Peru:

Peru officially the Republic of Peru is a country in western South America. It is bordered in the north by Ecuador and Colombia, in the east by Brazil, in the southeast by Bolivia, in the south by Chile, and in the west by the Pacific Ocean. It is a home to a section of Amazon rainforest and Machu Picchu, an ancient Incan city high in the Andes Mountains. The region around Machu Picchu, including the Sacred Valley, Inca Trail and colonial city of Cusco, is rich in archaeological sites. The capital of Peru is Lima. The currency used here is Peruvian Sol.

Recently, the President of Peru, Martin Vizcarra confirmed the appointment of former defence minister and retired army general, Walter Roger Martos Ruiz as the new Prime Minister of the country. His appointment was confirmed by President of Peru. Ruiz succeeded Pedro Álvaro Cateriano Bellido. The swearing-in ceremony took place at the Government Palace in Lima.

Walter Roger Martos Ruiz is a former major-general of the Peruvian Army, Martos served in a variety of leading military positions throughout his career.

IYD:

It refers to the International Youth Day. IYD is an awareness day designated by the United Nations and is observed annually on 12th August across the globe. The General Assembly in 1999, endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. This day was observed on August 12, 2000 for the first time. It draws attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.

IYD is celebrated to recognize the efforts put in by the youth for the betterment of society and also to promote the ways to engage the youth and make them more actively involved in their communities through positive contributions.

Recently, IYD was observed on the 12 of August 2020 amid the Coronavirus crisis. The theme for IYD 2020 is “Youth Engagement for Global Action”. The
theme highlights the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes, as well as draw lessons on how their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced.

**Mauritania:**

Mauritania, officially the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, is a country in Northwest Africa. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, Western Sahara to the north and northwest, Algeria to the northeast, Mali to the east and southeast, and Senegal to the southwest. The name Mauritania is derived from the ancient Berber kingdom of Mauretania, which existed from the 3rd century BCE into the 7th century CE in the modern-day Morocco and West Algeria. The Capital of Mauritania is Nouakchott and the currency used here is Mauritanian ouguiya. The current President of this country is Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.

Recently, Mohamed Ould Bilal has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Mauritania. He was appointed by the President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani. He will be serving as the 16th and current Prime Minister of Mauritania. He replaced Ismail Ould Cheikh Sidiya, who resigned with his entire government due to an investigation into alleged high-level corruption.

Mohamed Ould Bilal is a veteran public administrator and before his appointment, he has served as the head of the country’s national water agency, a presidential aide and a cabinet minister.

**Belarus:**

Belarus, officially the Republic of Belarus and formerly known as Byelorussia or Belorussia, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. Belarus, officially the Republic of Belarus and formerly known as Byelorussia or Belorussia, is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. The Capital of Belarus is Minsk. The currency used here is Belarusian Rouble.

Recently, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko won his 6th consecutive term at the country’s presidential election. The announcement was made by the country’s central election commission. Lukashenko took 80.23% of
the votes, while his main opposition challenger Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, a former English teacher, had only 9.9% of the votes

UAE AND ISRAEL:

Israel and United Arab Emirates (UAE) strike historic peace accord. This was recently announced by the US President Donald Trump who helped broker a historic peace agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates on August 13, 2020. He announced that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations as part of a new peace deal.

As per the agreement, Israel and UAE plan to exchange embassies and ambassadors and begin cooperation on a broad range of areas including tourism, healthcare, education, trade and security. Under the agreement, Israel would also suspend its plans to annex parts of the West Bank.

UAE has now formally recognized Israel as a state. This marks the official beginning of direct ties between two of the Middle East's most dynamic and advanced economies. UAE will be the 3rd Arab country to open relations with Israel, after Egypt and Jordan.

The deal is an important step towards building a more peaceful Middle East.
Krishi Megh:

It is the data recovery centre of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research). The Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar recently launched the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services) virtually.

This National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) is funded by the Government of India (GoI) and World Bank. The centre has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad. Krishi Megha will integrate the data centre of ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi with the Disaster Recovery Centre at the ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.

The project has been designed to strengthen the national agricultural education system in the country with the overall objective to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that are in tune with the NEP-2020 (New Education Policy–2020).

The main aim of Krishi is to protect the precious data of ICAR and will help in meeting the services and infrastructure needs of Digital Agriculture of National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) using cloud computing infrastructure. It is a step forward towards digital agriculture of New India.

Currently, the main data centre of the ICAR is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) is in the national capital New Delhi.

The minister also launched the KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network) and Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions (HEI). KVC ALUNET will enable the alumni of all the 74 Agricultural Universities in connecting with each other and making it possible to assist the students in internship, placements and to provide support to their alma maters.
India celebrated its 74th Independence Day on 15 August 2020 to mark the independence of India from rule of British Raj on 15th August 1947. Indians all around the world too celebrated the event. The country kept its celebrations a low-key affair due to the coronavirus crisis. Only few guests from the Union Cabinet and security forces personnel taking part in the events were present. This day is celebrated to pay tribute and to remember the sacrifice and struggle of our brave heroes in the fight for freedom.

On this special day, President Ram Nath Kovind and the Prime Minister delivered the address to the nation on the Independence Day event. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi hoisted the tricolour flag at the ramparts of Red Fort in Delhi.

Minister Narendra Modi during his 7th Independence Day speech focused on the themes of "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)", "Vocal for local" and "Make in India to Make for World". He also paid tribute to those on the frontlines of the fight against the coronavirus and declared that India had a roadmap ready for the production and distribution of three COVID-19 vaccines that are at various stages of testing. He highlighted the various policies undertaken by the government to empower the women, farmers, middle class and the poor. He also announced the launch of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), Health ID cards for all Indians, Project Dolphin, and Optical Fibre Network in 1,000 days and deployment of NCC cadets to border areas.

History: For 200 years, Indians suffered domination of the British colonisers. British rule began in 1757. The East India Company (EIC) took control in India after gaining victory at the Battle of Plassey till 1857. EIC was dethroned by the British crown during the Indian Mutiny in 1857-58. Indian history is filled with famous events of retaliation and uprisings to get rid of the Britishers.

Valiant Indian freedom fighters stood up against the colonisers and even suffered harsh consequences. The Indian Independence movement began in the mid 19th century led by Mahatma Gandhi. He led through various movements like a method of nonviolent, non-cooperation movement, and the Civil Disobedience Movement.
The 1947 Indian Independence Act passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom which transferred legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly, came into effect. On the other hand, the day is also remembered for divide and rule policy as British-ruled India was parted into two countries, India and Pakistan on the eve of 14 August 1947 which was the main motive of the Britishers. This partition led to the unrest of violence between Hindus and Muslims.

On August 15, 1947, the first Prime Minister of Independent India Jawaharlal Nehru unveiled India’s tricolour flag at the Red Fort in Delhi.

**IR:**

It refers to the Indian Railways. IR is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways. It is among the world's largest rail networks. The first railway proposals for India was made in Madras in 1832. The formal inauguration ceremony was performed on 16th April 1853. The current Railway Minister is Piyush Goyal.

Recently, the Indian Railways released a draft key performance indicator for private operators. The Draft document states that the Private Railway operators have to pay penalties for misreporting their revenue or in case of train cancellations for reasons attributable to them.

The draft document states that private train operators have to maintain 95 per cent punctuality through the year and in case the trains they operate are delayed or reach the destination early they will have to pay heavy penalties. If the arrival of a train at its destination is delayed by over 15 minutes it will be deemed to have lost punctuality.

The haulage charge which will be Rs 512 per km for all private trains is the money that private trains must pay to Railways for use of its infrastructure and physical transportation of the train.
SEP 2.0:

It refers to the Student Entrepreneurship Programme. SEP 2.0 was recently launched by Niti Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with Dell Technologies for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). The main aim of this program is to accelerate the entrepreneurial journey of young innovators who can play a major role in creating a new innovative India.

SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers. The young innovators will get mentor support, prototyping and testing support, end-user feedback, intellectual property registration, manufacturing support along with patenting of ideas, processes, and products as well as the launch support of the product in the market.

SEP 1.0: The journey of SEP 1.0 began in January 2019. SEP 1.0 was a 10-month-long rigorous programme under which top 6 teams of ATL Marathon 2017 got a chance to transform their innovative prototypes into fully functioning products, which are now available in the market.

ATL Marathon 2017 is a nationwide contest where students identify community challenges and create grassroots innovations and solutions within their ATLs.

CoA:

It refers to the Council of Architecture. CoA is a statutory body constituted by the Government of India (GoI) under the provisions of the Architects Act, 1972 which is tasked with the responsibility to regulate the education and practice of profession throughout India besides maintaining the register of architects.

The Act provides for registration of Architects, standards of education, recognized qualifications and standards of practice to be complied with by the practicing architects.

Recently, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank virtually launched the "Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations,
2020.” The regulation will replace Architecture Regulations, 1983. It aims to address the major challenges lying in the field of human habitat in the country. It will come into force from 1st November 2020. These Regulations have been prepared by the experts of the Council of Architecture (CoA).

**NDHM:**

It refers to the National Digital Health Mission. NDHM is a major digital initiative of the Government of India (GoI). It is another flagship initiative of the government like Ayushman Bharat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently, in his Independence Day speech announced the launch of National Digital Health Mission. The Project seeks to revolutionize India’s health sector.

Under the project, a health ID to every person in the country that would contain all pertinent information about their medical conditions. This card could be used to access health services and medicines. The NDHM will not only allow patients to access health services remotely through teleconsultation and e-pharmacies but also offer other health-related benefits.

The card will ensure permission to access confidential medical data which will be provided for every visit by the patient himself. It will assure the privacy and maintenance and confidentiality of the patient as the access to medical data will have to be given separately for each visit and that doctors could only access it at the will of the patients.

The blueprint of the programme was launched in 2019. It seeks to provide efficient and affordable health coverage through a wide-range of data and infrastructure services. It seeks to leverage open digital systems to provide high-quality healthcare for all. It aims to integrate various digital health services to create an ecosystem which can assimilate existing health information systems and also ensure security and privacy of personal information.
ISRO and IISC:

It refers to the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Indian Institute of Science respectively. A team of researchers, in a significant step towards space exploration from ISRO and IISc in Bangalore have recently developed a sustainable process to make brick-like structures on the moon.

These brick-like structures have been named as Space Bricks. The space bricks could be used to assemble structures for habitation on the moon's surface in future.

The process developed by the IISc and ISRO team uses urea sourced from human urine which can be mixed with lunar soil as raw materials for construction on the moon's surface. The process enables making load bearing bricks by using lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans.

The cost of sending one pound of material to outer space is about Rs. 7.5 lakh. This decreases the overall expenditure considerably.

There will be lower carbon footprint since guar gum is used instead of cement. The bacteria are added to further crystallize the brick in any shape needed. This could also be exploited to make sustainable bricks on Earth.

TESS:

It is an abbreviated form for Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. NASA’s planet hunter TESS, during its two-year-long primary mission, has found 66 new exoplanets, or worlds beyond our solar system, as well as nearly 2,100 more candidates on which the astronomers are working on to confirm among others.

TESS has scanned about 75 per cent of the starry sky during its primary mission which ended on July 6, 2020.

Patricia Boyd, the project scientist for TESS at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland said that TESS was producing a torrent of high-
quality observations providing valuable data across a wide range of science topics.

TESS the exoplanet-hunting Space telescope was launched into the Earth’s orbit in April 2018. The mission spent its first year observing 13 sectors comprising the southern sky and then spent another year imaging the northern sky. Now in its extended mission which will be completed in 2022, TESS has turned around to resume surveying the south. After spending a year imaging the southern sky, TESS will take another 15 months to collect additional observations in the north and to survey areas along the ecliptic and also survey areas along the ecliptic, that the satellite has not yet imaged.

Discoveries by TESS: Among the mission's newest planetary discoveries are its first Earth-size world, named TOI 700 d, which is located in the habitable zone of its star, the range of distances where conditions could be just right to allow liquid water on the surface.

TESS also revealed a newly minted planet around the young star AU Microscopii and found a Neptune-size world orbiting two suns.

In addition to its planetary discoveries, TESS has observed the outburst of a comet in our solar system, as well as numerous exploding stars. TESS even watched as a black hole in a distant galaxy shredded a Sun-like star.

Note: Ecliptic is a plane of Earth’s orbit around the sun.

Sports News

IOA:

It refers to the Indian Olympic Association. IOA recently launched a digital campaign named “Ek India Team India”. It was launched on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of India. The campaign is a part of the adaptation of the new identity and logo of IOA, marking its 100 years of participation in Olympic Games. As a part of the campaign video, IOA promotes the new logo on its social media and websites.

The athletes and officials while representing Team India will use the new logo when competing on the world arena, as well as in all official events and

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ceremonies at the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and other international sporting events.

Max Verstappen:

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix to bring Mercedes' domination to an end. This was Red Bull’s first victory at Silverstone since 2012.

Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton finished the race at second position while another Mercedes racer Valtteri Bottas finished third.

KN Ananthapadmanabhan:

He is an Indian former first-class cricketer from the state of Kerala. He has played 105 First-Class and 54 List A games for Kerala, taking 344 and 87 wickets respectively. He also scored three First-Class hundreds and eights half-centuries.

He has officiated in major domestic tournaments in India since 2008. He now serves as an umpire at the first-class level and officiates in all the major domestic cricket tournaments in India, including the Ranji Trophy and Indian Premier League.

Recently, he has been included in ICC’s international panel of umpires following compatriot Nitin Menon’s promotion to the elite panel.

He now joins fellow Indians C Shamshuddin, Anil Chaudhary and Virender Sharma in the international panel and is now eligible to officiate in the ODI and T20 internationals apart from umpiring in the junior World Cup.

ICC: It refers to the International Cricket Committee. ICC is the world governing body of cricket. It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 15 June 1909 by representatives from Australia, England and South Africa. It was renamed as the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and took up its current name in 1989. The ICC, currently, has 104 member nations. It organises world championship events such as Cricket World Cup, Women's Cricket World Cup, ICC T20 World Cup, ICC Women's T20 World Cup, ICC Champions Trophy and Under-19 Cricket World Cup. The current Chairman of ICC is Imran Khwaja (interim) and the CEO is Manu Sahney.
Transparent Taxation-Honouring the Honest:

It is a platform for “Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest” which was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The platform has been launched to meet the requirements of the 21st century taxation system. It is a significant step where the taxpayer is now assured of fair, courteous and rational behavior.

The platform has major reforms like Faceless Assessment, Faceless Appeal and Taxpayers Charter. This Tax system aims to be Seamless, Painless and Faceless.

Faceless Assessment and Taxpayers Charter will came into force with immediate effect and the facility of faceless appeal will be available from 25th September for citizens across the country. 25th September is Deen Dayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary.

The new platform apart from being faceless not only is aimed at boosting the confidence of the taxpayer but also making him or her fearless.

BRR:

It refers to the Report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting. BRR was recently released by Shri Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). The committee was chaired by Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MCA.

Recommendations made by the committee:

1. It has recommended a new reporting framework called as the ‘Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)’ to better reflect the intent and scope of reporting on non-financial parameters.
2. It has recommended two formats for disclosures: one ‘comprehensive format’ and the second a ‘Lite version’. The lite version of the format, on a voluntary basis can be adopted by smaller companies.
3. The implementation of the reporting requirements should be done in a gradual and phased manner.
4. It also recommended that the BRSR be integrated with the MCA21 portal.

5. As a long-term measure, the Committee envisions that the information captured through BRSR filings be used to develop a Business Responsibility-Sustainability Index for companies.

Earlier, the MCA, to update the NGRBC (National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct) released in March 2019 as a guidelines to ensure responsible business conduct by companies, had constituted a ‘Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting’ to develop new BRR formats for listed and unlisted companies.

**HDFC Bank:**

HDFC Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. A subsidiary of the Housing Development Finance Corporation, HDFC Bank was founded in August 1994. It is India's largest private sector bank. The current Managing Director of HDFC Bank is Aditya Puri and Chairman is Deepak S. Parekh.

Recently, HDFC Bank launched 'Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card', a loan product for the armed forces. It is a a tri color themed card for Indian armed forces personnel, i.e, Army, Navy, Air force and Para military forces and their families. It was launched by Managing Director of HDFC Bank Aditya Puri virtually. The product is based on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) guidelines by the government.

A first-of-its-kind product seeks to benefit over 45 lakh Indian armed forces personnel. The credit card comes with a life cover of Rs 10 lakh as against Rs 2 lakh for an average card.

It aims to provide finance for agricultural requirements like production of crop, post-harvest maintenance and consumption needs. It can also be used to purchase farm machinery, irrigation equipment or construct storage structures. This launch is part of the HDFC Bank’s ‘Har Gaon Hamara’ initiative to provide banking facilities to customers in the rural and under-served areas of the country.
Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a Union territory of India comprising 572 islands of which 37 are inhabited, are a group of islands at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The Andaman Sea lies to the east and the Bay of Bengal to the west. The territory's capital is the city of Port Blair. The territory is divided into three districts: Nicobar District with Car Nicobar as capital, South Andaman district with Port Blair as capital and North and Middle Andaman district with Mayabunder as capital. The islands host the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-service geographical command of the Indian Armed Forces. The current Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island is Admiral D K Joshi.

Recently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland. The submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), which was dedicated to the nation, was launched virtually. The foundation stone was laid by the PM on 30th December 2018 at Port Blair.

Cable connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands (CANI): CANI will provide connectivity from Chennai to Port Blair, Port Blair to Little Andaman and Port Blair to Swaraj Island.

This submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) is a 2300 Kms long submarine cable laid under the sea. The project is funded by the Government of India (GoI) through the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). This project was executed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Technical Consultant was the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL).

CANI seeks to provide better and cheap connectivity to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It will enable the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to reap all the benefits of Digital India by helping the island to improve online education, banking system, tele-medicine, online trading and in boosting tourism.

As the Indian Ocean has been the center of India’s trade and strategic prowess for thousands of years, the Andaman & Nicobar is an important centre for
India’s Economic-Strategic Cooperation. Connecting Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland is also expected to play an instrumental role under India’s new trade strategy for Indo-Pacific region.

It aims to promote ease of business and simplifying Maritime Logistics, which is the focus of the Government of India (GoI).

Apart from providing for better internet & mobile connectivity, High Impact Projects are also being expanded in 12 islands of Andaman and Nicobar. The main objective of the Government is to further improve physical connectivity through road, air and water.

Andaman & Nicobar will be developed as an hub of Port Led Development as it is at a Competitive Distance from many ports of the World.

**Assam:**

Assam is a state in northeastern India known for its wildlife, archeological sites and tea plantations. It is situated south of the eastern Himalayas along the Brahmaputra and Barak River valleys. Its capital is Dispur. The current Governor and the Chief Minister of Assam are Professor Jagdish Mukhi and Sarbananda Sonowal respectively.

Recently, the Government of Assam has started a scheme named “Orunodoi Scheme” for women’s empowerment. The scheme is being launched to help women financial empowerment. This scheme is to be the biggest scheme in Assam. It seeks to benefit more than 17 lakh poor families.

**Karnataka:**

It is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. Its capital city is Bangalore. The current Chief Minister and Governor of Karnataka are B. S. Yediyurappa and Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala respectively.

Recently, the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri DV Sadananda Gowda has announced the establishment of a Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) in Karnataka. The PMRU has been set up in Karnataka under the
aegis of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Ministry of Chemicals, Department of Pharmaceuticals and Fertilizers, Government of India (GoI), in association with Karnataka State Drug Control Department.

The main function of PMRU will be to assist NPPA in monitoring the prices of drugs, ensuring availability of drugs as well as raising consumer awareness. It will be directly supervised by the State Drug Controller in order to increase the outreach of NPPA. The recurring and non-recurring expenses of PMRUs are borne by NPPA under the Central Sector Scheme named Consumer Awareness, Publicity and Price Monitoring (CAPPM).

**Chhattisgarh:**

Chhattisgarh is a heavily forested state in central India known for its temples and waterfalls. It is one of the fastest-developing states in India. The state was formed on 1st November 2000 by partitioning ten Chhattisgarhi and six Gondi-speaking southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. The capital city of Chhattisgarh is Raipur. The current Chief Minister and Governor of Chhattisgarh are Bhupesh Baghel and Anusuiya Uikey respectively.

Recently, the Chhattisgarh Government launched a scheme called the “Indira Van Mitan” Yojana. The new scheme aims to make the forest dwellers of the state self-reliant. It was launched on the eve of International Day of World Indigenous People. The scheme aims to benefit 19 lakh families from scheduled areas of Chhattisgarh by providing them with self-employment opportunities.

Under this scheme, a group of 10 to 15 youngsters are to be formed in 10,000 villages of tribal areas of the state. These groups will be responsible for conducting all forest based economic activities. These economic activities will create self employment opportunities for the forest dwellers. These groups will not only manage the trees and will collect the forest produce from the trees in forest areas but will also arrange the purchase of forest produce to ensure right price of the forest produce. The state government has planned to set up Forest produce processing units in around 85 development blocks in the scheduled areas of the state.

In order to increase the income of forest dwellers fruit and vegetation plants will be planted instead of timbers in the forests. The scheme is to encourage plantation of fruit bearing trees and medicinal plants.
Gujarat: Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India most of which lies on the Kathiawar peninsula. Its capital city is Gandhinagar. The Governor and Chief Minister of Gujarat are Acharya Devvrat and Vijay Rupani respectively.

Recently, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced a scheme named "Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana". The scheme has been announced for the current Kharif season and all farmers of the state will be covered under this Yojana.

Under this scheme, the farmers will not have to pay any premium or registration process for the scheme. It will replace the existing crop insurance scheme. As for those farmers who have already paid the premium for the existing scheme will receive the refund. Tribal farmers would also be a part of this scheme.

**Person in News**

**Kamala Harris:**

She is an Indian-origin US Senator from California who has often been described as trailblazer by the former US President Barack Obama. She has recently been selected by the Democratic presidential nominee, Joe Biden, as his Vice-Presidential running mate.

This was the first time ever in America when a black woman was selected to compete on a major party's presidential ticket. If she is elected then she would become the first ever woman to be the Vice President of the United States and the first ever Indian-American and African Vice President of the country.

She is the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father. She is the first woman and first African-American and Indian-origin to be elected to the position of a county district attorney for San Francisco. She was also the first female African-American and Indian-origin to become California's attorney general. Harris became the first Indian-origin and second African-American woman to join the Senate, winning the California seat vacated by Senator Barbara Boxer.
Soma Mondal:

Soma Mondal has recently been selected as the next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). The current chairman of SAIL Anil Chaudhary took charge in September 2018 and is due to retire at the end of this year.

Her appointment is subject to approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). If the ACC gives its approval, she will make history with the rare distinction of being the first-ever woman chairperson of the country's largest steel company. She will not only be the first woman to head a major steel company in India but also elsewhere in the world where such appointments have been few and far between.

Mondal who started her career as a Graduate Engineer Trainee in NALCO, is currently Director (Commercial) of SAIL. She assumed charge as Director (Commercial), SAIL in March 2017, becoming the first woman director of SAIL. Prior to this, she was Director (Commercial), NALCO, Bhubaneswar. She is well known in the Aluminium Industry for her contribution in various Industry forums.

SAIL: It is an acronym for Steel Authority of India Limited. SAIL is an Indian state-owned steel making company headquartered in New Delhi, India. It is a public sector undertaking, owned and operated by the Government of India (GoI) which was founded on 19 July 1954. SAIL operates and owns 5 integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur, Bokaro and Burnpur (Asansol) and 3 special steel plants at Salem, Durgapur and Bhadravathi. It also owns a Ferro Alloy plant at Chandrapur. It is one of India's fastest growing Public Sector Units. Besides, it has R&D centre for Iron & Steel (RDCIS), centre for Engineering in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Subhash Sheoratan Mundra:

He is a former RBI deputy governor. He has recently been appointed as non-executive chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) with immediate effect. He had joined the board of IBH in 2018 as an independent director.
The co-founder and Chairman of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) Sameer Gehlaut, has stepped down as the Executive Chairman of the company, and taken up the role of Non-Executive, Non-Independent Director of IBHFL. He has stepped down to take charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indiabulls Ventures Ltd, a subsidiary company of IBHFL.

IBHFL: It refers to the Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. IBHFL was founded in 2005. It is India's second largest housing finance company and is regulated by the National Housing Bank. It is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.

Sudha Murthy:

He is the Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murty and Group Head of Agri and IT Businesses of ITC Ltd. He along with Sivakumar Surampudi are among the winners of the Gramodaya Bandhu Mitra Puraskaras.

The other winners include Padma Bhushan Vijay Bhatkar, Padmasri SP Verma, Vilas Shinde (Director, Sahyadri Farms), Koosam Rajamouli, Former Sarpanch of Gangadevipalli in Telangana, Brig Pogula Ganesham, Founder of Palle Srujana, and Govinda Rajulu Chintala, Chairman of the Nabard.

Gramodaya Bandhu Mitra Puraskaras: Gramodaya Bandhu Mitra Puraskaras was instituted by Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce and Technology (GCOT) to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a not-for-profit organisation founded by the alumni of Osmania University. The awards recognise “Yeoman service rendered by individuals and institutions to provide succour and uplift the vast majority of our population dependent on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood”.

Nitin Sethi and Shiv Sahay Singh:

They both are journalists who have recently been declared winners of the Asian College of Journalism’s (ACJ) Award 2019 for Investigative Journalism and the K. P. Narayana Kumar Memorial Award for Social Impact Journalism, respectively. They were presented the awards in a virtual ceremony by Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organisation (WHO), at the inauguration of the Class of 2021.
Nitin Sethi is a journalist in the Huffington Post while Shiv Sahay Singh is a journalist in The Hindu.

Sethi won this award for his six-part series titled “Paisa Politics” published by The Huffington Post India while Shiv Sahay Singh received the award for his story titled “Death by digital exclusion: On faculty public distribution system in Jharkhand” published in The Hindu.

ACJ: It is the nickname for the Asian College of Journalism is a journalism school in Chennai, India. It was founded in Bangalore as the Asian School of Journalism. It was founded in 1994 by the Indian Express group, offering only a print course. In 2000, it was taken over by a not-for-profit trust founded by journalist and media entrepreneur, Sashi Kumar.

ACJ Awards: ACJ with the support of the Media Development Foundation has instituted two awards to recognize and encourage the best works of investigative journalism and journalism for social impact produced for an Indian audience. Both awards comprise trophies, citations.

Pramod Bhasin:

He is currently the vice-chair of the board of governors at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He has recently been appointed as a new Chairman of ICRIER. He will be replacing Isher Judge Ahluwalia, who has stepped down due to health reasons. Isher had been in this position for 15 years. She will continue as chairperson emeritus, a position specially created to honour her exceptional contributions to the Council.

ICRIER: It refers to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. ICRIER is one of India's leading think tanks. It was established in August 1981 as a not-for-profit research organization to provide a strong economic basis for policy making. It maintains a wide network of resource persons from India and abroad. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The current Director & Chief Executive of ICRIER is Dr Rajat Kathuria.
Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court (SC) of India is the highest judicial forum and final court of appeal under the Constitution of India, the highest constitutional court, with the power of constitutional review. It consists of the Chief Justice of India and a maximum of 34 judges. It has extensive powers in the form of original, appellate and advisory jurisdictions. It is regarded as the most powerful public institution in India. It was established on 26 January 1950. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The current CJI of the Supreme Court is Sharad Arvind Bobde.

Recently, The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgment, ruled that daughters will have inheritance rights equal to those of sons from properties of fathers and grandfathers right from the codification of the law in 1956.

The confusion arising from the apex court’s conflicting interpretations of the amended Section 6 of Hindu Succession Act, which came into force from September 9, 2005, was cleared by A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and MR Shah.

The apex court overruled an earlier verdict of 2015 and has now stated that the right to coparcenary of a daughter is by birth, it is not necessary that the father should be alive as on September 9, 2005.

Earlier, since ancient times, in India, only male descendants of a common ancestor along with their mothers, wives and unmarried daughters are considered a joint Hindu family. Over the period of years the circumstances changed, and with the need of the hour Hindu Succession Act, 1956 which was again amended in 2005.

The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, amended Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 under which the daughters were recognized as coparceners (a person who has a birthright to parental property) or joint legal heirs for partition in Hindu undivided family by birth, giving them the same right as sons. Section 6(1)(a) in the Act said that coparcenary benefit will apply “on and from the commencement of the Amendment Act of 2005 with effect
from September 9, 2005. The amendment essentially furthers equal rights between males and females in the legal system.

There are two main schools of law followed by Hindus. They are Mitakshara and Dayabhaga.

Mitakshara School is followed in most parts of India while Dayabhaga School is confined to Bengal. Certain areas in South India are governed by Marumakkatayam, Aliyasantaana, and Nambudiri systems of law. Notwithstanding its discriminatory nature, the original Section 6 of the Act was, in fact, a progressive provision to start with, given the fact that women did not have a share in the coparcenary property in the 1950s, and on the demise of an inheritor, the share of the deceased was passed on to his male heirs.

Maintaining that daughters cannot be deprived of their right to equality, the Supreme Court has now ruled that the 2005 amendment would be applicable to them, irrespective of whether they were born before or after it. Most of these laws are from the pre-Constitution era, when right to equality was not a fundamental right.

Environment

Geothermal Springs:

They are also known as Hot Springs. They are springs that are produced by the emergence of geothermally heated groundwater that rises from the Earth’s crust.

Recently, scientists of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, conducted a study on Geothermal springs in the Himalayas. They investigated gas emissions in the springs of Himalayas. They carried out detailed chemical and stable isotope analysis of water samples collected from 20 geothermal springs from major fault zones of Garhwal Himalaya.

According to the study published in the scientific journal Environmental Science and Pollution Research, the springs in the Himalayan region show a significant discharge of carbon dioxide. There are more than 600 Geothermal
springs in the Himalayan region which cover about 10,000 square km in the Garhwal region of Himalaya. The estimated carbon dioxide degassing (removal of dissolved gases from liquids, especially water or aqueous solutions) flux is nearly $7.2 \times 10^6$ moles/year to the atmosphere. CO2 in these thermal springs are sourced from metamorphic decarbonation of carbonate rocks present deep in the Himalayan core along with magmatism and oxidation of graphite. These rocks are present in the deep Himalayan core. The Geothermal rocks in the region are dominated by evaporation and weathering of silicate rocks. Isotopic analyses further point towards a meteoric source for geothermal water.

Samples from 20 Geothermal springs in the major fault zones of Garhwal Himalayas was collected by the scientists. The samples consisted of isotopic measurements such as oxygen and dissolved inorganic carbon.

Carbon Cycle: They play a major role in regional and global climate. The carbon outflux from the interior of the earth through volcanic eruptions, geothermal systems and fault zones contribute to global carbon cycle that affects short and long term climate of the Earth.

Carbon Cycle involves series of processes where carbon compounds are interconverted in the environment. It involves incorporation of carbon dioxide into living tissue by photosynthesis and its return to atmosphere by respiration, burning of fossil fuels and decay of dead organisms. The four main steps of carbon cycle are photosynthesis, decomposition, respiration and combustion.

**Matheran:**

It is a hill station which is spread over 214 square kilometres and is located at 80 km from the Maharashtra capital Mumbai. The rock types in the hills are mainly composed of Deccan Trap.

Recently, in a study conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society 77 new species of butterflies in the ecologically sensitive forest of Matheran hill. With this the total number of butterfly species in the forest has gone up to 140. The study was conducted between 2011 and 2019. This is the first study in the forest in 125 years.

Scientists Mandar Sawant, Dr. Nikhil Modak and Sagar Sarang from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Somaiya Vidya Vihar University
published their research paper ‘Finding the forgotten gems: Revisiting the butterflies of Matheran after 125 years’ in the community peer-reviewed Biodiversity Data Journal.

Prior to the study that was done by BHNS, a British researcher J A Betham had surveyed the hills of Matheran for its butterfly diversity in 1894. He had reported 78 species of butterflies then.

The importance of the Butterfly diversity is that it indicates a healthy environment and ecosystems. The long term study of butterflies seeks to provide a better understanding about the health of the ecosystem.

World Elephant Day:

World Elephant Day is an international annual event observed on August 12. It is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants. It was conceived in 2011 by Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark of Canazwest Pictures, and Sivaporn Dardarananda, Secretary-General of the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand. It was officially founded, supported and launched by Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation on 12 August 2012. Since that time, Patricia Sims continues to lead and direct World Elephant Day, which is now supported by over 65 wildlife organizations and many individuals in countries across the globe.

The main objective of International Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants. African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

The day aims to sensitize people about better treatment of captive elephants and against the illegal poaching and trade of the jumbos for ivory.

Recently, on the eve of World Elephant Day, Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar launched a National Portal on Human-Elephant conflict called “SURAKHSYA”.

www.civilserviceindia.com
The portal aim is not only to collect real-time information but will also manage conflicts on a real-time basis. The portal will help to set data collection protocols, data visualization tools and data transmission pipelines.

Project Elephant: Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the Ministry of Environment and Forest with an objective to provide financial and technical support to wildlife management. It aims to make sure long-term survival of elephant populations in the natural habitats.

The project also supports research in the management of elephants and providing veterinary care and also conservation among local people.

The Asian Elephants are listed as “Endangered” in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. This is mainly because most of the Asian countries except India have lost their elephant population due to loss of habitats and poaching. There are 50,000 to 60,000 Asian Elephants. Of these, 60% are in India.

IUCN: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN; officially International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, and education. It was founded on 5 October 1948 by Julian Huxley. It is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland. The current IUCN CEO is Grethel Aguilar.

**Defence**

**Project Cheetah:**

It is a project named Cheetah to upgrade the drones for carrying out offensive operations against the enemy. The project involves upgrading around 90 Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) with laser-guided bombs, precision-guided munitions and anti-tank missiles for keeping an eye on enemy locations and stations and taking them out if required. They are currently deployed in Ladakh and China borders. They will also be used to counter terrorism in the future.
Recently, the Indian armed forces have reportedly decided to revive Project Cheetah amid border tensions with China. The project was pending for a long time and the tri-services have now decided to revive the project under Rs 3,500 crores. The tri-services have sent a fresh demand to the government for the ‘Project Cheetah’. The proposal for this project has been sent to the newly formed high-level Defence Ministry committee under Ajay Kumar who is the defence secretary. He is in charge of all capital procurements of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

Heron UAVs: It is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial system (UAS) developed by Israel Aerospace Industries. It is capable of returning to base autonomously in case of lost communication. It carries up to 250 kg of weight including thermographic camera, airborne ground surveillance visible light, radar systems, etc.

**Sarthak:**

![Image of Sarthak](image)

It is an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV). OPV was recently launched by the Indian Coast Guard (ISG) and re-christened as Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Sarthak’.

Sarthak is the fourth in the series of five OPVs deployed by the Coast Guard to enhance maritime security. It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited in line with the Prime Minister vision of ‘Make in India’ and Atma Nirbhar Bharat. It is designed to embark and carry a twin-engine helicopter, four high speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and Search & Rescue operations. It is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.

The Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment, sensor and machinery. It is propelled by two diesel engines designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.

**ICG:** It refers to Indian Coast Guard. ICG is an armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic
zone. IGC was founded in 18 August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of Parliament of India an independent Armed force of India. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The moto of IGC is Vayam “Vayam Rakshamah” meaning “We Protect”. The Coast Guard works in close cooperation with the Indian Navy, the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Revenue (Customs) and the Central and State police forces. The Director General of IGC is Krishnaswamy Natraj, PTM, TM, and Additional Director General is Krupa Ram Nautiyal, PTM, TM.

**SRIJAN PORTAL:**

It is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization. The SRIJAN portal for ‘Opportunities For Make In India In Defence’ was recently launched by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It was launched via video conferencing facility as part of ‘Atmanirbharta Saptah’.

Pursuant to Atmanirbhar Bharat announcement, Department of Defence Production (DDP) has developed an indigenization portal, srijandefence.gov.in.

On this portal, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Service Headquarters (SHQs) can display their items which they have been importing or are going to import so that they can be taken up for indigenization by Indian companies that can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

**NIIO:**

It refers to the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Organization. NIIO has recently been launched by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

NIIO is a three-tiered organization which will enable its end users to interact with academia as well as industry for the promotion of innovation and indigenization for self-reliance in defence, with the help of its dedicated structures.
The twin aspects of innovation and indigenization and provide apex level directives will be brought together by Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC). A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects.

A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created to fulfill the objective of induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.

A compendium of Indian Navy’s Indigenization perspective plans titled ‘SWAVLAMBAN’ was also released on the occasion. During the launch event, Memorandums Of Understanding (MoUs) has been signed by the Indian Navy with the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), Raksha Shakti University (RSU), Gujarat Maker Village, Kochi, and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

**Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation:**

It is an award which is awarded to encourage high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers.

Recently, the “Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation” for the year 2020 have been awarded to a total of 121 Police personnel.

The list of Police personnel who have received the Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation, 2020 are as follows:

- 15 personnel are from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- 10 personnel are from Madhya Pradesh (MP) Police
- 10 personnel are from Maharashtra Police
- 8 personnel are from Uttar Pradesh (UP) Police
- 7 personnel are from Kerala Police
- 7 personnel are from West Bengal (WB) Police

The list of Police personnel awarded includes 21 women police officers.
Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi:

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM has recently become the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO). He is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare and was commissioned in the Indian Navy on 01st July 1985. The alumnus of National Defence Academy Khadakwasla, has served on frontline warships of the Navy as Signal Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer. He has commanded INS Vinash, INS Kirch and INS Trishul. He has also served as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Missile Destroyer INS Mumbai.

Indian Navy: The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, a four-star admiral, commands the navy. It was founded in 5 September 1612. The main objective of the Indian Navy is to protect the country’s maritime borders and help in the expansion of its forces. There are 3 commands under the Navy which are:

1. The Western Naval Command (Headquarters at Mumbai).
2. The Eastern Naval Command (Headquarters at Visakhapatnam)
3. The Southern Naval Command (Headquarters at Kochi)

The current Chief of Navy Staff (CNS) is Karambir Singh.