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JULY – 2020

COVID – 19 NEWS

G4 EA H1N1 (commonly called G4 virus)	Chinese scientists have identified a “newly emerged” strain of influenza virus that is infecting Chinese pigs and that has the potential of triggering a pandemic.
India’s AI - enabled MyGov Corona Helpdesk bagged two awards at CogX 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Best Innovation for COVID-19-Society ❖ People’s Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner
Hamara Ghar - Hamara Vidyalaya	Madhya Pradesh has launched “Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya” over a virtual platform to take care of academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic.
Dream Kerala Project	Kerala government has announced “Dream Kerala Project” to those who are returning from abroad and other states after losing their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH)	World’s Largest COVID-19 Treatment Facility nearly 10,000 bed Inaugurated in New Delhi on 5th July 2020
Wards Named after Indian Army Soldiers	DRDO develops 1000 Bed Hospital for Treatment of COVID-19 patients in 12 Days in New Delhi, Wards Named after Indian Army Soldiers who have lost their lives on 15th June 2020 during the violent clash at Galwan Valley with the Chinese.
Unisaviour	IIT Roorkee researchers develops disinfection box “Unisaviour”
Special action plan	Kerala prepares special action plan to contain COVID super spread in coastal regions
World’s First Reusable PPE Kits	Loyal Textile Mills launched the world’s 1st reusable PPE Kits, reusable garments and face masks with zero virus penetration
Itolizumab Injection	DCGI has given its approval to ‘Itolizumab’ injection for the treatment of COVID-19 patients with restricted emergency use only in case of moderate to severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) patients.



Govt advises cautious use of Remdesivir, Tocilizumab for Covid-19 treatment	Remdesivir, Convalescent Plasma, Tocilizumab have been put under the investigational therapies in the clinical management protocol for COVID-19.
Russian Vaccine Completes Human Clinical Trials	Russia's Gamalei Institute's COVID-19 Vaccine becomes the First in the World to Complete Human Clinical Trials
Roko-Toko Campaign	Madhya Pradesh Government announces 'Roko-Toko' Campaign, for those who do not wear masks
'Corona Kavach' health insurance policies	IRDAI allows launch of 'Corona Kavach' insurance policies
COVID - 19 negative certificate mandatory	Bangladesh makes COVID-19 negative certificate mandatory for travelling abroad
SHUDH	IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultraviolet (UV) sanitizing device named Smartphone operated Handy Ultraviolet Disinfection Helper (SHUDH).
Post-Covid Coach	The Indian Railways has launched a new state-of-the-art, 'Post COVID Coach' in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus infection.
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine	The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved the first indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine.
COROSURE	The Union Minister of Human Resource and Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishnak launched world's most affordable COVID-19 kit. (COROSURE) The kit was developed by IIT Delhi.
India's 1st contactless car parking	GMR Hyderabad International Airport (GHIAL) has introduced India's first-ever fully contactless airport car parking to provide a safe airport amid COVID-19.
MediCAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) has developed a portable hospital unit called MediCAB. ❖ It has been launched in Wayanad District of Kerala where the units are being deployed to treat COVID19 Patients.

ZyCoV-D	India has started phase I/II clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine - ZyCoV-D , designed and developed by Zydus (a pharmaceutical company) with support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
Oxford vaccine - AZD1222	The UK COVID-19 trials have shown that the Oxford vaccine could offer 'double protection' against COVID-19.
Study on Efficiency of BCG vaccine in treating COVID-19	ICMR is to conduct study to evaluate effectiveness of BCG vaccine to prevent morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 elderly individuals.
USFDA approves COVID - 19 pool testing for the first time	The United States Food and Drug Administration issued emergency use authorization to allow pool sampling from up to four individuals to test COVID-19.
Dexamethasone	Japan approves Dexamethasone as COVID-19 Treatment
DRDO establishes COVID-19 testing facility in DIHAR, Leh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Defence Research Development Organization has established a COVID-19 testing facility in Leh. ❖ The research facility was set up at Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR).
Rajasthan launches the first plasma bank of the state	Rajasthan Government is to set up the first plasma bank of the state in Jaipur. The first ever plasma bank of India was established in Delhi.
2-year jail term, Rs 1 lakh fine for not wearing masks	Jharkhand announces 2-year jail term, Rs 1 lakh fine for not wearing masks, violating COVID protocols
Veli Band	IIM-Kozhikode develops 'Veli Band' for ensuring social distancing
COVISHIELD	The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization announced that it will take up clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccine, COVISHIELD developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca.
Three new high-throughput ICMR COVID-19 testing labs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurates 3 high-end COVID testing labs at Mumbai, Noida, Kolkata ❖ The three new-high end ICMR labs will be expanded and used for testing of many other diseases in the future such as Dengue, Hepatitis B & C and HIV.



BeYo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Country's 1st COVID – 19 blockchain platform ❖ Converted COVID – 19 clinical and vaccination data of Citizens from physical form into digital assests ❖ Developed by IIIT Bangalore
Segregation of Covid-19 Waste	The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has observed that the segregation of Covid-19 biomedical waste from general garbage is a must to avoid further contamination adversely affecting public health.
Operation Breathing Space	Israeli team arrives for trials of rapid tests for COVID-19
Lyfas COVID score	DST selects Acculi Labs to develop “Lyfas COVID score”
BANDICOOT	Guwahati Development Department Ministry has inaugurated first manhole cleaning robot 'BANDICOOT' to ensure minimal human involvement to clean the sewers.
ADB approves USD 3 million grant to India to combat COVID-19	Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 crore) grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic.
National Clinical Registry of COVID-19 Patients	ICMR in collaboration with AIIMS, is creating a new rigorous database of COVID-19 patients
Aashray	Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed 'Aashray', a medical bed isolation system to combat COVID-19 by preventing or minimising the spread of the virus
Vertical Transmission of COVID - 19	Country's 1st Mother – Child vertical Transmission of COVID - 19 was recorded in Maharashtra



TAMIL NADU

- 1) **Aarti Ahuja Committee:** The five-member Central Team delegated to study the pandemic situation in Tamil Nadu
- 2) **Paul Harris Fellow:** The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International having its headquarters at Chicago, has honoured Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami with Paul Harris Fellow recognition
- 3) **GI Tag:** Salem Thammampatti crafts work
- 4) **Puducherry CM** has announced the “Kalaingar Karunanidhi Free Breakfast Scheme” for the school students.
- 5) **Apple starts manufacturing flagship iPhone 11 Handsets in Chennai’s Foxconn Plant.**
- 6) According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Tamil Nadu has raised ₹30,500 crores in the fiscal 2020-21 and has topped market borrowings among States in the country.**
- 7) **SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre** has been chosen as a **clinical trial site** by the ICMR for the **India’s 1st indigenous COVID-19 vaccine (BBV152 COVID Vaccine).**
- 8) According to the Madras High Court order, **for the 1st time in the history of Tamil Nadu, the “Revenue Department” has taken charge of Sathankulam police station.**
- 9) **Separate anti-torture law:** The alleged torture of a father-son duo in Sattankulam town in Tamil Nadu has given rise to the demand for a separate law against torture.
- 10) The services of **Friends of Police (FOP)** has been suspended in Tamil Nadu.
- 11) **Quota For Government School Students:** Tamil Nadu Cabinet Approves **7.5 % Quota For Government School Students** in Medical Colleges (NEET)
- 12) **Tamil Nadu government** gives **Backward Class status to Thiyya and Ezhava communities** according to **Atulya Misra’s Committee report.**
- 13) **Four spherical weighing stones of different sizes** have been unearthed at **Keeladi in Sivaganga district.**
- 14) **“India’s 2nd plasma bank”** will soon open at the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, Chennai.



- 15) 5 television channels, **Kalvi Tholaikkatchi, DD Podhigai, Polimer TV, Puthiya Thalamurai and Thanthi TV** will be used to **broadcast the lessons for students from Classes I to XII.**
- 16) **M. Thanikachalam Panel:** The TN government has formed a **new seven-member Backward Classes panel** under his chairmanship
- 17) **P Thiagarajan** from Madurai became the **2nd Non-brahmin priest in Tamil Nadu**
- 18) **Tara, a virtual voice teacher:** The **Corporation school students in Chennai** has started using a virtual voice teacher **for improving language skills.**
- 19) **IIT Madras:** World's first ever online B.Sc. degree in Programming and Data Science
- 20) **Dr. S. Vinod Kumar:** received Jawaharlal Nehru Award from Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- 21) Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with **N.Kaniga, a student from Namakkal** who had excelled in the Class XII board exams in his 'Mann ki baat' programme on 26th July 2020.
- 22) **3 metro stations Renamed:**
 - ❖ **Alandur Metro** = Arignar Anna Alandur Metro
 - ❖ **Central Metro** = Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Central Metro
 - ❖ **CMBT Metro** = Puratchi Thalaivi Dr J Jayalalithaa CMBT Metro



NATIONAL

1) **Prime Minister's Ladakh Visit:**

❖ For reviewing the security situations amid continues claims of China for sovereignty over India's territory at the Galwan Valley.

❖ **PM Modi Mentioned a Thirukkural in her Speech:**

✓ “மறமானம் மாண்ட வழிச்செலவு தேற்றம்
எனநான்கே ஏமம் படைக்கு”

✓ பொருள்: வீரம், மானம், சிறந்த வழியில் நடக்கும் நடக்கை, தலைவரால் நம்பித் தெளியப்படுதல் ஆகிய இந்த நான்கு பண்புகளும் படைக்கு சிறந்தவையாகும்.

✓ பால்: பொருட்பால்; அதிகாரம்: படைமாட்சி; குறள்: 766

2) **New Education Policy 2020:**

❖ **A panel headed by former ISRO chief K. Kasturirangan** submitted a draft in December 2018, which was made public and opened for feedback after the Lok Sabha election in May 2019

❖ Public spending on education by **states, Centre to be raised to 6% of the GDP.**

❖ Ministry of Human Resource Development to be renamed Minister of Education.

❖ The NEP proposes changing the existing 10+2 Curricular and Pedagogical Structure with **5+3+3+4 design covering the children in the age group 3-18 years. Phil degree will be abolished.**

3) **Gas leak in Vizag pharma plant:**

❖ A gas leak at Sainor Life Sciences Pvt Ltd, Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City, in Visakhapatnam has claimed two lives and injured four people.

❖ **Hydrogen sulphide vapours** leaked from the reactor of a pharmaceutical company's plant.

4) **As per the Tigers Report 2018,** an increasing rate of 6% per annum of Tiger population in India from the year 2006 to 2018 was observed



- 5) PM Modi inaugurates **Asia's largest solar energy 750 MW project in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.**
- 6) **The Ministry of Human Resource and Development has been renamed as Ministry of Education.**
- 7) **The Government of India unveiled three schemes with an outlay of about Rs. 48,000 crore to promote electronics manufacturing in India. These schemes are:**
 - ❖ Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme
 - ❖ Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS)
 - ❖ Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme
- 8) **India's First State-Level 'E-Lok Adalat' conducted by Chhattisgarh High Court**
- 9) **Siddi Community has got its first representative in Karnataka State Legislative**
- 10) **3 day India Global Week 2020:**
 - ❖ Inaugurated by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th July 2020.
 - ❖ **THEME:** "Be The Revival: India and a Better New World"
- 11) The Railways Minister Piyush Goyal has announced, **India's first cable-stayed Railways Bridge "Anji Khad Bridge" to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).**
- 12) **World's Largest Camera Trapping Wildlife Survey:**
 - ❖ Fourth Cycle of All India Tiger Estimation 2018 enters Guinness Book of World Records.
 - ❖ The fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018 counted 2,967 tigers, which is about 75% of the global tiger population.
- 13) **Free food grain scheme till November:** The Prime Minister has announced that the free grain distribution scheme under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** will be extended by five months till the end of November 2020



- 14) **Privatisation of Railways:** The Ministry of Railways has taken the first step towards privatisation of railways by inviting Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to private players for operation of passenger train services.
- 15) **5 Rafale multi-role combat jets:** Fleet of 5 Rafale multi-role combat jets arrived in Ambala Air Force base, Haryana. Would be inducted into the IAF as part of its Ambala-based No 17 Squadron, also known as the 'Golden Arrows'.
- 16) **Indian Railways** will be the largest Railway in world to have **100 per cent electrification by 2030 replacing diesel.**
- 17) The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology celebrates **5 years of Digital India.** It was launched on 1st July 2015.
- 18) **1.7 Megawatt solar power plant at Madhya Pradesh: Indian Railway in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has set up a 1.7 Megawatt solar power plant at Bina, Madhya Pradesh.
- 19) **Gujarat government** has decided to form a five-member commission to identify members of **Rabari, Bharvad and Charan communities, who are eligible for benefits of Schedule Tribe (ST) status.**
- 20) **Karnataka** Forest Department has decided to put in place a traffic monitoring mechanism along the roads adjacent to Nagarahole National Park.
- 21) **Himachal Pradesh** Plans to Provide 100 % Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) **to all Rural Households by August 2022**
- 22) **Himachal Pradesh** becomes **First State in India to have LPG Gas Connection in Every Household**
- 23) **Nagaland** declared as disturbed area **till December 2020**
- 24) India's first trans-shipment hub in **Cochin port, Kerala**
- 25) **Assam government** has decided to **Give Preference to Plasma Donors in Government Jobs.**
- 26) **Odisha** has decided to introduce locally produced millets for the first time into Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and Public Distribution System (PDS).



- 27) **Largest Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala** has been commissioned by the Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla. **It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant**
- 28) **Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant, Unit-3 (KAPP-3)**, Gujarat has attained criticality at around 09:36 Hrs on 22 July 2020. **It is India's first 700 MWe (megawatt electric) Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) with innovative features.**
- 29) According to Kaziranga National Park authorities around **80% of its area has been inundated due to floods.**
- 30) **Intzaar Aap Ka:** To attract tourists in the state, **the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has started a social media campaign.**
- 31) **Assam Government** has decided for the **upgradation of the status of the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to National Park.**
- 32) **Uttarakhand government** has decided to **convert waste generated in the state to electricity under an initiative titled 'Waste to Energy'.**
- 33) The Union Cabinet approves extension of **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana till November 2020**
- 34) **The Uttar Pradesh 'Startup Policy'** was prepared by the State Government with the help of NITI Aayog back in 2018. The Policy got the approval of the State Cabinet on 8th July 2020.
- 35) **Odisha** becomes First State in India to **Use Space Technology & Artificial Intelligence for Safeguarding Government Lands.**
- 36) **Nadaun Police Station in Himachal Pradesh** has been ranked as one of the best Police Stations of the country
- 37) A **passenger bus service was started for the first time** after India's Independence in **Swabhiman Anchal region** (formerly known as the cut-off area) in **Odisha's Malkangiri district.**
- 38) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has approved the **Zonal Master Plan for the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone to pave the way for faster execution of Char Dham Road Project**
- 39) **Maharashtra** has become the **first State in the country to get the go-ahead to use drones for aerial surveillance and inspection** of extra high voltage power transmission lines and towers



- 40) Union Food Processing Minister, Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the **“Zoram Mega Food Park” in Mizoram.**
- 41) **India’s first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza** has been inaugurated by the Minister for Power, New & Renewable Energy, R.K Singh at Chelmsford Club in New Delhi.
- 42) The Delhi government has reduced the **Value Added Tax (VAT) on diesel to 16.75 percent from 30 percent.**
- 43) **High levels (around 3 parts per million) of ammonia in the Yamuna river** has been detected in Delhi which led to the disruption of water supply in Delhi.
- 44) **Manodarpan:**
- ❖ “Manodarpan” initiative has been launched by the Union HRD Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’.
 - ❖ “Manodarpan” is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development launched **to ensure mental well-being of the students.**

INTERNATIONAL

- 1) **Red notice for Trump:**
- ❖ **Iran** has issued an arrest warrant for US President Donald Trump over the **killing of top Iranian general in January, Qasem Soleimani.**
 - ❖ Iran has asked Interpol to issue a "red notice" for Trump and the other individuals involved in the killing of Soleimani.
- 2) **Russia** has conducted a successful flight test of an MGTD-20 gas turbine 3D-printed aircraft engine. **The flight tests were held at Kazanbash aviation centre in Tatarstan. I**
- 3) **United States** submits notice to **U.N Secretary-General to withdraw from WHO by 6th July 2021**
- 4) **Pakistan and China** have signed an agreement for the **700 MW Azad Pattan hydel power project on the Jhelum River in Sudhnoti district of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).**



- 5) **Earthquake of 7.8 magnitude hits Alaska;** Tsunami Warnings issued
- 6) **Maldives & Sri Lanka** eliminate **measles & rubella, ahead of 2023 target**
- 7) **India and Bhutan** opened a new trade route between **Jaigon in West Bengal and Pasakha in Bhutan**
- 8) First trial container ship flagged off **from Kolkata to Agartala through Chattogram Port of Bangladesh**
- 9) A herdsman in **China's northern Inner Mongolia region** has been **confirmed to have the bubonic plague.**
- 10) **Bangladesh** bans free internet services for Social media
- 11) **China** plans to build 6-8 Nuclear Reactors per year from 2020 to 2025
- 12) **The Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Mauritius** will jointly inaugurate the **new Supreme Court building of Mauritius** on 30th July 2020.
- 13) The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated two Chinese companies - **Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corporation as national security threats.**
- 14) **The United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has expressed interest to have an **Open Sky Agreement with India**
- 15) **Nepal's Prime Minister** accused India of Cultural Encroachment by Stating **'India Created Fake Ayodhya and Lord Rama was Nepali'**
- 16) **Iran** has decided to proceed with the **Chabahar rail line** construction on its own, citing delays from the Indian side in beginning and funding the project.
- 17) **Expat Quota Bill Approved in Kuwait:**
 - ❖ The legal and legislative committee of Kuwait's National Assembly has approved the draft expat (expatriate) quota bill.
 - ❖ According to the bill, **Indians should not exceed 15% of the population and if it is enacted into law,** over 8 lakh Indians could be forced out of Kuwait.
- 18) **Rapper Kanye West** announced his candidacy for US Presidential Elections 2020 with the hashtag 2020 Vision.



- 19) **New Bhutanese Territory Claimed by China:** China has made new territorial claims in the eastern sector of **Bhutan's Trashigang district**.
- 20) **North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) 2.0:** A new free trade agreement between the **United States, Mexico, and Canada** comes into effect from 1st July 2020 onwards.
- 21) **USA** celebrated the **244th Independence Day on 4th July 2020**
- 22) **India - Maldives** sign agreement to establish **"Emergency Medical Services"**
- 23) **Zealandia:**
 - ❖ Researchers from GNS Science in New Zealand have announced that they mapped the shape and size of the Zealandia continent in unprecedented in detail.
 - ❖ **Scientists confirmed the existence of an eighth continent, called Zealandia**, under New Zealand in 2017.
 - ❖ 94% of Zealandia's 2 million square miles are underwater, mapping the continent is challenging.

ECONOMICS

- 1) **RBI** conducted the fresh **Open Market Operations (OMO)** for purchase and sale of Government Securities to manage liquidity situation in the market.
- 2) A new process of **classification and registration of MSME Enterprises** was launched on July 1, 2020 under the name of 'Udyam registration'.
- 3) **Swiggy** launches digital wallet **'Swiggy Money'** in partnership with **ICICI Bank**
- 4) **HDFC Bank** offers **instant car loans** to existing customers through an initiative called **"ZipDrive"**
- 5) The Central government has clarified that it has **no proposal to merge the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.
- 6) **RBI** cut **repo rate by 250 basis points** till onset of COVID-19



- 7) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman participated in third **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meet**. The meet was presided by Saudi Arabia.
- 8) **Jammu and Kashmir** administration announced life insurance cover of **Rs 25 lakhs to all elected members of urban local bodies and panchayati raj institutions**.
- 9) **Punjab National Bank** has launched a nation-wide campaign to distribute face masks and sanitizers **to prevent the spread of COVID-19**.
- 10) The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 **has been implemented in India since 20th July 2020. It has replaced Consumer Protection Act, 1986**.
- 11) **India's first Neobank for teenagers**, FamPay has launched India's first numberless card, "FamCard".
- 12) **World Trade Organization (WTO)** General Council has granted the "Observer" status to the central Asian country Turkmenistan.
- 13) Recently, **the gold prices crossed Rs. 50,000 per 10 grams after nine years in India**. India is the world's second-largest gold consumer after China.
- 14) **IRCTC & SBI Card launches** Co-branded Contactless Credit Card
- 15) **GST cess falls 42% short in FY20**: The Centre made up a 42% shortfall in Goods and Services Tax compensation cess collection in 2019-20 by using balance of cess from previous years, plus a transfer from the Consolidated Fund of India.

SPORTS

- 1) **Target Olympic Podium Scheme**: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will launch **TOPS for Junior Athletes for 2024 and 2028 Olympics**.
- 2) **'Fit Hai to Hit Hai India' under Fit India Campaign launched**. The program is to inspire and motivate the school children about the importance and need to stay fit during this pandemic.
- 3) **Ravindra Jadeja**: Indian Cricketer - India's 'most valuable player' by Wisden
- 4) **India's Nitin Menon: Youngest umpire** to enter ICC Elite Panel
- 5) **2022 FIFA World Cup** to be held in **Qatar**



- 6) International Olympic Committee postpones **2022 Dakar Youth Olympics to 2026**
- 7) **ICC Men's T20 World Cup** postponed to **2022 & scheduled to be played in Australia**
- 8) **Haryana** to host **2021 Khelo India Youth Games**
- 9) England cricketer, **Stuart Broad** becomes **7th bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket**

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
36th ASEAN Summit	THEME: "Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN"	held via video conferencing in Hanoi, Vietnam
Scheme for formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The government has launched the scheme - Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (PM FME). ❖ The scheme will be implemented for five years until 2024-25. 	
G20 Digital Ministers' Meet	THEME: "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st century for all"	The Union Minister of Information Technology



SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A mega tree plantation drive on 2nd July 2020. ❖ The name of the campaign is 'Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao' meaning 'Plant Trees, Save Environment'. 	Delhi Government
Balaram Yojana	To provide crop loans to landless farmers.	Odisha government
Mission Vriksharopan - 2020	More than 25 crore saplings were planted on 5th July	Uttar Pradesh government
Nekar Samman Yojane	A relief scheme for weavers.	Karnataka government
Madhu Babu Pension Yojana	Odisha Government announced that transgenders are to be included under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana.	Odisha Government
Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana	For all-round development of the Scheduled Castes.	Uttar Pradesh government
Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana	To help the eligible beneficiaries get ration delivered at home.	Delhi Government
Godhan Nyay Yojna	To promote cattle rearing, ensure the safety of livestock, help cattle ranchers earn extra income, help in tackling the problem of open grazing by stray cattle and encourage the use of organic fertilizers as well as boost rural economy among other things.	Chhattisgarh Government
Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana	Under the "Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana" of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Union Home Minister Amit Shah distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.	



REPORTS / INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	INDIA'S RANKING	TOP RANKING
Global Real Estate Transparency Index	Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL)	43	USA
United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020	According to the index, India recorded the largest reduction in number of people living in poverty between the period 2015-19		

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
Spice-2000 Bombs	The Central Government plans to acquire more lethal version of Spice-2000 Bombs with an aim to strengthen its military capabilities.	
Phobos	Mangalyaan captures Image of Mars Biggest Natural Satellite 'Phobos'	NASA
Ofek 16	Israel successfully launched "Ofek 16" spy satellite into space by using a Shavit rocket	Israel
APSTAR-6D	China launched Commercial Communication Satellite 'APSTAR-6D' by Long March-3B carrier rocket on 9th July 2020.	China
"Hope" mission to Mars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ UAE to become first Arab nation send probe to Mars ❖ UAE's Hazza al-Mansouri had become the first Emirati to travel to space and visit the International Space Station. 	UAE
Apache & Chinook helicopters	Boeing delivers AH-64E Apache & 15 CH-47F(I) Chinook helicopters to IAF	



Kuaizhou-11	Kuaizhou-11 was the 19 th Rocket launched by China in the year 2020. It was also the 3rd Rocket Launch of China in 2020 that had ended in failure.	China
Bharat drones	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has provided drones named 'Bharat' to the Indian Army for accurate surveillance	DRDO
Dhruvastra	India successfully test fires "Dhruvastra" anti-guided missiles	
ANASIS-II	South Korea's first military satellite "ANASIS-II"	SpaceX
Tianwen-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ China has successfully launched "Tianwen-1" its first independent mission to Mars. ❖ A Long March 5 rocket carrying the spacecraft ignited at the Wenchang Space Launch Site in south China's tropical Hainan province. 	China
ASTHROS Mission	NASA is to launch ASTHROS Mission from Antarctica in December 2023. The mission is to spend three weeks observing air currents above the continent	NASA
Dare to Dream 2.0	DRDO launches 'Dare to Dream 2.0' contest to promote the innovators and startups of the country on the death anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.	
Mars Perseverance Mission 2020 Rover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission is on its way to the Red Planet to search for signs of ancient life and collect samples to send back to Earth. ❖ Rocket: Atlas V ❖ Ingenuity Mars Helicopter - weigh only about 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms) ❖ It will Land in Jezerp Crater on Mars 	NASA



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERIES	PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Low - cost Supercapacitor	A simple, low-cost, environment-friendly, and sustainable supercapacitor device.	International Advanced Research Centre
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine	India's first fully indigenously developed Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine	Approval from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)
James Webb Space Telescope	NASA reschedules launch of James Webb Space Telescope to October 2021	NASA
Bathynomus raksasa	Scientists have reported the discovery of the first super giant isopod species in the eastern Indian Ocean named 'Bathynomus raksasa'	
India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A Space start up called the Digantara has developed India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system. ❖ The system works on LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology. 	
Khazan Ecosystems	It is an Estuarine agricultural system practiced in low - lying flood plains of Goa	Goa

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

SPECIES / ENVIRONMENT	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+)	1 st African country to submit Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) results to UNFCCC	Uganda
Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince	The lepidopterists have discovered the two new species of butterfly i.e. Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince	Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh.



Globba andersonii	A team of researchers have “rediscovered” a rare plant species called Globba andersonii	Sikkim
Largest Butterfly in India	‘Golden Birdwing’ dethrones ‘Southern Birdwing’ to become the largest Butterfly in India	
Ophiocordyceps Nutans	New Fungi species	Chhattisgarh
Flood Resistant Paddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Farmers from Golaghat district in Assam have cultivated new flood resistant paddy varieties to shift from the traditional ones. ❖ The varieties called Ranjit Sub1, Swarna Sub1 and Bahadur Sub1 have been used by about 60% farmers of the West Brahmaputra area. 	Assam
Woolly Whitefly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is an invasive exotic pest of Caribbean – origin that feeds on various kinds of flood (polyphagous) ❖ Recently, 2 types of Ladybird Beetles are found to be the biological weapons against this pest. 	
Indian flap shell turtle	Rare yellow turtle	Odisha’s Balasore district
Hyacinth Macaw / Blue Macaw	Hyacinth Macaw / Blue Macaw is a parrot native to central and eastern South America.	Assam

CYCLONE

Hurricane Hanna	Hurricane Hanna has made landfall (the point at which a hurricane reaches land) in Texas with life-threatening storm surge and strong winds.
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APPS & PORTALS

TNPFCL App	Tamil Nadu government launched the Tamil Nadu Power Finance – 24 * 7 online service & Digital Payments for Girl Child Protection scheme
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NADA INDIA App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sports Minister has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App". ❖ It aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering easily-accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.
Mobile Masterjee	IIT Kanpur has developed a classroom-to-home teaching setup 'Mobile Masterjee'. It will be very helpful to students in rural India. This setup can record the lectures or instructions by the teachers while using their available smartphones.
Skill Connect Forum	Karnataka launched 'Skill Connect Forum', a portal that connects job seekers with employers on a common platform.
Elyments App	Vice President to launch 'Elyments' on 5 th July, First Indian Social Media Super App
Sanskrit Saptahiki	All India Radio starts its First-Ever Sanskrit News Programme 'Sanskrit Saptahiki'
PM Modi launches Atmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge	Atmanirbhar Bharat Innovation Challenge aims at encouraging tech & startup communities to create world-class 'Made in India' Apps.
Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi (LEAD)	Delhi Government has launched an e-learning portal name as "Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi (LEAD)".
Self Scan App	West Bengal launched Document Scanning (Self Scan) App & First Plasma Bank for COVID-19 Patients in West Bengal
Maha Job portal	"Maha" Jobs Portal has been launched by the Maharashtra government. The job portal has been rolled out to offer employment opportunities to local residents.
MSDE launches AI-based "ASEEM" digital platform	The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched 'Aatamanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM)' portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.



ATL App	NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission has launched the ATL App Development Module for school children across the country.
on-line NISHTHA programme	on-line National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) programme launched in Andhra Pradesh
Mobile app KURMA	Conservation efforts for Tortoise and freshwater turtles
PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) App	Mobile App of "PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi" launched
Pravasi Rojgar App	Actor Sonu Sood launched "Pravasi Rojgar App". The application provides all necessary information to find jobs and offer specific job training programmes.
Restartindia Portal	Muthoot Fincorp launches portal "Restartindia" for MSMEs
Mausam App	The Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan launches 'Mausam' app for weather forecasts
Rozgar Bazar Portal	Delhi government has launched the portal named as "Rozgar Bazar", a sort of marketplace for job seekers and the people recruiters.
BIS Apps & Portal	The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) Mobile App 'BIS-Care' and three portals namely the Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Training Portals of e-BIS for consumers.

WOMEN IN NEWS

Major General Nigar Johar	Pakistan Army has appointed Major General Nigar Johar as 1st female lieutenant general.
Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda	first woman prime minister of Gabon



APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
Indra Mani Pandey	India appoints Indra Mani Pandey as new envoy to UN bodies
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya	new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation
Injeti Srinivas	Chairman of International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)
Election Commissioner, Ashok Lavasa	new Vice President of Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Anandiben Patel	new Governor of Madhya Pradesh

NEWLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT / PRIME MINISTER

Vladimir Putin	Russian President Vladimir Putin records victory in Presidential polls He is set to stay in power until the middle of the next decade i.e. until 2036.
Lee Hsien Loong	Prime Minister of Singapore
Gudni Johannesson	President of Iceland
Jean Castex	Prime Minister of France
Andrzej Duda	President of Poland
Hichem Mechichi	Prime Minister of Tunisia



AWARDS

AWARD	PERSON / Organization
2020 von Karma Award	ISRO chief Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan
CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019	National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
Elites Excellence Awards 2020	Chhattisgarh
Global Humanitarian Award 2020	Sachin Awasthi
Nelson Mandela Prize 2020	Morissana Kouyate and Marianna Vardinoyannis
Gulbenkian Prize	Greta Thunberg
President's Award in Singapore	Kala Narayanasamy honoured with President's Award in Singapore
Gustave Trouve Award	India's first solar ferry "Aditya"
Football Premier Leagues Golden Boot football award	Jamie Vardy
Karamveer Chakra Award	Sunil ydv SS

MILITARY EXERCISE

Passage Exercise (PASSEX)	Indian Naval ships conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the U.S. Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar islands.
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COMMITTEE'S

Committee on Criminal Law Reform	The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has constituted a national level committee for reform in criminal law
Gopalakrishnan Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Study Various issues relating to Non – Personal Data (NPD) ❖ Make specific suggestions on regulation of NPD

BOOKS & AUTHORS

BOOKS	AUTHORS
“Future of Higher Education – Nine Mega Trends”	Authored by: CA V Pattabhi Ram Released by: M Venkaiah Naidu
“Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver”	Authored by: Former RBI governor, Urjit Patel
“Getting Competitive: A Practitioner’s Guide for India”	Authored by: RC Bhargava
“His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography”	Autobiography Of “Dalai Lama”
“A Song of India”	Authored by: Ruskin Bond
“If It Bleeds”	Authored by: Stephen King
“Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India”	Authored by: Viral V.Acharya
“The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World”	Authored by: Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar



IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
July 1	National Doctor's Day	THEME: "Lessen the Mortality of COVID 19"
July 4	International Day of Cooperatives	
July 6	World Zoonoses Day	
July 11	World Population Day	THEME: "Safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls"
July 12	World Malala Day	
July 15	World Youth Skills Day	THEME: "Skills for a Resilient Youth"
July 17	World Day for International Justice	
July 20	World Chess Day	
July 24	National Broadcasting Day	
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas	
July 28	World Hepatitis Day	THEME: "Hepatitis-free future,"
July 29	International Tiger Day	
July 30	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	

