the migrant workers passing through the state.
- In this campaign, the state government has decided to offer shoes and slippers to the migrating workers who are travelling barefoot.

AA+ COVID-19 Testing Solution - Launched by ESDS Software Solution

- ESDS, A software and IT solution form has developed and launched AA+ COVID-19 Testing Solution.
- AA+ COVID-19 Testing Solution is an Artificial Intelligence-based tool which helps to detect the COVID-19 from Chest X-rays.

Karnataka Launched First Accelerator for Cyber Security Start-up

- Karnataka's Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity (CS-CoE) has launched the first accelerator for cybersecurity for start-ups in India.
- 'H.A.C.K.' is an Accelerator for Cyber Security in Karnataka which is comprised of 21 start-ups on board across 10x cohort, 0-1 cohort and virtual cohort.

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'Start-Up Fund' -By Uttar Pradesh and SIDBI

- Uttar Pradesh government has signed a MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch Uttar Pradesh 'Start-Up fund'.
- 'Start-Up fund' has been launched under UP Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017.

'Mee Annapurna'--- By Maharashtra

- IRDA licensed insurance intermediary 'Integrated Risk Insurance' has launched an initiative called 'Mee Annapurna' in Maharashtra.

UNICEF partners Bharti Airtel Africa — Remote Learning and Financial Assistance

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) partnered with Bharti Airtel's Africa Arm to support the school children in the COVID-19 affected areas and provide them access to remote learning and to grant financial support to their families via mobile cash transfer.

Five Initiatives to Conserve the Biodiversity - By GOI

- On the occasion of International day for Biological Diversity, Government of India launched the key initiatives to conserve the biodiversity.

'Buy Now Pay Later'- By Maruti Suzuki and CIBIL

- The scheme has been launched because of the sharp decline in the sale of cars in the lockdown situation caused due to the pandemic COVID-19.
- Under this scheme, customers have the option to avail 60 days surcharge on their EMI.

'Khudol' Initiative of Manipur—Top 10 Global Initiative to Combat COVID 19 by UN

- 'Khudol' (Gift) initiative of Manipur has been marked as the top 10 global initiatives in combating COVID-19 by the United Nations.
- This was listed by Jayathma Wickramanayake of Srilanka, who is UN Secretary- General's Envoy on Youth.

Zaggle Partners with Visa - To Launch Innovative Payment Solutions for SMEs

- Zaggle , a Fintech startup has partnered with payment technology solution Visa to launch innovative payment solutions for SMEs and startups.
- The innovative payment solution will help SMEs and startups to enhance their productivity, efficiency by providing fast finance operation facilities.

Indian Dispute Resolution Center - Inaugurated by A K Sikri

- IDRC is first of its kind Institutional Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center which will provide an offline and e-ADR facility through e-Arbitration, e-Mediation and e-Conciliation software portal.

REC Ltd Partners with TajSATS

- Rural electrification Corporation (REC), has partnered with TajSATS to offer nutritious meals to the medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, who are treating COVID-19 patients.

Chardham Project: 440 meter Long Tunnel in Chamba, Uttarakhand

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- **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has constructed a **440-meter long tunnel** under the Chamba town on Rishikesh- Dharasu road (NH-94) in Uttarakhand.

BANKING

'Vikas Abhaya'—By Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank

- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank(KVGB)** which is a regional rural bank has launched '**Vikas Abhaya**' a loan scheme to provide some relief to **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise(MSME)** borrowers.
- **The loan scheme is launched for those borrowers whose business activities** are disrupted because of the COVID-19 pandemic in Dharwad, Karnataka.

RBI Extends Regulatory Benefits under SLF-MF Scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the regulatory benefits announced under the special liquidity facility for mutual funds (SLF-MF) scheme to all banks, irrespective of whether they avail funding from RBI or deploy their own resources under the scheme.

RBI cancels License of CKP Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the license of **CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, to carry on banking business, with effect from April 30, 2020.**
- The bank is prohibited from the business of 'banking' including acceptance and repayment of deposits.

AIIB grants \$500 million Loan to India to Combat COVID-19

- **An agreement between the Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has been signed for the approval of a loan of \$500 million for the "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project".**
- The loan amount will help India to combat the COVID-19 pandemic situation and strengthen its public health.

Rs 12,767 crore to State Co-op Banks and RRBs—By NABARD

- **NABARD (National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development)** announced that it has disbursed **Rs 12,767 crore in a week at an interest rate of 4.8%** to state co-op and regional rural banks to further on-lending to farmers.
- **The loan is disbursed for a tenor of one year.**

India's GDP Growth to 'Zero' in FY 2021— A forecast by Moody

- **Global rating agency Moody slashed India's GDP growth rate at Zero for the current fiscal 2020-21.**
- The previous estimated slashed by Moody was **2.6%**.

India's Foreign Reserves Raised by USD 1.622 million to USD 481.078 billion

- **Reserve Bank of India has released the data describing that India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.622 million to USD 481.078 billion in the week to May 1, due to a rise in foreign currency assets.**
- However, initially, the reserves had declined by \$113 million to \$479.455 billion.

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State Bank of India Cuts Benchmark Lending Rate by 15 bps

- State Bank of India (SBI) cuts its Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 15 basis points (bps) across all tenors.
- With the newly announced cut, the **MCLR (Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate)** reduced to **7.25%, from 7.40%** with effect from 10 of May.

\$145 Million Loan Agreement Between AIIB, GOI and West Bengal

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a loan agreement of \$145 million with the Government of India and West Bengal state government.
- The loan is approved for the purpose of improving flood management strategies and irrigation services in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA) in West Bengal state.

NABARD Sanctioned Rs 1,500 crores to the Farmers of Punjab

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned an amount of **Rs 1,500 crores to the farmers of Punjab state.**
- The amount will help to ensure the continuous credit flow to the farmers in the lockdown situation of COVID-19.

Rs 20,500 crore to Co-Op Banks and RRBs -By NABARD

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has released Rs 20,500 crore to the co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks for lending process.
- Out of the total Rs 20,500 crore, co-operative bank has received Rs 15,200 crore and RRBs has received Rs 5,300 crore.

Gold Loan Business Vertical - By Canara Bank

- Canara Bank has started a special business vertical dedicated to gold loans.
- The interest rate offered under this campaign is as low as **7.85% per annum.**

Kotak Mahindra to Assist 6 Schemes of Franklin Templeton Asset Management

- Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Pvt. Ltd. has appointed an independent advisor Kotak Mahindra Bank to work together with Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd (the AMC), to assist the Trustees in monetizing portfolios of the 6 schemes that are being wound up & make payouts to the affected investors.

RBI's Latest Monetary Policy Statements

- RBI has decided to **bring down the repo rate by a further 40 basis points that is from 4.4% to 4% reverse repo rate from 3.75% to 3.35% and marginal standing facility (MSF) has been reduced from 4.65% to 4.25%.**

RBI Announced Rs 15,000 crore to EXIM Bank

- Reserve Bank of India has announced a **Rs 15,000 crore line of credit (LoC)** to the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM).
- **The LoC of Rs.15,000 crore for a period of 90 days from the date of availing** with rollover up to a maximum period of one year will be granted to EXIM Bank by RBI.

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Increase in Trade Credit Policy Cover Limit from 85% to 90%-- IRDAI

- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has recommended an increase in protection against finances granted to the policyholders under **Trade Credit Insurance (TCI) from 85% to 90%**.

GOI to Cease 7.75% Saving Bonds

- **7.75% Saving Bonds or Taxable bonds** are to be ceased by the Government of India due to the fact of declining interest rates as RBI has lowered the repo rate (repo rate is 4%).
- **The 7.75% Saving Bonds or Taxable bonds** as commonly known as Reserve Bank of India Bonds or Government of India Bonds.

Indian Economy to Contract @ 5% in FY21

- **S&P Global Ratings**, which is an American credit rating agency has projected that Indian economy to contract @ 5% in FY21.

India's GDP to be 4.2% in 2019-20

- **National Statistical Office has released the data** describing that economic growth for India has slowed to an 11 year low of 4.2% for FY 2019-2020.
- **The GDP was 6.1% in 2018-2019**, whereas for 2019-2020 it is marked to be 4.2% and has been marked as the slowest GDP in the 11 years.

INDEX AND RANKING

Energy Transition Index—Released by WEF

- **This time, India has ranked 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI)**. In the previous year, it was ranked at 76th position.
- **Sweden is followed by Switzerland and Finland in the second and third positions respectively.**

REPORTS

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020--By IDMC

- **Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)** released its **Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020**.
- **As per the report 5 million people were displaced in India in 2019, which is the highest in the world, due to disasters, including cyclones and monsoon floods.**

'Digital in India' Report—By Nielsen and IAMAI

- **The 'Digital in India' report is published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and curated by Nielsen.**
- **As of November 2019, in rural India, there were 227 million active internet users, which is 10% more than urban India's which was about 205 million.**

'World Economic Situation and Prospects' Report—By United Nations

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- United Nations has released 'World Economic Situation and Prospects' Report and has projected that world economy to shrink by 3.2% in 2020 because of COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- The growth rate for India has been projected to 1.2% for FY 2020 and has reported that the growth rate to increase at 5.5% in 2021.

Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perceptive March 2020

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released a report titled Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perceptive March 2020.

World Steel April 2020 Report

- World Steel Association has released its World Steel April 2020 Report describing the record of crude steel output to various countries.
- As per the report, India's crude steel output has reduced by 65.2% to 3.13 million tonnes in April 2020 in comparison with 9.02 million tonnes in April 2019.

SBI Ecowrap Report

- According to SBI Ecowrap Report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 1.2% in the last quarter (Q4) for the financial year 2020.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
TS Tirumurti	Next Ambassador of India to the United Nations
Neeraj Vyas	Interim Managing Director and CEO of PNB Housing Finance
Shikha Sharma	Advisor to Goggle Pay India
Arvind Kumar Sharma	Secretary to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)
Ajay Tirkey	Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)
Giridhar Aramane	Secretary to Ministry of Shipping & Secretary to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
Neeraj Dhawan	Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank
Tarun Bajaj	Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
Ashok Michael Pinto	US representative to World Bank's leading hand International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
Krishnan Ramachandran	MD and CEO of Max Bupa Health Insurance
Lt Gen. Raj Shukla	Charge of ARTRAC (Army Training Command)
D P S Negi	Director-General of Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment
Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament
Mustafa Al Kadhim	New Prime Minister of Iraq
InduShekharChaturvedi	New Secretary for the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

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Narinder Batra	President of International Hockey Federation(IHF)
V Vidyavathi	New Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
Manoj Ahuja	New Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
Vasudha Mishra	Secretary, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to the Department of Personnel and Training of Government of India
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister of Israel
Zubair Iqbal	New Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Neerabh Kumar Prasad	Head the Committee Formed by Andhra Pradesh Government
Rajesh Goel	New Director-General of National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)
Govinda Rajulu Chintala	Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
Shaji K V and P.V.S. Suryakumar	Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
Dilip Oommen	New President of Indian Steel Association (ISA)
Moeketsi Majoro	New Prime Minister of Lesotho
Rajesh Bhushan	Head of the Committee to Develop the Reforms in Drug Regulatory System of India
Carmen Reinhart	New Vice President and Chief Economist for World Bank
Jahnabi Phookan	37th National President of Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation
Abhas Jha	World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia
PK Nair	New Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Niger
Pratibha Parker	New Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Angola
Periasamy Kumaran	India's High Commissioner to Singapore
Marcos Troyjo	Next President of New Development Bank (NDB)
Anil Kishora	Next Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of New Development Bank (NDB)
Aiman Ezzat	New CEO of Capgemini Group
Thierry Delaporte	New CEO and MD of Wipro
Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra	Member of Olympic Channel Commission
Leo Puri	Chairman of JP Morgan for South and South East Asia
Mohit Gupta	Co-founder of Zomato
R Sreerekha	First woman Director General of Police in Kerala
SN Rajeshwari	New Chairman and MD of Oriental Insurance Company (OIC)
Venkataramani Sumantran	Independent Director of Airline Company Indigo

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Award
Prof. Shobhana Narasimhan	American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Vaneeza Rupani	Naming NASA's 1st Mars Helicopter

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Arktika-M	Russia's 1st Satellite to Monitor Arctic Climate
Saurabh Lodha	Young Career Award in Nano Science and Technology for the year 2020
Indian journalist Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand	2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography
Joseph J Landsberg, Richard H Waring, and Nicholas C Coops	Marcus Wallenberg Prize 2020
White Gold Technologies LLP, Mumbai	Startup India Animal Husbandry Grand Challenge Awards
Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore	SKYTRAX Award 2020 in the category of Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia
Changi Airport of Singapore	SKYTRAX Award 2020 in the category of World's Best Airport
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai	Best airport staff in India and Central Asia category
Sania Mirza	Fed Cup Heart Award for Aisa/Ocenaia Zone
Anunta	VMware 2020 Regional Partner of the Year Award for the Services Excellence category

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st May 2020	International Labour Day or Worker's day	--
1 st May 2020	Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day	--
2 nd May 2020	World Tuna Day	--
2 nd May 2020	International Astronomy Day	--
3 rd May 2020	World Press Freedom Day	Theme: "Journalism Without Fear or Favour."
4 th May 2020	International Firefighter's Day	--
5 th May 2020	World Asthma Day	Theme: "Enough Asthma Deaths"
5 th May 2020	International Day of Midwife	Theme: Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilize, unite-our time in NOW!
5 th May 2020	World Hand Hygiene Day	--
7 th May 2020	Vesak Day	--
7 th May 2020	World Athletics Day	--
8 th May 2020	World Red Cross Day	--
8 th May 2020	World Thalassaemia Day	Theme: "The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia: Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients."
9 th May 2020	World Migratory Bird Day	Theme: 'Birds Connect Our World'
11 th May 2020	National Technology Day	--
12 th May 2020	International Nurses Day	Theme: 'Nursing the World to health'
15 th May 2020	International Family Day	--
16 th May 2020	Armed Forces Day	--

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16 th May 2020	International Day of Light	--
16 th May 2020	National Dengue Day	--
17 th May 2020	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Theme: 'Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
17 th May 2020	World Hypertension Day	Theme: 'Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control it, live longer.'
18 th May 2020	International Museum Day	Theme: 'Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion'
20 th May 2020	World Bee Day	Theme: Bee Engaged
20 th May 2020	World Metrology Day	Theme: Measurements for Global Trade
21 st May 2020	World day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	--
21 st May 2020	International Tea Day	--
21 st May 2020	National Anti-Terrorism Day	--
22 nd May 2020	International Day for Biological Diversity	Theme: Our Solutions are in Nature
23 rd May 2020	World Turtle Day	Theme: 'Adopt, Don't Shop'
25 th May 2020	World Thyroid Day	--
25 th May 2020	International Missing Children's Day	--
28 th May 2020	International Day of Action for Women Health	--
28 th May 2020	World Hunger Day	--
29 th May 2020	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Theme: Women in Peacekeeping: A key to Peace
30 th May 2020	Statehood Day of Goa	--
31 st May 2020	World No Tobacco Day or Anti-Tobacco Day	Theme: Protecting Youth from Industry Manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use

MOUS SIGNED

CSIR-IGIB Signs MoU with TATA Sons—To License KNOWHOW for FELUDA

- CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and TATA Sons signed a MoU for licensing of KNOWHOW for FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA) for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19.

PNB Housing Finance signs MoU with IIT Delhi

- PNB Housing Finance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi) to support critical research and development (R&D) of a reusable PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) surgical gowns and masks which will be used at government hospitals.

TRIFED's MoU with Art of Living—To Promote Tribal Enterprises

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- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Art Of Living Foundation (AOL).**
- The MoU is signed to promote the enterprises of Indian tribal artisans in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

India Signs MoU with Russia

- **Coal India has signed MOUs with two Russian entities in the areas of coking coal mining in the Russian Far East and the Arctic Region.**
- The signing of MoUs will enhance the crude oil trade between the two countries.

Coir Board signs MoU with IIT-Madras –To setup CoE to Boost use of Coir Applications

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Coir Board and IIT Madras for setting up a centre of Excellence(CoE) to boost the use of Coir applications (exclusively or in combination with other natural fibres).**

Biodegradable metal implants —By ARCI and SCTIMST

- **International Advanced Research Center for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) in partnership with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has developed new generation Iron and Manganese based alloys for Biodegradable metal implants for use in human beings.**

NTPC signs MoU with ONGC for Renewable Energy Business

- **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed a MoU with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in order to boost the Renewable Energy Business between the two ventures.**
- **Both the organisation will setup offshore wind and other Renewable Energy (RE) Projects in India and overseas.**

Sports Authority Gujrat signs MoU with TCLL— To Train Athletes

- Sports Authority Gujrat has signed MoU with Times Centre for Learning Limited (TCLL) to provide sports training to the aspiring athlete of the state.
- About 2000 aspiring athletes across Gujrat will be trained in terms of personality and skill development and particular sports training will be given to them.

Hydroelectric and Multipurpose Projects in Madhya Pradesh

- **Power Finance Corporation has signed an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Limited (NBPCL) to fund to develop Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose projects in Madhya Pradesh.**

Airtel Payment Bank Partners with MasterCard

- **Airtel Payment Bank has partnered with MasterCard to develop special type of payment solution for Indian farmers and SMEs.**
- **The special type of payment solutions will be contactless payments via NFC (Near Field Communications), Credit facility and other banking services.**

Flipkart to Support Mango Farmers in Karnataka

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- E-commerce giant Flipkart has signed an MoU with Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation Ltd (KSMD&MCL).
- The MoU has been signed to support mango farmers of the state so that they can sell their mangoes via Flipkart's e-commerce online platform.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'Jeevan Amrit Yojana'---By Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh government has launched Jeevan Amrit Yojana, a unique scheme to boost immunity system of citizens of the state in order to fight novel coronavirus.
- The packets of 50 grams to about 1 crore families will be distributed under this yojana.

Free Health Insurance Scheme--By Maharashtra Govt

- Maharashtra Government to grant free health insurance scheme to all citizens.
- By granting free health insurance scheme to all citizens, Maharashtra Govt has become the first state in India to do this.

Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna—By Himachal Pradesh

- The Himachal Pradesh (HP) state government has decided to launch an employment guarantee scheme called "Mukhya Mantri ShahariRojgar Guarantee Yojna" with an aim to improve the economy of the state affected by the Coronavirus.
- The Yojna will provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.

'Nigah Scheme'---By Himachal Pradesh

- The Himachal Pradesh government has launched Nigah Scheme.
- The scheme has been launched to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained.

FIR AapkeDwar Yojana—By Madhya Pradesh

- FIR AapkeDwar Yojana has been launched by the state government of Madhya Pradesh.
- Under this Yojana, person would not be required to visit the police station to lodge an FIR.

'MatirSmristi' Scheme—West Bengal

- The scheme will provide benefit to around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal.
- The barren land will be used for doing horticulture and pisciculture and the work has been initiated in 6,500 acres of land at the micro-level.

Aatma Nirbhar Gujrat Sahay Yojana

- Gujrat Government has launched Aatma Nirbhar Gujrat Sahay Yojana.
- In this scheme, Rs 1 lakh loan amount will be provided at a 2% annual interest rate to around 10 lakh people.

New Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFCs and HFCs

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- Ministry of Finance has decided to launch a new special liquidity scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).
- The scheme will help to improve liquidity position of NBFCs and HFCs.

Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana –Chhattisgarh

- Chhattisgarh government launched Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, which focuses on farmers during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.

PM Vaya Vandana Yojana Pension Scheme—LIC

- Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched PM Vaya Vandana Yojana Pension Scheme (PMVVY) (Modified-2020). It is a social security scheme for senior citizens.
- The plan starts from May 26 for the period of three financial years i.e. up to 31st March 2023.

Rozgar Setu Yojana: Madhya Pradesh

- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has **launched Rozgar Setu Yojana**.
- It has been launched to support and provide employment and employment based skills to **migrant workers who has returned to the state in the COVID-19 situation**.

Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana –Uttarakhand

- Government of Uttarakhand has **launched Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana for the migrants returning to the state during the lockdown situation caused due to novel coronavirus**.
- Under this scheme, money margin will be provided as a grant by the MSME department.



Operation Samudra Setu—By Indian Navy

- Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu.
- The Operation Samudra Setu means Sea Bridge.

"Mission Sagar"-- To Provide Assistance to Indian Ocean Region Nations

- The government of India launched "Mission Sagar" to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- The mission is inspired by PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

DTIS Scheme Approved by Defence Minister

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has recently approved a Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS).
- The scheme is approved with a costing of Rs 400 crores.

'NavRakshak'— By Indian Navy

- Indian Navy has come forward to combat COVID-19 by developing a PPE kit named as 'NavRakshak'.
- 'NavRakshak' PPE kit has two main features mainly optimal protectiveness and optimal breathability.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

'ATULYA' a Microwave Sterilizer--By DRDO and DIAT, Pune

- Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, a deemed university supported by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a microwave steriliser named as 'ATULYA' to disintegrate coronavirus.

YASH Programme—By NCSTC and DST

- National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) launched 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)'.
- YASH is a programme on health and risk communication with a focus on COVID-19.

'Bharatmarket'—By Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)

- Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has decided to launch 'Bharatmarket' which is a national e-commerce marketplace.
- 'Bharatmarket' will be used for all retail traders in collaboration with several technology partners.

A Survey on R&D Statistics and Indicators 2019-20

- A survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20 was conducted by the National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- As per the survey, India ranks 3rd among countries in a scientific publication.

Video-Based KYC—By Ameyo

- Ameyo, an Omnichannel Customer Engagement Technology provider, launched video-based KYC for businesses to eliminate the need for physical KYC following the latest RBI guidelines issued in Jan 2020.

Nanomaterials for Water Pollution Control—Developed by DST INSPIRE

- A team from INSPIRE, under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has developed nanomaterials based supercapacitors to achieve high energy density and power density of supercapacitors.

IIT Kanpur Partners Bharat Dynamics -To Develop Affordable Ventilators

- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has partnered with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment.
- The ventilators will be developed by NOCCA Robotics which is then incubated start-up of IIT-Kanpur.

ICMR Partners with Bharat Biotech— To Develop COVID-19 Vaccine

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and a Hyderabad based leading Vaccine manufacturing company Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) have partnered to develop a fully indigenous vaccine for COVID-19.

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- **The vaccine will be developed using virus strain.** These virus strains are isolated at ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.

Sundaram Ventago—By TVS Group, Sundaram Med, IIT-M

- **The TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation, and IIT-Madras have jointly developed a low-cost, automated respiratory assist device called The Sundaram Ventago.**
- **It is a mobile device that will be used to assist clinicians in the monitoring of respiratory parameters.**

New Process for Synthesis of Quantum Dots (QDs)

- **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune has come up with the development of a new process for the synthesis of quantum efficient and biocompatible quantum dots (QDs).**
- **In the new process, the QDs are rendered as biocompatible by coating with silicone which provides enhanced quantum efficiency and photostability.**

CSIR, Intel India and IIIT-Hyd. Collaborates to Develop COVID-19 Diagnostic Solution

- **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and IIIT-Hyderabad and tech giant Intel India have joined together to develop a diagnostic solution to combat COVID-19.**
- **The role of Intel India will be to understand epidemiology and Artificial Intelligence based risk satisfaction for the patients.**

'iTurmeric Fincloud' Platform—By Intellect Design Arena Ltd. and IBM

- **Intellect Design Arena Ltd. and IBM has launched a cloud-ready, API (Application Programming Interface) first microservices-based platform called as 'iTurmeric Fincloud' Platform.**

Electrochemical Sensing Platform—By IASST, Guwahati

- **Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati has developed a Electrochemical Sensing Platform.**

HIL India to Provide Locust Control Pesticide to Iran

- **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has made an announcement that Hindustan Insecticides Limited India or HIL India is going to produce and supply 25 tons of pesticide to Iran to control locust.**

IIT Madras developed a Magnesium alloys to replace Steel in automotive

- **The researchers in IIT Madras have worked along with the University of North Texas and US Army Research Laboratory for this invention.**

'Lumos' a Decontamination Device—By Kochi's Startup

- **Kochi based startup named as Devaditek Innovations Private Limited has developed a multi-purpose decontamination device called 'Lumos'.**
- **'Lumos' is used to sanitize items from masks to vegetables.** It is based on Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) technology.

'K-FON' - Kerala's Free Internet Project

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- The state government of Kerala has announced a **free internet project called K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network)**.
- The project **aims** to provide free internet access to the economical weak section of the state.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

Virtual Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in a virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 4 May.**
- **The summit will be conducted under the Presidency of Azerbaijan, and will be convened by President IlhamAliyev.**

Bamboo Conclave 2020

- The Bamboo Conclave 2020 was recently held via video conference and was addressed by Dr. Jitendra Singh who is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- The conference was attended by the union ministry of agriculture and stakeholders.

Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference

- **European Union and its partners hosted the Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference.**
- **The conference aimed to raise €7.5 billion in initial funding in global cooperation.**

Tribal Livelihoods and Safety Conference

- **Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda addressed the video conference on 'Tribal livelihoods and safety'.**
- Arjun Munda reviewed the task performing under **Prime Minister's Vandhan Yojana** in the states.

Indo-Bangladesh Virtual Conference—By ASSOCHAM

- **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organized virtual conference between India and Bangladesh.**
- **The conference was addressed by Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister of State Independent Charge(I/C) Jitendra Singh.**

32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting

- **Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting which was conducted through video conference.**
- **The theme of the conference was "Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response."**

2nd G-20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting

- **2nd G-20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting were held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.**
- **The meeting focused on immediate actions that can ease the stress faced by people in combating COVID-19 pandemic situation.**

MSME's E-Conclave 'SIDM MSME Conclave 2020'

- SIDM (Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers), CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and Department of Defence Production jointly organized MSME's E-conclave 'SIDM MSME Conclave 2020'.
- The conclave was attended by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Army Commanders Conference 2020

- In this apex Biannual event, the leadership of Indian Army will be deliberated in terms of various aspects like operational, administrative issues pertaining to logistics and human resources.

22nd Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

- 22nd Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was conducted and was chaired by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities Meeting

- India was represented by Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Finance Secretary, GOI.
- Currently Russia holds the BRICS Presidency and hence the meet was hosted by Federal Tax Service of Russia.

Digital Summit on Exports—By Confederation of Indian Industry

- Confederation of Indian Industry organized Digital Summit on Exports **in partnership with EXIM Bank.**
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways, **Piyush Goyal participated in the summit via video conference.**

