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AUGUST – 2020

COVID – 19 NEWS

India's first mobile RT-PCR lab in Bengaluru	❖ **The State Government of Karnataka launched India's first mobile RT-PCR lab.** The lab was developed by **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.** ❖ The lab has been named Mobile Infection Testing and Reporting (MITR) lab. **It is capable of conducting 9000 tests per month.**
SPUTNIK V	Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia had become the **first country in the world to grant regulatory approval to a Covid-19 vaccine 'Sputnik V'.**
Russia plans mass vaccination against COVID - 19 by October	**Russia became the first nation in the world to successfully complete the human trials** of COVID vaccine in July. As per preliminary results, Russia's COVID vaccine has proven to be effective.
DG14G	**Malaysia has recently detected a new COVID-19 strain that is 10 times more infectious.** The mutation of the virus is called DG14G
Operation Breathing Space	An **Israeli team** arrived in India with a multi-pronged mission, codenamed Operation Breathing Space to work with Indian authorities on the Covid-19 response.
MEDBOT	**Indian Railways** develops remote-controlled medical trolley '**MEDBOT'** to deliver food, medicines to COVID-19 patients
AVIPTADIL	An old drug formulation RLF-100 is being **probed to treat Covid-19 patients after initial studies have shown that the drug is able to halt SARS-CoV-2 virus replication in lungs.**
NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING MACHINES (NGS)	The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is working on developing "mega labs" **to ramp up testing for COVID-19 as well as improve the accuracy rate**.
Corona Fighters	Union Health Minister has launched **an interactive first-of-its-kind game on COVID-19, the Corona Fighters.** The game presents a new and extremely creative way to teach people the right tools and behaviours to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.
Khadi's Gift Box of Silk	Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME),

Mask	Shri Nitin Gadkari has launched the Khadi's Gift Box of Silk Mask. **The Gift Box has been developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).**
CHHAVNI COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana	Ministry of Defence launched the 'Chhavni COVID: Yodha Sanrakshan Yojana.' **It is a group life insurance scheme to be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).**
Saliva Direct Test	A new, rapid diagnostic test for the novel corona virus that uses saliva samples was granted an emergency use authorisation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
BONDAS	The COVID-19 pandemic has reached the Bondas, a tribal community residing in the hill ranges of Malkangiri district in Odisha. Four members of the community have tested positive for COVID-19.
COVAX PLATFORM	The World Health Organisation (WHO) has renewed its invite to countries to join its COVAX facility, an international alliance aimed at accelerating the development and manufacture of novel Coronavirus vaccines, and ensuring equitable access to all.
PYROLYSIS	Plastic from used **personal protective equipment (PPE)** can be transformed into renewable liquid fuels, according to a new study published in the journal Biofuels.
Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi	**Madhya Pradesh** has launched a public awareness campaign "Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi" from August 1-15. The Scheme will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection.
Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)	eVIN is being used by the State/UT governments in India **to monitor the supply chain of COVID response material.**
Pavitrapati & Aushada tara	Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, DIAT (DU) has launched two products namely "Pavitrapati" & "Aushada tara" to fight against COVID-19. **Pavitrapati** = Biodegradable Face Mask **Aushada tara** = anti-microbial body suit
Toxin in Hand Sanitizer	United States Food and Drug Adminstration announced the presence of **1 – propanol** in hand sanitizer can depress the central nervous system and can be the life – threatening.

TAMIL NADU

1) **TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT's INDEPENDENCE DAY AWARDS 2020:**

AWARD	PERSON / Organization
TN CM's Special Award for COVID – 19	WHO Chief Scientist **Soumya Swaminathan**
Kalpana Chawla Award	Senthamizh Selvi, Muthamaal & Ananthavalli
Abdul Kalam Award	S Selvakumar
Best Corporation	Vellore
Best Municipality	**Viluppuram** – 1st Rank **Karur –** 2nd Rank **Koothanallur** – 3rd Rank
Best Town Panchayat	**Vanavasi** (Salem) - 1st Rank **Veerapandi** (Theni) - 2nd Rank **Madukkarai** (Kovai) - 3rd Rank

2) **President's police medal on Independence Day:** R Antony Johnson Jeyapaul and P Ravichandran

3) **Chennai City Traffic Police: Installed LED signaling 'poles'** at a traffic signal near the office of the director-general of police on Marina Beach Road

4) **Tamil Nadu government** disagrees with centre's Three Language Policy.

5) **Amma COVID-19 Home Care Kit** launched by Tamil Nadu CM Costing Rs 2,500, **the kit comprises a pulse oximeter, a digital thermometer, packs of herbal immunity boosters like 'Athimathuram' and 'Kabasura Kudineer'**

6) **Amma Platinum Plus Health Check – up Package introduced:**

Amma Gold	Rs. 1000
Amma Diamond	Rs. 2000
Amma Platinum	Rs. 3000
Amma Platinum Plus	Rs. 4000

7) **Tamil Nadu** ranked **third in the export preparedness index 2020**

8) **Tamil Nadu women** top the list of **MUDRA loan scheme**

9) **Microsoft Showcase School:** Naranapuram Govt High School, Virudhunagar district.

   Microsoft Best Educator Internationally: Karunaidas, Maths Teacher - Naranapuram Govt High School, Virudhunagar district

10) **ChAdOx1 nCoV-19:** Oxford University's Vaccine named **COVISHIELD is started trial in Tamil Nadu's** Rajiv Gandhi Government hospital and Porur Ramachandra Hospital.

11) The Expert Appraisal Committee of the Environment Ministry **has** recommended for **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance to the Chennai Port to Maduravoyal elevated corridor project**

12) **Archaeological Survey of India** creates **Trichy as new circle in TN** including Jabalpur, Jhansi, Meerut, Hampi, Raiganj and Rajkot for better upkeep of monuments.

13) **Jeevan Raksha Padak for 2019:** Awarded to **R Sridhar from Thanjavur**. He had saved six people from drowning in the Velayan lake in Orathanadu.

14)

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2020	**< 10 Lakh Population:** ➤ Coimbatore – **40th Place** ➤ Madurai – **42nd Place** ➤ Chennai - **45th Place & *Best Mega City in Innovation and Best Practices.***
	< 1 Lakh Population: ➤ Trichy – **102nd Place** ➤ Tirunelveli – **159th Place**
Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) campaign	**Best District:** Tirunelveli **Best Gram Panchayat:** Chinnaur, Salem

NATIONAL

1) **The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been renamed as *the Ministry of Education.*** In 1985, the Ministry of Education was renamed as the HRD ministry when Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister. P V Narasimha Rao was appointed the first HRD minister by PM Rajiv Gandhi.

2) **Indian Railways** is constructing the **world's tallest pier bridge (114m) in Manipur across river Ijai near Noney**

3) **HINDU WOMEN'S INHERITANCE RIGHTS:** The Supreme Court has expanded a **Hindu woman's right to be a joint legal heir and inherit ancestral property on terms equal to male heirs.**

4) **Female Pedestrians on Traffic Signals:** *Mumbai's* Dadar becomes the first city to have female icons on traffic signals

5) **Project Dolphin and Project Lion:** PM Modi announced that on the lines of the successful conservation programme Project Tiger and Project Elephant, India will now have two more similar missions, **Project Dolphin and Project Lion, to protect these species in their natural habitat in a holistic manner.**

6) **Project Cheetah:**

   ➢ The **Indian Armed Forces** have decided to revive "Project Cheetah" amidst tensions with China.

   ➢ *Project Cheetah is to upgrade the drones to carry out offensive operations against the enemy.* Under this project, 90 Heron drones of the three services would be upgraded to be armed with laser-guided bombs, air to ground and air-launched anti-tank guided missiles.

7) **Demand for 6th Schedule Status: Arunachal Pradesh**

   ➢ The recent revival of the demand for two autonomous councils in Arunachal Pradesh has led to the **call for bringing the entire Arunachal Pradesh under the ambit of the 6th Schedule or Article 371 (A) of the Constitution.**

8) **Minimum Age of Marriage for Girls:** The Prime Minister, during his address to the nation on the 74th Independence Day, announced that **the central government has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women, which is currently 18.**

9) **A massive landslide crushed a settlement of 83 tea estate workers in Munnar in Idukki, Kerala.**

10) **Tabletop Airport:** On 7 August 2020, a Boeing 737 aircraft of Air India Express (the low cost subsidiary of national carrier Air India) **overshot the runway while landing at Calicut International Airport.** The crash killed 18 people and over 100 were injured. The accident has once again turned the spotlight on operations to what are called 'tabletop airports' in India.

11) **SUBMARINE OPTICAL FIBRE CABLE (OFC):**

➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicate to the Nation the submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) of nearly **2300 KM length connecting Chennai and Port Blair on 10th August, 2020.**

➢ The submarine cable will also connect Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep (Havelock), Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat.

➢ The submarine OFC link will deliver bandwidth of 2 x 200 Gigabits per second (Gbps) between Chennai and Port Blair, and 2 x 100 Gbps between Port Blair and the other islands.

12) **PM Modi announced the Optic Fibre Linking of Lakshadweep Islands with the mainland during** his address at the 74th celebrations of Independence Day.

13) **National Council for Transgender Persons constituted:**

➢ The Council has been formed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

➢ The Council is to be headed by the Union Social Justice Minister.

➢ The Council will also have joint secretary level members from ministries of health, minority affairs, education, labour, rural development.

➢ Apart from the ministries, the council will also have members from Human Rights Commissions, NITI Aayog and National Commission for women.

14) **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) Plan:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the plan **there will be a trans-national electricity grid, for supplying solar power across the globe.**

15) **Kerala Goverment** commissioned **1st Marine Ambulance 'PRATHEEKSHA'**

16) **Fit India Youth Club:** A part of the Fit India Movement envisioned by Prime Minister, **endeavours to harness the power of youth to create mass awareness about the importance of fitness, across the country.**

17) **Kisan Rail:** The country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail will start from August 7, 2020 **to provide seamless supply of perishable produce.** The train will transport material between **Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur Railway station.** It will be covering a distance of 1,519 kilometres in around 32 hours.

18) **Andhra Pradesh** on the eve of **Raksha Bandhan launched 'E-Raksha Bandhan',** an online training programme on cybersecurity. **The programme is aimed at creating awareness among the public on cybercrimes across the State.**

19) **The Union Home Ministry notified new rules for administration in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K):**

   ❖ **Functions of the L-G:** Police, Public order, All India Services and anti-corruptions

   ❖ **Functions of the Council of Ministers led by CM:** Service matters of non-All India Services officers, proposal to impose new tax, land revenue, sale grant or lease of government property, reconstituting departments or offices and draft legislation.

20) **NATIONAL DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION (NDHM):**

   ➢ The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which was unveiled by PM Modi in his Independence Day address, **has now been rolled out on a pilot mode in six Union territories (Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.)**

   ➢ The vision of National Digital Health Mission is to create a national digital health ecosystem which provides timely and efficient access to inclusive, affordable, and safe healthcare to all citizens.

21) **24 States under One Nation-One Ration Card:** *Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand, along with the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir* have been integrated with the One Nation-One Ration Card (ONORC) Scheme.

22) **IIM Sirmaur: In Himachal Pradesh**, Union Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Dhaula Kuan in Sirmour district.

23) Union Education Minister has informed that indigenous toy-making will be introduced as a theme in **Kala Utsav to encourage students to explore and develop a variety of local toys**. He also called for initiating puppet show in Kala Utsav for secondary and higher secondary students.

24) **IIT-Indore** has introduced a one-of-its-kind course **to teach classical sciesntific texts to students in Sanskrit**, starting with Bhaskaracharya's mathematical treatise 'Lilavati' of almost a thousand years ago.

25) **India's first International Women Trade Centre** to be set up in **Kerala** in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

26) **Delhi Government** has launched the Fitness Campaign **"Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" fitness campaign** for the students

27) The Prime Minister's Office held a meeting with representatives of the Election Commission and the Law Ministry to discuss the possibility of having a **common electoral roll for elections to the panchayat, municipality, state assembly and the Lok Sabha.**

28) Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh has said that **three Bamboo Clusters will be developed in Jammu, Katra and Samba** areas for making of Bamboo basketry, Agarbatti and Bamboo Charcol.

29) The Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology has launched **"Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of the country.**

30) With the ambitious plan of achieving 100% electrification for Railways by the year 2023, **Indian Railways energy consumption is set to become more than 33 billion units by 2030** from its current annual requirement of about 21 billion units.

31) The Bureau of Police Research and Development is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Anniversary on 28th August, 2020.

32) **UDAN 4.0:** The 4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019 with a special focus on North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands**. Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopter and seaplanes is also been incorporated.**

33) The National Health Authority (NHA) has released the Draft Health Data Management Policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in the public domain.

34) The **Assam** government has inaugurated a **1.8-km ropeway across the Brahmaputra River (Guwahati)**, and described it as India's longest river ropeway.

35) Nine people were killed after a massive fire swept through the **Srisailam hydroelectric plant, Andhra Pradesh** *(2nd largest capacity working hydroelectric station in the country)*

36) The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for leasing out three airports namely Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

37) **Digha - Gopalpur coastal highway** is under construction in **Odisha and West Bengal.**

38) Prime Minister Narendra Modi shall inaugurate **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra,** an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission, on 8th August 2020.

39) **'Roll On Roll Off' (RORO) Train:** Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa flagged off first RORO train **from Bengaluru to Solapur in Maharashtra.**

40) **Vyapar Mala Express Train:** Northern Railway runs first-ever Vyapar Mala Express train. **It will help small traders in moving their cargo through Railways,** in a short time, cost effective, convenient and environment-friendly mode of transportation.

41) The southern bench of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has granted an interim stay on **felling of coconut trees on Agatti Island in Lakshadweep**.

42) The Ministry of Defence has formulated **a draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020).**

43) **Maritime and startup hub:** The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared that the **Andaman and Nicobar islands will be developed as a "maritime and startup hub"**

44) **The Kerala State government** is carrying out a unique programme called "Namath Basai" **of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue**.

INTERNATIONAL

1) **Apple** surpasses Saudi Aramco to **become world's most valuable company**

2) **Lebanon trembles with devastating blast:**

   ❖ **In Beirut, the capital of Lebanon** a huge blast triggered off in a port warehouse where highly explosive material was stored.

   ❖ **Ammonium nitrate** has involved in the explosion.

3) **Barakah Nuclear Plant: The United Arab Emirates** became the first Arab country to open a nuclear power plant, when the Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Plant in Abu Dhabi, got operational on 31 July 2020.

4) **Senkaku-Diaoyu Islands Dispute:** Japan and China claim the uninhabited islands, known as the Senkaku in Japan and Tiaoyu in China

5) **Mali President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has announced his resignation amid a military coup.** The development comes after more than two months of regular demonstrations calling for him to step down three years before his final term was due to end.

6) **Mauritius declared a national emergency over an oil spill near its coast.**

7) **Pakistan's New Map:**

   ❖ Pakistan has released a new political map that includes all of **Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Sir Creek and Junagadh.**

   ❖ The map has been released on the eve of the first anniversary of the abrogation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.

8) **US** President Donald Trump announced that the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations as part of a new peace deal.**

9) **Pratihara Style of architecture:** A rare late **ninth century stone statue of Lord Shiva, which was stolen from a temple in Rajasthan** and smuggled to the UK, will be returned to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

10) **Bangladesh's Power plant: Reliance Power and Japanese energy major JERA** have signed an agreement with a group of banks for their new gas-fired thermal power generation project in Bangladesh.

11) Foreign Minister of Nepal has said that the **1947 agreement among India, Nepal and the United Kingdom t**hat deals with the military service of Gurkha soldiers has become redundant.

12) World Health Organization has declared **Africa free of polio**, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world.

13) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ordered another ancient Orthodox church that became a mosque and then a popular **KARIYE Istanbul museum to be turned back into a place of Muslim worship.**

14) **Clean Plates Campaign:** Chinese President Xi Jinping called on his country's citizens **to drastically cut down on food waste in a new initiative called the 'Clean Plates Campaign'.**

15) **Sri Lankan government has** granted approval to **abolish the 19ᵗʰ amendment to the constitution and replace it with the 20ᵗʰ amendment.**

16) **The Mount Sinabung of Indonesia has erupted again.** The volcano was dormant for 400 years and erupted recently in the year 2010 and in 2014.

17) **The Turkish President reconverted the Chora museum into a mosque**. This is the second museum after Hagia Sophia to be converted into a mosque.

ECONOMICS

1) **GSTR-2B:** Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) launched GSTR-2B for the month of July 2020 as an auto-drafted input tax credit (ITC) statement.

2) Prime Minister Modi launched a platform for **"Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest" aimed at boosting the confidence of the taxpayer and making him/her fearless.**

3) The **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of the Eurozone **reduced by 12.1% in the April-June 2020 quarter**, compared to the previous quarter.

4) The National Strategy for Financial Education **(NSFE): 2020-2025 document was released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

5) The new '**Positive Pay**' mechanism introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will make cheque payments safer and reduces instances of frauds.

6) **HDFC Bank** launched '**Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card', a loan product for the armed forces.**

7) **Punjab National Bank** has launched a campaign named 'DIGITAL APNAYEN' **to encourage customers to use digital banking channels**.

8) **Chief Minister of Nagaland,** Neiphiu Rio has launched **"Yellow Chain" a centralized e-commerce system**

9) **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** launches "LVB DigiGo" **instant account opening facility**

SPORTS

1) **Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohia** of Madhya Pradesh is the first Divyang Indian sportsperson of the country**, who has been awarded with the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award.**

2) **Lewis Hamilton** wins **British Grand Prix 2020**

3) The Government of India launched the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** for the country's promising junior athletes, with an **aim to groom these young talents for medal glory at the 2024 and 2028 Olympics.**

4) Indian Cricket players M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina **announced their retirement from International Cricket.**

5) **James Anderson:** 1st fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets in Cricket.

6) **Dwayne Bravo:** 1st bowler to took 500 wickets in T20 cricket

7) **Neelakantha Bhanu** – *World's Fastest Human Calculator:* Won the 1st ever **Mental Calculation World Championship**

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

SUMMITS / CONFERENCES	PURPOSE / THEME / OUTCOME	PLACE / By
6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting	The 6th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting was held under the presidency of Russia.	Video Conferencing
Quadrilateral dialogue	China convened a quadrilateral dialogue with the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan.	China
India@75 Summit – Mission 2022	The Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari has addressed the "India@75 Summit – Mission 2022" organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) via video-conferencing.	

SCHEMES / YOJANAS

SCHEMES / YOJANAS	PURPOSE / Why in News?	MINISTRY / CABINET / STATE
ORUNODOI Scheme	for Women Financial Empowerment	Assam
Indira Rasoi Yojana	For the poor to providing nutritious food to the poor and needy twice a day on concessional rates.	Rajasthan
Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	National Mission for Financial Inclusion, completes six years of successful implementation on 15th August 2020	
Gramodyog Vikas Yojana	For the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana.	The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
YSR Cheyutha Scheme	This scheme aims at equipping women of SC/ST/OBC/minority castes. The Financial benefit of Rs. 75000 is to be provided over a period of four years to those women who come under 45 to 60 years of age.	Andhra Pradesh

Indira Van Mitan Yojana	The aim is to make the forest dwellers of the state self reliant.	Chhattisgarh
Atma Nirbhar Bharat Saptah	The scheme aims to shift India towards local manufacturing and aid "Make in India" initiative.	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched
Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana	The yojana has been announced for the current Kharif season and all farmers of the state will be covered under this scheme	Gujarat
Major Dhyan Chand Vijaypath Yojana	The Uttar Pradesh government launches the scheme, **19 international players from the state will get road connectivity to their houses.**	Uttar Pradesh

REPORTS / INDICES

INDEX	PURPOSE / RELEASED BY	TOP RANKING
Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020	NITI Aayog	Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu occupy the top three ranks

DEFENCE & SPACE

DEFENCE & SPACE	PURPOSE	COUNTRY / STATE / ORGANIZATION
SARABHAI CRATER	ISRO paid tribute to Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of India's Space Programme, in a special way by announcing that Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter has captured the Moon images of "Sarabhai" Crater.	ISRO
SPACE BRICKS	In a significant step towards space exploration, a team of researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru has developed a sustainable process to make space bricks on the lunar surface.	ISRO & IISc Bengaluru
BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System	China has formally launched full global services of its BeiDou-3 Navigation Satellite System (BDS)	China

AUDFs01	A Global team of scientists has discovered one of the earliest galaxies using **India's AstroSat**	
Raman	➤ Skyroot Aerospace tests upper stage rocket engine "Raman" ➤ "Raman" is a 3-D printed rocket engine which has been named after Nobel laureate CV Raman. ➤ Skyroot Aerospace has become the first Indian private firm to exhibit the potential to build a homegrown rocket engine.	Skyroot Aerospace
Arrow-2	Tested the advanced missile defence system Arrow-2.	Israel

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERIES	PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
Bharat Air Fibre: Wireless Internet	Bharat Air Fibre Services have been inaugurated at Akola in Maharashtra providing the residents wireless internet connections on demand.	Maharashtra
Vitamin D Deficiency in India	❖ Researchers have claimed that **vitamin D deficiency can negatively affect Covid-19 high-risk patients,** particularly those who are diabetic, have heart conditions, pneumonia, obesity and those who smoke. ❖ It is also associated with infections in the **respiratory tract and lung injury.**	
Magnetic Hyperthermia-Mediated Cancer Therapy	To make magnetic hyperthermia-mediated cancer therapy as desired therapy for inoperable tumours	Institute of Nano Science & Technology (INST)
Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge	To provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation and research in the country.	Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME 2.0 (SEP 2.0)	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).	
India's 1st pocket android POS device	Paytm has launched India's 1st Pocket Android POS (Point of Sale) Device named 'Paytm All-in-One Portable Android Smart POS' for contactless ordering and payments in India.	Paytm

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

SPECIES / ENVIRONMENT	TYPE / PURPOSE	PLACE / BY
India's first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre	The prime goal of setting up this centre is conservation, restoration of Himalayan ecosystems and creating livelihood. The project also aims at conservation of elusive snow leopards and various other endangered Himalayan species.	Uttarakhand
One in every Three Child are Poisoned by Lead	UNICEF published impact of lead on children's health across the world. **As per the recent report one in every three children is being poisoned by lead.**	UNICEF Report
Rakhis tied to trees in Aravalis	On the eve Raksha Bandhan, using leaf vines, women and children tied symbolic rakhi to the trees and took an oath **to protect the Aravali forests that are the lifeline for clean air and water in Gurugram and National Capital Region.**	
BARN OWLS	The Lakshadweep Administration had embarked on the 'Pilot project on **Biological Control of Rodents (Rats) by Using Barn Owls (Tyto alba)** in Kavaratti Island' after studies revealed the shocking extent of damage caused by rats to the island's coconut yield and economy.	Kavaratti Island
The hottest air temperature in 2020	130 Fahrenheit (54.4 Celsius).	Death Valley in California's Mojave Desert

PERSEIDS METEOR SHOWER	The Perseids meteor shower is active from August 17-26	
BEEG (Bio - compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule)	IIT Kanpur has developed **indigenous seed balls** named BEEG (Bio - compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule) which will help people and farmers in plantation with safety in Corona times and will also provide employment to people.	IIT Kanpur
POKKALI RICE	Farmers in South 24 Parganas district in **West Bengal** are betting on the pokkali variety of rice from Kerala to tide over a crisis-like situation created by severe seawater incursion into paddy fields in vast areas of the Sundarbans after cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal on May 20.	
Tick-borne virus re-emerges	➢ The SFTS Virus was first detected in 2009. The virus belongs to the Bunyavirus category. ➢ It causes severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS).	China

MILITARY EXERCISES

KAVKAZ 2020	India has announced that it is withdrawing from multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia

CYCLONE

Tsunami Ready Programme: UNESCO-IOC	The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (also known as UNESCO-IOC) has approved the recognition of two communities of Odisha viz., Venkatraipur and Noliasahi as Tsunami Ready Communities.
Hurricane Laura	Hurricane Laura, has made landfall in southwestern Louisiana **(South Central United States)** with wind speeds reaching up to 250 km (about 150 miles) an hour.

APPS & PORTALS

KRISHI MEGH	**Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare launched the Krishi Megh.** *Krishi Megh is the data recovery centre of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).*
E-Gyan Mitra mobile app	E-Gyan Mitra mobile app has been launched by the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu to provide online education.
Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App	The App will assist in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets.
OPEN API SERVICE	Aarogya Setu has introduced 'Open API Service', a novel feature to help the people, businesses and the economy to return to normalcy.
Harit Path App	The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a mobile App called 'Harit Path' **to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of its field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.**
Swasthya Portal	Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya'. The portal provides all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India on a single platform.
SRIJAN Portal	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched 'SRIJAN' portal which is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.
VAHAN Portal	The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has informed that full integration of **National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) with VAHAN portal has been achieved.** The VAHAN system is now getting all information on FASTags through VIN/VRN.
OHE Inspection App	**Indian Railways** has launched an Overhead Equipment (OHE) Inspection app **which will help in minimizing the train delays and long waits due to technical snags**.
SURAKHSYA Portal	❖ National Portal of "Project Elephant" launched. ❖ The portal aims to collect real time information and will also manage conflicts on real time basis.

AIR SUVIDHA	The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has developed a web portal named **'AIR SUVIDHA' for India-bound international passengers.**
Kormo App	**Google** launches 'Kormo' app in India **to help people find jobs**
Super App	**Tata Group** is launching a new app named "Super App" purported **to bring together the country's disparate sales sector to offer a range of consumer goods.**
MY IAF App	**IAF** launches 'MY IAF' app **to provide career-related information**

WOMEN IN NEWS

Noor Inayat Khan	World War II spy Noor Inayat Khan is now the first woman of Indian origin to be commemorated by the distinct blue London plaque.
UN Security Council Resolution On Women Peacekeepers	India has co-sponsored a security council resolution that calls for full, effective and meaningful participation of women personnel in peacekeeping operations.
Kamala Harris	an Indian Origin nominated as **US Vice President candidate**

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONS IN NEWS

PERSONS	POSITION / DESIGNATION
Rajiv Kumar	new *election commissioner*
Rakesh Asthana	Director General of Border Security Force, BSF.
Girish Chandra Murmu	new *Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)*
Pradeep Kumar Joshi	new Chairman of *Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)*
NASA Astronauts returns	**Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley** two US astronauts who were sent to the International Space Station two months ago return to

back safely	the Earth safely
Japanese PMs Shinzo Abe	Shinzo Abe resigned a year before he would have completed his term (September 2021) in office after the **ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel diseases**
Sashidhar Jagdishan	new managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank
Pramod Bhasin	new Chairman of Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
Soma Mondal	next chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

NEWLY APPOINTED GOVERNOR

Manoj Sinha	Lieutenant Governor of **Jammu and Kashmir**
Satya Pal Malik	Governor of **Meghalaya**
Bhagat Singh Koshyari	Governor of **Goa**

NEWLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT / PRIME MINISTER

Hamed Bakayoko	Prime Minister of **Ivory Coast**
Mohamed Irfaan Ali	President of **Guyana**
Mahinda Rajapaksa	Prime Minister of **Sri Lanka**
Alexander Lukashenko	President of **Belarus**
Walter Roger Martos Ruiz	Prime Minister of **Peru**
Mohamed Ould Bilal	Prime Minister of **Mauritania**
Luis Abinader	President of **Dominican Republic**

Francisco Asue	Prime Minister of **Equatorial Guinea**
Keith Rowley	Prime Minister of **Trinidad and Tobago**
Mustapha Adib	Prime Minister of **Lebanon**

AWARDS

AWARD	PERSON / Organization
International Booker Prize 2020	*Dutch Author,* **Marieke Lucas Rijneveld** *Novel:* **"The Discomfort of Evening"**
SKOCH Gold Award	SKOCH Gold Award has been awarded to **the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** for its **"Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project.**
Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	Rohit Sharma - Cricket
	Mariyappan Thangavelu – Para Atheletics
	Manika Batra – Table Tennis
	Vinesh Phogat - Wrestling
	Rani Rampal - Hockey
SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020 *(more than 1 Lakh Population)*	1st – Indore, Madhya Pradesh
	2nd – Surat, Gujarat
	3rd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
ATAL Ranking Of Institutions On Innovation Achievements	**IIT Madras** bagged the top position under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes.

Food Vision 2050 Prize	US-based Rockefeller Foundation
Golden Peacock National Training Award	Ramco Cements

FESTIVAL

Nuakhai Juhar	Odisha & Jharkhand
Thumbimahotsavam 2020	Kerala

GI Tag

'Khaje', spicy Harmal Chilli and Myndoli Banana (Moira Banana)	Goa

COMMITTEE's

V. RAMAGOPAL RAO COMMITTEE	With a focus on indigenous development of futuristic technologies, a five-member expert committee has been constituted to review the charter of duties for all laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
CAPTAIN S S CHAHAR COMMITTEE	Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) ordered investigation into the **Air India Express aircraft crash at Kozhikode airport.** The Probe of the aircraft crash will be done by a five member team headed by Captain S S Chahar.
K. V. KAMATH COMMITTEE	RBI constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of veteran banker K.V. Kamath **to make recommendations on norms for the resolution of COVID-19 related stressed loans.**

BOOKS & AUTHORS

BOOKS	AUTHORS
Siyasat Mein Sadasyata	Bihar Assembly Speaker **Vijay Kumar Choudhary.**
Vishesh: Code To Win	Nirupama Yadav
Standard Treatment Guidelines for the Management of Substance Use Disorders (SUD) and Behavioural Addictions	Released by Union health minister **Harsh vardhan**
Best Practices in Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme	Released by **Narendra Singh Tomar**
RAW: A History of India's Covert Operations	Yatish Yadav
Amazing Ayodhya	Neena Rai
Connecting, Communicating, Changing	Released by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Book chronicling Vice President Mr. Venkaiah Naidu's third year in office
Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World	Dalai Lama
Full Spectrum: India's Wars, 1972-2020	Arjun Subramaniam

IMPORTANT DAYS

DAYS	EVENTS	THEMES/ SIGNIFICANCE
August 1	Muslim Women's Rights Day	
August 3	World Sanskrit Day	
August 7	National Handloom Day	
August 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples / World Tribal Day	THEME: *"COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience"*
August 10	World Biofuel Day	THEME: *"Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat"*
August 11	World Lion Day	
August 12	International Youth Day	THEME: *"Youth Engagement for Global Action"*
	World Elephant Day	
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	
August 19	World Humanitarian Day	THEME: *"#RealLifeHeroes"*
August 20	World Mosquito Day	
August 21	World Senior Citizen Day	
August 26	Women's Equality Day	
August 29	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	
	National Sports Day	To mark the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

➢ August 1 – 7: *World Breastfeeding Week*

➢ *Indian Railways* is observing *"Cleanliness Week" from 10th August in order to mark the Independence Day.*

➢ World Water Week *(24th August to 28th August 2020)*