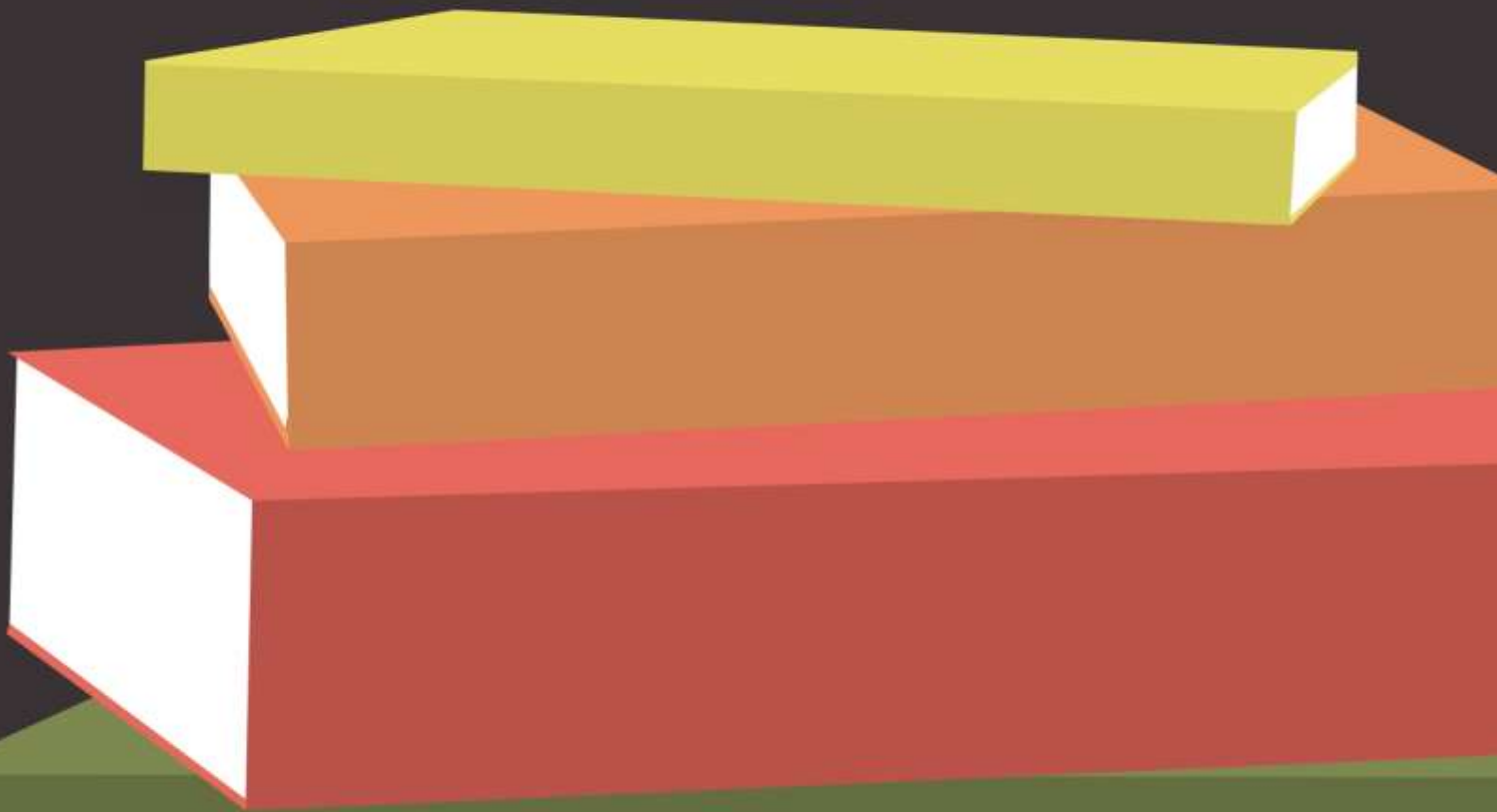


Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest October 2020



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India's 8 beaches get International Blue Flag Certification

- **Denmark based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)** has awarded the recognition of 'Blue Flag' to 8 Indian Beaches.
- GOI has set a target to bring a **total of 100 Indian Beaches under the certificate of 'Blue Flag'** in the next five years.

USAID announced \$5 million to support Indian COVID-19 initiatives

- The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** has announced to awards of \$5 million to Catalyst Management Service's **COVID Action Collaborative (CAC)** and to Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

NATIONAL NEWS

'Digital Suraksha Group Insurance'- Flipkart and Bajaj Allianz

- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance in collaboration with E-commerce platform, Flipkart** has launched a cyber insurance cover for online financial frauds.
- This insurance cover allows customers **to protect themselves from finance frauds like cyber-attacks and other malicious activities.**

CSIR Technologies for Rural Development Launched

- **Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Health and Family Welfare** launched CSIR Technologies for Rural Development.
- The initiative is launched **to allow CSIR technologies to reach rural community of India.**

Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)

- ASIIM is launched under **Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SC).**
- Aim of this mission is **to promote innovation and enterprise among SC students** who are pursuing education in higher educational institutions.

Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme

- The **Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Programme** was launched by Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda.
- The programme is the **joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and ASSOCHAM** (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India).

NABARD launched Refinance Scheme for WASH Programme

- **NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development)** launched **refinance scheme** for the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programme.
- The special refinance facility of **Rs 800 crore for FY 2020-21** has been sanctioned by NABARD for WASH programme.

Operational Integration of Ayush Grid with NDGM

- A **high level committee chaired by Vd. Rajesh Kotech, secretary of Ministry of AYUSH** held a meeting and announced the operational integration of Ayush Grid with National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

Time Use in India 2019 Survey

- A survey titled as 'Time Use Survey' was conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**
- The survey was conducted by **analysing 1.39 lakh households comprising 4.47 lakh people** over the age of 6 years.

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'Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh'—Delhi

- **'Yudh Pradushan Ke Virudh'** is the mega anti-pollution campaign.
- Under this campaign, the government of Delhi will be making **use of technology by Pusa Agriculture Institute to control the threat of stubble burning.**

RGICL partnered with SatSure Analytics

- The **Reliance General Insurance Company Limited (RGICL)** has entered into partnership with SatSure Analytics, which is a Bengaluru based company.
- RGICL in coordination with SatSure Analytics will launch **a crop insurance by investing technology and innovative solutions.**

My Ganga My Dolphin Campaign

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** and Forest Department launched a 'My Ganga My Dolphin' Campaign.
- It is the **first-of-its-kind Dolphin based eco-tourism programme** based campaign.

'Digital Seva Setu Programme'-- Gujarat

- The programme aims **to offer maximum utilization and benefit of technology for public welfare.**
- The programme is initiated by **Centre's BharatNet Project** which covers the village panchayats through a fibre network.

'MSME Prerana'—Indian Bank's Business Mentoring Programme

- **Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman,** launched the programme named as 'MSME Prerana'.
- The programme will help **to develop the businesses in the areas like Business skills, Communications, Human Resources etc.**

'Jan Andolan Campaign' for COVID-19 Appropriate Behavior

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **'Jan Andolan Campaign' for COVID-19 Appropriate Behavior.**
- The campaign aims **to have appropriate behaviour of people regarding the following of safety norms for COVID-19,** especially during the upcoming festive seasons and winter season.

API Integration between PM SVANidhi and SBI's eMudra Portal

- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched an Application Programming Interface (API) integration between PM SVANidhi portal and SBI Banks' eMudra portal.

'Gyan Circle Ventures' inaugurated by Union Education Minister

- **Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** inaugurated 'Gyan Circle Ventures' virtually.

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- Aim of this incubation centre is **to develop entrepreneurship skills in youths and guide them to become innovators.**

Amazon India partners with IRCTC

- Thus due to this partnership, **Amazon Pay adds another travel category** on their online platform.
- Now, users will be able **to check seat and quota availability for all trains on the Amazon app platform.**

Tree Plantation Policy passed by Delhi Gov.

- Government of Delhi has passed Tree Plantation Policy with an aim **to preserve tress and focus on tree plantation.**
- Also, under this policy, **the government will look further in the survival of minimum 80% tress in Delhi.**

Kerala—First state in India to make Public Schools Completely Digital

- Kerala has become the **first state in India to make its public education completely digital.**
- The goal is achieved at a cost of **Rs 42.36 crores. Out of this amount, Rs 34.75 crores were contributed by KIIFB** (Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board).

'Tech for Tribals' Initiative

- The initiative is launched with an aim **to develop entrepreneurship skills, soft skills, Information Technology (IT) skills** and Business Development in the tribal community.
- For this initiative, **TRIFED has joined hands with MSME ministry under the ESDP initiative** (Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme).

Impact Based Cyclone Warning System

- The **India Meteorological Departments (IMD)** has launched the Impact Based Cyclone Based Warning System.
- The system is launched **to reduce economic losses and property damage which is caused due to cyclones** that hit Indian coast every year.

MasterCard partners with Signzy—For Video based KYC

- **MasterCard has entered into partnership with Signzy**, a leading RegTech startup to roll out Signzy's video based KYC (Know Your Customer) Solution.
- Signzy's video based **KYC solution will be based on AI and Machine Learning technologies.**

Cabinet approves World Bank supported STARS Project

- The union cabinet chaired by **PM Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of STARS Project under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**

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- The **total costing of the project is Rs 5718 crores** and the project is the partnership between India and the World Bank. Hence for this project, **World Bank is providing finance support of Rs 3700 crore.**

Gujarat to Setup World's Biggest Zinc Smelter Project

- **Government of Gujarat** has announced to setup World's biggest Zinc Smelter Project.
- For this purpose, the **state government has signed MoU with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL).**

PhonePe and Bajaj Allianz Launched Car & Bike Insurance

- **PhonePe has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company** to launch car and bike insurance products on its platform.
- The 2 wheeler insurance starts from **Rs 482** and car insurance starts from **Rs 2,072.**

'KAPILA' Kalam Program

- **Union Education Minister** virtually launched 'KAPILA' Kalam Program to mark the Intellectual Property (IP) Literacy and Awareness campaign.
- The 'KAPILA' Kalam Program signifies '**Kalam Program for Intellectual Property and Awareness Campaign**'.

TATA Motors partners with HDFC Bank

- TATA Motors announced a partnership with **HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation)** with an aim to finance its vehicles.
- Through this partnership, **two schemes are launched namely: (a) Gradual Step Up Scheme (b) TML Flexi Drive Scheme.**

'My Town My Pride' Programme - Jammu and Kashmir

- The programme commenced from **19th Oct 2020 in the UT of J&K.**
- The programme is basically an urban connect programme which aims to **provide governance facilities at the doorsteps in urban areas of J&K.**

CRPF Partners with IIT Delhi, DRDO and JATC

- The CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) has entered into partnership with IIT Delhi, DRDO (**Defence Research and Development Organisation**) and JATC (**Joint Advanced Technology Centre**) to strengthen its Research and Development capabilities.

CUREd—Website launched by Health Minister

- The portal will also provide details **about clinical trials of diagnostics and other health equipments.**
- The data related to **partnered institutions for developing clinical trials and other health equipments** will also be provided on this portal.

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'COVIRAP': A COVID-19 Test Kit by IIT Kharagpur

- **Researchers from IIT Kharagpur** has developed a low-cost COVID-19 test kit named as 'COVIRAP'.
- The COVIRAP diagnostic machine is **successfully validated by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) because of efficient features.**

MasterCard partners with Atlantis

- MasterCard has entered into a partnership with Atlantis with an **aim to expand the Digital First Program in India.**
- Under this partnership, customers of **MasterCard will be provided with a technology solution** which will provide them with ease in digital banking.

'Life in Miniature' Project

- The project is launched by the **National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture and Google Arts and Culture.**
- Under this project, **hundreds of miniature paintings from the National Museum** will be displayed and viewed on Google Arts and Culture app.

PM Modi launched three projects in Gujarat

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Kisan Suryoday Yojana', 'Girnar Ropeway' and 'Paediatric Heart Hospital in UN Mehta Heart Research Institute'** in Gujarat state.
- The funds allotted for **'Kisan Suryoday Yojana' is Rs 3500 crores**, which will be used to install transmissions lines in which each transmission line will carry 66KW of power.

IMD commissioned Flash Flood Guidance Service in South Asia

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD) has commissioned FFGS (Flash Flood Guidance Service)** in South Asian Countries.
- The Flash Flood Guidance Service is an advanced and robust system which provides warnings about **threats in advance 6 hours and warnings about risks in advance 24 hours.**

Mobile App for Geo Tagging of components of PMKSY-AIBP

- **Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria** has launched a mobile app for geotagging project components under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP).

Two Centers of Excellence for Tribal Welfare—By MoTA and AoL

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Art of Living (AoL)** developed two Centers of Excellence (CoE) for the welfare of the tribal community.
- During the launching occasion, **Arjun Munda praised the support from Art of Living in developing Centre of Excellence.**

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India Post and US Postal Service enters into Agreement

- They have entered into **an agreement for the purpose of electronic exchange of customs data** related to postal shipments between India and the US.
- This agreement will lead **to ease of exports through postal channels between both nations.**

DST-IEST Solar PV Hub inaugurated by Union Education Minister

- **Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** inaugurated DST-IEST Solar PV Hub.
- It is established through approval and support from the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, GOI under the aegis of CoE for Green Energy and Sensor System at IEST, Shibpur.

'Sumangal' and 'Integrated Odisha State Scholarship Portal' launched

- **Chief Minister of Odisha** launched two web portals.
- The two web portals are: **(a) Sumangal Portal (b) Integrated Odisha State Scholarship Portal.**

National Program and Project Management Policy Framework

- **NITI Aayog in partnership with Quality Council of India (QCI)** has launched the 'National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPF)'.
- The NPMPF was launched by **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Amitabh Kant and Adil Zainulbhai.**

BANKING

'IB-eNote', a Green Tech Initiative & 'Ind Guru', an E-learning Platform

- **Indian Bank launched a green tech initiative** named as 'IB-eNote'.
- 'IB-eNote' initiative is launched **to support paperless working environment.**

RBI defers Basel III Provisions amid COVID Uncertainty

- The Reserve Bank of India has deferred the implementation of **Basel III provisions due to uncertainty of COVID-19.**
- In this regard, RBI will **repeal the final tranche of Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) and the implementation of Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR)** by 6 months i.e. 1st April 2021.

ICICI offers Debit card for Customers who avail LAS

- **ICICI Bank and Visa has partnered to launch a debit card facility for the customers** who avail Loans Against Securities (LAS) from the bank.
- The card is made available on **Visa platform and any new customer who avails for LAS will be issued with this debit card.**

RBI's 3rd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2020-21

- The reverse repo rate under **LAF is also kept unchanged to 3.35%.**

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- There is also **no change in the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate which are at 4.25%.**

India's GDP to contract by 9.6% in FY21—By World Bank

- World Bank has predicted that **India's GDP to contract by 9.6% in financial year of 2021.**
- Earlier in June 2020, **World Bank predicted that the Indian economy will shrink by 3.2% in FY21.**

RBI to move NGTA to manage Forex and Gold Reserves

- The application of NGTA will help **to improve the functioning of RBI.**
- It will also support **multi-currency transactions and settlements like Fixed Income (FI), Forex, Money Market (MM) and Gold.**

ADB offers Finance Support to Develop Rajasthan's Secondary Towns

- The loan agreement of **\$300 million** is signed between ADB and GOI.
- Under this loan amount, **sustainable water supply and sanitation (WSS) services and infra will be developed in Rajasthan's secondary towns.**

Axis ACE Credit Card

- The aim behind launching 'Axis ACE Credit Card' is **to increase users participation in the digital world.**
- The card will **offer a seamless digital experience to users right from application to issuance activities.**

India's GDP to contract 10.3% in FY 2020-21—By IMF

- As per the report, the IMF has projected India's GDP to contract **10.3% in FY 2020-21.**
- Earlier, IMF projected India's GDP to contract by **4.5% due to the pandemic of COVID-19.**

RBI increases Bank's Aggregate Exposure limit for Small Businesses

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced **to increase the bank's maximum aggregate retail exposure limit to small businesses (turnover upto Rs 50 crore) to Rs 7.5 crore.**
- Also, RBI has announced to extend the existing enhanced **Held to Maturity (HTM) limit of 22%** for SLR securities acquired between **1st Sep 2020 and 31st Mar 2021 and 31st Mar 2022.**

'Salary Card'--- Launched by EarlySalary and NPCI

- EarlySalary joined hands with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) to launch **'Salary Card'.**
- 'Salary Card' is the **Zero-Touch Digital Card.**

'Saral Jeevan Bima' from 1st Jan 2021—By IRDAI

- The guidelines for 'Saral Jeevan Bima' are released by IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

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- IRDAI has made mandatory of offering this **insurance policy by all life insurance companies from 1st Jan 2021.**

'The HealthyLife Programme'—HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals

- India's private sector bank, **HDFC Bank in partnership with Apollo Hospitals** has launched a 'HealthyLife Programme' for its customers.
- The '**HealthyLife Programme**' is the holistic healthcare solution.

'Invest 4G'- By Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance

- **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC)** Life Insurance Company has launched 'Invest 4G'.
- 'Invest 4G' is a **unit-linked individual life insurance cum savings plan.**

ADB to provide loan for Road Improvements in Maharashtra

- The **loan agreement of \$177 million** is signed between them.
- This loan amount will be used to upgrade **450km of highways and major district roads in Maharashtra.**

IND Spring Board—By Indian Bank and IIT Madras Incubation Cell

- **Indian Bank partnered with IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)** to launch 'IND SpringBoard', which is the credit facility to fund startups.
- 'IND SpringBoard' will offer an exclusive credit facility of up to **Rs 50 crore for startups in order to fulfil their capital requirements and purchase of machinery and equipment.**

RBI fixed minimum NOF size to HFCs at Rs 25 crore

- RBI has revised regulatory framework for HFCs under which minimum Net Owned Funds (NOF) size for **HFCs is fixed to Rs 25 crore.**
- As per this, HFC having CoR (Certificate of Registration) and having NOF less than Rs 25 crore will be required to achieve **NOF of Rs 15 crore by 31st March 2022 and Rs 25 crore by 31st March 2023.**

'Delhi Metro-SBI Card'

- **SBI Card and Payment Services (SBI Cards)** in partnership with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched 'Delhi Metro-SBI Card'.
- The card is a **credit card as well as a metro smart card.**

SVC Co-operative Bank partners with NPCI

- The **Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd (SVC Bank)** has entered into a partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- They have entered into a **partnership to launch a rewards programme.**

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RBI asks lenders to Implement Waiver of Interest on Interest Scheme

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked lending institutions including NBFCs, to implement waiver of interest on **interest for loans of up to Rs 2 crore for 6 months moratorium period beginning from 1st March 2020.**

CSB Bank Ltd partners with IIFL Finance Ltd

- **Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd** partnered with **IIFL Finance Ltd** to offer gold loans in untapped locations of rural areas.
- They have entered into a partnership **to source and manage the retail gold loan assets.**

SBI signs loan agreement with JBIC and Other Finance Lenders

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and other finance lenders.
- The loan agreement of up to **\$1 billion is signed.**

IndusInd Bank—First Bank to go live on RBI's 'Account Aggregator Framework'

- IndusInd Bank has gone live as a '**Financial Information Provider (FIP)**' under the new '**Account Aggregator Framework (AAF)**' of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Thus, **IndusInd Bank has become the first bank to do so.**

INDEX AND RANKING

Data Governance Quality Index

- The Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) was conducted by **Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog.**
- The Department of Fertilisers also secured **3rd rank position among 65 ministries** and departments with a **score of 4.11 out of scale of 5.**

3rd Edition of CRI Index 2020

- The **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2020** is released by 'Oxfam International and Development Finance International.
- As per the released ranking in this report, **India has been ranked at 129th position among 158 countries.**

Global Hunger Index 2020

- India has marked the **rank position of 94th among 107 countries** in this index.
- As per the report, India comes under '**serious category**' with a **score of 27.2.**

Asia Power Index 2020

- **Sydney based Lowy Institute** has released Asia Power Index 2020.
- As per the index rankings, India has been ranked at **4th spot with a score of 39.7 out of 100.**

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Global Finances Safest Banks 2020

- The Global Finances has released its **29th annual ranking of World's Safest Banks**.
- As per the ranking, DBS Bank, **Singapore is recognized as the Safest Bank in Asia for 12th consecutive year**.

REPORTS

Crime in India Report 2019

- A total of 8257 cases are registered for the crime against Scheduled Tribes (STs). There is **increase of 26.5% in crime cases** against STs compared to 2018.
- Madhya Pradesh has registered the highest **crime cases against STs with the number of 1922 cases**.

'Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversal of Fortune'

- **World Bank Group has released a Biennial report** titled 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversal of Fortune'.
- This report states that this time **it is first to rise in extreme poverty percentage in the past 20 years**.

44th OECD International Migration Outlook 2020 Report

- As per this report, India has marked the **2nd rank position in terms of migrants going to OECD countries** and acquiring citizenship of those countries.
- **China has marked the first rank** in this ranking.

Indian Tourism Statistics 2020 Report

- **Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination** for attracting a large number of an Indian tourist in the state in 2019.
- Around **53.6 crores domestic tourist visited UP in 2019**. This estimation contributes to 23.1% of total travellers.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah	New emir of Kuwait
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Head the panel set by GOI to examine all Chinese Foreign Investment Proposals
Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador of Bengal Peerless Housing Development Company Limited
Charanjit Attra	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India
G Subramonia Iyer	Head of 3 member interim Committee of Directors (CoD) to exercise the power of MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd

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IPS MA Ganapathy	Director General (DG) of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)
Prof Ashima Goyal, Prof Jayanth R Varma and Dr Shashanka Bhide	Members of RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)
Ajinkya Rahane	Brand Ambassador of Hudle
J Venkatramu	MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)
Bishr Al-Khasawneh	Prime Minister of Jordan
Sadyr Zhaparov	Acting Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan
Nilesh Shah	Chairman of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)
Saurabh Nanavati	Vice-Chairman of AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India)
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Chetan Anand	Brand Ambassador of Transform
M S Ananth	Head the committee which will frame the Professional Engineers Bill
Rajiv Gauba	Head the panel of secretaries set up by GOI to streamline Telecom Spectrum Allocation
Costantina Dita	Brand Ambassador of World Athletics Half Marathon Championships 2020
Dr Michael Irani	Interim President of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
Vishal V. Sharma	Next Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO's Permanent Delegation of India with the rank of Ambassador
Justice Madan Lokur	Supreme Court to monitor steps to prevent stubble burning
Rohan Jaitley	President of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)
Jacinda Ardern	Prime Minister of New Zealand
Rajkiran Rai G	Chairman of India Bank's Association (IBA)
Dinesh Kumar Khara	Deputy-Chairman of India Bank's Association (IBA)
Madhabi Puri Buch	Head the Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)
P Umesh	Head 9 member panel setup by IRDAI to examine the need for Standard Cyber Liability Insurance
Lewis Hamilton	Brand ambassador for LG Signature
Priyanka Chopra	Brand ambassador for B-Fizz
Neena Malhotra	Next Ambassador to the Republic of San Marino
Saad al-Hariri	Prime Minister of Lebanon
Sushil Kumar Singhal	Next High Commissioner of India to Solomon Islands
Apurva Chandra	Chairperson of Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Rajiv Kumar	Head the committee which will evaluate reforms in urban planning education system

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Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador for Vega
Luis Arce	President of Bolivia
Wavel Ramkalawan	President of Seychelles
Alpha Conde	President of Guinea
Yashvardhan K Sinha	Chief Information Commissioner of India
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador for Dr Trust

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Award
Sanjay Singh	'2020 Gandhi Award'
Harvey J. Alter (America), Charles M. Rice (America) and Michael Houghton (Britain)	Noble Prize in Physiology or Medicine
Ratan Tata	IACC (Indo-American Chamber of Commerce) lifetime and Global Excellence Award
Ales Bialiatsli (Belarus), Nasrin Sotoudeh (Iran), Bryan Stevenson (US) and Lottie Cunningham Wren (Nicaragua)	Right Livelihood Award 2020
Roger Penrose (UK), Reinhard Genzel (Germany) and Andrea Ghez (America)	Nobel Prize in Physics 2020
Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A Doudna	Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020
Louise Gluck (American Poet)	Nobel Prize in Literature 2020
Nityanand Nayak (Odia Poet)	Sarala Puraskar
World Food Programme	Nobel Prize in Peace 2020
Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B Wilson	Noble Prize in Economic Sciences 2020
Bank of Ghana	Central Bank of the Year Award 2020
Mark Carney	Governor of the year at Central Bank of the Year Award 2020
Aishwarya Sridhar	2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award
Seema Gupta	17 th annual Stevie Award for Women in Business
Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) of India	2020 UN Global Climate Action Award
Dr Satish Mishra	'Dr. Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020' by National Academy of Medical Sciences
Late Actor Om Puri	Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 at 3rd India International Film Festival of Boston
Chef Vikas Khanna	'Pride of India', a special award at 3rd India International Film Festival of Boston
Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020	
Category	Name of Winner
Biological Science	Dr Subhadeep Chatterjee
	Dr Vatsala Thirumalai
Chemical Science	Dr Jyotirmayee Dash
	Dr Subi Jacob George

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Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Science	Dr Abhijeet Mukherjee
	Dr Suryendu Dutta
Engineering Science	Dr Amol Arvindrao Kulkarni
	Dr Kinshuk Dasgupta
Mathematics Science	Dr UK Anandavardhanan
	Dr Rajat Subhra Hazra
Medicine Science	Dr Bushra Ateeq
	Dr Ritesh Agrawal
Physics Science	Dr Rajesh Ganapathy
	Dr Surajit Dhara

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1 st October 2020	International Day of Older Persons	Theme: Pandemics: Do they change how we address age and ageing?
2 nd October 2020	International Day of Non-Violence	--
4 th October 2020	World Animal Welfare Day	--
4 th October to 10 th October 2020	World Space Week	Theme: Satellites Improve Life
5 th October 2020	World Teacher's Day	Theme: 'Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future'
5 th October 2020	World Habitat Day	Theme: 'Housing for all- A better urban future'
2 nd October to 8 th October 2020	National Wild Life Week	Theme: 'Roar (Roar and Review)-Exploring Human-Animal Relationship'
7 th October 2020	World Cotton Day	--
8 th October 2020	Indian Air Force Day	--
9 th October 2020	World Post Day	--
10 th October 2020	National Postal Day	--
10 th October 2020	World Mental Health Day	Theme: 'Mental Health for All'
9 th October to 15 th October 2020	National Postal Week	Every Year National Postal Week is marked to create awareness about the role of postal services in the country.
10 th October 2020	World Migratory Day	Theme: 'Birds Connect Our World'
11 th October 2020	International Day of Girl Child	Theme: 'My Voice, Our Equal Future'
12 th October 2020	World Arthritis Day	--
13 th October 2020	International Day for Disaster Reduction	--
14 th October 2020	International Standards Day or World Standards Day	Theme: 'Protecting the planet with standards'

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15 th October 2020	World Students Day	--
15 th October 2020	International Day of Rural Women	Theme: 'Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19'
15 th October 2020	Global Handwashing Day	Theme: 'Hand Hygiene for all'
16 th October 2020	World Food Day	Theme: 'Grow, Nourish, Sustain Together'
17 th October 2020	International Day of Eradication of Poverty	Theme: 'Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all'
20 th October 2020	World Statistics Day	Theme: 'Connecting the World with data we can trust'
20 th October 2020	World Osteoporosis Day	Theme: 'That's Osteoporosis'
20 th October 2020	International Chef's Day	Theme: 'Healthy food for the future'
21 st October 2020	National Police Commemoration Day	--
22 nd October 2020	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Theme: 'Journey of Words- Resilience and Bouncing Back'
23 rd October 2020	World Snow Leopard Day	--
24 th October 2020	World Polio Day	Theme: 'A win against polio is a win for global health'
24 th October 2020	World Development Information Day	--
24 th October 2020	United Nations Day	--
27 th October 2020	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Theme: Your Window to the World
27 th October to 2 nd Nov 2020	Vigilance Awareness Week	--
27 th October 2020	74th Infantry Day of Indian Army	--
28 th October 2020	International Animation Day	--
29 th October 2020	International Internet Day	--
31 st October 2020	National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas	--
31 st October 2020	World Cities Day	--

MOUS SIGNED

NITI Aayog and Embassy of Netherland signs SoI

- NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog and Embassy of Netherland, New Delhi has signed Statement of Intent (SoI).
- The SoI is signed to support Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda for utilising and accommodating cleaner and more energy.

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SBI and HUL signs MoU

- SBI will also offer UPI based solutions **to retailers to have safe and hassle free cashless payments to dealers through** an app called 'Shikhar'.
- A corporate package will be offered to HUL employees which will **provide them retail products at competitive prices.**

MoHUA signs MoU with Swiggy

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs signed MoU** with food aggregator Swiggy in order to provide online platform for street food vendors.
- The MoU is signed under **PM Svanidhi Scheme.**

MoU signed between ISLRTC and NCERT

- The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) has signed MoU with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) with an aim **to make educational materials accessible to hearing-impaired children.**

IFFCO and Prasar Bharti to promote new Agricultural Innovations and Technology

- **Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** has signed MoU with Prasar Bharti.
- The MoU is signed **to broadcast and promote the latest agricultural innovation and technology during a program organized in Prithi Bhavan, New Delhi.**

NABARD signs 3 MoU with SBI

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has signed three MoUs with the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The MoU is signed **to extend credit support for NABARD Projects.**

BSE signs MoU with Telangana Gov. and GlobalLinker

- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed MoU with **Industries and Commerce Department of Telangana Government and GlobalLinker.**
- BSE will support MSME in tackling their **finance access issues and will help to increase their credibility.**

Cochin Shipyard Ltd signed MoU with Fincantieri S.P.A.

- Italy's Fincantieri S.P.A. is one of the **world's largest shipbuilding group** which is operating 18 shipyards in four continents.
- This partnership will prove beneficial for **business development with mutual benefits.**

ICSSR signs pact with European Commission

- Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has signed a pact with **European Commission virtually.**
- The pact was virtually signed by Member **Secretary of ICSSR, Virendra Kumar Malhotra and Ambassador of European Union to India, Ugo Astuto.**

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'Pathashree Abhijan' Scheme— West Bengal

- **Government of West Bengal** launched 'Pathashree Abhijan' Scheme.
- A fund of **Rs 500 crores** has been sanctioned for 'Pathashree Abhijan' Scheme.

'Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana'--Uttarakhand

- The yojana is launched with an aim **to boost self-employment capability in youth and promote the production of Green Energy.**
- The scheme will **offer employment opportunities in Green Energy Sector** to around 10,000 youths and migrants.

'Swanirbhar Nari: Atma Nirbhar Assam Scheme'

- The scheme aims **to empower women who are economically backward in Assam.**
- **Around 3.72 lakh Sustainable Individual Assets** and 822 Community Assets will be created for this scheme.

Physical distribution of Property Cards under SVAMITVA Scheme

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched physical distribution of property card programme under SVAMITVA Scheme.
- SVAMITVA Scheme stands for **Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA).**

Ayushman Sahakar Scheme

- Narendra Singh Tomar, **Union Agriculture Minister** has launched Ayushman Sahakar Scheme.
- This Ayushman Sahakar scheme is an unique way which will assist cooperatives **to play a vital role in creating healthcare infrastructure in India.**

'YSR Bima' Scheme—Andhra Pradesh

- The scheme will offer **insurance cover to the beneficiary in case of death or accident** of their family members.
- The insurance cover amount will be **directly credited into the bank account of the beneficiary within 15 days of making claim.**

DEFENCE

Defence Minister launched DISC-4, iDEXFauji Initiative and PMA Guidelines

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** launched 'Defence India Startup Challenge-4' (DISC-4) at the iDEX event (iDEX event was launched in 2018 by Department of Defence Production).

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DRDO successfully Test-Fired 'Rudram-1'

- 'Rudram-1' is a **new generation anti-radiation missile**.
- It was **test fired at Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha** and was launched from SU-30 Mk1 fighter aircraft.

Exercise Suraksha Kavach

- The Suraksha Kavach Exercise is the **joint exercise of Maharashtra Police and Indian Army**.
- The exercise was **conducted in Lulla Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra**.

DG of Shipping notified as National Authority for Recycling of Ships

- **Government of India has notified Directorate General (DG)** of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.
- Thus, the DG Shipping is notified with the designation with apex authority for **ship recycling industry of India under Section 3, Recycling of Ships Act 2019**.

Webinar and Expo Held for India-Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation

- A **webinar and expo between India and Kazakhstan** was held.
- The webinar was organized by **Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through FICCI**.

SLINEX 2020 Naval Exercise

- **Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy jointly conducts** annual joint exercise named as SLINEX 2020.
- The 8th SLINEX 2020 has begun from **19 Oct 2020 and will be held till 21st Oct 2020**.

India successfully Test Fired BrahMos Missile

- BrahMos is basically a **supersonic cruise missile**.
- It was test fired from an **indigenously developed stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy** in the Arabian Sea. The stealth destroyer was the INS Chennai, from which it was fired.

India successfully Test Fired 'SANT' Missile

- **SANT Missile is developed by DRDO for India Air Force** and is the upgraded version of anti-tank missile named HeliNa (Helicopter Launched Nag).
- SANT Missile is additionally equipped with the **advanced node-mounted seeker**.

Indian Army launched IMS Software and SAI messaging application

- Indian Army has launched software named as **'Infrastructure Management System' (IMS)** and **secured messaging application platform called 'Secure Application for the Internet' (SAI)**.

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Indian Navy test fired Anti- Ship Missile

- The Anti-Ship Missile (AShM) successfully hit **the target with precise accuracy form maximum range.**
- The Anti-Ship Missile (AShM), which is a **guided missile and is designed for use against ships and large boats.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO set to launch First Venus Mission 'Shukrayaan-1' in 2025

- The name of **ISRO's first Venus Mission is 'Shukrayaan-1'.**
- ISRO will be launching this **mission with participation of French Space Agency CNES and Swedish Institute of Space Physics (IRF).**

DRDO successfully Flight Tested SMART

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted flight test of Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART).
- SMART was flight tested from **Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.**

'PARAM Siddhi-AI'—India's fastest HPC-AI Supercomputer

- The **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing** has announced that it will be commissioning India's largest HPC-AI Supercomputer named as 'PARAM Siddhi -AI'.
- The aim behind **this development is to place India among top countries in world in the sector** of AI supercomputing research and innovation.

Indian Navy and ICG conducted 'Sagar Kavach' Coastal Security Exercise

- The exercise was conducted at **coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.**
- The aim of 'Sagar Kavach' exercise is **to check the coastal security and improve and update standard operating procedures.** This exercise is assumed to be of high significance in the backdrop of the prevailing security mechanism in India.

Department of Science (DST) partnered with IBM

- The **Department of Science (DST)** has entered into partnership with **IBM** (International Business Machines) with an aim to receive support from IBM in two of the initiatives of DST.
- Under this partnership, the **scope of two DST initiatives namely, Vigyan Jyoti and Vigyan Prasar (Engage with Science).**

13th Animal Discoveries 2019 & 13th Plant Discoveries 2019 Reports by ZSI and BSI

- The **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** and **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** published reports titled '13th Animal Discoveries 2019' and '13th Plant Discoveries 2019' respectively.

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- The reports were launched by Babul Supriyo, **Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in an event held in West Bengal.**

Intel, IIT-H, PHFI and Telangana Gov. to launch Applied AI Research Center

- INAI is an initiative **to apply AI to population-scale problems in the Indian context.**
- INAI will focus on **solving problems and challenges associated with smart mobility segments.** The challenges and problem will be solved through strong ecosystem collaboration.

Gov Tech Thon 2020—By NIC, IEEE Computer Society and Oracle

- Gov Tech Thon 2020 will be jointly organized by **GOI's National Informatics Centre (NIC), IEEE Computer Society and Oracle Corporation.**
- Gov Tech Thon 2020 is a pan **India 36 hours virtual hackathon.**

SCALE India Android App—By LSSC

- The Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) has launched **the SCALE India Android phone application.**
- SCALE India app signifies **Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE).**

Frontier Technologies CIC—By NITI Aayog and Amazon Web Services

- The Frontier Technologies CIC is developed **to address societal challenges through digital technology.**
- It will address the societal challenges related **to agriculture, healthcare and skill development.**

Microsoft partners with SpaceX to connect Azure Platform to Satellites

- Microsoft has teamed up with satellite operator named SpaceX with an aim **to provide uninterrupted Azure service to its customers.**
- **Microsoft's partnership with SpaceX Starlink** will provide high speed with an minimum latency for satellite broadband service for Microsoft's Azure Modular Datacenter.

IIT Kharagpur partners with TCS

- Industry 4.0 technology is developed **to remotely control factory operations and to have real-time quality corrections in industries.**
- This technology is developed **to set a new trend in the manufacturing sector of India.**

Survey on Himalayan Brown Bear—By ZSI

- The Zoological Survey of India released a report of its **survey on Himalayan Brown Bear.**
- As per the survey, a massive decline of about 73% in the habitat of the **Himalayan brown bear will be seen by 2050.**

IIT Kanpur and ASI signed MoU with two Institutes of Italy

- **IIT Kanpur and Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has signed Mou with Italy's Ca' Foscari University of Venice** and Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti E Paesaggio, Venice.

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- They have entered into MoU to create a network of sharing skills for restoration and protection of historical monuments.

Low cost technology anti-ageing compound—By IIT Guwahati

- IIT Guwahati has developed a low-cost technology which helps to produce anti-ageing compounds.
- It is developed from agricultural products like tea, orange peels, onions, pulses, sea buckthorn, berries and parsley.

Microsoft partners with NSDC to Empower Women with Digital Skills

- The digital skill training will be provided to 1 lakh underserved women in India for the next 10 months.
- This partnership is the extension of the initiative of Microsoft and NSDC to provide digital skills to 1 lakh youths of India.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

6th Joint Consultative Commission Meet between India and Bangladesh

- The 6th Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meet by India and Bangladesh was held virtually.
- India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. And Bangladesh was represented by Foreign Minister, A K Abdul Momen.

India and Bahrain to cooperate in Finance and Business Sector

- India and Bahrain held the bilateral meet to enhance cooperation in financial and business sector.
- The bilateral meet was attended by India's ambassador to Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava and Minister of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain, Shaikh Salman Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Virtual Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020'.
- VAIBHAV is the summit of overseas and resident of Indian Researchers and Academicians.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated RAISE 2020

- It is the mega virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI) held from 5th oct to 9th Oct 2020.
- It is jointly organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog.

International Webinar on Textile Traditions

- The webinar was organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design (UPID).
- The webinar was conducted to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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Quad Foreign Ministers Meet

- The **Quad or Quadrilateral Countries' Foreign Ministers Meet** was held on 6th Oct 2020 in Tokyo, Japan.
- The group of quad countries in this includes **United States, Japan, India and Australia**.

5th India-Mexico High Level Group on Trade, Investment & Cooperation

- India was represented by Commerce Secretary of GOI, Anup Wadhawan and Mexico was represented by **Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Ms Luz Maria de la Mora**.
- In this meet, **India and Mexico reviewed and discussed about their bilateral trade, investment** and cooperation activities.

14th India-International Food and Agri Week 2020

- **Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated 14th session of India-International Food and Agri Week virtually.
- The India-International Food and Agri Week is observed from **16th Oct to 22nd Oct 2020**.

7th Meet of Ministers of Justice of SCO

- The **7th meeting of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was held through video conference.
- The meet was hosted by **India** and was addressed by **Minister of Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

9th India-Oman Joint Commission

- India was represented by **Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State of Commerce and Industry**.
- Oman was represented by **Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment**.

18th Meet Prosecutors General of SCO

- The 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was held virtually.
- The meet was organised by the **General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan from Tashkent**.

World Bank-IMF Annual Meet 2020

- The annual meeting of the **World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)** was held virtually.
- The meeting was addressed by the **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan**.

1st Ministerial Meet of G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group

- The meeting was dressed by **Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.

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- Saudi Arabia hosted the meeting and thus become the **first country to host the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group meeting.**

'CII Agro and Food Tech: India International Food and Agri Week'

- It was organised by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in partnership with the ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying and ministry of food processing industries.
- The week was observed with an aim **to use technology in the food and agriculture sector so as to boost farmers income.**

India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)

- The '**India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)**' will be organised by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in association with Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).
- The aim behind conducting this hackathon is **to address the issues and challenges being faced by the circular economy.**

India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

- The dialogue is held **to discuss global, bilateral and regional issues between India and the United States.**
- During this meet, both the nations will be signing **BECA Agreement (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation).**

6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- The 6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was conducted virtually under **the chairmanship of Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of Russian Parliament.**
- **The forum was held under the theme: 'BRICS partnership in the interest of global stability, general safety and innovation growth: Parliamentary dimension'.**

19th Meet of SCO Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade

- The **19th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Ministers of Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade was held virtually.
- The meet was chaired by **Union Minister for Commerce and Industries, Piyush Goyal.** The meet was also attended by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri.

8th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meet

- The 8th India-Mexico Joint Commission Meeting was held virtually **to review the bilateral cooperation in various sectors of both nations.**
- India was represented by **External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar** and Mexico was represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, H.E. Marcelo Ebrard.