

Eazyprep

# **MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**COMPILATION**

**JULY 2020**

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1st July

### 1) Person in News

#### **UN honours Kerala health minister KK Shailaja for COVID-control efforts**

United Nations honoured Kerala health minister for her efforts to control COVID-19 in the state on the occasion of its Public Service Day

Kerala was the first state to experience COVID-19 cases and has now flattened its curve

Invited to talk about her efforts, she explained the three strategies used in the state: Trace, Quarantine, Test, Isolate and Treat, Break the Chain and Reverse Quarantine.

### 2) Sports

#### **Indian umpire Nitin Menon included into ICC's Elite Umpire Panel**

Nitin Menon is the youngest umpire to be included in the panel.

He is the third Indian umpire to be included after Srinivas Venkatraghavan and Sundaram Ravi.

He will be part of the International Cricket Council's Elite Umpires Panel for the year 2020-21.

**Quick Fact:** The Elite Panel is a panel of cricket umpires appointed by ICC to officiate in Test and ODI matches around the world.

### 3) Science and Technology

#### **Indigenously developed vaccine 'COVAXIN' gets approval for human clinical trials**

COVAXIN has been developed by Bharat Biotech along with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV)

It has received approval for Phase I and II human clinical trials by the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI)

COVAXIN is the first indigenously developed vaccine against COVID-19 which has been approved for Human Clinical Trials

**Quick Fact:** Bharat Biotech has also developed vaccines for Polio, Rabies, Chikungunya, Rotavirus and Zikavirus.

### 4) Person in News

## **KK Venugopal reappointed as Attorney General for India**

KK Venugopal has been reappointed as AGI by the President till August 2021.

KK Venugopal has been conferred with both Padma Vibhushan as well as the Padma Bhushan civilian honour

The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Advisor for Govt, whose term duration is decided by the President

**Quick Fact:** The first AGI of India was MC Setalvad

### **5) Defence and Security**

#### **59 Chinese apps banned on recommendation of Home Ministry**

59 Chinese mobile applications, including popular ones like TikTok, CamScanner and WeChat have been banned by India

The ban has been imposed under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act

The reasons for the same have been cited as misuse of some mobile apps for stealing and transmitting user data out of India without permission, as well as engaging in activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India.

**2nd July**

### **1) Environment**

#### **Uttarakhand develops India's first lichen park**

A lichen is a composite organism emerging from a symbiotic relationship between algae or cyanobacteria and fungi.

The project aims to study the ecological and biological aspects of lichens.

The park will be located in Kumaon's Munsiyari, Pithoragarh district

**Quick Fact:** They are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels and are also used in food, perfumes, dyes and traditional medicines

### **2) India and the World**

### **India and Bhutan sign their first joint venture hydropower project**

The venture is for the construction of 600 MW run-of-the-river Kholongchhu project in Bhutan's Trashiyangtse

The project is slated to be completed by 2025

The project has been jointly taken up by Sutej Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and Bhutanese Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)

### **3) Sports**

#### **'NADA INDIA' App launched for awareness about Prohibited Substances in Sports**

The app has been launched by the Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports

It will create awareness about prohibited substances for athletes, to prevent inadvertent use of prohibited substances and free Indian sports of doping and drug abuse

NADA is responsible for monitoring and promoting sports-related doping control programs and implementation of anti-doping policies in India

**Quick Fact:** National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is headquartered in New Delhi

### **4) Science and Technology**

#### **Agriculture Ministry flags off helicopter services for locust control in Rajasthan**

A Bell 206-B3 helicopter has been flagged off with spray equipment to desert areas of Rajasthan for locust control

It will access areas of the desert which are inaccessible by drones

The special measures are being taken since monsoons will provide ideal breeding environment for locusts in the semi-arid/arid regions of Rajasthan, as per FAO

**Quick Fact:** Narendra Singh Tomar is the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

### **5) Science and Technology**

#### **MyGov Corona Helpdesk wins two awards at AI related CogX 2020**

CogX awards are awarded to the best emerging AI technologies in the world

MyGov Corona Helpdesk has won the awards for Best Innovation for COVID-19-Society and People's Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner

The award was won by technical partners of the platform: JioHaptik Technologies Limited

## 6) Economy

### **Eight core industries' growth rate declines by 23.4% in May 2020**

The decline has been measured by Index of the Eight Core Industries released by the Office of Economic Affairs (under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)

Steel industry has shown the highest decline while fertilizers industry is the only core industry to have shown positive growth

The eight core industries comprises of 40.27% weight of the total Index of Industrial Production

**Quick Fact:** The eight core industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity

3rd July

## 1) Economy

### **Swiggy partners with ICICI Bank for Digital Wallet**

Swiggy's digital wallet 'Swiggy Money' has been launched in partnership with ICICI Bank

Swiggy has used ICICI Bank's 'insta wallet service' for this purpose

The service shall be available to both ICICI bank customers and non-customers

**Quick Fact:** Swiggy CEO is Sriharsha Majety and ICICI Bank CEO is Sandeep Bakhshi

## 2) Person in News

### **Former RBI Governor C Rangarajan recipient of the first PC Mahalanobis Award**

The PC Mahalanobis Award has been instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) this year

It shall be awarded annually to individuals for their outstanding and meritorious contribution towards development and promotion of official statistics.

Chakravarthi Rangarajan has been awarded for his contribution in estimation of national income.

**Quick Fact:** Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay is the Director of Indian Statistical Institute

### 3) International Affairs

#### 36th ASEAN Summit held in Vietnam virtually

The 36th ASEAN Summit was held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations summits are a biannual event.

The theme of the summit was Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN, and focused on cohesive epidemic response and post-COVID recovery

**Quick Fact:** Its 10 members are Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos.

### 4) International Affairs

#### Gudni Johannesson reelected as President of Iceland

Gudni Johannesson has been reelected as the President of Iceland

He has been reelected with the second-highest margin of acquired votes in Iceland's history

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, who was the first woman in the world to be democratically elected as President in 1988, holds the record for the highest margin of acquired votes.

**Quick Fact:** Reykjavík is the capital of Iceland

### 5) Sports

#### Bharat Pannu secures podium place at the first VRAAM event

Lt. Col. Bharat Pannu secured podium place at the first Virtual Race Across America (VRAAM)

He secured the third position, cycling 4086 km in 12 days along with 17 participants

With this achievement, he has become the first Indian to win a podium place at an international ultracycling race

**Quick Fact:** Race Across America (RAAM) is a 12 long long 5000 km transcontinental race from West to East coast of USA

## 6) Person in News

### **Siddhartha Mukherjee and Raj Chetty honoured as '2020 Great Immigrants'**

The Carnegie Corporation annually honours immigrants who have contributed to the greatness of the United States, in honour of their founder Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant who became a leading industrialist and philanthropist in US.

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee has won for his contribution in creating awareness about Corona safety measures in society. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Columbia University and is a Padma Shri and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Raj Chetty received the award for launching a real-time economic impact monitor of COVID-19.

## 4th July

### 1) Person in News

#### **Nigar Johar first female Lieutenant General in Pakistan Army**

Major General Nigar Johar has become the first female Lieutenant General of Pakistan Army

She is now the first female surgeon general of the Pakistan Army

She is part of Pakistan Army's Medical Corps.

### 2) Environment

#### **A unique Urban Forest inaugurated at CAG Office, New Delhi**

The urban forest will have thirty times the surface area of single-layered lawns.

It will be grown using the Miyawaki method invented by Japanese Botanist Akira Miyawaki

Using this method will increase the moisture of the forest by more than 40% and reduce the surrounding temperature by up to 14 degrees.

In Miyawaki method, native species are grown very close together so that they receive sunlight only from the top, thus increasing their vertical growth and decreasing their horizontal spread. The plants thus require minimal space and grow much faster.

### 3) Person in News

#### **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya appointed new chairman of IOC**

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya will be the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

He was serving as Director (Refineries) on the IOC Board before this

He will be replacing Sanjiv Singh as the chairman post the latter's retirement

**Quick Fact:** Indian Oil Corporation Limited, or IndianOil, is India's largest commercial oil company

### 4) Person in News

#### **Ravinder Bhakar appointed new CEO of CBFC**

Ravinder Bhakar has been appointed the new CEO of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC).

He is a 1999 batch Indian Railway Stores Service officer

He shall be replacing Anurag Srivastava on his appointment

**Quick Fact:** The Central Board of Film Certification is a statutory film-certification body

### 5) Economy

#### **Konkan Maritime Cluster: India's first maritime cluster in Goa**

Maritime clusters are linked to port-led development and industrialisation under India's Project Sagarmala

The Konkan Maritime Cluster will be a consortium of 49 Goan enterprises, which will together set up a world-class common facility for manufacturing, design and allied services for the shipbuilding industry.

**Quick Fact:** Sagarmala Programme is a GoI initiative to boost the performance of India's logistics sector using the potential of waterways and coastline.



## 6) National Affairs

### **Sixth Edition of Swachh Survekshan Survey to be conducted in 2021**

The survey was started in 2016 to encourage Indian cities to improve their urban sanitation.

The Ministry responsible for the survey is Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

A new category of awards under the title of 'Prerak Daur Samman' has been added to the 2021 Swachh Survekshan survey. The categories under it will be: Platinum (Divya), Bronze (Udit), Silver (Ujjwal), Gold (Anupam), and Aspiring (Arohi).

**Quick Fact:** Swachh Survekshan Survey 2018 was the World's Largest Cleanliness Survey

## 7) Person in News

### **Sanjay Dwivedi appointed Director General of IIMC**

Professor Sanjay Dwivedi has been appointed the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC)

The appointment was made by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

At present he is the Registrar of Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal.

## 6th July

### 1) Defence and Security

#### **Nagaland declared as "disturbed area" by Gol for 6 months**

The entire state of Nagaland has been declared a disturbed area by Gol

The declaration will stay valid till end December.

Nagaland has been under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for almost six decades

## 2) Miscellaneous

### **India ranked 31st most dangerous place in INFORM report**

As per the report, India's global risk index is 5.4

High risks in India include natural disaster, poverty and social injustice

As per the report, Singapore is the least dangerous nation and Somalia the most dangerous

**Quick Fact:** INFORM is a global initiative of UN organizations, the EU and other civil society and academic actors to provide open source risk assessments for humanitarian crises and disasters.

## 3) Defence and Security

### **India and Japan conduct PASSEX naval exercise in Indian Ocean Region**

PASSEX naval exercise was conducted jointly by India and Japan near the Malacca Strait in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

PASSEX stands for PASSing EXercise

This was the 15th PASSEX exercise conducted by the navies and is conducted by goodwill training and understanding

## 4) Science and Technology

### **Elyments: First Indian Social Media Super App to be launched on 5th July**

The need for an Indian social media app has been long felt for fears related to privacy of data and data ownership

The app has been developed by Sumeru Software Solutions Private Limited.

Elyments will be available in 8 Indian languages and will host features like audio/video conference calls, public profiles for users to follow/subscribe, a secure Elyments Pay payment system, etc.

## 5) Sports

### **'Fit Hai to Hit Hai India' under Fit India Campaign launched**

The aim of the project is to inspire children to stay fit during the pandemic.

It is a part of Fit India Campaign

As part of the program, leading sports celebrities will give talks about their life experiences as well as tips to stay fit.

## **6) Science and Technology**

### **Mangalyaan captures image of Phobos- Mars' biggest natural satellite**

Mangalyaan, or Mars Orbiter Mission, was launched on 5th November 2013

It has captured images of Phobos, one of the two natural satellites of Mars (the other being Deimos)

Phobos is seven times larger than Deimos.

**Quick Fact:** Stickney Crater is the largest crater on the Phobos

## **7th July**

### **1) Person in News**

#### **Ajay Puri appointed as the Chairman of COAI**

Ajay Puri has been elected as the chairman of Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI)

He is the Chief Operating Officer of Bharti Airtel

Jio Infocomm President Pramod Kumar Mittal has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman

**Quick Fact:** COAI is an apex industry body representing the telecom, Internet, technology and digital service companies of India

### **2) Environment**

#### **India ranks third on 'Global E-waste Monitor 2020'**

The 'Global E-waste Monitor 2020' report has been published by the United Nations

As per the report:

- (a) 53.6 million tonnes of e-waste was generated globally in 2019, out of which only 17.4 percent was recycled
- (b) India was the third largest contributor to e-waste
- (c) China topped the list, with USA coming in second as the highest producers of e-waste

**Quick Fact:** Lead, cadmium, beryllium and brominated flame retardants are some of the hazardous chemicals found in e-waste

### 3) Environment

#### **Asia's largest solar plant at Rewa, MP to be inaugurated on 10th July**

Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the 750 MW Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Plant on 10th July

The Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Project is the largest single-site solar power project in Asia

It is spread over 1590 acres in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh

### 4) Miscellaneous

#### **CBSE and Facebook partner for education on new digital tech**

The partnership has been for two joint ventures:

- 1) Facebook will train teachers on Augmented Reality, who will then teach the same in classes
- 2) A curriculum by CBSE 'Facebook for Education' will be launched, which will teach students about online well-being and digital safety

**Quick Fact:** Mark Zuckerberg is the CEO of Facebook

### 5) Miscellaneous

#### **'Intezaar Aap Ka' Social Media Campaign launched by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board**

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has started a social media campaign Intezaar Aap Ka

It aims to instill the confidence back in the tourism sector by COVID-safe tour packages to tourists

Madhya Pradesh has won the Best Tourism State National Award for three consecutive years from 2015 to 2017

### 6) Economy

### **World Bank's Country Classification 2020 released**

World Bank classifies countries into four income groups- Low, Lower-Middle, Upper-Middle and High Income countries

The classification is based on Gross National Income using the Atlas Method

As per the classification, India, Nepal and Bangladesh are all Lower-Middle income countries

### **7) Miscellaneous**

#### **AIR starts its first Sanskrit news programme 'Sanskrit Saptahiki'**

All India Radio has started its first-ever Sanskrit news programme 'Sanskrit Saptahiki'

Sanskrit Saptahiki will be broadcasted every Saturday.

Sanskrit News Magazine 'Vaartavali' by DD News has also completed its 5 years of continuous broadcast

### **8th July**

#### **1) Person in News**

#### **India's Freya Thakral wins Diana Award 2020**

Diana award is an accolade a young person aged 9-25 receives for their social action or humanitarian work.

Freya Thakral, a 13 year old student, has won it for her Recycler App

The app connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi and improve their lives

#### **2) Environment**

#### **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to be upgraded into a National Park**

Dehing Patkai was declared as an Elephant Reserve in 1992 as part of Project Elephant

In 2004, it was declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary

This decision comes in the backdrop of a controversial decision made by the National Board for Wild Life's (NBWL) to give mining rights in the nearby Eco-sensitive zone Saleki Proposed Reserved Forest, which have now been suspended

**Quick Fact:** The safety bestowed upon a National Park is stricter and larger in scope as compared to a Wildlife Sanctuary

### 3) Person in News

#### **Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver: Book written by Urjit Patel**

Urjit Patel has written a book titled 'Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver'.

The book focuses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that the Indian banking sector has been facing lately

**Quick Fact:** Urjit Patel was 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from September 2016 to December 2018.

### 4) Sports

#### **Akash becomes India's 66th Grandmaster**

Tamil Nadu's G Akash became India's 66th chess Grandmaster

His title was confirmed at second council meet of International Chess Federation (FIDE)

The electronics and communications engineer is trained by K Visweswaran

### 5) International Affairs

#### **Jean Castex: New French prime minister**

Public servant Jean Castex has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France

He is known as Mr Deconnement of French Media

He has worked as an advisor to former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and has years of experience in the French Health Ministry

**Quick Fact:** Emmanuel Macron is the president of France

### 6) Person in News

### **Former IAS officer Injeti Srinivas appointed as the first Chairman of IFSCA**

Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as the first Chairman of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years

IFSCA is a unified authority that will be regulating the financial activities across all the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India

IFSCA will consist of:

- 1) One chairperson
- 2) One member each nominated by regulators like RBI, SEBI, etc.
- 3) Two members of the Central Government

**Quick Fact:** IFSCA will be headquartered in Gandhinagar, home of India's first IFSC GIFT City

### **7) Sports**

#### **New Branding and Visual Identity for IOA on 100th anniversary of Indian participation at Olympic Games**

India sent its first Olympic team at the 1920 Summer Olympics at Belgium's Antwerp

The new logos will:

- a) Celebrate the tricolor
- b) Signify the value of unity, friendship, and merit
- c) Celebrate contributions of Indian sportspeople at Olympics over the last 100 years

**Quick Fact:** The new institutional and commercial logo has been approved by the International Olympic Committee

### **8) Science and Technology**

#### **Israel launches its Intelligence Satellite Ofek-16 into LEO**

Israel has successfully launched its intelligence satellite 'Ofek-16' into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) from Central Israel's Palmachim Airbase

This is the 12th Ofek family satellite launched by Israel

Ofek-16 is an optoelectronic reconnaissance (intelligence) satellite and serves the purpose of monitoring the developments by Iran's Armed Forces and its nuclear program

9th July

**1) National Affairs**

**Himachal Pradesh: First state with 100% LPG connection coverage**

Himachal Pradesh is now the first Indian state where 100% households have LPG gas connections

This coverage has been possible due to:

- a) Central government's Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojna
- b) State government's Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana

**Quick Fact:** LPG, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, contains a mix of propane and butane

**2) Person in News**

**Book release by Maruti Suzuki Chairman: Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India**

RC Bhargava, the Chairman of Maruti Suzuki, has authored a book called "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India"

It is based on his experience of being a policymaker and a leading industrialist.

The book has been published by Harper Collins India.

**Quick Fact:** Kenichi Ayukawa is the Managing Director and CEO of Maruti Suzuki

**3) International Affairs**

**United States to withdraw from WHO by mid-2021**

United States has submitted a notice to United Nations' Secretary-General to withdraw from WHO by 6th July 2021

This step has been taken by the US President in the backdrop of allegations of mishandling the coronavirus pandemic by the World Health Organisation.

In addition to the withdrawal notice, US has also talked about freezing its funds to WHO

**Quick Fact:** United States is the largest contributor to the annual budget of the WHO



#### 4) Science and Technology

##### **WHO: Possibility of Airborne and Aerosol Transmission of COVID-19**

As per existing WHO research and guidelines, COVID-19 infection was being spread through droplet transmission, i.e., expelled droplets from an infected person's mouth and nose.

However, recent research has shown that there is a possibility that COVID-19 infection can be spread through tiny airborne particles.

This finding is not definitive as of now, since such spread has only been studied in specific conditions like poorly ventilated areas.

**Quick Fact:** World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

#### 5) International Affairs

##### **Bhutan-China Boundary Negotiations**

During June's U.N. Development Programme's Global Environment Facility (GEF) meeting, China objected to funding for development of Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary which it sees as a disputed property

However, Bhutan has claimed long-standing sovereignty over the area.

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is located in an Eastern Bhutan district which borders Arunachal Pradesh.

The ongoing dispute by China is being seen as a pressure tactic for India.

#### 6) Environment

##### **Golden Birdwing: Largest Butterfly in India**

Golden Birdwing has been found to be the largest butterfly in India based on wingspan length of 194 mm

The habitat of the butterfly ranges from Uttarakhand to Shillong

Earlier, Southern Birdwing butterfly was considered to be the largest butterfly in India

**10th July**

**1) Person in News**

**IARI-Jharkhand's building to be named after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee**

A new building of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Jharkhand will be named after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the founder of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh

One of his major calls for India was 'One nation-one law'

**2) Economy**

**Microsoft partners with NSDC to provide digital skills**

Amid the corona crisis, the company Microsoft has partnered with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to offer digital skills to India's youth

As part of the program, 'Microsoft Learn', Microsoft's learning resource center, will be integrated with the eSkill India digital platform

This will create a digital skills ecosystem and skill Indian youth in jobs for the future.

**Quick Fact:** Manish Kumar is the CEO and MD of National Skill Development Corporation

**3) India and the World**

**SDG index 2020: India ranks 117th**

UNDP's SDG index 2020 has ranked 166 nations on 17 sustainable development goals

With a score of 61.92, India has ranked 117

Sweden, Denmark and Finland are top three countries in the index

**Quick Fact:** SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly

**4) Economy**

**First time for Finance Commission: An entire chapter on Health Financing**

The 15th Finance Commission will devote an entire chapter on Health Financing for the first time

For this, all members will study the need and aspects of health sector along with government spending on the sector via centrally sponsored schemes

A meeting between the 15th Finance Commission and World Bank, Niti Aayog and High level group (HLG) on the health sector was also held for the same

**Quick Fact:** NK Singh is the chairperson of the 15th Finance Commission

**5) International Affairs**

**Sri Lanka, Maldives: First two south-east Asian countries to eliminate rubella and measles**

World Health Organization (WHO) has announced elimination of rubella and measles from Sri Lanka and Maldives

In doing this, they have successfully become the first two south-east Asian countries under WHO to eliminate both rubella and measles

**Quick Fact:** The 11 countries in WHO's South East Asia region are India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Maldives, Myanmar, North Korea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, and Nepal.

**6) National Affairs**

**Odisha: First Indian state to use space tech and AI for monitoring government lands**

Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System, BLUIS, has been launched to monitor government land in the state using high-resolution satellite imagery

The need arose due to lack of transparency related to encroachment on government land

By nature, BLUIS is a web and mobile-based geo-tagged repository.

**7) Government Schemes**

**ARHCs to be developed for Urban Migrants/Poor under PMAY-U**

Cabinet has given approval for development of Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)

The ARHCs will provide affordable and hygienic housing to urban migrants and poor who have lost their houses in the pandemic.

ARHCs will be a sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)

**11th July**

## **1) Science and Technology**

### **Google+ rebranded as Google Currents**

Google has officially rebranded Google+ as Google Currents

The new platform is tailored more towards businesses

Google+ was a social network platform which was closed in April 2019 due to low usage and data leaks.

**Quick Fact:** Sundar Pichai is the CEO of Google

## **2) Science and Technology**

### **World's first reusable PPE kits launched in India**

These kits has been created by Indian manufacturing company, Loyal Textile Mills

It has been developed in collaboration with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based textile innovation company- HeiQ Materials AG.

The kit has Triple Viral Shield Technology and can be washed and reused up to ten times

## **3) India and the World**

### **Nepal bans broadcasting of Indian News Channels**

Nepal based Multi-System Operators have issued a broadcast ban on all Indian news channels except doordarshan

The decision has been taken upon the allegation of Indian news channels broadcasting defamatory and untrue information about Nepal's Prime Minister

## **4) Art and Culture**

### **Ministry of Culture published reprinted version of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscripts**

Union Ministry of Culture is reprinting all the 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscripts under the National Mission for Manuscripts

Professor Raghuvera brought the manuscripts to India around 1956

The books are important Buddhist canonical text and are the most important religious books in Mongolia

**Quick Fact:** Kanjur means 'Concise Orders' in Mongolian language

### **5) Science and Technology**

#### **ISRO will launch Brazil's Amazonia-1 satellite**

Amazonia-1 is the first earth observation satellite to be entirely developed by Brazil

It will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The partnership is as per the MoU signed by both countries on cooperation in the field of outer space

**Quick Fact:** Brazil's space programs are handled by Brazilian Space Agency, AEB, as it is called Agência Espacial Brasileira in Portuguese

**13th July**

### **1) Economy**

#### **RBI: Tamil Nadu has highest market borrowings among States**

Tamil Nadu has the highest market borrowings among all Indian states.

Its borrowings make up 17% of the total borrowings done through the issue of bonds, also known as state development loans (SDL).

The other high market borrowing states are Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan

### **2) Economy**

### **Kharif Crops Sowing Area increases 2.5 Times w.r.t last year: IMD**

As per LPA, i.e. Long Period Average, India has received excessive overall rainfall in June 2020

Due to this, the Kharif crops sowing area has increased 2.5 times

June 2020 was India's wettest June in the last 12 years

**Quick Fact:** Kharif crops are grown in hot and humid rain fed areas between June to November

### **3) Science and Technology**

#### **IIT Alumni Council to establish world's largest molecular diagnostic lab 'MegaLab Mumbai'**

IIT Alumni Council has partnered with the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB)

Together, they shall be conducting research on COVID-19 and its patients

The aim is to establish a global data, testing and treatment leadership

### **4) Environment**

#### **IOC receives EU Green Building Leadership Award 2020**

International Olympic Committee has been awarded the European 2020 US Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership Award for its headquarters in Lausanne

USGBC recognises individuals or organizations which advance development of sustainable, healthy and resilient buildings, cities and communities

Olympic House is the first international headquarters and the second building overall to obtain the highest, i.e., Platinum level of the Swiss Sustainable Construction Standard (SNBS)

**Quick Fact:** Lausanne is located on Lake Geneva, Switzerland

### **5) India and the World**

#### **India Global Week 2020 conference**

India Global Week 2020 virtual conference was a 3 day conference

The forum was a way to bring together global thought leaders and industrialists for discussing opportunities in India as well as the global economic revival post-COVID

The conference has 5000 global participants from 30 nations, 250 global speakers and 75 sessions

**Quick Fact:** The theme for 2020 “Be The Revival: India and a Better New World”.

## 6) Science and Technology

### Asia's Largest Data Centre inaugurated near Mumbai

The centre is named as ‘Yotta NM1 data centre’ and has 7200 racks and 50MW of power with 48-hour backup

It will cater to the needs of engineering and real estate businesses

The Yotta data centre will be India's largest data centre of its kind

It will also be the largest certified Tier IV data centre in Asia and second largest in the world

**Quick Fact:** It is owned by Hiranandani Group, via its fully owned subsidiary, the Yotta Infrastructure Group

## 7) Economy

### World Bank signs \$400 million loan agreement for Namami Gange

World Bank has signed a \$400 million loan agreement to enhance support for Gol’s Namami Gange programme

The programme is an umbrella programme under which all initiatives related to Ganga river implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga function

Some of the initiatives taken up are sewage treatment, cleaning, afforestation, etc.

**14th July**

## 1) Sports

**New Hockey India President: Gyanendro Ningombam from Manipur**

Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam will be the new President of Hockey India.

With this appointment, he shall be replacing Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad.

Hockey India is the governing body which exclusively directs and conducts all men and women's hockey activities in India.

**Quick Fact:** Hockey India headquarters are located in New Delhi

## 2) Defence and Security

### Indian battalion wins UNIFIL environment award

Indian battalion (INDBATT) stationed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has won an environment award.

The award is for a project for decreasing waste generation, reusing plastic, building greenhouses and compost pits.

Similar awards were won by battalions from Ireland, Indonesia, France and Italy

## 3) Person in News

### Dalai Lama's biography to be released in 2020

The biography is titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography'

It has been written by Tenzin Geyche Tethong, one of Dalai Lama's closest aides and advisor of over 40 years

The book also captured the important historical event where he was forced to flee to India in March 1959.

**Quick Fact:** The 14th Dalai Lama's name is Tenzin Gyatso

## 4) Science and Technology

### Russia's COVID-19 Vaccine becomes the first to complete human clinical trials

A vaccine developed by Russia's Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology has become the first COVID-19 vaccine globally to have completed its human clinical trials

The study was testing human health status post vaccination

Based on epidemiological results of the trials, the decision to scale production will be taken by the director of the institute.



## 5) National Affairs

### **Chhattisgarh High Court conducts India's first state-Level 'E-Lok Adalat'**

The E-Lok Adalat was conducted in 195 benches across Chhattisgarh via video conferencing

It was inaugurated by Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court P.R. Ramachandra Menon

The National level Lok Adalat had to be cancelled earlier this year due to the pandemic

## 6) Environment

### **Guinness Book of World Records: Fourth Cycle of All India Tiger Estimation 2018**

The Fourth Cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018 has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for being the World's Largest Camera Trapping Wildlife Survey

The exercise covered an area of 121,337 square kilometers, used 26,838 camera traps and captured 34,858,623 photographs

The estimation happens every four years in India, since its initiation in 2006

**Quick Fact:** As per latest estimation figures, India has 2967 tigers, i.e. 75% of the global tiger population

## 15th July

### 1) Miscellaneous

#### **NITI Aayog presents Voluntary National Review 2020 report**

NITI Aayog has presented India's second Voluntary National Review at the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 2020

The title of the report is "Decade of Action: Taking SDGs from Global to Local"

It reports progress of adoption and implementation of SDGs in India to meet the 2030 Agenda

**Quick Fact:** NITI Aayog is responsible for examining the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national level.

## 2) Economy

### **NTPC wins CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2019**

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited has won the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019

It has won:

- a) Outstanding Accomplishment in Corporate Excellence Category
- b) Commendation for Significant Achievement in Corporate social responsibility (CSR) category

Its sustainability practices work for girl empowerment and contract labour empowerment

**Quick Fact:** NTPC Limited is India's largest energy conglomerate

## 3) Economy

### **Google For India Digitisation Fund: Google to invest USD 10 billion in India**

The CEO of Google has announced a \$10 billion for India, also called as Google For India Digitisation Fund

This fund will be invested over the span of 5-7 years

The investments will focus on four areas important:

- a) Enabling affordable access and information in vernacular language.
- b) Building new products and services that are deeply relevant to India's unique needs.
- c) Empowering businesses for digital transformation
- d) Leveraging technology and AI for social good, especially in health, education, and agriculture

**Quick Fact:** Sundar Pichai is the CEO of Google and Alphabet Inc.

## 4) India and the World

### **India dropped from Chabahar rail project by Iran**

India has been dropped from Chabahar rail project by Iran

The reason for the same has been delayed funding for project initiation and implementation, as per Iran

The project included a railway line from Chabahar port to Zahedan, near the Afghanistan border.

**Quick Fact:** India and Iran signed Chabahar rail project agreement in 2016

## 5) Person in News

### **New book by Ruskin Bond: A Song of India**

The book will be released on 20th July, marking 70 years of his literary career

It tells the story of Ruskin Bond's life from when he started writing.

It is the 4th book in his memoir series after Looking for the Rainbow, Till the Clouds Roll By (2017), Coming Round the Mountain (2019).

## 6) Person in News

### **K Sivan wins Von Karman Award 2020**

ISRO's chief Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan has been awarded the 2020 Von Karman Award

The award is granted by the International Academy of Astronautics.

It is granted for outstanding lifetime achievements in science.

**Quick Fact:** Theodore von Karman was an aerospace engineer famous for his key advances in aerodynamics.

## 7) Person in News

### **K Palaniswami awarded with Paul Harris Fellow Recognition**

Edappadi K Palaniswami is the chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

He has received the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition from the Rotary Foundation

The honour is granted for providing efficient services to people in the public domain

**Quick Fact:** Headquarter of Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is located in Chicago, USA

**16th July**

**1) Economy**

**US continues being India's top trading partner in FY 2019-20**

As per data from Union Ministry of Commerce, US is India's top trading partner for the second consecutive financial year

Earlier, China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 to 2017-18

The bilateral trade between India and US was \$88.75 billion in FY 2019-20

**Quick Fact:** Piyush Goyal is the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry

**2) Sports**

**Hemang Amin appointed as interim CEO of BCCI**

Hemang Amin has been appointed as interim CEO by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

He will be replacing Rahul Johri as CEO of BCCI

He was earlier reporting to the outgoing CEO

**3) Person in News**

**Journalist-writer Nagindas Sanghvi passes away**

Nagindas Sanghvi was a veteran Gujarati journalist, columnist, writer, and political analyst

He was honoured with the Padma Shri award in 2019

He wrote in Gujarati, Hindi and English and is famous for his works on Mahatma Gandhi, Gujarat, etc.

**4) Economy**

**India's first trans-shipment hub to be in Cochin port**

A trans-shipment hub handles and stores containers temporarily and later transfers them to other ships for onward destination.

The Cochin Port was selected because:

- a) It is proximally located to international sea routes

- b) It is at a suitable distance from other India feeder ports
- c) It is connected to hinterlands of India
- d) It had adequate infrastructure to support the facility

**Quick Fact:** Cochin port is located in Kerala

## 5) Person in News

### Ashok Lavasa: New Vice President of ADB

Ashok Lavasa has been appointed the new VP for Public-Private Partnerships and Private Sector Operations of Asian Development Bank

Ashok Lavasa is a 1980 batch retired IAS officer, and was serving as the Election Commissioner

He was also appointed as judge in the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

## 6) Science and Technology

### Robotic Helicopter 'Ingenuity' to be deployed on Mars

The Ingenuity robotic helicopter will be deployed in Mars 2020 mission of NASA

It will study how the conditions on Mars affect aviation.

Ingenuity is the first aircraft to perform controlled flight on another planet

**Quick Fact:** Mars Mission will study habitation potential on Mars

## 17th July

### 1) Sports

### 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar

As per Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the 2022 World Cup is to be held in Qatar.

This will be the first world cup to be held in a muslim-majority country and in the Arab World.

It will also be the last world cup with 32 teams, which would be increased to 48 from the 2026 tournament.

### 2) National Affairs

## **PRAGYATA guidelines for digital education by HRD Ministry**

PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education have been released by Human Resource Development Ministry

The guidelines include 8 steps of digital learning: Plan, Review, Arrange, Guide, Yak (talk), Assign, Track, Appreciate.

Screen time for students have been set by the guidelines as follows:

- a) Pre-primary students: not more than 30 min a day
- b) For classes 1-8: 2 online sessions of upto 45 min a day
- c) For classes 9-12: four sessions of upto 45 minutes each in a day

**Quick Fact:** Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is the minister of HRD

### **3) Sports**

#### **First international test match after corona outbreak: West Indies win**

West Indies won the first International test match after the corona outbreak by 4 wickets

The match was played against England

It was played in an empty Ageas Bowl Stadium in England

### **4) Environment**

#### **Indian Railways targets to become 'Green Railway' by 2030**

Ministry of Railways is working on a mission mode to transform Indian Railways into Green Railways by 2030.

A number of measures have been taken for mitigation of global warming and combating climate change by the ministry.

**Quick Fact:** Piyush Goyal is the Union minister for Railways

### **5) Person in News**

#### **Sachin Awasthi honoured with Global Humanitarian Award 2020**

Global Humanitarian Award honours individuals who contribute to the betterment of society and the world.

Sachin Awasthi has been honoured with the award for organising a five day long clean Ganga awareness journey.

The journey was from Haridwar to Varanasi, and was also called Vande Gange Swachhata Jan Jagran Yatra

**Quick Fact:** The Global Humanitarian Award is bestowed by the World Humanitarian Drive

## 6) Person in News

### **New Stephen King Book: If It Bleeds**

Renowned author Stephen King was published another book called If It Bleeds

It is a collection of four storied centres around a bomb at Albert Macready Middle School.

It is a sequel of his book, The Outsider.

## 7) Science and Technology

### **India makes world's most affordable COVID-19 kit 'COROSURE'**

COROSURE, developed by IIT-Delhi, is the world's most affordable RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit with a base price of Rs. 399.

It has been approved by ICMR and DCGI

The testing cost of the method is reduced by the use of a probe-free method to conduct the test.

## 8) National Affairs

### **FICCI ties-up with UNICEF India for #Reimagine Campaign**

UNICEF INDIA will partner with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI), Socio-Economic Development Foundation (SEDF) for #Reimagine Campaign

The campaign will give COVID and post-COVID support to children, vulnerable population and curb long-term damage to business operations and employment

**Quick Fact:** Sangita Reddy is the president of FICCI

**18th July**

**1) Person in News**

**Indian origin Chan Santokhi elected as Suriname's President**

Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi has been elected the president of Suriname

Santokhi formerly served as a justice minister.

Suriname was formerly a Dutch colony with more than a quarter of its population of Indian descent

**Quick Fact:** The capital of Suriname, located in South America, is Paramaribo

**2) Sports**

**Brett Lee to be brand ambassador of SportsAdda**

Brett Lee is a former Australian fast bowler and cricket legend.

He has been signed to become the brand ambassador of SportsAdda

SportsAdda is an Indian news platform which provides updates, insights and statistics for sports like cricket, football, and kabaddi

**3) Environment**

**Assam's Poba Reserve Forest to be upgraded to Wildlife Sanctuary**

Poba Reserve Forest of Dhemaji district, Assam, will be upgraded to a wildlife sanctuary.

This will result in increased security to its internal wildlife and increased security restrictions

Poba Reserve Forest, declared in 1924, covers a 10,522 hectares large habitat for a large number of flora and fauna.

**Quick Fact:** Assam has 5 national parks, i.e. Kaziranga National Park, Manas National park, Orang National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Nameri National Park and 18 wildlife sanctuaries

**4) Miscellaneous**



## **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report**

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report is released jointly by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UN World Food Programme and WHO

As per the report:

- a) Africa is the hardest hit region in terms of food security
- b) It forecasts a global increase of 10 million undernourished people
- c) India, stunting in children under 5 years declined from 47.8% in 2012 to 34.7% in 2019

## **5) India and the World**

### **India forms Air Bubble with US, UK, UAE, Germany and France**

Air Bubble is a term used for transport and people connectivity between specific regions in the world during the corona pandemic

Gol has signed agreements with US, UK, France and countries in UAE for resuming international commercial flights with special corona-safe measures

## **6) India and the World**

### **India-Bhutan open new trade route**

India and Bhutan have opened a new trade route between Jaigon, West Bengal and Pasakha, Bhutan.

The land route will help growth of Pasakha Industrial Estate in Bhutan.

The measure is also strategically significant in view of China's latest aggressive steps towards Bhutan.

## **7) Person in News**

### **N Chandrasekaran and Jim Taiclet to receive Global Leadership Award 2020**

Natarajan Chandrasekaran is the chairman of Tata Groups

Jim Taiclet is CEO and President of Lockheed Martin

Both business leaders shall be receiving the US-India Business Council (USIBC) Global Leadership Award 2020

20th July

### 1) Economy

#### **India launches five portals to boost Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**

Five portals are being launched to boost innovation in different sectors.

This will support and give an impetus to Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan

The portals being developed are:

- a) BHEL for power sector
- b) CMFTI for manufacturing sector
- c) HMT for machine tools
- d) ICAT and ARAI for automotive sector

These portals will connect academia, industry, research institutes, startups and experts.

### 2) Science & Technology

#### **DCGI approves India's First indigenous Pneumonia vaccine**

Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved India's first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine (Pneumonia vaccine)

The vaccine, developed by Serum Institute of India, Pune will work for active immunization against invasive disease and pneumonia caused by '*Streptococcus pneumoniae*' among infants.

DCGI has granted Serum Institute of India approval to manufacture the vaccine domestically.

### 3) Defence and Security

#### **India signs MoU with US to store its strategic reserves of petroleum**

With the current drop in prices of oil, India is working actively to increase the capacity of its strategic reserves of Petroleum

It has hence explored the possibility of an MoU with US to store its reserves on US soil.

Currently there are three crude oil storages, located underground at Mangalore, Padur and Vishakhapatnam.

**Quick Fact:** Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited is responsible for maintaining strategic petroleum reserves of India

#### **4) Science & Technology**

##### **CybHer campaign launched by Telangana Police**

The campaign has been launched by Telangana State Police's Women Safety Wing in association with the Legal Aid Centre, Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

The month-long virtual campaign will tackle cybercrime against children and women and focus on incidents of paedophile activity, sexual harassment of minors.

It will also create awareness and offer proactive measures to stay alert from becoming the victim of cyberattacks.

**Quick Fact:** Telangana CM: K Chandrasekhar Rao

#### **5) Defence and Security**

##### **India-Israel sign agreements on Cyber Security**

India currently ranks 11th in number of cyber security attacks faced.

In the past one quarter, it has detected 40 lakh cyber security threats.

To boost its cyber security, it has signed the agreement with Israel on collaboration in dealing with cyber threats, exchange of information, capacity building and mutual exchange of best practices in the field

**Quick Fact:** Lt General Rajesh Pant is India's National Cyber Security Coordinator

#### **6) National Affairs**

##### **Indian Railways first cable-stayed Bridge to be set up in Jammu & Kashmir**

The bridge, constructed by Konkan Railway Ltd, will connect Katra and Reasi Section of Jammu–Baramulla line.

The total length of the bridge is 473.25 metres and it is at the height of 331 metres above the Chenab river.

**Quick Fact:** A cable-stayed bridge has one or more towers (or pylons), from which cables support the bridge deck. A distinctive feature are the cables or stays, which run directly from the tower to the deck, normally forming a fan-like pattern or a series of parallel lines.

## 7) Science and Technology

### PN SVANidhi App launched by GoI

The PM SVANidhi app was launched by the Minister of Urban Affairs

It has been launched to help street vendors

It will provide user-friendly digital interface for lending institutions to source and process loan applications of street vendors.

## 21st July

### 1) Environment

#### Uttarakhand government to generate electricity from waste

A 'Waste to Energy' has been undertaken by Uttarakhand government

The waste generated in the state has the potential to generate up to 5 megawatts of electricity

This initiative will help in:

- a) Curbing pollution
- b) Solid waste management initiatives
- c) Providing eco-friendly energy to the state

### 2) Miscellaneous

#### CBSE partners with IBM to integrate AI curriculum

CBSE has integrated a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) course for classes XI and XII

This curriculum has been created by IBM

The IBM AI curriculum is a part of CBSE's Social Empowerment through Work Education and Action (SEWA) program

**Quick Fact:** Arvind Krishna is the CEO of IBM

### 3) Person in News

#### **Roshni Nadar Malhotra: New HCL Technologies Chairperson**

Roshni Nadar Malhotra has been appointed as the new chairman of HCL Technologies.

She will be replacing Shiv Nadar as the chairperson

Shiv Nadar will continue as HCL Technologies' managing director and chief strategy officer.

**Quick Fact:** HCL Technologies is headquartered in Noida

### 4) Economy

#### **Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2020: India ranks third**

The annual Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI) report was released by the US-based property consultant Cushman & Wakefield

The index ranks the most suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in Europe, Americas, and the Asia-Pacific.

Ranking has been done as per four key areas: Bouncebackability, Conditions, Costs and Risks.

The top three countries in the index are China, US and India.

### 5) Person in News

#### **Renowned Indian Mathematician S. Seshadri passes away**

S. Seshadri was the founder and Director-Emeritus of the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)

He was famous for his work in algebraic geometry.

Awards received:

- a) Padma Bhushan in 2009.
- b) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award
- c) Srinivasa Ramanujan Medal

**Quick Fact:** Seshadri constant is named after S. Seshadri. It expresses the local positivity of a line bundled on a projective variety.

## 6) Person in News

### **Mandela Prize 2020: Marianna Vardinoyannis and Morissana Kouyaté**

The Mandela Prize is awarded every five years by UN General Assembly

Marianna Vardinoyannis is a Greek philanthropist known for fighting childhood cancer

Morissana Kouyaté is a human rights activist from Guinea who has made immense contributions in fight against violence against women in Africa

**Quick Fact:** The award is presented on International Nelson Mandela Day observed on 18th July

## 7) Defence and Security

### **BlackRock: New Android malware discovered**

The new malware steals data from 337 apps including the most widely used ones like Gmail, Amazon, Netix, Uber, etc.

The malware is based on the leaked source code of another malware strain 'Xerxes'

It steals data like passwords, credit card details, etc. using 'Overlays' technique. In this technique, the malware places a fake window on top of the real app screen so that users enter their details in it mistaking it to be the app screen.

## 22nd July

### 1) Science and Technology

#### **UAE launches its first space mission to Mars from Japan**

The first space mission to be launched by UAE is called Hope

Hope will be providing a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere by studying its daily and seasonal changes.

It will reach Mars' orbit by February 2021, marking the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE

**Quick Fact:** Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai will be tracking the mission

## 2) India and the World

### **Pakistan and China sign agreement for Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project in PoK**

Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project is being planned to be built in Sudhoti district of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK)

The 1.5 billion dollar project is being implemented under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

It will help Pakistan in generating jobs and cleaner fuel

**Quick Fact:** The 700.7 MW Hydel Power project will be situated on River Jhelum

## 3) Defence and Security

### **India and US conduct PASSEX Exercise**

Unlike planned exercises, a passage exercise (PASSEX) is normally undertaken for mutual capacity building whenever an opportunity arises

This exercise is being conducted with USS Nimitz on its way to Middle East from South China Sea

This is being performed at a time of geopolitical tensions between India and China and at South China Sea

**Quick Fact:** Malabar Exercise is a planned maritime exercise which is usually held between India, Japan and the US

## 4) Government Schemes

### **Gol partners with UNICEF Yuwaah for Atma Nirbhar Bharat**

UNICEF Yuwaah promotes access to foundational and 21st century skills for youth inside and outside formal education system

The partnership will support youth volunteers in achieving Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

It will provide a great platform to Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and NSS volunteers.

## 5) Environment

### India's first Charging Plaza inaugurated in New Delhi

The first public electric vehicle charging plaza was inaugurated at Chelmsford club in New Delhi

It was inaugurated by Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy Shri R K Singh

Such charging plazas will help in popularising electric vehicles leading to a more environmentally friendly transport system in the country.

The charging Plaza was established by EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) and NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council)

## 6) Environment

### MNRE launches RAISE Initiative

RAISE stands for Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency (RAISE)

It is a joint initiative of EESL and USAID

It will help improve indoor air quality and energy consumption in office spaces all over the country

**23rd July**

## 1) Miscellaneous

### HRD Ministry launches "Manodarpan" for students

Manodarpan initiative has been launched to ensure mental well-being of the students.

It will provide psychosocial support to students for their mental well-being, an issue especially pertinent during the COVID-19 outbreak.



It has been inaugurated by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

## 2) Person in News

### **Ashwini Kumar Tewari: New MD & CEO of SBI Cards**

Ashwini Kumar Tewari has been appointed as the new Managing Director and chief executive officer of SBI Cards and Payment Services

He was nominated for the position by parent entity State Bank of India

His term will be of two years

**Quick Fact:** Challa Sreenivasulu Setty is the MD of SBI bank

## 3) Person in News

### **Baldev Singh Sadaknama's new book: Suraj Kade Marda Nahi**

Baldev Singh Sadaknama is a Sahitya Akademi winner

His new book, Suraj Kade Marda Nahi, is about freedom fighter Udham Singh

It will be released around the freedom fighter's 80th death anniversary on July 31, 2020

**Quick Fact:** Sahitya Akademi Award is conferred by Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters

## 4) Economy

### **Zoram Mega Food Park: first Mega Food Park in Mizoram**

Zoram Mega Food Park will be the first Mega Food Park operationalized in the State of Mizoram

It will provide employment to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in its CPC (Core Processing Centre) and PPC (primary processing Centre) catchment areas

Some facilities available in the food park include Cold Storage, Drywarehouse, Aseptic pulp line, packing, Ripening Chambers, Spices drying facility, Food Testing Laboratory

## 5) National Affairs

### **Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes into effect**

Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has come into force. The act will empower consumers in protecting their rights as consumers.

The Act establishes the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers

It will include provisions related to e-commerce

## 6) Science and Technology

### **Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant reaches criticality**

Criticality in terms of Atomic Power Plants means reaching normal operating conditions.

The Kakrapar power plant is located in Gujarat  
It produces power from indigenously built reactors and has a capacity of 700 MW

**Quick Fact:** India has a total of 22 nuclear power reactors

## 24th July

### 1) Person in News

#### **Ramesh Boddu appointed as MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank**

Ramesh Babu Boddu has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank

He will be holding this position for a three year long term

He was serving as Deputy Managing Director in State Bank of India prior to this appointment.

**Quick Fact:** Karur Vysya Bank is headquartered in Karur, Tamil Nadu

### 2) Economy

#### **Committee on accounting and auditing standards constituted by NFRA**

A seven member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been constituted by National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

It will aid and advise the NFRA on issues related to accounting and auditing standards by contributing perspectives of users, preparers and auditors of financial statements

R Narayanaswamy will be the chairperson of the committee

**Quick Fact:** NFRA was established under Companies Act 2013

### 3) Person in News

#### **Sahil Seth appointed as BRICS CCI adviser**

Sahil Seth is the Deputy Commissioner of Mumbai Customs

He has been appointed as the honorary adviser of steering committee for BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI)

BRICS CCI promotes commerce and industry in BRICS by lending special support to MSMEs and young entrepreneurs in the region.

**Quick Fact:** The five countries which make up BRICS are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

### 4) Person in News

#### **DG RPF Arun Kumar nominated as the Vice-Chairman of International Union of Railways**

Arun Kumar is a 1985 batch Indian Police Officer who is currently serving as DG Railway Protection Force

He has been nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways

UIC is the global platform for interoperability, common technical standards development for railway systems across the world.

This move will strengthen India's 'rail diplomacy' and boost its future international railway plans like Indo-Russia railway linkages.

**Quick Fact:** International Union of Railways a.k.a Union Internationale Des Chemins (UIC) is headquartered in Paris and has 194 member nations

### 5) Government Schemes

**Vriksharopan Abhiyan to be launched by Home Minister**

Vriksharopan Abhiyan aims to create green spaces by planting tree saplings in mined areas.

It will be implemented by Ministry of Coal

Three PSUs involved are NLC India Limited, Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited

**Quick Fact:** 'Going Green', the key thrust area of the coal sector, focuses on maximization of green cover through ecological reclamation

**6) Defence and Security**

**India successfully test fires 'Dhruvastra' anti-guided missiles**

The Nag Missile (HELINA) has now been renamed as Dhruvastra

It is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile which can engage in both direct hit mode and attack mode

Nag was one of the five strategic missiles developed under Integrated Missile Development Programme, other missiles being Agni, Prithvi and Akash.

**7) Environment**

**Environmental Activist Greta Thunberg awarded Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**

The Gulbenkian Prize is awarded annually by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation to organizations focused on environment and climate change

Greta Thunberg is the first person to win this award for her school climate strike movement Friday for Future

**Quick Fact:** Greta Thunberg is a Swedish environmental activist

**25th July**

**1) India and the World**

**Ideas Summit 2020**

PM Narendra Modi addressed the India Ideas Summit 2020 virtually

The summit is focused on strengthening domestic economic capacity to build economic resilience globally

The summit is being hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC) on the occasion of its 45th anniversary

**Quick Fact:** The theme for Ideas Summit 2020 is Building a Better Future

## 2) Science and Technology

### Comet NEOWISE closest to Earth on July 23

Comet NEOWISE is the brightest comet which can be seen from earth with a naked eye

It was reached closest to Earth on July 23rd 2020, visible after a gap of 6800 years

It was first discovered by NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission

**Quick Fact:** Comets are heated by the Sun and release gasses by a process known as outgassing

## 3) Person in News

### Sumit Deb appointed as CMD of NMDC

National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is an iron ore mining corporation which functions under the Ministry of Steel

Sumit Deb is presently serving in NMDC as Director (Personnel)

He will be succeeding N Baijendra Kumar as CMD of NMDC

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of NMDC is located in Hyderabad

## 4) Person in News

### Arnab Chaudhuri gets posthumous Toonz Media Award 2020

Toonz Media Group annually honours individuals displaying animation genius in India

Animator Arnab Chaudhuri has been posthumously conferred with 'Legend of Animation' award by Toonz Media

He has won the award for his contribution to India's animation industry

**Quick Fact:** Arnab Chaudhuri's animation movie 'Arjun: The Warrior Prince' is the only Indian animation to be longlisted for Oscars

## 5) International Affairs

### **South Korea launched its first military satellite: ANASIS II**

The launch of ANASIS II will make South Korea one of the ten global countries to have its own military communication satellite

It will bestow upon the country the capacity to compete with its nuclear armed neighbor North Korea

The rocket was launched by SpaceX from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

## 6) Science and Technology

### **Digantara develops India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system**

Digantara is India's first air and space surveillance company.

It will be developing India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system by deploying a constellation of cost-efficient nano satellites in the Low Earth Orbit.

Tracking and mapping space debris will minimize threats to future space exploration

**Quick Fact:** A Low Earth Orbit has an altitude of less than 1000 km

## 7) Science and Technology

### **China launches its first Mars Probe Tianwen 1**

Tianwen 1 has three parts- an orbiter, a rover and a lander.

The orbiter will orbit the planet and study it for comprehensive observation

The rover will study the geological structure, atmosphere, environment, soil and water of Mars.

**Quick Fact:** Till now, only US, Russia, India and European Union have successfully sent missions to Mars

27th July 2020

### 1) National Affairs

#### **TRIFED signs MoU with IIT, Delhi to implement Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**

This agreement will help tribal entrepreneurs working under the Van Dhan programme of TRIFED.

It will allow them to access research works of several institutions that are part of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

Under this agreement, tribal people will get access to new processing technologies, mentorship, digital systems, product innovation etc.

Quick Facts:

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development aiming to link a higher education institute with at least 5 villages for their social and economic betterment.

### 2) Science & Technology

#### **NASA to launch ASTHROS Mission to study the Cosmos**

The ASTHROS Mission will send football stadium sized balloons into the stratosphere to observe wavelengths of invisible light.

The Mission will try to find answers about giant stars and their formation in the Milky Way Galaxy by creating a 3D map of density, motion, and speed of gas clouds from Supernova explosions.

#### **About ASTHROS Mission:**

ASTHROS is Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observation as Sub millimetre wavelengths operated by Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of NASA.

### 3) Science & Technology

#### **Rajasthan has launched its first “Plasma Bank”**

Rajasthan has launched its first Plasma Bank in Jaipur. The Plasma Banks store the blood plasma collected from a COVID-19 recovered patient. It is then transfused into a COVID-19 patient

The first ever national level Plasma Bank was established in Delhi following which Odisha, Kerala and Maharashtra state governments have announced to set up Plasma Banks.

## **Quick Facts:**

Plasma is the liquid in which the blood cells i.e. RBCs, WBCs and the platelets are suspended. The plasma is separated from the blood cells through a process known as “centrifugation”.

## **4) International Affairs**

### **Turkmenistan given observer status in World Trade Organization**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council has granted “Observer” status to the central Asian country Turkmenistan.

This will help Turkmenistan to develop its economy, promote multilateral cooperation, attract foreign investment and develop international trade relations.

Turkmenistan is the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body by becoming the 25th observer of WTO.

Key takeaways:

Capital of Turkmenistan: Ashgabat; Currency: Turkmen manat.

## **5) Defence & Security**

### **Largest Solar Power Plant of Indian Navy Commissioned in Ezhimala**

The Plant was commissioned at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala by Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla.

The capacity of the plant is 3 MW and it has been set up under Indian Government's initiative of 'National Solar Mission' which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022. It will have an estimated life of 25 years.

Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KELTRON) has executed this project.

Quick Facts:

Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.

## **6) Science & Technology**

### **Smart wristband to track Covid-19 patients launched by AIIMS Nagpur**



The wristband will help in effective tracking and monitoring of Covid-19 positive and suspected patients by overcoming the limitations of existing online mobile apps used for tracking and monitoring coronavirus patients.

The device has been co created in collaboration with IIT Jodhpur & IIT Nagpur. The devices will operate on a technology that is more effective than the GPS system.

Moreover, the data collected through the wristband will be collected and archived on cloud thereby facilitating monitoring by health workers from a distance.

## 28th July

### 1) Environment

#### **Indian Navy's largest solar power plant commissioned in Kerala**

Indian Navy's largest solar plant is part of its contribution to the 'National Solar Mission'

The plant is located at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala.

Its capacity is a 3 MW and has a life of 25 years

**Quick Fact:** The National Solar Mission aims to achieve 100 GW of solar power by the year 2022.

### 2) Science and Technology

#### **NASA's ASTHROS Mission**

ASTHROS stands for Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observations at Submillimeter-wavelengths

The mission will send a telescope, on a football stadium-sized balloon, at the stratospheric level to observe wavelengths of light invisible from the Earth.

This will help in understanding the formation of giant stars in the galaxy

**Quick Fact:** NASA headquarters are located in Washington, D.C., United States

### 3) Person in News

#### **Partha Pratim Sengupta Appointed New MD, CEO Of Indian Overseas Bank**

Partha Pratim Sengupta has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.

Currently he is the Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer at State Bank of India.

**Quick Fact:** The headquarters of Indian Overseas Bank is located in Chennai

#### 4) Economy

##### **Indian Accounting Standards related to leasing amended**

Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India amended the Indian Accounting Standards related to leasing.

These changes were made to facilitate rent concessions and changes to leases while in contract period during the corona pandemic crisis

Indian Accounting Standards is issued and supervised by the Accounting Standards Board.

#### 5) Environment

##### **FAO releases Global Forest Resources Assessment: India ranks third**

The report assesses the condition and management of forests in the member countries.

According to the report, 10 countries have gained forest area between 2010 and 2020

Related to India:

- a) It accounts for 2% of total global forest area
- b) It provides 50% of the world forestry employment, which is the highest

India ranked third in terms of forest gain, after China and Australia

**Quick Fact:** Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations

**29th July**

## 1) Sports

### Haryana to host 2021 Khelo India Youth Games

Haryana will host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games, in 2021, at Panchkula.

Khelo India Youth Games are national level multidisciplinary grassroots games held for two categories:

- a) Under-17 years school students
- b) Under-21 college students

## 2) Science and Technology

### IIM-Kozhikode develops 'Veli Band' for ensuring social distancing

The band has been developed by Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode based incubated startup Qual5 India Pvt.Ltd

The band sends LED, vibratory and sound-based signals if another band is within 3 feet, thus serving as a reminder for social distancing

The band can also aid in tracking employee movements in real-time

**Quick Fact:** A Vellayan is the Chairman of IIM-K

## 3) Person in News

### Naveen Tahilyani appointed MD & CEO of Tata AIA Life Insurance

Naveen Tahilyani was the CEO, Group Partnership Distribution at AIA Hong Kong till 2019

He has also served as CEO and Managing Director of Tata AIA from 2015 to 2018.

He will be succeeding Rishi Srivastava in this role

## 4) National Affairs

### HRD Ministry forms 'Stay in India and Study in India' committee

The committee will form guidelines and recommend measures for students to study in India

It will function under the leadership of D. P. Singh, chairman of UGC

The committee will support GoI in retaining students who want to study abroad in the premier institutions of the country, along with addressing the requirements of students forced to come back to India due to COVID-19

**Quick Fact:** The Union Minister for HRD is Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

## 5) Defence and Security

### India strengthens its maritime cooperation

India is strengthening its maritime cooperation at a time of tension at Line of Actual Control

Defence Ministers' dialogues held between India and Indonesia. The talks included:

- a) Strengthening of defence ties between the countries
- b) Export of BrahMos missile to Indonesia by India

It is trying to involve Australia in its trilateral Malabar Exercise involving India, Japan and the USA, making it a quad exercise

India is also strengthening its relations with Indonesia with Samudra Shakti bilateral exercise.

## 6) Science and Technology

### DRDO launches "Dare to Dream" challenge on APJ Abdul Kalam's Death Anniversary

The challenge aims to spur innovation in defence and aerospace technologies.

The award money for winners of the challenge would be Rs. 10 lakh for startups and Rs. 5 lakhs for individuals

The birth anniversary of APJ Abdul Kalam is observed as Youth Renaissance Day in Tamil Nadu

## 30th July

### 1) National Affairs

### PM Modi launches Three High Throughput COVID testing facilities

The three high throughput COVID testing facilities will increase the testing capacity by almost 10,000 daily tests

The Facilities will be located in Noida, Kolkata and Mumbai

Higher testing capacity would support early detection and treatment of COVID-19

## 2) Geography

### **“Mausam” app launched for weather forecasts**

The mobile application will be India's indigenous app for weather forecast.

It has been designed and developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and the India Meteorological Department (IMD)

It was released on the occasion of the 14th foundation day of Ministry of Earth Sciences

## 3) Miscellaneous

### **New Book Release: Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India by Viral V Achary**

Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India has been written by Viral V. Acharya who was the former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor.

The book is about his quest to restore financial stability in India and offers a concrete plan for sustained improvement

It will be published by SAGE Publications India Pvt Ltd.

## 4) Miscellaneous

### **New Book Release: The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World by Dr. S Jaishankar**

S. Jaishankar is a former diplomat, and the current Minister of External Affairs

His book is about India's struggles to gain influence in a domain due to three major burdens in its past foreign policy

The book has been published by the HarperCollins India publications.

## 5) Miscellaneous

### **Kashmiri Saffron gets GI Tag**

GI certification guarantees specific geographical origin and certifies unique qualities of the product, enabling right to use to only certified producers

With the certification of Kashmiri saffron:

- a) It will gain more prominence in the world's export market
- b) Help farmers in getting a more remunerative price
- c) Curb bad practices like adulteration and give quality assurance to customers

### **6) Economy**

#### **Financial Management Index for Rural Development to rank performance of states**

The 'Financial Management Index for Rural Development Programmes' has been released to rank the performance of States

It will rank states on the basis of planning measures like annual plans, optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS), DBT, Internal Audit and Social Audit.

It aims to promote competitive, cooperative federalism amongst Indian states

**31st July**

#### **1) Defence and Security**

#### **India gets fleet of 5 Rafale multi-role combat jets**

The fleet landed at Ambala Air Base from Merignac airbase in French port city of Bordeaux

It will be inducted into the IAF as part of its Ambala-based No 17 Squadron, also known as the 'Golden Arrows'.

These jets are considered the most potent combat jets globally and will give a strategic boost to India's air defence.

India will receive 36 jets by end of 2021.

## 2) Environment

### India's first solar ferry "Aditya" wins Gustave Trouve Award

The Gustave Trouve Award is awarded for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating

Aditya ferry was adjudged the world's best electric boat in the category of ferries designed for paid passenger service

Aditya is a sun-powered commuter ferry belonging to Kerala State Water Transport Department (KSWTD).

## 3) National Affairs

### India Report on Digital Education June 2020 launched

The report covers innovative methods adopted by the Ministry of HRD, Education Departments of States and Union Territories to reduce learning gaps and create an inclusive education system.

Some of the initiatives included are:

- a) DIKSHA platform
- b) Swayam Prabha TV Channel
- c) Online MOOC courses
- d) On Air – Shiksha Vani
- e) DAISY by NIOS for differently-abled
- f) e-PathShala

**Quick Fact:** Ministry of Human Resources Development will now be renamed to Ministry of Education.

## 4) Sports

### Stuart Broad becomes 7th bowler to take 500 Test wickets

Stuart Broad from England team became the 7th bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket

He made the record while playing against West Indies in Manchester.

His 500th wicket was Kragg Brathwaite.

**Quick Fact:** The first 6 bowlers to achieve this record are Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, Anil Kumble, James Anderson, Glenn McGrath and Courtney Walsh.

## 5) Science and Technology

## **MoES-Knowledge Resource Centre Network launched**

Under Digital India Initiative, Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched the MoES-Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet) to transform its traditional libraries into digital mode.

Total Quality Management (TQM) system has also been added to the KRCNet by securing ISO certification for documenting MoES knowledge resources, its maintenance, easy retrieval and dissemination.

This portal will act as a 24x7 single-point entry to MoES' subscribed knowledge contents. It will also collect, collate, analyze, index, store as well as disseminate the intellectual resources, products and project outputs available in MoES headquarter and its institutes.

## **6) National Affairs**

### **New Education Policy 2020 announced**

#### **Policy Level Changes**

1. Ministry of Human Resource Development renamed to Ministry of Education
2. Budgetary spending on education increased from 1.7% to 6%

#### **Pre-school Level Changes:**

New Basic learning program will be created by government for parents to teach children upto 3 years in home and for pre school ages 3 to 6

#### **School Level Changes:**

1. New school structure will be 5+3+3+4 where grades upto 5: Pre school, 6 to 8: Mid School, 8 to 11: High School , 12 onwards Graduation
2. Vocational courses available class 6th onwards and subjects can be selected 8th onwards.
3. Semester system for exams
4. More concise and practical syllabus

#### **College-Level Changes:**

1. All graduation course will be four years long with have major and minor
2. UGC AICTE will be merged.
3. Credit system in courses, along with multiple entry and exit points.

#### **Teacher Level Changes**

1. New Teacher Training board will be setup for all kinds of teachers in country, no state can change



## 1st August

### 1) Miscellaneous

#### **Guwahati gets manhole cleaning robot 'BANDICOOT'**

The manhole cleaning robot Bandicoot would help minimise human intervention in cleaning of manholes

It is the first city in the entire Northeast region to get a manhole cleaning robot.

It is also the third city after Gurugram and Coimbatore to adopt this technology in India

### 2) Person in News

#### **Paytm Money appoints Varun Sridhar as CEO**

Paytm Money is the investment & wealth management subsidiary of Paytm

It has appointed Varun Sridhar as its new Chief Executive Officer

He will be succeeding Pravin Jadhav in this position at Paytm Money.

**Quick Fact:** Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of Paytm

### 3) Person in News

#### **Sunil ydv SS honoured with Karamveer Chakra Award from UN and ICONGO**

Sunil ydv SS is the founder of SS Motivation

He has been honoured with the Karamveer Chakra Award by Global Fellowship Award instituted by United Nations and International Confederation of NGO (iCONGO)

The award honours his relentless contribution to society through his Telegram channel "SS Motivation through which he addresses social issues and motivates people every day.

### 4) Person in News

#### **Archana Soreng selected by UN chief for Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change**

UN Secretary-General has selected Indian climate activist Archana Soreng for a new advisory group of young leaders to advice on climate protection measures in the post-COVID world

She will be joining six other young climate leaders from around the world in this group.

**Quick Fact:** Antonio Guterres is the current UN Secretary-General.

## 5) National News

### MoES announces National Awards for Excellence in Earth Sciences

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has announced National Awards for excellence in Earth Science in various categories. The awardees are:

- a) Lifetime Excellence Award: Ashok Sahni
- b) Ocean S&T: V. V. S. S. Sarma and M. Ravichandran
- c) Atmospheric S&T: S. Suresh Babu
- d) Geoscience & Technology: N. V. Chalapathi Rao
- e) Ocean Tech: M. A. Atmanand
- f) Anna Mani award for woman scientist: Lidita D. S. Khandeparker
- g) Young Researcher Awards: Indra Sekhar Sen

## 6) Science and Technology

### Final mission of Mars Perseverance Rover launched

Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida on 30th July 2020

It aims to search for signs of ancient life and collect rock and soil samples for study

It is carrying a helicopter called Ingenuity, which if flown successfully on Mars, would perform the first powered flight on another planet.