

A top-down view of a wooden desk. On the left, a portion of a silver laptop is visible, showing the keyboard with keys for 'enter', 'return', 'shift', and arrow keys. In the top right corner, there is a white ceramic cup filled with dark coffee. Two yellow pencils are lying diagonally on the right side of the desk. The background is a light-colored wooden surface with a visible grain.

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PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated for various developmental projects in Diu. The projects included inauguration of - first academic session of Kamleshwar School, Ghoghla and IIIT Vadodara-International Campus Diu. He laid down the foundation stone for - improvement of 1.3 kilometers heritage walk-way on Diu City Wall; conservation and facade restoration of heritage precincts (Zampa and market precinct); construction of a school at Saudwadi; development of integrated municipal solid waste management system for entire urban and rural areas of Diu district and up gradation of fruits and vegetable market at Fort Road.
- President paid tribute to the former President R. Venkataraman on his birth anniversary.

VICE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- Vice President M Venkaiah released a commemorative postage stamp in the honor of former Prime Minister I K Gujral.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

- PM Narendra Modi laid down the foundation stone of AIIMS Rajkot. The foundation stone was laid down in a virtual conference.
- Prime Minister headed the 34th PRAGATI meeting. Various projects were reviewed during the meeting.
- PM Modi virtually inaugurated the New Khurja-New Bhaupur section along with the Operation Control Centre of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- PM virtually flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail from Maharashtra's Sangola to Shalimar in West Bengal.
- The operation first-ever driverless train of India was inaugurated by PM on Delhi Metro's Magenta Line. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) has also been expanded to the Airport Express Line of Delhi Metro.
- Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT has been extended to Jammu and Kashmir by PM Modi. The scheme will provide free of cost insurance cover to the beneficiaries in the UT. Under the scheme, a financial cover upto Rs. 5 lakh per family will be provided.
- The centenary celebration of Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan was addressed by PM Modi. The University was established on December 23, 1921. He also addressed the centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

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- US Legion of Merit has been awarded to PM Narendra Modi for improving India-US relations.
- India International Science Festival was inaugurated by PM Modi.
- Narendra Modi has released the next installment of financial assistance to the farmers under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. PM released Rs 18000 crore that has been deposited directly into the account of beneficiary farmers.
- International Bharathi Festival 2020 was organized to mark the 138th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi. The festival was virtually inaugurated by PM Modi.
- 93rd Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention of FICCI was addressed by PM Modi.
- Agra Metro project's construction work has been inaugurated by the prime minister.
- Statehood Day of Nagaland was celebrated on December 1, 2020. PM greeted the people of the state.

CABINET

- The Union Cabinet has approved the export of Akash Missile System. It also created a Committee for approval of exports to various countries.
- Cabinet approved to start three Indian Missions in Paraguay, Estonia, and Dominican Republic in the year 2021.
- Cabinet has given approval to merge 4 film media units into the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. The four media units are National Film Archives of India, Films Division, Children's Film Society, and Directorate of Film Festivals.
- The Cabinet approved Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Lakshadweep Islands and Mainland (Kochi) under the KLI Project.
- Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) has been approved by the Cabinet to give a boost to employment in the formal sector.

MOUS APPROVED BY CABINET OR RECENTLY SIGNED MOUS

Signed Between	Approved/Signed on	MOU Signed for
India and Bhutan	Approved on December 30	Coordination in the peaceful use of outer space.
India and Philippines	Approved on December 23	Revised Air Services Agreement
India and USA	Approved on December 16	For information exchange in areas of the electricity sector
India and Luxembourg	Approved on December 9	cooperation in the area of securities regulations
India and Suriname	Approved on December 9	Coordination in the sector of Health and Medicine

CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (CCEA)

- The Cabinet Committee has given its approval for changes in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)'. The government will invest a total of Rs 59,048 Crore for the scheme.

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- The modified scheme for increasing the ethanol distillation capacity in India has been approved by the Cabinet Committee.

AYUSH

- National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) under the AYUSH Ministry has launched consortia for medicinal plant species. In Phase 1, species like Pippali (Piper longum), Ashwagandha (Withania somnifera), Guggulu (Commiphora wightii), Aonla (Phyllanthus emblica), etc. are to be included.
- Shripad Naik, AYUSH Minister, has released a Konkani book titled "Sutranivednachi sutra- ek anav". The book has been written by Roopa Chari.
- Yogasana has been formally recognized as a competitive sport. The announcement was made by the AYUSH Ministry and Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry.
- Virtual courses of Yoga will be started at the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi.

DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

- Mumbai's Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed Eye Cancer therapy in the form of the first indigenous Ruthenium 106 Plaque for treatment of Ocular Tumours.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

- The Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020 was organised by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with IARI, Pusa. The Agri-hackathon was inaugurated by Narendra Singh Tomar, the Union Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Minister. The Agri-hackathon is for finding innovative solutions to the current issues in the sector.
- The Government has increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in range of 40-70% for all crops.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

- The Annual Summit of Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- India suspended all air travel from the United Kingdom due to the detection of new strain of coronavirus.
- Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN), the 1st flight operations were flagged off from Karnataka's Belgaum to Gujarat's Surat to Kishangarh (Ajmer).

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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

- India and the USA have signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property. The agreement was signed between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).
- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and NABARD has signed an agreement for working together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has launched the 2nd edition of the National Startup Awards (NSA) 2021. The applications for the awards are open till December 31, 2021.
- The Cabinet approved Industrial Corridor nodes at Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Tumakuru Industrial Area in Karnataka and Multi Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) and Multi Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH) at Greater Noida.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Department of Posts (DoP) and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have launched a new digital payment app 'DakPay'. The app has been launched with an aim to transform banking experience.
- A satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things) has been introduced by BSNL in association with Skylotech India. With this, now the country will have access to an omnipresent fabric of connectivity for millions of yet unconnected sensors, machines, and industrial IoT devices.
- On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day on December 10, India Post, Maharashtra released a special cover.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

- The Government has set up a High Level Committee to mark the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Committee will decide on the activities of the commemoration for 1 year.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- Defence Ministry has signed a contract with BEL for supplying indigenously developed 10 Lynx U2 Fire Control systems for Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy has signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a contract to supply 20 Laser Dazzlers (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation Dazlers).
- The maiden test trial of India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container 'SAHAYAK-NG' has been successfully conducted from IL 38SD aircraft.
- Young Scientists of DRDO Laboratory have developed Quantum based technology for Random Number Generation.
- Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) was successfully launched by DRDO from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Odisha Coast.

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- Bank of Baroda and Indian Army have signed an agreement for 'Baroda Military Salary Package'. The package will provide services to serving and retired Indian Army personnel.

MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE

- The Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Health & Family Welfare and Science & Technology, Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated the Meteorological Centre at Leh.
- The first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management has been inaugurated by Harsh Vardhan. The platform has been developed by INCOIS.
- TROPMET-2020, 4-day Virtual Symposium on Tropical Meteorology as organized by North Eastern Space Applications Centre and Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) from December 14 to 17.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- The 8th convocation of Hemvati Nandan Garhwal University was addressed by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal. The theme of the convocation was "2020 Online Education and Resilience".
- The Academic Building and Student Welfare Centre of Dr B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology Jalandhar (NIT Jalandhar) was inaugurated by the Education Minister.
- The foundation stone of India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems- TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad - was laid down by the Education Minister.
- VNIT Nagpur's 18th Convocation ceremony was addressed by the Education Minister.
- The foundation stone of permanent campus of IIIT Bhagalpur was laid down by the Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

- Digital India Awards 2020 were conferred by the President Ram Nath Kovind. The awards were given to 24 winners.
- A Challenge for strengthening the COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) system, CoWIN was announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) along with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- India obtained the International Blue Flag Certification for its 8 beaches. After the certification, the blue flag was virtually hoisted on the 8 beaches- Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Kappad (Kerala), Golden (Odisha), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Ghoghla (Diu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
- Tso Kar Wetland Complex in Ladakh has been added as the 42nd Ramasar Site. It is the second site of Ladakh to be designated as a Ramasar Site. The first one is Tsomoriri.
- India now has a leopard population of 12,852 as compared to 7910 in the 2014. India has seen an increase of 60% in the population of leopards.

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- A high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) has been set up by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry. The committee is headed by the Secretary of the Ministry.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

- RoDTEP Scheme i.e. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products has been extended to all goods from 1st January 2021.
- Odisha became the 7th state after Rajasthan (6th state) to undertake “Ease of Doing Business” reforms set forth by the Department of Expenditure.
- The World Bank and the Indian government has signed a loan agreement for a project worth \$500 million for constructing safe and green national highway corridors in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$4.21 million project readiness financing (PRF) facility for infrastructure development projects with an aim to develop tourism infrastructure and improve urban amenities in Tripura.
- The World Bank and the Government of India entered into a \$400 million loan agreement for a project that will support country's efforts to provide social assistance to the poor and vulnerable people impacted by the pandemic. This was a part of programme that contained to operation. The 1st operation was approved for \$750 million in May.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) and the Indian Government joined hands for a loan agreement of \$1,000 million with an aim to provide assistance to India's economic recovery from the pandemic.
- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement of \$50 million policy-based loan for improving procedures of financial management and the efficiencies of operation with an aim to have increased fiscal savings, improved service delivery and to promote decision making in West Bengal.
- The Indian government and ADB have entered into a loan agreement of \$132.8 million for improving the quality of power supplied to houses and industries and for modernizing and strengthening the distribution network in Meghalaya.

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & DAIRYING

- The 4th India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group meet on Fisheries was held virtually.

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Food Processing Industries Ministry signed 5 agreements with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for the implementation of PM Formlisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved two COVID-19 vaccines in India for emergency-use. The two approved vaccines are- Covishield (Serum Institute in India) and Covaxin (Bharat Biotech).
- The World Health Organisation released the World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020. The burden of Malaria has decreased in India; the decrease was by 17.9% in the year 2019 as compared to 2018. India also saw largest decrease in number of cases region-wide. The cases here have reduced to 6 million from 20 million.
- The annual conference of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre was headed by Minister of Health & Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan.
- CO-WIN is a digital platform launched in India for proper COVID-19 vaccination. Through the platform, the beneficiaries will be tracked and the data related to the stock and temperature of vaccines will be available at all levels.
- World Bank Inter Ministerial Meeting held for the discussion on COVID-19 vaccination in South Asia was addressed by Harsh Vardhan.
- The data for the 1st phase of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has been released for 22 States.
- 75th NATCON i.e. the National Conference of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases was addressed by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare.
- A 2-day dry run for COVID-19 vaccination was conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Punjab on December 28 and 29.
- India's first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) named Pneumosil has been inaugurated. It has been developed by the Serum Institute of India Private Limited (SIPL) in association with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- The Fourth Bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the National Narcotics Board (BNN), Indonesia and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) India was held recently.
- The fifth India- Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation was virtually held between the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control, Myanmar and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India.
- The Indian government selected top 10 Police stations in the country for 2020. NongpokSekmai Police Station of Manipur's Thoubal topped the list.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- Lucknow Municipal Corporation's (LMC) municipal bonds of Rs 200 crore were listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange. Lucknow is now the 9th city to raise municipal bonds.
- A programme was launched to do the Socio-Economic Profiling of the beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi. In phase 1, 125 cities will be covered under the new programme.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

- An advisory on online Gaming and Fantasy Sports was issued by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. It has been advised that all broadcasters should follow the rules and regulations set by Advertising Standards Council of India.
- 20 feature films have been selected to be showcased during the 51st International Film Festival of India, 2020 that will be held from January 16 to 24 in Goa. The opening movie from Indian Panorama will be SAAND KI AANKH.

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

- 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) was inaugurated by the Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The summit was organised by Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) and the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Jal Shakti Ministry and CSIR-NGRI, Hyderabad signed an agreement for using advanced heliborne geophysical survey and other scientific studies in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana under the Aquifer Mapping Programme.
- Think-tank of NMCG, cGanga i.e. Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies and the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research has entered into an agreement to develop sludge management framework in India.

MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE

- The Supreme Court of India's E-committee was awarded with the Platinum award for Excellence in Digital Governance.

MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs announced that the next "HunarHaat" will be organised in Shilp Gram, Lucknow from January 23 to 31. Before this, Hunar Haat was held in Numaish Ground, Rampur (UP) from December 18 to 27, 2020.

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

- PM Modi laid down the foundation stone for the new Parliament Building.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- Indian Oil's Octane 100, the world-class premium grade Petrol, was launched by the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan. It is branded as XP100.
- 100th CNG station of MNGL (Maharashtra Natural Gas Ltd.) was dedicated to the nation.

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- Bengal Basin has been dedicated to the nation by the Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Minister. It is the 8th producing Basin of India.

MINISTRY OF POWER

- NTPC Ltd has won the CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2020 for Corporate Social Responsibility.
- NTPC Ltd. has entered into an agreement with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, for implementing the Narmada Landscape Restoration Project. The project has aid from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and NTPC in equal ratio.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

- Chilahati-Haldibari rail link was jointly inaugurated by the Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and PM Narendra Modi. The link was before this operational till the year 1965.
- A booklet titled “Building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat” was released by Ministry of Railways. The booklet has the achievements of the ministry in the year 2020.
- An upgraded version of IRCTC e-ticketing website- www.irctc.co.in and IRCTC Rail Connect Mobile App was launched on December 31.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

- A 3 lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge has been inaugurated over the Sone River in Bihar by Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari. This bridge is in parallel to the already existing bridge that is 138 years old.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has extended the validity of vehicular documents like RCs, DLs, etc till March 31, 2021 due to COVID-19.
- Austria and India signed an agreement for cooperation in technology in road infrastructure system.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) was launched by the Indian government to confirm the status of new variant of COVID-19 virus (UK variant). INSACOG comprises of 10 labs namely- ICMR-NIV Pune, DBT-CDFD Hyderabad, DBT-NIBMG Kalyani, DBT-NCCS Pune, CSIR-IGIB Delhi, DBT-ILS Bhubaneswar, CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad, NIMHANS Bengaluru, DBT-InSTEM/ NCBS Bengaluru, and NCDC Delhi.
- VIGYANIKA- the International Science Literature Festival was organised by Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES) and CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR). It was organised on the opening day of IISF 2020. VIGYANIKA was organised to mark the birth anniversary of Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- The first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate of India got approval from Indian Drug regulators for conducting human trials.
- A new species of Indian Muraingrasses was recently found in the Western Ghats of Goa.

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- Principal Scientist at CSIR-NIO, Goa, Samir Damare has been awarded with the Senior Scientist Award for the year 2020. The award has been given by the Microbiologists Society of India.
- The second Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) 2020 Conference was inaugurated by HarshVardhan.

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

- 'Ramayan Cruise Tour' will be soon launched on the Saryu River in Ayodhya.
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has identified new routes for RO-PAX, RO-RO, and Ferry Services.

MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- The Skill Ministry and Tata Indian Institute of Skills has launched the first batch of Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai.
- 1st Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in the power sector has been inaugurated. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Schneider Electric and the Ministry of National Education and Youth, Government of the French Republic has inaugurated the first centre of excellence for the power sector in National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) campus at Gurugram, Haryana.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

- 8 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCEs) were virtually inaugurated by the Union Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs Kiren Rijiju. The 8 centres were inaugurated in 8 states- Karnataka, Manipur, Telangana, Mizoram, Kerala, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Odisha.
- Kiren Rijiju participated in the 6th BRICS Youth Summit and meeting.
- The second Edition of Fit India Cyclothon was launched by the Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju.